UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 24

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12:30 to 1:30 P.M. C.D.S.T. JUNE 30, 1932 THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: And now - Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

MUSIC: (ORCHESTRA:QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER: Now, folks, let's go up to the national forest where Uncle Sam's Rangers are on the job managing and protecting our public forest resources. As guardians of a vast estate, they are conserving and developing the timber supplies, the range for livestock, the watershed values, the recreational opportunities, the game and wild life, and other forest values - always with the objective of continuous production for the public use and benefit.

Ranger Jim Robbins, who is in charge of the Pine Cone District, is out on inspection work today, and Jerry Quick, his new assistant, has remained at the ranger station to look after the work in the office. As we tune in today, we find Jerry at the Winding Creek post office, where he has come for the noon mail. No doubt Jerry is hoping to see Mary Halloway, the school teacher, there, as he often does; but we understand that lately Mary has been seeing quite a bit of this Mr. Bradley, who recently came to Winding Creek, with his flashy sport car, to do some fishing - and we suspect that Jerry is a little worried. Well, here we are at the post office ----

JERRY: Hello there - Got any mail for the ranger station?

POSTMASTER: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Sure, plenty - All bundled up for yuh. - Here.

JERRY: Thanks. Gee - lots of mail today.

POSTMASTER: (SLIGHTLY OFF - AS IF BEHIND WINDOW) Uh huh. - The schoolma'm's already been here and got hers.

JERRY: (AFFECTING INDIFFERENCE) Yeah?

POSTMASTER: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Yeah. She took off that-a-way.

JERRY: Yeah? Well, what of it?

POSTMASTER: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Well, I thought mebbe you might wanta know.

JERRY: Yeah? Thanks.

POSTMASTER: You and her generally manages to get here 'bout the same time, I notice.

JERRY: O, we do, huh? Well, why not? This is when the noon mail comes in, isn't it?

POSTMASTER: (CHUCKLES) I reckon.

MARY: (OFF) Oh, hello, Jerry.

JERRY: Hello, Mary -- Gee, I thought I'd missed you.

MARY: (UP) Missed me? Why?

JERRY: The postmaster said you'd already been here.

MARY: I was here and got my mail, - and then I went on over to the store.

JERRY: Oh, I see. -- Well, I'm glad you cam back this way, Mary. I don't get a chance to see you very much these days while I'm out on field work so much of the time.

MARY: I thought you might be out in the field today.

JERRY: No, I stayed in to do some work at the ranger station today while Jim went out to check up on some grazing matters.

MARY: I guess you're glad to have a day at home. You've had to be away so much. You must be awfully busy.

JERRY: We sure are. You see, everything sorta piles up this times of year. We have to make range inspections to see that the cattle and sheep are being distributed over the range all right and the grazing permittees aren't letting them stray out of their allotments. -- And then there's the range improvements that have to be put in - you know, watering troughs for the stock, and all that.

MARY: I guess you're getting to be a regular expert on livestock.

JERRY: Well, that's just one thing. Then there's all the summer home business to take care of. We surveyed some new sites for summer homes the other day.

MARY: Yes, I heard you had.

JERRY: And then of course there's the road and trail work and the campground improvement work and registering tourists and issuing camp fire permits and all that, and on top of it all we have to keep the fire protection organization right on tip toe.

MARY: I don't wonder you have to be away so much. You're getting to be almost a stranger.

JERRY: Yeah. I was afraid that after school let out, you'd be going home for the summer before I ---

MARY: Before you what?

JERRY: Well, before I -- knew about it.

MARY: Oh, Jerry, I wouldn't go away without saying good-bye. But I'm not going home this summer, Jerry, - except for a short visit.

JERRY: Gee, Mary, that's great! Going to stay here all the time?

MARY: Yes. You see, I'm going to help out at the summer hotel by acting as hostess this summer. - So I'll be right here in Winding Creek.

JERRY: That's sure good news. We can have some swell times, whenever I get a Sunday off.

MARY: Yes indeed. I like it here in Winding Creek to. And I'll have a chance to meet a lot of interesting people at the hotel. Mr. Bradley was saying that ---

JERRY: (CUTTING IN) Bradley? - Is that guy still hanging around?

MARY: Jerry, you mustn't speak of Mr. Bradley as "that guy". He's a very nice young man and he's a perfect gentleman, I'll have you know.

JERRY: O, he is, huh.

MARY: Yes, he is.

JERRY: Well, I thought he just came up here for a week or two to do some fishing. What's he sticking around for?

MARY: He's decided to stay awhile longer. He likes it here.

JERRY: (SARCASTICALLY) Oh, he likes it here, huh. I s'pose you don't mind his being here, either.

MARY: Why of course not. He's very pleasant - and I think he's very attractive.

JERRY: Maybe his old man's money looks sort of attractive, too, huh?

MARY: (HURT) Jerry! That was unkind.

JERRY: I'm sorry, Mary. I didn't mean to say that.

MARY: You know it isn't true.

JERRY: I know. I take it all back, Mary. -- But it sorta burns me up to have you going out with this Bradley all the time, and riding around in that sport car of his, and everything.

MARY: Well, I guess I have a perfect right to so so if I wish, haven't I? So long as he remains a gentleman.

JERRY: Yes, I s'pose you have. --

MARY: Let's talk about something else -- About the forest. Don't you think the woods are lovely now?

JERRY: Yeah.

MARY: I just love to get out in the forest. It's so cool and nice. - I do hope we don't have any more fires. That would be terrible.

JERRY: Yeah. I'd hate to see any of our forests burn -- Our look outs have reported a couple of fires lately, but the smoke chasers got 'em right away, so they didn't do hardly any damange.

MARY: Oh, that's good. -- I'd like to visit a lookout station, Jerry, Could I?

JERRY: Sure. The one on Windy Mountain isn't so hard to get to - The one on Bald Peak that we put up this spring is a little further away, but it's a peach - brand new and neat as a pin.

MARY: The view must be wonderful from there.

JERRY: It sure is. You can see all over the country.

MARY: Maybe I could hike up there some day with some of the children in my school.

JERRY: Well, it'd be a pretty hard climb on foot if you weren't used to it. It'd be better to ride up on horseback.

MARY: Well, perhaps I could arrange to get --

JERRY: (CUTTING IN QUICKLY) Listen, Mary. Let's walk up the road.

MARY: Why the sudden rush? --- I was just going to say that perhaps I could --

JERRY: Come on, Mary. Let's start walking.

MARY: Jerry! You keep interrupting me!

JERRY: I know, but --- let's --

(SOUND OF AUTO HORN, OFF)

MARY: Oh, there's Mr. Bradley!

JERRY: (DISGUSTED) Yeah. - I saw him coming.

MARY: Oh, so that's why you were in such a hurry to start walking. (REPROACHFULLY) Why, Jerry, I'm surprised.

JERRY: Well, -- I was only --

(SOUND OF AUTO MOTOR)

BRADLEY: Hello, Mary. How are you?

MARY: Why, hello, Bertram. Mr. Bradley, you've already met Mr. Quick, I believe.

BRADLEY: Yes, indeed. Glad to see you, Mr. Quick.

JERRY: Thanks.

BRADLEY: Hop in the car, Mary, and I'll run you home.

JERRY: Miss Halloway is walking home with me.

BRADLEY: Oh, I see. - Well, just as you say, Mary.

MARY: Why, Bertram, I --

(SOUND OF AUTO KLAXON SIGNAL, OFF)

JERRY: Listen! - Gosh, that's the fire signal! I --- I've got to leave you, Mary. I've got to get back to the station quick. Jim isn't there.

MARY: Oh, Jerry! That's a shame! -- I hope it isn't a bad fire!

JERRY: (GOING OFF) So do I. -- So long --

MARY: Isn't that a shame. - Another forest fire!

BRADLEY:- It sure is. -- Well, you might as well let me run you home in the car now, Mary.

MARY: All right, Bertram.

(SOUND OF AUTO DOOR CLOSING, and MOTOR UP)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

BESS: (TALKING TO PHONE) All right, Mr. Evans -- Yes -- yes -- You'd better report back on it, Mr. Evans. -- No, Jim isn't here. -- All right, good-bye. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) (CALLS) Oh, Billy! - Go ahead, Billy!

VOICE: (OFF) Okay, Mrs. Robbins!

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JERRY: (COMING UP HURRIEDLY, OUT OF BREATH) Hey, Mrs. Robbins! --- Is it --- a fire?

BESS: It's a fire, all right.

JERRY: Who reported it?! -- I better get a location and get ready to dispatch the truck!

BESS: I've already dispatched the truck, Jerry. -- Just a second ago -- (SOUND OF SIREN, OFF) -- There goes Billy with the truck now.

JERRY: Gee, Mrs. Robbins! You're as good a fire dispatcher as any of us -- Gee, that was fast work!

BESS: It isn't the first time I've had to take care of a forest fire when Jim was away.

JERRY: I guess it isn't at that.

BESS: One would have to come just at this time though. I'm sure everything I had on the stove is burned to a crisp.

JERRY: That's a shame. I can take care of it now, though, Mrs. Robbins, so you can go back to what you were doing.

BESS: All right, Mr. Evans, at Bald Peak Lookout, is going to report back in a minute. - And perhaps you should check my location of the fire. Here are the readings from Bald Peak and Windy Mountain - I noted them down here.

JERRY: Okay. I guess I'd better postpone having lunch till we see how the fire comes out, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: I suppose so. -- Oh, dear, You men are always having to postpone meals.

JERRY: Ain't it tough? -- Lets see -- radial 164 -- and 31 -- You got it right, Mrs. Robbins! Your location's correct.

BESS: That's good -- I must get back to my cooking, Jerry, (GOING OFF) I'll leave the fire to you.

JERRY: I guess everything's taken care of, Mrs. Robbins -- unless it blows up.

(PHONE RINGS)

JERRY: (ANSWERING PHONE) Hello - Ranger Station - Yeah, Pete, this is Jerry Quick. -- Another one! -- Gosh, Pete, where? --- Right close, huh? -- Yeah, I see. -- Yeah, I guess I'd better get up there pronto. I'll phone you again from the guard station. -- All right, Pete, G'bye. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) -- (CALLS) Hey, Mrs. Robbins --

BESS: (OFF) What's the matter, Jerry?

JERRY: Pete Evans reports another smoke - right near the first one. I'm going to hotfoot it up there.

BESS: (COMING UP) Another fire? Oh, dear, I hope the boys can keep them from spreading.

JERRY: I sure do hope so too. -- Let's see. Guess I better take the portable phone -- (GOING OFF) Well, so long, Mrs. Robbins I'll see you at supper time -- Maybe.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JERRY: (COMING UP) (CALLS) Hello -- Oh, Mrs. Robbins -- Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: (OFF) Is that you, Jerry?

JERRY: (CALLS) Yep, it's me. - Is Jim back yet?

BESS: (COMING UP) Not yet, Jerry. -- Did you get the fires under control?

JERRY: I'll say. We got 'em stopped all right.

BESS: Good. I'm so glad -- You poor boy, you must be about starved.

JERRY: Well, I bet I can punish some food.

BESS: I'll have supper ready in a jiffy. -- Jim ought to be here soon.

JERRY: Yeah -- That sounds like him coming now.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (ENTERING) Hello there!

BESS: Oh, Jim. I was hoping you'd come soon.

JIM: Well, here I am. Everybody home?

JERRY: Yep, we're all here. -- Say, Jim. We had a couple of firest today, and --

JIM: (CUTTING IN) I know. You did good work on those fires, Jerry. Took charge of 'em just like a veteran.

JERRY: How did you know? Were you there?

JIM: Yep. I saw you lightin' into 'em.

JERRY: I didn't see you there.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I saw you had the situation in hand all right, so I took out after the fellow that started the firest. I just finished escortin' him to the J.P.

JERRY: You got him, eh? Good stuff!

JIM: Yep. He's already told it to the judge.

JERRY: How did you manage to catch him?

JIM: Well, you see, I sighted the smoke from up on the ridge, when it first began to boil up. -- Had my horse tied up right close by, so I got 'er and took out cross country for the fire. Comin' down the slope I saw the second smoke beginning to show a little further up the canyon, so I figured that whoever or whatever was causing those firest was most likely headin' up the canyon trail. -- Well, when I got there and saw that you and the truck crew were on the job all right --

JERRY: (CUTTING IN) Yeah. We got 'em corralled without much trouble.

JIM: Uh huh. Well, I went on up the trail. -- If those first had broke away, the fellow that started 'em mighta had a tough time getting out of that canyon. -- The only easy way out woulda been back down the trail and the fire would've blocked that. -- So I figured I might have to rescue him - besides puttin' 'im under arrest, --

JERRY: How would you have gotten out?

JIM: Well, I probably could've brought 'im over the ridge. -- Anyway, you boys got the firest corralled so I didn't have to.

JERRY: You caught the fellow all right, though?

JIM: Yeah. I rode up the trail and pretty soon I caught up with him - caught 'im right in the act of smoking in that posted area - He wasn't twenty feet from a "No Smoking" sign then.

JERRY: That was grounds for arrest right there.

JIM: Yep. -- With a little questioning, though, he owned up to having tossed a couple of burning cigarette butts into the duff further down the trail - so when the J.P. soaked him, I reckon he had it coming to him.

BESS: I should say. It served him right.

JERRY: It sure did.

BESS: Well, I'll hurry and get you boys some supper. (GOING OFF) It'll be ready in a second.

JIM: All right, Bess -- (CHUCKLES) This fellow said he was on his way to do some fishing, Jerry. Never did catch any fish, poor fellow.

JERRY: Too busy smoking, I guess.

JIM: I reckon. (CHUCKLES) I suppose you've heard how we used to go fishing up in the Huron Mountains?

JERRY: How was that?

JIM: Well, there used to be lots of fish hawks up in that country, so we'd just sit on the bank and wait till a hawk flew up in a tree with a ten pound bass. Then we'd nick him on the toe nail with a rifle bullet and make him drop the fish. We figgered it wasn't good fishing to kill the hawk, 'cause then he couldn't go get another fish for us - so we just nicked 'im on the toe.

JERRY: That's a good fish story, all right.

JIM: I s'pose you'd say it sounded kinda fishy, eh?

BESS: (OFF) Supper's ready, boys.

JIM: Hear that? Sounds like grub, Jerry.

JERRY: You go ahead, Jim. I want to make a phone call first.

JIM: (GOING OFF) Okay. I'm not guaranteein' how much'll be left, though.

JERRY: (TO PHONE) Hello -- Line clear? (RING THREE RINGS) -- Hello. -- Is Miss Halloway there? -- Isn't she there? -- Oh -- I see. -- Yeah, thanks. -- Good-bye. (HANGS UP RECEIVER) -- (MUTTERS) Shucks!

JIM: (OFF) Oh, Jerry.

JERRY: Yeah?

JIM: (CLOSER) Bess says you better come before things get cold.

JERRY: All right. I was just calling Mary. I thought she'd be interested to know we got the fires out.

JIM: Was she?

JERRY: Naw - She's been out with this guy Bradley all afternoon - while I was fighting fire.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, it just goes to show that a forest fire's always a bad thing.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well, folks, I guess thats right. If the fires keep breaking out, poor Jerry won't have much time left to see the school teacher. -- According to the Forest Service, most fires in the woods are the result of human carelessness. Good forest manners will prevent them. Good forest manners means caring for your forest the same as you do for your home. It means no smoking while traveling in forest, brush, or grass land. If you are camping, it means cooking on a small bed of coals in a safe place, and putting the fire dead out with water before you leave it. And by the way, it is wise to have a shovel, an axe, and a bucket in your outfit if you go camping in the woods, and you must have them to get a campfire permit this year in many of the national forests. This is one of the regulations for the protection of the forests.

Ranger Jim and Jerry will be with us again at this same hour next Thursday. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" is a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service.

The cast today included:

is/5:00 P.M.
June 27, 1932.