B-CPRO-7

BLUE · NETWORK · COMPANY

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #514
PROGRAM TITLE

SUSTAINING - NATIONAL FARM & HOME HOUR
ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1942
DAY & DATE

11:30-12:00 A.M. CWT - BLUE
TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

CAST

SOUND

REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:
This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: The idea of Thanksgiving is probably as old as the worship in spirit itself and yet, it wasn't until 1863 that our first national Thanksgiving proclamation was issued. Then, as now, war was upon our country. And, interestingly enough, what President Abraham Lincoln said then, seems equally true and fitting today, 79 years later. These are his words: "Needful diversions of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements; and the mines, as well as of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom...No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the most high God, who while dealing with us in anger for our sings, hath nevertheless remembered mercy"....Thus spoke Abraham Lincoln nearly 80 years ago on the eve of the first national Thanksgiving Day...

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER CONTD: And now to the Pine Cone Ranger Station and our friends Ranger Jim Robbins, and his wife, Bess, Assistant Ranger Jerry Quick and Jerry's sweetheart, the local schoolma'am, Mary Halloway. It seems that everybody feels pretty good about Thanksgiving...everybody except Jim, that is. Jim feels he has just cause for complaint. Well, here they are.

JIM: (FADING IN) Doggone it, Bess. This is the first time I can remember that we're not goin' to have Thanksgiving dinner at home.

BESS: Now, Jim...

JIM: You might have prepared me for the sad news at least...But no, you wait until the morning of Thanksgiving Day to tell me...

JERRY: It's a surprise, don't you see, Jim?

MARY: (WHISPERS) Jerry, you fool...

JIM: Huh?

BESS: (HASTILY) What Jerry means, Jim, is that we thought you'd enjoy eating out this once, and we decided not to tell you 'till the last minute.

JIM: But all that shopping you've been doing this week? I figured all the time it was turkey and the fixin's you were buying.

BESS: (LAUGHING) No, Jim. I was shopping for Christmas, early, like everybody should do this year.

JERRY: (CHUCKLING) Yeah, Jim. That was no turkey in that big package. I bet it was your new suit of heavy underwear...

JERRY, BESS AND MARY LAUGH

JIM: (SARCASTICALLY) Very funny. Very funny.

JERRY: Aw, Jim, It's not such a tragedy, having to eat out. I got an idea you'll enjoy it more than you...

MARY: (HASTILY) And think of all the work it will save Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: Well, I'll have to agree there's somethin' to that.

BESS: Oh, I don't mind cooking. It's just that..well..I thought it would be nice to go out today.

JERRY: Sure, we'll get to see a lot of the folks in town and...

MARY: (HASTILY) Excuse me, Jerry. Will you get my sweater? I'm a bit chilly.

JERRY: Huh? Oh, sure, sure. (GOING OFF) It's in the hall, isn't it?

JIM: What did Jerry mean about seein' a lot of folks in town, Bess?

BESS: Oh, I imagine Jerry meant that people will be out walking, and enjoying the weather. It's such a lovely day. That's always nice on a holiday, to see and talk with people. And to count our blessings together.

MARY: I think all of us have many reasons to be thankful this year.

JERRY: (COMING ON) You're right about that Mary. Here, want your sweater?

MARY: Thank you, Jerry.

JERRY: Look at the way things are perking up for the Allies. Americans can be thankful for that, all right!

JIM: Yeah. But like Churchill said, we gotta remember this is just the end of the beginning and not necessarily the beginning of the end.

BESS: I think I'm most thankful today because we're all still together here, the four of us; in good health and serving our country to the best of our particular abilities.

JIM: Amen to that, Bess. And now, Mary, what are you most thankful for today?

MARY: Well, Mr. Robbins, I...I'm most thankful I believe because of the well-being that's evident this year in our little community of Winding Creek.

JERRY: What are you driving at, Mary?

MARY: Well, you see...Even though we find ourselves in the middle of a cruel and terrible war, the people of Winding Creek face this winter with confidence and faith. In spite of necessary rationing and other inconveniences, nobody will go hungry in Winding Creek, nobody will lack warm clothing, nobody will lack work.

BESS: That's a splendid thought, Mary. And, when everything's said and done I shouldn't wonder but that it's about the same in most American communities. We can indeed be thankful for that, we Americans.

JIM: I'll go along with you on that, Bess. I just hope folks all over this country will take time today to do what we're doing. I just hope folks will count their real blessings today instead of counting their fancied grievances. Nine times outa ten we've got a lot more to be grateful for than we have to complain about.

JERRY: Gosh, but isn't that the truth, though.

JIM: You were talking about Winding Creek, Mary. I wonder if the folks here realize that the strength of our little town comes from the forest all around them.

JERRY: You would think of that, Jim

JIM: Yes. I wonder if the folks here realize...if they appreciate the fact that it's this forest that's mostly responsible, in one way or another, for the things you mentioned, Mary? For food, and clothing through work in the forest; for warmth because of the wood from the forest?

MARY: I'm sure they must realize that, Mr. Robbins.

BESS: Of course they do, Jim.

JERRY: Good old modest Jim as always. He talks about the forest, he does, but not one word about the fact that it takes a well-managed forest to dish out all those things and keep on providing them year after year.

JIM: Well, it's my job to manage the Pine Cone district the best way I can, Jerry. But it takes the forest itself to dish out as you put it, the necessary things of life.

BESS: Oh dear! Look at the time. We ought to get started to town. You don't really mind, do you, Jim? Next Thanksgiving, I promise we'll eat at home. But today, well, today will have to be an exception.

JIM: It's all right, Bess. Good gravy, after the way I spouted off about countin' our blessings instead of our grievances, you don't think I'm gonna kick about eating out, do you? (CHUCKLING) It might be kinda fun at that...But I'll bet you one thing, Jerry. I'll bet you a turkey leg we don't get to see many folks downtown away from their homes today.

JERRY: Mister, I'll take that bet...and...

MARY: Jerry!

JERRY: Holy smokes, what did I say wrong now?

JIM: Let him alone, Mary. C'mon, Bess, let's set the pace for these youngsters. We want to get to town before the turkey runs out.

ALL LAUGH OUT

PAUSE

FADE IN FOOTSTEPS, SUSTAIN

JIM: Hey! Where we going? This aint the way to Ma Grady's eating place. There's nothing down this way but the Community center.

JERRY: M-m-m. Smell this cripp air, will yuh? Nothing like a brisk walk to get up an appetite.

JIM: You can walk all you want to, Jerry. Me, I'm hungry as a bear right now. Tell me, Bess, what's the idea of coming down here?

BESS: Oh...we just thought it would be nice to come this way. That's all, Jim.

JIM: Okay. Okay! (CHUCKLES) Jerry, how's it going to feel not to be able to nibble on a turkey leg this Thanksgiving? We haven't met a soul..or do I have to remind you? This oughta teach you not to bet with an old expert on human behavior.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Oh Yeah?

JIM: What you laughing about?

MARY: (HASTILY) Look. Here's the community center. Let's go in and see if they've finished that little library room they were working on, shall we?

BESS: I think that's a splendid idea.

JIM: All right, but when do we...

JERRY: Come on, I'll get the door. (KNOB TURNS, DOOR CREAKS OPEN) In with you, Jim.

CHORUS OF VOICES: "There's Jim"... "Hyah Jim"..."Hurrary for Jim Robbins" (SING) For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, as nobody can deny!

CROWD CHEERS, SUSTAIN CROWD NOISE

JIM: Hey! What's going on here? Why, there's Andy Goodman and Frank Thompson and Al Perkins and Matt Woody...Looks like the whole daggonned town's here. Women and children and all.

ANDY: (OFF) Howdy, Jim. Glad you could make it. Come in. Come in. Don't stand there in the door. It took us all morning to heat this place.

JERRY: Sure, go on, Jim. I'll close the door.

DOOR SLAMS SHUT

MARY: Look at those tables will you? And all the turkey and vegetables and steaming bowls of stuffing and gravies...and hot rolls and...

JERRY: What about those pumpkin pies? Boy, is this something, Jim, or is it?

JIM: Bess, you knew about this and everybody else knew too, didn't they? Everybody except me. What's the big idea, anyway? And everybody standing around grinning at me..

BESS: Mr. Goodman is in charge, Jim. All we had to do was to get you here on time and we did that. Now you better ask Mr. Goodman to explain.

JIM: Andy, what in blazes is this? I sure think it's fine seeing all these folks here at the Community Center and those tables full of good things to eat, but what's it all about?

ANDY: This is Thanksgiving Day, ain't it, Jim?

JIM: Yeah, sure but...

ANDY: Well, folks in a lot of communities all over the country are getting together this way. It's an expression of good neighborliness and an occasion for giving thanks for the year's blessings. It's a kind of new idea - a Thanksgiving Harvest observance that got its start down in Mississippi earlier this fall...We decided to do the same thing here in Winding Creek.

JIM: I see.

ANDY: (CALLS) Quiet, folks. Quiet a minute.

CROWD NOISE SUBSIDES

ANDY: Folks, Jim here wants to know what this is all about, so I'm gonna try to tell him...Well, all over the country folks're grateful for a good season's crops - for a bountiful harvest. Here in Winding Creek we're grateful for a bountiful harvest too, even though it'sadifferent kind of harvest... You see, Jim, we're still a little old lumbering town whatever anyone else may say. We know it and what's more we appreciate what our forest has done for us, for every man, women, and child in this room...

BESS: Isn't that wonderful, Jim?

JIM: (HUSKILY) Yeah, it sure is, Bess.

ANDY: It's the forest that built our town, and the forest is keeping it going...the Pine Cone National Forest, Jim. Our men have had work, most of our homes are built out of the wood from the forest, our kids have been helped along to good educations. because of the forest. And take those boys of ours, may God keep them, those boys from Winding Creek who are sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner over seas today...why they got their health and strength and good character out of our forest and nobody can say different. We owe a lot to the forest, Jim. Even more this year than ever, we figure...

JIM: That's fine, Andy. Mighty fine. And so today, you're giving thanks for the forest, huh?

ANDY: (SLOWLY WITH EMPHASIS) Yes, Jim. We're giving thanks for the forest and to you for the way you've handled this Pine Cone National Forest for us all these years. (CROWD APPLAUDS) I don't reckon I need to say much more than that. It might... well...it might kinda embarrass both of us...Well, we've been waiting for you to get here, and now...

MARY: (SOTTO) Look at Mr. Robbins, Jerry. He has teras in his eyes.

JERRY: (SOTTO) Yeah..it's a fine tribute, all right, You know, I don't believe I'm gonna insist on collecting that bet now, Mary. He can keep his turkey leg, after this.

MARY: (LIGHTER) You silly.

ANDY: We want you to give the blessing, Jim.

SOUND OF SHUFFLING, CROWD MURMUR SUBSIDES

JIM: (CLEARS THROAT) On this day of Thanksgiving, Lord, we are grateful to you for so many things...for these splendid men, women and children so happily gathered together here, for this plentiful food, for the forest of living trees that has made (FADE) this wondeful day possible...

MUSIC IN UNDER LAST LINE OF ABOVE

MUSIC UP FOR FINALE

ANNOUNCER: And now, from Uncle Sam's forest Rangers to all of you: A Happy Thanksgiving! This program has been a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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