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CHICAGO OUTLET
(*11:00 PM*)
TIME

(*JANUARY 11, 1985*)
DATE

(*THURSDAY*)
DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS



ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" --

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: RANGER SONG.

ANNOUNCER: To bring about adequate conservation and development of our forest resources, we must, first, protect, improve and perpetuate our existing forests, and, second, help to establish new and reestablish old forests, where that is the best use to which the land is suited. That, in a broad way, is what Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are doing on millions of acres within our National Forests, and up in the Pine Cone Ranger District today we find our old friend Ranger Jim Robbins and one of his Forest Guards Ernie Knight, on their way to inspect some land where fire and flood have laid waste an area once forested, and where the re-establishment of an old forest will be the job to be undertaken. Here they are --

(SOUND: HORSES WALKING ALONG TRAIL)

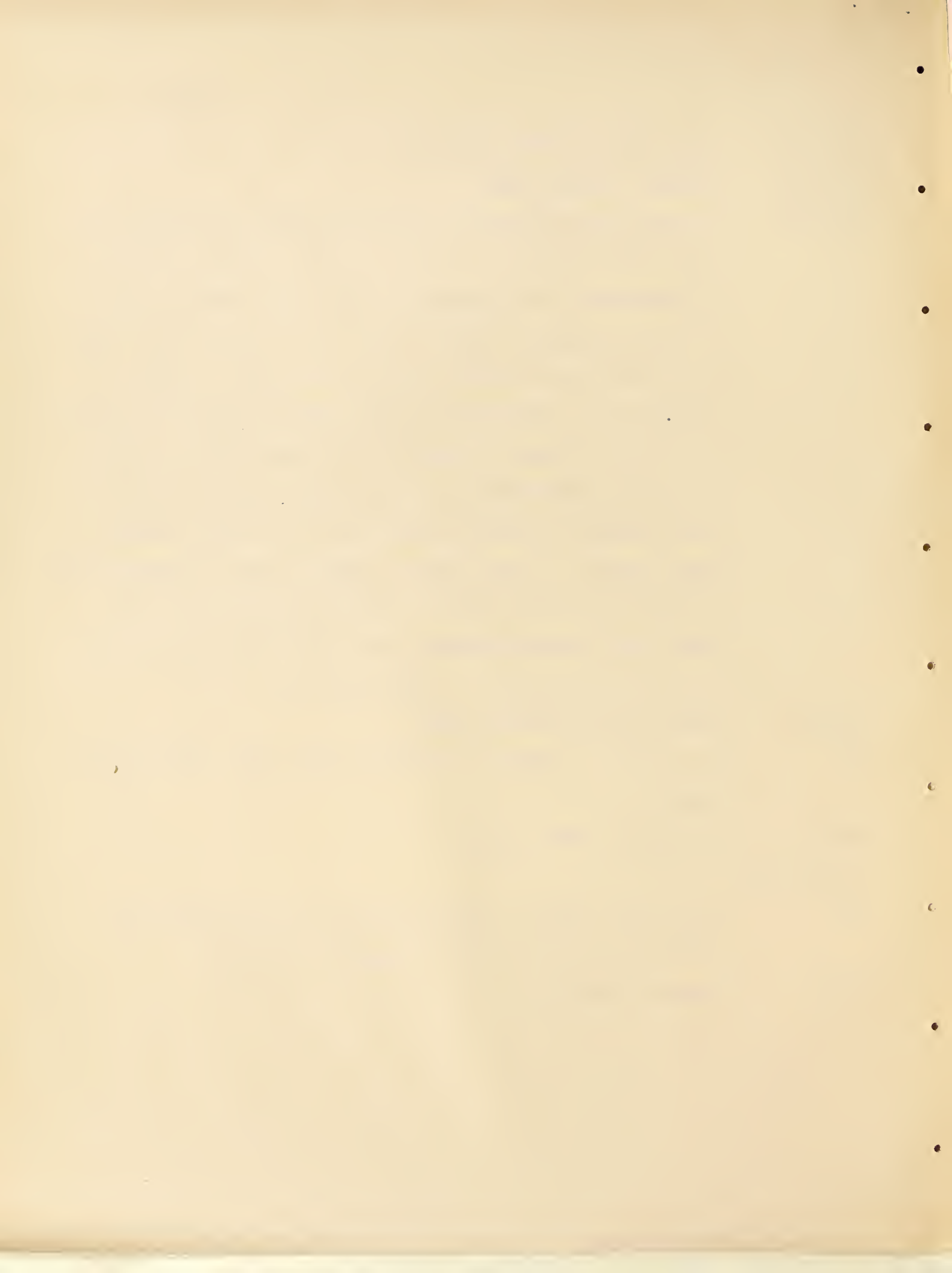
JIM: Hub Dolly . . . puffing a little? Whoa, gal, let's hold it while

ERNIE: All right. Whoa. Spark.

(HORSES STOP)

JIM: Yep. Well, Ernie -- when we get up over that hog-back ahead there, we'll come to Samson's Swallow.

ERNIE: Samson's Swallow!



JIM: Yep That's what the old settlers around here call it. It's a piece of the earth's surface that's just been added to our Pine Cone Ranger District. Ernie, so you'll most likely have plenty of chances to get better acquainted with it from now on.

ERNIE: Is it that land exchange you and Supervisor Ellsworth were working on?

JIM: Yes. We're trading some stumpage for it, so as soon as the exchange is completed it'll be added to the National Forest.

ERNIE: It was part of the lumber company's holdings, wasn't it?

JIM: Yes.

ERNIE: Is it a pretty good-sized tract, Jim?

JIM: Yep. Couple of thousand acres.

ERNIE: That's great. We'll have a bigger and better National Forest.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, it'll be bigger anyhow. - All right, Doll, - Let's get along, huh?

ERNIE: Giddap, Spark.

(PAUSE)

JIM: Well, Ernie, there's Salmon's Swallow

day! My gosh --

JIM: What's the matter, son?

ERNIE: My goodness! Of all the nameless, Mad-rascal-looking places you ever saw! So this is what we're taking into the Pine Cone District?

JIM: Yes.

ERNIE: Gosh, Jim - we've got the prettiest forest in the region, and now we've gotta have this eyesore in it! Look at it! all washed and bare - there ain't one tree on ten acres.

JIM: Well, we'll have to plant some. - Ernie, we're not taking in this land for its beauty, we're taking on a new job. We're taking on a public responsibility. You see, this area here, - all a better old burn and non-forestry, - it was a real loss to everybody - to the owners, to the community, to everybody. - This area was worked as life workers, they're not producing, there's a sign of a life community, and it's the public's responsibility to give them a chance to work. - So taking this new land into the District means we're taking on a new job. It's not a job that is so hard, and you can get it done at quite a low cost.

ERNIE: It's sure going to be a tough job getting this area reforested. Gosh, I'd say we had enough work ahead of us in the District without taking on this job.

JIM: The Forest Service has never had a field to take on such work, Ernie.

ERNIE: I guess that's true enough.

JIM: Now that we've got the Civilian Conservation Corps here, we can help us. Besides, we've got the work force that we had, we had got right in here on the job, and we've got a good piece of the area reforested during last spring's planting season.

ERNIE: Yeah, we ought to be able to do this all right

JIM: Yep - You can't tell, Ernie - you might still be here to see the day when this area will be as pretty a green spot as any in our Forest. I don't see a job like this very challenge you Ernie? Take a raw care on the face of the landscape like this - and heal it with a poultice of green growing vegetation - restore to it it's God-given right to grow trees! It's building for the future, Ernie - for a day when this land can once more serve its right purpose as a protecting watershed and a producer of useful timber crops and a place of beauty.

ERNIE: Yes sir! I get it! That's the old Ranger motto "Protect - Restore" - Well, Jim, you sure are full of the old inspiration

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well - Let's go on down to the hollow where we can study the land closer - All right, Ernie (CHUCKLES) - Maybe that'll give you a little perspiration.

ERNIE: Okay - Giddap, Spark -

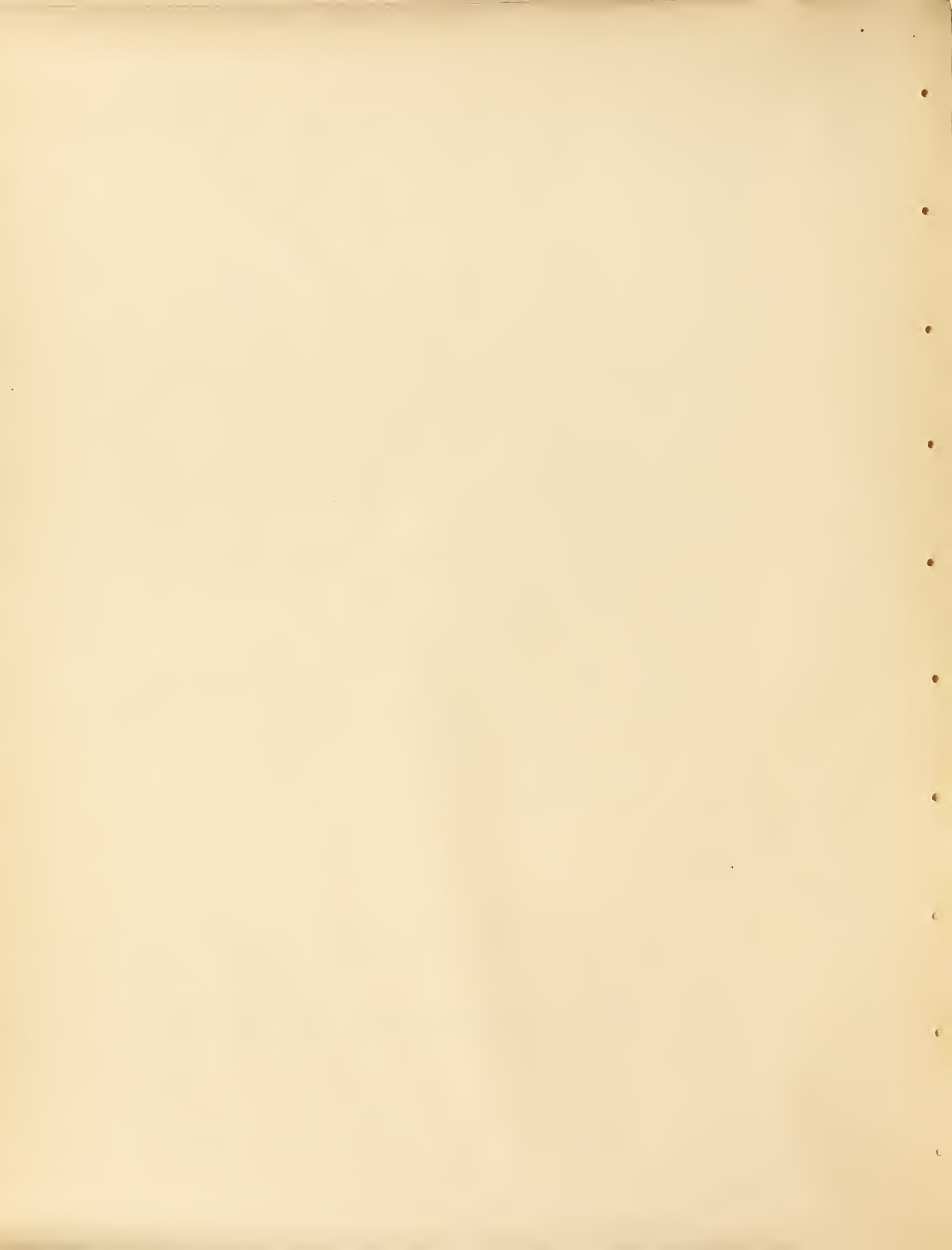
(SOUND OF HORSES)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF HORSES)

ERNIE: What Spark - Easy now - that's nothing but a loose rock or something

JIM: Watch it, Ernie - The trail's washed out, ahead there



ERWIE:

Yeah - it sure is

JIM:

This trail'll have to find up. That's another job
to get you got some of the CCC boys on

ERWIE:

Yeah. I guess I'd better make a survey right away. I admit
it.

JIM:

Yep. -- Well, here's a good place to rest the horses. Ernie

ERWIE:

Yeah -- Whoo. Spark.

JIM:

Whoo gal -- hold it, Dolly.

(HORSES STOP)

ERWIE:

Well. So this is Samson's Swallow, huh?

JIM:

Yep.

ERWIE:

That old prospector must've been a bit reckless with horses.

JIM:

Well, it wasn't the prospector that were responsible for this
one. They had a sort of natural sort way of using places
though. It seems to me. This place here -- they used to
call it Spring Hollow -- from all the time ago of that
used to give Samson's name. Most likely. But what was behind
old Shanon and fire and flame -- played the devil with
Nature's handiwork. The springs are now all dried up
now.

ERWIE:

Samson's horse? -- Sure. It wasn't old Noah and his flood?

JIM:

(CHUCKLING) No. It was Samson this time. Noah got his
mind up with floods, they say, but I reckon one thing we
never did was to see a forest fire. This land through
here used to have as nice a stand of pine timber as you
could find. Ernie -- just take on the other side of the
hugback.

ERNEST: Don't you know it is?

JIM: Yes. It's lucky the fire came out on the edge of our whole District might've been looking like this - I would see the fire. Ernie. I wasn't here at that time - but I did have a trip through the woods here not long before. You see the first folks to come up in here were the ones to cut wide paths for those old, since they were to make land in the Lower Hills. Pretty soon a little settlement sprung up down at the foot of the hills, and then another little settlement was cut a lot of timber in here, but it was still a great reservoir of timber and they didn't want to scratch it.

ERNEST: That settlement's all gone now, isn't it?

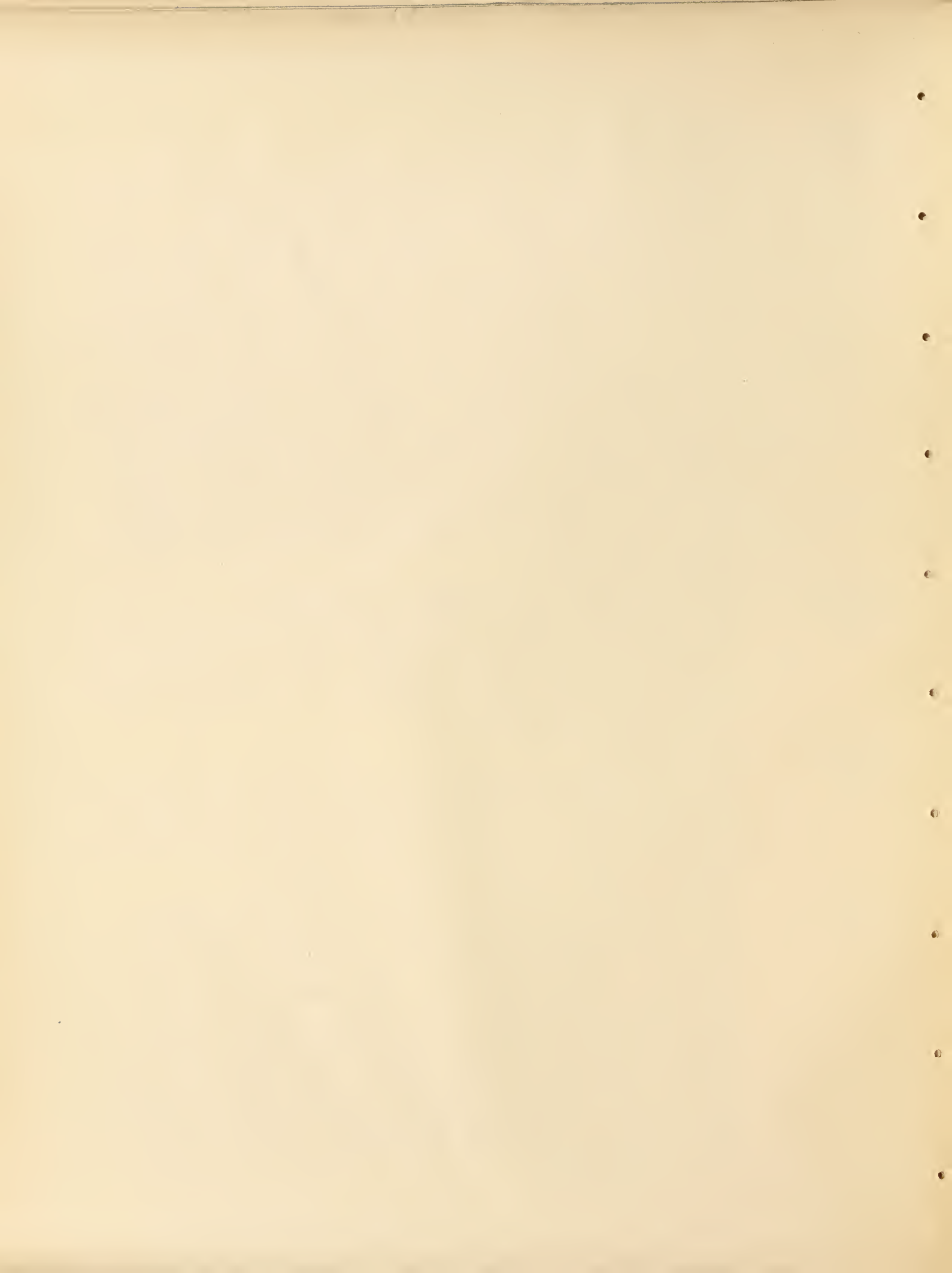
JIM: Yes. You see pretty soon along came old man Hanson. He didn't want his fire no purpose, but he just got restless like so many folks do.

ERNEST: How was that?

JIM: Well, he wanted some way or other to get a homestead here on the hollow and he built himself a cabin and a barn and fence to keep the deer out of his garden.

ERNEST: Was he able to scratch a living out of this country?

JIM: Well, he might've been, if he'd left his country life he found it. - But I don't see. This land is good timber land but it never was meant to be tilled. Anyway, Hanson built himself a cabin, as I was saying - he worked hard enough and by'n by he got a fire across in some sort of cultivation. That streak of bare rock stretching up the slope over there was his cornfield.



ERNIE: Dec, you'd never know it now!

JIM: Nope - Well, pretty soon Samson got ambitious - .

ERNIE: How so?

JIM: He cut down about 20 acres of fine virgin timber up above the field there to make more land, - and started burning it up trunk, branch and all, 'cepting a few choice logs he sold to the sawmill

ERNIE: Wasteful logging!

JIM: Worse than that, Ernie His fire got away and it burned hot for a week or more.

ERNIE: So that's how the fire started?

JIM: Yep. The settlers hereabouts didn't pay much attention to it though, at the time. Just let 'er burn. But the new Forest Service - we were a brand new organization then, Ernie - the new Forest Service sent its young rangers in here in time to confine the damage mostly to this basin.

ERNIE: That was sure lucky

JIM: Yes, it was. Pretty soon, though, when the folks below began to realize that most of what they were getting their living from had gone up in smoke, so to speak, old man Samson came in for a lot of condemnation. He wasn't very popular around there any more.

ERNIE: Well, if that was all, he got off easy at that.

JIM: Nope, Ernie. He got what was coming to him. Same like Nature has a way of her own that keeps a man from getting away with too much.

ERBIE: How was that?

JIM: Easy now (CHUCKLES) Don't rush me now. Anyhow Samson built a new cabin, and went ahead and plowed up some of the burned-over ground, - but the next few years brought a lot of heavy rain, and with the protective forest cover all gone - nothing to hold back the water or soil - it seemed like the whole country began to dissolve like sugar. They had some bad floods down below, and in some places the soil washed away so bad that there isn't enough left now to plant trees in. See, you can see places like that from here - see that patch over there where it's washed clean down to bedrock!

ERBIE: I'll say! It'll sure be a long time before we can ever get any trees growing there again.

JIM: Yep. A long time. Well sand and gravel and boulders kept washing down over Samson's farm, till he had to give up the land. He'd be had to give it up anyway, I guess.

ERBIE: What became of old Samson, finally?

JIM: Well one evening there was a bad landslide - and he got swallowed up in it somewhere. Nobody's ever found his yet. And that's why the old settlers around here got to calling this place Samson's Swallow.

ERNIE: I see --- So that's what you meant about Nature settling up accounts in its own way?

JIM: Yep.

ERNIE: What became of his house?

JIM: Well, near as I can figure it out, it was right about here before the slide buried it. (CHUCKLES SOFTLY) I s'pect son you're sittin' right on top of it

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, we got an inkling today of one of the big jobs Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers have and I guess it's a mighty important work to restore old devastated forest land, to bring back barren, depleted lands to useful production in the interest of national welfare. This program comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

VC 3:25 P M

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