UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 30

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12:30 to 1:30 P.M. C.D.S.T. AUGUST 18, 1932. THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: Here they are - Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

(ORCHESTRA, QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER:

The Pine Cone Ranger District of our national forest, where Ranger Jim Robbins is in charge, has been having what the foresters call "fire weather" for the last few days. The temperature has been high, and the humidity has been low, and the "duff," or leaves and litter on the floor of the forest has gotten so dry that the tiniest spark would start a fire that, fanned by a strong wind, might develop into a raging inferno. At times like this, the rangers hope and pray that no person in the forest will be so foolish or so careless as to drop a lighted match or cigarette butt, or leave a campfire untended. And if you have any regard for the rangers, or the forests which they strive to protect, you will make doubly sure that no fire is ever started by any act of yours when you are in the woods. -- As we tune in at the Pine Cone Ranger Station today, we find Ranger Jim's young assistant, Jerry Quick, just coming into the office. --

JERRY: (ENTERING, CALLS) Jim -- oh, Jim. -- Where's Jim, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: (COMING UP) He went out on the front porch, I think. -- Yes, there he is out there now -- looking at the weather, I guess.

JERRY: Yeah. I don't like the looks of the weather either. I noticed a big black thunderhead forming up back of Cloud Peak, when I was out back.

BESS: I guess we're going to have a lightning storm all right. -- Here comes Jim in again.

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (ENTERING) Well - Hi there, Jerry. Were you calling me a minute ago?

JERRY: Yeah. I was just going to tell you that our fire truck driver, Billy, was fixing to do some work on the truck this afternoon, but I told him to postpone it and have the truck ready to shoot out on an instant's notice. Was that all right?

JIM: Yes indeed, that's right. I've just been watching that thunderhead and she's getting bigger fast. If it turns out to be one of these dry lightning storms, it's apt to mean fires popping up all over the place.

BESS: Look there. The sun's gone out already.

JERRY: Yeah. Those thunder clouds sure spread fast, don't they?

JIM: Uh huh. -- Well, let 'er come. I reckon we're ready if things start popping. I've already phoned our key-men to be ready for action. -- Well, let's get to work on this grazing use report now, Jerry.

JERRY: Okay. I've got my field notes together already, here.

(ROLL OF DISTANT THUNDER)

BESS: Listen. That's the first clap of thunder.

JIM: Yep. I wonder where the lightning hit.

JERRY: You know, Jim, I'm kinda worried about this storm.

JIM: Yeah, I've seen one lightning storm like this start as many as eighty separate forest fires.

JERRY: Yes, I know, -- but besides that, I'm kinda worried -- about Mary Halloway.

JIM: The schoolma'm?

JERRY: Yeah.

BESS: Why are you worried, Jerry? -- Where is Mary now?

JERRY: She went up to Windy Mountain Lookout Station today. -- She and this fellow Bradley.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Her boy-friend from the city, eh? Is he still hanging around?

JERRY: Yeah. I ran onto them this morning down the road, just as they were starting out for a hike up to the Lookout Station -- and I got kinda sore about it, because that was one of the trips I was going to take Mary on some Sunday a little later on, - and here she was going up there with this guy Bradley.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Kinda beat you to it, eh?

JERRY: Yeah, I s'pose so - but anyway, Mary must be up there on Windy Mountain right now - in this storm.

JIM: Well, if your schoolma'm friend wanted a thrill, that's the place to get it all right - when lightning's cracking around the mountains up there. -- But I reckon there's no need to worry, son. They most likely started back some time ago.

BESS: No, I wouldn't worry, Jerry.

JERRY: Well, -- I guess she'll be all right, -- if they started back soon enough.

(DISTANT ROLL OF THUNDER)

BESS: There's the thunder again. It sounds so ominous - doesn't it? -- Like the growling of some huge beast.

JIM: We're going to have fire this time, all right. I feel it coming. Hmmm. No rain with it yet.

JERRY: (HALF TO SELF) I hope Mary's all right. --

(FADEOUT WITH DISTANT ROLL OF THUNDER)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

BESS: (COMING UP) Oh, Jim.

JIM: Yes?

BESS: Have you had any more reports on the fires?

JIM: Not for the last few minutes, Bess. I guess four fires is all that lightning storm left us, unless there's some sleepers smouldering along that haven't showed up yet.

BESS: Well, four is bad enough. -- Are they getting them under control?

JIM: I hope so. We've got the truck crew on the one near the road, and smokechasers on the other three. -- Jerry, here, has been dispatching like a veteran.

BESS: Of course he would. -- What did you find out about Mary Halloway and Mr. Bradley, Jerry?

JERRY: Well, Windy Mountain Lookout phoned down and said they didn't leave there till after the storm was over. I guess they're on their way down now.

BESS: Probably there's nothing to worry about, then.

JERRY: No, I guess not.

(PHONE RINGS)

BESS: There's the phone again. My! I hope that isn't another fire.

JERRY: I'll get it. (ANSWERING PHONE) Hello -- Yeah. -- More men? -- Yeah. -- Wait a minute. (TO JIM) That's Bald Peak Lookout, Jim. He says it looks like they're having trouble with that fire near the ridge.

JIM: We'd better get the trail crew on it.

JERRY: All right. (TO PHONE) Hello, Pete. -- We're going to put the trail crew on it. -- Yeah. Keep your eye on it, Pete. -- So long. (HANGS UP RECEIVER)

JIM: I think you'd better go up and take charge of that fire, Jerry.

JERRY: All right. I'll get up there right away.

JIM: I'll get on the phone, and have the trail crew on it by the time you get there. -- Better take the portable telephone along, so's you can keep in touch with me.

JERRY: (GOING OFF) All right, I'll get 'er. -- So long.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SHOURTS OF MEN, CRACKLE OF FLAME, ETC. -- OFF)

JERRY: (SHOUTING) Hey Jack -- get that snag down, -- can you? -- Yeah, -- that's it. -- Oh, hello there, Jim. I thought you were still at the station.

JIM: (COMING UP) I thought I'd better come up and look things over. -- How you coming?

JERRY: Pretty good. We've got the fire line finished clear around it all right -- if we can hold it.

JIM: Good work. -- Got your portable phone hooked up here?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: Ring Windy Mountain -- will you? --and ask him how things look.

JERRY: All right -- (TINKLE OF PHONE BELL)-- Hello -- Windy Mountain? -- Yeah, Harry -- What's that!? -- My gosh! You don't mean --? Gosh! (BANGS RECEIVER) (TO JIM, VERY EXCITED) Jim! I gotta leave -- I gotta get up there right now!

JIM: What's the matter?

JERRY: (VERY EXCITED) Mary! -- up on Windy Mountain! -- she's on the trail! --

JIM: Wait a minute there -- what's happened, Jerry?

JERRY: (VERY EXCITED) Windy Mountain Lookout -- he says the fire -- those two spot fires -- 've burned together -- and they're making a run toward the trail! -- That's where Mary's coming down! -- Jim, you gotta let me go! -- you gotta give me permission to leave this fire -- and go after Mary!

JIM: You bet you'll go! And darn quick! -- I'll see that the fires get taken care of. -- Where's your horse?

JERRY: (EXCITED) Right over here! -- Gosh! If Mary got caught in that fire, I'd --! Which way's the trail--! Gosh! -- Lissen, Jim!

JIM: Keep your head, Jerry. Now's the time to keep cool, boy.

JERRY: (VERY EXCITED) I am cool! -- Can't you see I'm calm as a cucumber? -- Gosh! I hope I find 'er before --! Hey, which way --?!

JIM: Cut across the pine flat and pick up the trail there. If the fire cuts you off, you'll have to race around the head of it.

JERRY: (GOING OFF) Believe me, I'll race it! -- I'll get there!

JIM: (CALLING AFTER HIM) Do your durndest, boy!

(FADEOUT WITH HORSE GALLOPING, OFF)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF HORSE TROTTING, CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JERRY: (TALKING TO HORSE) Come on, Spark old boy! -- Give it all you got, old boy! -- We gotta find 'er! -- Gosh, it's tough going with all this smoke, - ain't it, Spark? -- Look at those burning branches flying in the wind! -- Here's a level stretch, Spark - now we can step out a little - (CLUCKS TO HORSE; TROTTING CHANGES TO GALLOP) - That's the old boy! -- Gosh, you can't see a thing in this smoke -- Look, Spark! That must be Mary up there! Hurry, old pal! -- (CALLS) Mary! --

MARY: (OFF) Oh, Jerry!

JERRY: Whoa, Spark. (SOUND OF HORSE STOPS) (DISMOUNTING) Gee, Mary! - I was afraid I wouldn't find you!

MARY: (UP) Oh, Jerry! -- I was praying you'd come. --

JERRY: It's all right now, Mary.

MARY: Oh, Jerry. (SIGHS) I was afraid--

(ROAR AND CRACKLE OF FLAMES, OFF)

JERRY: Lissen! Mary! We gotta get out of here quick! We'll be cut off by the fire!

MARY: Yes, Jerry - Ooh (AS IF IN PAIN)

JERRY: Mary! What's wrong? Can't you walk?!

MARY: I wrenched my ankle -- I'm afraid I can't, Jerry -- I started to run down the trail, and I fell and hurt my ankle.

JERRY: Gosh, Mary, I'm sorry. -- Say, where's Bradley! -- the fellow you were with?!

MARY: He went on ahead -- when we first saw the smoke, he went on ahead to see if his car was in danger - He left it down there where the trail leaves the road.

JERRY: I didn't see him on the trail -- he must've gone on through all right. Lissen, Mary! We've got to get out of here! Look at the sparks falling! The whole place'll be on fire in a minute! (ROAR AND CRACKLE OF FLAMES, OFF)-- Here, hold onto my shoulder. -- I'll help you up on the horse -- Whoa, Spark -- That's right, get hold of the saddle horn, Mary -- Are you all right now?

MARY: Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: Poor Spark. He's blowing like a steam engine. -- We've got to get down the mountain cross country, Mary. The fire's cut off the trail by now -- All right, Spark. Let's go, old boy. (SOUND OF HORSE, WALKING) -- Are you all right, Mary?

MARY: Yes, Jerry. -- Oh! (COUGHS) - the smoke!

JERRY: Gosh, it's sure thick. -- (CLUCKS TO HORSE) Step on it Spark. (SOUND OF HORSE CHANGES TO UNEVEN TROT) It's rough going, here, Mary - but we'll be out of it pretty soon. -- Say, listen, Mary --

MARY: What, Jerry?

JERRY: I'm sorry I got sore this morning - about you coming up here with Bradley --

MARY: Oh, let's not talk about that now. -- I -- I guess I haven't been very nice to you lately, Jerry. -- I'm sorry, too.

JERRY: Shucks, that's all right, Mary. Forget it. -- Are you all right, now?

MARY: Yes, I'm all right. -- Look Jerry, your shirt's burned full of holes - from the sparks.

JERRY: That's nothing. Don't worry about that. -- I guess we're out of danger now, Mary. -- Hold it, Spark. Take it easy, a while, old pal. -- (SOUND OF HORSE CHANGES TO WALK) -- I'll let Spark get his wind again. --

MARY: Jerry --

JERRY: Yeah?

MARY: If it hadn't been for you, I never would have gotten away from that fire. -- You -- saved my life, Jerry.

JERRY: Gee, Mary. If you'd got caught in that fire, I'd've -- I don't know what I'd 've done.

MARY: You know, Jerry --?

JERRY: What?

MARY: A forest fire is a terrible thing.

JERRY: It sure is, Mary. --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JERRY: (COMING UP) How's Mary getting along now, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: I'm letting her rest up a little, Jerry. Poor girl, -- she's about done up from her experience up on Windy Mountain -- and her ankle is hurting her too.

JERRY: That's a shame. -- I've just been out looking after my horse. Poor Spark -- he's kinda done up too. He sure stood by me this afternoon though.

BESS: He certainly did. He's a wonderful horse, Jerry.

JERRY: I'll say. -- Have you heard any more from Jim, up on the fire?

BESS: Yes. He phoned in just a few minutes ago. He said he was mighty proud of you, when I told him you brought Mary back safely.

JERRY: Shucks. That's nothing much. -- What did he say about the fires?

BESS: He says they've got a line around the fire near the ridge, but they're still having trouble with that Windy Mountain fire. He has a crew from the logging camp on it now and he's ordered up twenty-five more men from Willow Glen.

JERRY: He'll need 'em! That fire sure was traveling this afternoon.

BESS: He says they're getting the head of it pinched in a little, and if the wind dies down some tonight he thinks they can get it under control.

JERRY: I'm going up there and help him, soon as I see that Mary's all right.

BESS: Jim didn't say that he needed you, Jerry. You look tired out.

JERRY: I know, but he <u>might</u> need me. I ain't going to lay down on the job now. -- Let's see how Mary's getting along.

BESS: Well - you go ahead, Jerry. (<u>GOING OFF</u>) I'll fix some fresh hot cloths for her ankle, first.

JERRY: All right. (<u>SOUND OF DOOR</u>) -- Hey, Mary, are you all right?

MARY: (<u>OFF</u>) Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: Ankle still hurt?

MARY: (<u>UP</u>) Not so badly now, Jerry.

JERRY: Say, listen, Mary, -- I called the hotel after I left you here, and -- Bradley got in all right.

MARY: I'm glad he did, Jerry.

JERRY: He said he was mighty glad to know you were safe. He was awful worried, he said.

MARY: Was he?

JERRY: Yeah. And he said he got his car out of the way of the fire all right.

MARY: I believe -- Mr. Bradley -- was more concerned about his automobile than he was about me.

JERRY: Well -- maybe he didn't realize at the time how serious a forest fire is.

MARY: No -- perhaps he didn't.

JERRY: Well - uh - I thought you'd be glad to know his car was safe, anyhow.

MARY: Yes, I'm glad, Jerry.

JERRY: It's sure a swell car. It would've been a shame if it had burned up.

MARY: You know - I think I've acted a little silly about Mr. Bradley - and his car.

JERRY: Aw no, Mary. I was the one that acted silly -- getting jealous of him all the time -- and everything.

MARY: I'm not going to see Mr. Bradley any more, Jerry.

JERRY: (STARTING ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Aren't you?! Gee, that's gr---! I mean - uh - that'll be kinda tough on Bradley.

MARY: No -- I hope you'll come and see me once in a while -- when you're not too busy, Jerry.

JERRY: Gosh! I sure will - every chance I get. I'd like to be with you all the time, Mary, -- But listen, I've got to leave you now, though - I've got to go up and help Jim fight fire. Mrs. Robbins'll see that you get along all right.

MARY: Yes, you must help stop that fire, Jerry.

JERRY: I'll be back soon as we get 'er under control. -- Well, I'll have to say so long, now, I guess.

MARY: Jerry.

JERRY: What, Mary?

MARY: Do you know what you did when you first found me up there on the trail?

JERRY: No. What?

MARY: You jumped off your horse and picked me up -- and kissed me.

JERRY: Did I?! Gosh! I didn't even know it, Mary. -- Gee, maybe you wouldn't mind -- if I kissed you again?

MARY: No -- I wouldn't mind --

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER:

Well, folks, it's a shame we have to take you away from the Pine Cone Ranger Station just at this moment. -- Jerry is going on up to help Ranger Jim and his men fight that fire, though, and we know that they'll keep hard at it until the flames have been subdued. A forest fire is a terrible thing. Fire, the outlaw! --- Fire, the destroyer of wealth and beauty! -- Folks, we must help the foresters keep fire out of the woods.

Next Thursday, at this same hour, we shall take you for another visit to Ranger Jim's and Jerry's national forest ranger district. "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" comes to you as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

The role of Ranger Jim is played by Harvey Hays. Others in todays cast:

er/11:00 A.M.
August 17, 1932.