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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS - EPISODE NO. 523

PROGRAM TITLE SUSTAINING

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1943

DAY & DATE 11:30-12:00 NOON BLUE

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

MARY

BESS

JIM

JERRY

JEFF

CAST

LUCILE HUSTING

KATHERINE CARD

HARVEY HAYS

JOHN LARKIN

PHIL LORD

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: I guess we've all wondered from time to time what a young man thinks about as he prepares to take up arms for his country in Uncle Sam's fighting forces. Well, we've discovered what one man in particular thought about before he shoved off with a gun on his shoulder. He put it in the form of a letter to his local newspaper and, addressing his fellow-townsmen he said, quote, "It's up to you boys to do your best to see that our interests are protected while we are away, so we may return to our heritage of green forests, clear streams, and a fine abundance of game and fish as we again resume our normal lives under our democratic ways of living," end of quote. There, surely is a grand young American with the love of his country's forests in his heart. We wish him speedy victory and a safe return... to an American that will take care of its natural resources. And now, to the Pine Cone Ranger Station where on a February mid-morning we find Ranger Jim Robbins, his wife Bess, and his assistant Jerry Quick talking about Pete Ramey, one of Jim's former forest guards, who has just been reported missing in overseas action.... Here they are....

JIM: (FADE IN) Yep, when I heard the news down town last night, Bess, it kinda got me and... well... I... I...

BESS: (GENTLY) I know, Jim. Peter Ramey was one of the finest young men we've ever had here on the Forest.

JERRY: Aw now, wait. What d'ya mean, was? Just 'cause Pete's been reported missing doesn't mean he's dead. He could be a prisoner of war, couldn't he?

BESS: Yes, of course, Jerry.

JIM: One of the finest young men and about the best doggoned forest guard I've ever had. And as keen a practical woodsman as anyone could hope for. Take those pine woods of his on his father's place. Planted 'em when he was just a kid and nursed 'em along 'til.....

BESS: I've been thinking about Peter's father, Jim. He must be taking this terribly hard. And his mother, too. She hasn't been very well lately, you know.

JIM: Yes, Bess. I've been thinkin' of old Jeff and Mrs. Ramey, too. And don't forget, there's Bobby, Pete's youngster. The kid'll feel it more'n anybody if his Dad don't come back home.

JERRY: Gee, that's right, Jim ... Pete's wife died when Bobby was born, didn't she?

BESS: Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: And now the kid's all alone. 'Cept his grandparents of course. Gosh, that's kinda tough.

BESS: Jim, you and Jeff Ramey are old friends. Don't you think you ought to go see him today?

JIM: I...I don't know, Bess. That is, I'm not sure anything I could say would help old Jeff right now. He and Pete were the kind of dad-and-son combination you read about and Jeff must be pretty hard hit. I reckon I'd better wait a while. (SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS OFF) H-m-m, sounds like someone's comin'.

JERRY: It's Mary. What's she doing here this time of day?

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

BESS: Mary! Aren't you teaching school today?

MARY: (WORRIED) Hello everybody.

JIM: Hello, Mary.

JERRY: Something's wrong. What is it, Mary? ... Here, sit down, and tell us what's worryin' you.

MARY: You've heard about Peter Ramey?

JIM: Yes. We were just talkin' about him, Mary.

BESS: Mary! There's more news?

MARY: No. Not about Peter. But I rushed over here from school to tell you about his son, Bobbie, and about Peter's father.

JIM: What's happened, Mary?

MARY: Well, Bobby came to school as usual this morning, but I could see he'd been crying...but I decided not to say anything as long as he seemed to be bearing up all right. And, for a seven-year old, I must say he was doing splendidly.

BESS: I think you were right not to say anything, Mary. The child shouldn't be reminded about.....

JIM: You mentioned old Jeff, Mary. What about him?

MARY: Well I missed Bobby during the morning recess. One of the children said she saw him go toward the wood shed so I went out there myself and there was Bobby back in the corner, crying as though his little heart was breaking.

JIM: Go on, Mary.

MARY: I tried to calm him by telling him his father was only missing and there was a good chance he'd be home again some day, but I found out that what the child was most worried about right then was his grandpa.

JIM: Worried about Jeff? Why?

MARY: It seems that when Bobby got up this morning his grandpa had already left the house, with an axe in his hand, according to Mrs. Ramey.

JERRY: With an axe? What the dickens does that mean?

MARY: Bobby said his grandpa hadn't even come back for breakfast and hisgrandma was crying and he begged me to not let his grandpa go off some where and not come back, like his daddy did....

JERRY: Gosh!

BESS: Jim, you've got to do something. You've got to go over to the Ramey place right now.

MARY: I wish you would, Mr. Robbins. I turned Bobby over to another teacher and came right over here. But now I've got to go back to the school house. You'll see about Mr. Ramey won't you, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: Of course I will, Mary. You go on back and tell Bobby everything's goin' to be all right, Mary.... Come on, Jerry.

BESS: I'm going too, Jim. I'm thinking Mrs. Ramey needs some one (FADE) to look after her too.

PAUSE:

JERRY: (FADE IN) It sure was a good thing Mrs. Robbins came along, Jim.

JIM: Yeah. Mrs. Ramey was mighty close to collapsing, I guess but Bess'll take care of her all right.

JERRY: I couldn't make out who Mrs. Ramey was more worried about - Pete or his father.

JIM: A combination of both, I'd say, Jerry. I gotta admit I'm gettin' a bit concerned about Jeff, myself. Of course he's got a sizable place here and we haven't covered all of it yet, but.....

JERRY: There wasn't a sign of him in the big pasture or in those north woods, either. Maybe we'd better get some more men and really scour those woods, huh, Jim?

JIM: May have to, Jerry, but I wanta try just one more place first.

JERRY: Where's that?

JIM: That grove of pines up ahead, Jerry.

JERRY: I get it. The pines that Pete planted... Say that's right, Jim. That'd be just the place the old man would head for if he was plannin' to... to...

JIM: (GRUFFLY) If he was plannin' to what, Jerry?

JERRY: Aw now, don't get me wrong, Jim. But you gotta admit it looks kinda bad when a fellow like Pete's father... You know how fond he was of Pete...when he goes of early in the morning with nothin' but an axe and doesn't show up for meals or anything...

JIM: Cut it out, Jerry. Whatever Jeff thought, it wasn't what you're thinking.

JERRY: I sure hope you're right, Jim... Wait! What's that?

SOUND OF AXE OFF, SUSTAIN

JIM: Sounds like an axe to me, Jerry...Yep, there's old Jeff - see him over there, back in those pines, Jerry?... Old Jeff Ramey at the light end of an axe, swingin' away like mad.

JERRY: Yeah. He's okay then... But look, Jim, those pines!! Man alive, he's ruining that pine grove. Cuttin' all those young trees that Pete planted.

JIM: I guess Jeff must be thinking they're Japs he's sockin' away at. (SERIOUS) But you're right, Jerry. He's in a frame of mind to do a lot of damage without realizing it.... I don't like to interfere with what a man does on his own place but I reckon we better say something to him, Jerry. (FADE) Come on. He sees us....

PAUSE

FADE IN SOUND OF AXE, SUSTAIN CHOPPING THROUGH CONVERSATION

JEFF: (WITH GRUNTS - TIRED) Seems to me, Jim, you could do better takin' care of your timber sales on the Pine Cone Forest instead of takin' time to bother with an old man like me. There's a war on, and they're needin' timber bad. You oughta know that!!

JIM: Well, it seems to me, Jeff, you could be a mite more polite with an old friend like me and chat a while without keepin' on swingin' away at those young pines.

JEFF: Pete..he....he wasn't so old himself, and they cut him down, 'pears like.

JERRY: You mustn't believe Pete's gone, Mr. Ramey. You mustn't. Missing in action isn't the same as...as killed in action.

JEFF: They got my Pete, oneway or another. And I reckon this is about the only way I can get some solid licks in.

JIM: I understand, Jeff. They took your boy. And now you're taking Pete's pine trees...this timber here that Pete planted himself and took care of through the years... You're cuttin' it down figurin' that's the best way you can get even for whatever mighta happened to Pete, huh?

JEFF: Put it any way you like, Jim. I gotta do what I see right to do.

JIM: Okay, Jeff. I guess we might as well go along, Jerry.... No, wait. I got just one more thing to say, Jeff. What you're doin' here, cuttin' all these young pines down before their time....

JEFF: Pete was cut down 'fore his time, wasn't he?

JIM: What I was goin' to say was this, Jeff. (SLOWLY) I don't think Pete would agree to this. I don't think he'd like it very much, wherever he is... Come on, Jerry.

AXE SOUNDS OUT

JEFF: Wait a minute, Jim. What d'ya mean, Pete wouldn't like it?

JIM: Jeff, I reckon I don't have to tell you how close your boy, Pete, and I were...

JEFF: I know Pete thought a heap of you, Jim.

JIM: We used to talk about this pine grove here quite a lot, Pete and me, Jeff.

JEFF: I know, Jim, and I'm not forgettin' what good friends you and my boy was but...

JIM: Seems to me that Pete figured all along he was growing this pine forest for his son, Bobby. Pete used to tell me these pine trees growing up here oughta help Bobby have easier sailing than he did, as far as schooling and the like is concerned. I... well, I'm surprised you didn't know that, Jeff, about Pete's plans for Bobby and all, and how much he was counting on these pines.

JEFF: (VERY WEARY) I knew it, Jim. I knew it... I guess I just...well I kinda forgot. These are Bobby's trees, aren't they? I had no right to lay an axe to 'em.

JIM: (GENTLY) Jerry and I went through your north woods, Jeff, tryin' to find you. There's some fine big timber in those woods, Jeff.

JERRY: Sure, Mr. Ramey. Some of it's ready for cutting right now and it'd help out a lot more in the war than this little stuff....

JEFF: (WEARY) I guess I kinda went off the handle, Jim. When I heard about Pete, though, I reckon I didn't realize what I was doin'. All I could think about was what they did to my boy and somehow I came straight on here and ... well, this is all dadgummed spite, Jim, that's what it is... I gotta admit it...

JIM: Shucks, I understand, Jeff.

JEFF: My wife and me... we've still got little Bobby anyway, ain't we? And like you say, there is a chance Pete's all right, too...

JERRY: Sure there is, Mr. Ramey, a swell chance....

JEFF: Maybe I can make this up to Bobby some way, cuttin' his trees down. I'll help him plant some more trees or something. That'll make it all right, won't it, Jim?

JIM: Sure it will, Jeff. Now, what do you say? Ready to come back to the house with us? Bess is there and it's about time you got some grub under that belt of yours.

JEFF: Sure, Jim, sure...I'd be obliged to you, Jim, if you'd let me take your arm to lean on, kinda.

JIM: All right, Jeff. That's it! ..... Jerry, you bring the axe, will you?

JERRY: Okay, Jim.

JEFF: I...I reckon I'm just an old fool, Jim, forgettin' little Bobby that way and hackin' down those young pines of his...

JIM: Forget it, Jeff. What you need is some hot food like I said.....

JEFF: I'm not hungry, Jim. No, I ain't hungry at all. The matter with me is I'm tired, Jim, (FADE) awful tired...

MUSICAL FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

we: 10:00
2/16/43