

The Talking Mule
U. S. A. (Traditional)

Ole feller one time had uh mule. His name wuz Bill. Evah mawnin ole man go to ketch him, he say, "Come roun, Bill!" So, one mawnin when he sleep late, he havin his coffee an he sen his son to ketch Ole Bill. He say, "Go down dere, Boy, an bring dat mule up heah!"

Boy, he sech a fas Aleck, he grab de bridle an wen down to de fiel to ketch Ole Bill. When he get thar, he say, "Come roun, Bill."

De mule he took roun at him. So boy say agin, "Come roun, Bill. Ain no us you rollin yo eyes at me. Paw wants you dis mawning, so come stick yo haid in dis bridle."

Mule he keep a-lookin at him an den he say, "Evah mawnin it's `Come roun, Bill! Come roun, Bill!' Don hahdly git no res fo it's

`Come roun, Bill!'"

Dat boy he tho down dat bridle an away he scat to de house. "Paw, Paw," he say, "Dat mule he a talkin mule! He talkin!"

Paw say, "Boy, gwan tellin them lies. Gwan an ketch dat mule lak ah don tol ya, else ahm gonna ketch you wid sumpn on yo backside!"

Boy he say, "Nawsuh, dat mule gon to talkin, Paw. I ain goin neah no talkin mule."

Ole man say to ole lady, "See whut a lie dat boy is tellin." So he gits out an goes on down to de fiel to git de mule hisself.

When he git thar, he hollar, "Come roun, Bill!"

Ole mule he look roun an say, "Evah mawnin, it's `Come roun, Bill!'"

Now, ole man he hav uh lil fice dog¹ go wid him evahwhuh he go, so when he lit out licty-split to de house, lil fice right behin him. Ole man say to de ole lady, "Dat boy ain lyin. He tellin da troof. Dat mule is talkin. I ain nevah heard a mule talk befo."

L+il fice say, "Me neither."

Ole man now he really skeeted. So he jump up an start runnin agin. Thu de woods he go, lictysplit, lak he bout to run hissef to def. Finely, he reach a stump an sit down to ketch he bref an he say, "Lawd, Ize so tied I don know whut to do." An lil fice he sit down in fron an he a-pantin an hasslin for his bref an he say,

"Me too."

Dat ole man he still runnin!

¹ A fice is boisterous, noisy small mongrel -- a popular pet in the old South.