UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode No. 22

JUNE 9, 1932.

THURSDAY

ANNOUNCER: Here they are -- Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers -- (ORCHESTRA: QUARTET)

ANNOUNCER:

Now we take you to the National Forest where Ranger Jim Robbins and his new assistant, Jerry Quick, are on the job managing and protecting your forest resources. The resources of the national forests are yours, for they belong to the people of the United States, and are administered for their benefit.

Today Jim and Jerry are going out on the forest, we understand, to check up on the salt stations on the cattle range, and perhaps, incidentally, to post some signs -direction signs for roads and trails to guide visitors to the national forest, and warning signs against carlessness with fire or acts of vandalism. We find them now at the Pine Cone Ranger Station --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

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JERRY: Well, General, what's the orders of the day? JIN: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) All booted and spurred and ready to ride. ch, Jerry?

JERRY: And rarin' to go.

JIM: Well, we're going up to the head of Winding Creek today and check up on the salting stations on the cattle range.

- JERRY: You want to find out whether the salt captains are handling their jobs, huh?
- JIM: Uh, huh. I suspect some of them are not. I got a complaint yesterday that the cattle on the upper Winding Creek unit are straying off their range and crowding some of the other units. I bet they're looking for salt.

JERRY: Who's the salt captain for that unit?

JIM: Sam Riggs.

JERRY: Why, he's the fellow that made all the fuss about salting at the Stock Association meeting last spring.
JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Yes. Sometimes the fellow that does the most kicking is the one that's slowest about doing his share of the work. -- Well, we'll check up on the salt stations and see how much salt has been put out -- and on the way we'll do some sign posting. It's getting late, and the fire warnings should have been posted before this.

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JERRY: Shall I get the posters?

JIM: Yes. -- Well, here's the salt plan map, Jerry. It shows where each salt station is and how much salt should be put out at it. You take it along with you. I have the plan pretty well in mind.

JERRY: All right.

- JIM: And here's the sign plan map. -- shows where the fire warnings are posted, and the sanitation signs and road and trail signs.
- JERRY: It looks to me like we ought to put up a lot more fire warnings. I'd put one about every hundred feet so that people would have to read them overy few seconds.
- JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well it don't seem to work out that way, Jerry. I've studied this sign posting pretty carefully and I find too many signs is just as bad as none at all. A few signs, well placed, is best. JERRY: There's more to sign posting than you'd think,

isn't there?

- JIM: Yes, if you do a good job of it. We have to consider the effect of the signs on the scenery as well as their efficiency in appealing to the public. We don't want to clutter up our forest scenery with a lot of signs.
- JERRY: I agree there. I suppose that's the reason the regulations forbid posting advertising signs on national forest land.

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- JIM: Yes. If we didn't keep them out there'd be some sort of a sign on every rock and tree along the roads. --- Have you selected the posters?
- JERRY: Lets see -- Here's the one that says: "Drown your campfire -- every spark." Shall we take some of those?

JIM: Yes.

JERRY: "Be Sure Your Match is Out, Break it in Two Before you Throw it Away" --

JIM: Yeah.

- JERRY: And "Shovel, Ax and Water Bucket Required with Each Camping Party" -- and "Smokers -- Be Sure Your Match, Cigarette, Cigar is Out" --
- JIM: You can't reach some folks by reason Jerry. So we have to tell 'em what the law provides. -- You've got all the road signs and direction signs there in the bundle?

JERRY: Yeah -- they're all ready.

JIM: Well, -- Let's go Jerry. Throw the saddles in the car and we'll drive to the road camp. We'll get a couple of pack mules to ride there, and that'll save us some time.

JERRY: Ride mules?

JIM: Sure. Most of our pack stock is broken to the saddle too. A good saddle mulc is an easier riding animal than a horse.

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- JERRY: Well -- I'd just as soon stick with my horse. I don't know much about riding mules.
- JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, the mule you'll have hasn't been ridden much lately, either, so I reckon you two can work it out among yourselves. -- Well, let's go.
- JERRY: All set. -- I'll get the car -- and the saddles.

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF HALMERING)

JERRY: There. How's that?

JIM: That doesn't look so bad, Jerry.

- JERRY: Mell, now, with that sign up there, no campers or picnickers can say they didn't have a chance to find out the right way to handle fire in the woods.
- JIM: I s'pose we can expect some folks'll be careless just the same.
- JERRY: Do you think we're apt to have many bad fires this year, Jim?

JIM: You never can tell, Jerry.

- JERRY: Well, if we <u>do</u> have any bad fires, be sure and put me where the fighting's hardest, Jim. I want to give it all I've got.
- JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Want to get in the thick of it, eh? -Well, you'll get your share of fire fighting sooner or later, son. (<u>MORE CHUCKLES</u>) Puts me in mind of a youngster from the city I had to use one time on a big fire we had over on the Mineral Springs district.

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JERRY: How was that?

JIM: Well, this lad was kind of a long-geared egg who'd been reading adventure stories, I guess, and craved excitement. I could see he wasn't very experienced in the ways of the woods though, so I put him on the job mopping up a line that was safe. -- That kind of work is plenty hard, but it ain't exactly thrilling, so pretty soon he came to me complaining that it wasn't exciting enough for him -- he wanted to be with the shock troops.

JERRY: I can sorta see how he felt, at that.

JIM: Yeah? (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Well, anyhow, I told him he better stick where he was on the mopping up job -it'd toughen him up a little and he'd be sniffin' enough smoke so's he'd know he was at a fire. But next morning the lad joined another crew without orders, so as to see the front line trenches. (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) The wind was awhippin' 'er up that day, all right. It'd catch up big limbs and branches and carry 'em blazing and sparking over your heads. The flames would raise way up and then the wind would shoot 'em out in front. It was just like a wall of flame toppling over toward you. --JERRY: Gosh! It must be awful when they blow up like that.

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JIM: It's bad business, Jerry. -- Well, the kid got up there just about the time our men lost the line and were chased half a mile back through the brush by a big break. (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) I guess the heat and the flames and the smoke and the roar of it kinda took him unprepared. The boy threw away his tool and his canteen and took out like a jack rabbit, hollerin' at the top of his voice that they were all going to be burned to death.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Plenty scared, huh?

JIM: Well, it <u>did</u> look pretty bad for a while, but we finally got 'er checked again. (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Anyway, late that night, the kid came sneakin' back into camp with his shirt and pants all snagged up -no tellin' how far he ran before he stopped. I didn't ask him how he liked the front line of a forest fire, but next day, I put him back to mopping up safe line again and he seemed satisfied to stay there.

JERRY: Well, I hope I pan out better than that on the fire line.

JIM: I reckon you will. If I've got you sized up right, Jerry, you'll stick. You may have some faults, but runnin' away from danger is not one of 'em. If it was, I don't think there'd be room for you in the Forest Service.

JERRY: Thanks, Jim. ---



JIM: Well, let's head up the road. -- How you been gettin' along with your mule?

JERRY: Uh -- all right, I guess.

- JIM: Well, we've got to check on the salting yet, and besides that we've got to post direction signs on the Pine Crest and South Fork trails.
- JERRY: I guess we'll be kind of late getting back tonight then, won't we?

JIM: Most likely. --- Why? Got a date?

JERRY: Nope. I was just wondering.

JIM: You haven't been seeing so much of the schoolma'm lately, have you?

JERRY: Mary Halloway? No.

JIM: What's the matter? You youngsters had a squabble? JERRY: N-no. No trouble.

JIM: Well, that's good. I thought maybe you and the schoolma'm were on the outs.

JERRY: N-no -- only that fellow that's stopping at the summer hotel -- he's been seeing her too doggone much.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Kinda beating your time, huh?

JERRY: Well, a good-looking fellow like that, with lots of money and a swell, flashy roadster -- shucks! I haven't got a chance.

JIM: He's steppin' too high for you, huh?

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JERRY: Yeah. You can't blame her for liking to ride around in a big car like that. -- All I can do is ask her to take a walk. No use trying to keep up with a guy like that -- on <u>my</u> salary. JIM: What's this young fellow's name?

JERRY: Bradley.

- JIM: Bradley? Must be old man Bradley's son, from down in the city. I know the old man -- he's a pretty good scout. Got lots of money.
- JERRY: Well, his son sure seems to have plenty. You oughta seen the roll of bills he was flashin' in the store the other night.
- JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Well, now. -- I've got a notion that Mary's eyesight's pretty good -- good enough to see a little further than the bankroll a man's carrying. -- Have you asked her to go walking lately?

JERRY: No.

- JIM: Maybe she wouldn't mind taking a walk now and then at that in good company.
- JERRY: Well, I kinda flew off the handle the other day when she cracked a smile a mile wide at this guy -and I haven't seen her since then.
- JIM: Oh, I see. -- You like this schoolma'm pretty well, don't you Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah, -- I guess so.

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JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) I kinda thought so. -- You know, Jerry, it's sort of a tradition among us old rangers that once we start following a trail we stick to it. --A ranger generally gets his man -- and I s'pose maybe that'd apply in the case of a woman too.

JERRY: Yes -- I -- guess it would. ---

JIM: Well, we better get going. I think I'll let you post the direction signs along the South Fork trail by yourself, while I look into this salting business. (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Hope you and your mule get along together.

JERRY: (UNCERTAINLY) I guess I can make out.

(FADEOUT WITH JIM CHUCKLING)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

JERRY:	Giddap: (SOUND OF SLAPPING MULE WITH REIN STRAP)
	Giddap! Move, you old hiderack! (MORE SLAPS)
	- GIDDAPI Go on, move, doggone it!
MARY:	(OFF) Oh, Jerry. Is that you, Jerry?
JERRY:	Hello Oh hello, Mary. What you doing up here?
MARY:	(<u>COMING UP</u>) I didn't expect to see you up here
JERRY:	(HALF MUTTERING TO SELF) I bet you didn't.
MARY:	Oh, why Jerry! (LAUGHS) Don't you look funny -
	on that mule? (<u>LAUGHS</u>)
JERRY:	Funny? I don't see anything funny about it The
	doggone thing won't cross the bridge.

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MARY: (LAUGHS) Oh, this is killing.

JERRY: Yeah? Well, I don't see the joke. -- How come you're way up here on the South Fork this afternoon?

MARY: Oh, Mr. Bradley wanted to come up here for a little fishing and he asked me to come along for the ride -(CALLS) Oh, Mr. Bradley!

JERRY: Bradley, huh?

MARY: (CALLS AGAIN) Mr. Bradley! -- Bertram!

BRADLEY: (OFF) Yes, Mary.

MARY: Come here a minute, Bertram.

JERRY: Calling each other by your first names already, huh?

MARY: Certainly, why not? -- (<u>CALLS</u>) Come here, Bertram. I want you to meet Mr. Quick.

BLADLEY: (OFF) All right, Mary.

JERRY: Why do I have to meet that guy?

MARY: Oh now, Jerry, don't be an old grouch. -- (LOUDER) Bertram --- Mr. Bradley, I'd like to have you meet Mr. Quick, the Assistant Ranger here.

BRADLEY: (COMING UP) How do you do, Mr. Quick.

JERRY: Glad to know yuh.

MARY: Look at Jerry's fiery steed, Bertram. (LAUGHS) Did you ever see such a funny-looking animal?

BRADLEY: (LAUGHS) Say, that's good, isn't it? -- Why don't you get a horse?

JERRY: (<u>SLIGHTLY HUFFY</u>) I've got a horse, but I'm riding a mule today, see? .

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BRADLEY: Oh. I see. (LAUGHS)

JERRY: And it's a doggone good mule, too. -- Giddap! (SLAPS MULE WITH REIN) Giddap!

MARY: Won't it go, Jerry?

BRADLEY: Better step on the starter.

- JERRY: I can't get 'er across the bridge. She won't budge.--Giddap, you ornery old --
- BRADLEY: Here, let's see if I can lead you across -- Here -come on, old girl. -- Come on.

(SOUND OF HULE'S FUOTSTEPS ON BRIDGE)

- BRADLEY: There you are. That was easy.
- JERRY: Thanks. --- Well, so long.
- MARY: Oh, Jerry, you aren't going to rush right away, are you?
- JERRY: Thanks. I'm in a hurry. -- Giddap! (SOUND OF MULE WALKING UP TRAIL)
- MARY: (LAUGHS; CALLS AFTER HIM) Oh, Jerry, you look so disgusted. (FADEOUT WITH MARY AND BRADLEY LAUGHING)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

- JERRY: (COMING UP) Say, look here, Jim --
- JIM: Back again Jerry? How did you make out?
- JERRY: (<u>PEEVED</u>) Say, what in heck did you want to make me ride that durned mule for, anyhow?
- JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) What's that matter? Have any trouble with 'er?

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JERRY: Trouble! That footbridge across the South Fork -the durn thing balked at it -- wouldn't budge across it --

JIM: (LAUGHS) Well, now, that's too bad.

- JERRY: And Mary Halloway and that new friend of hers --Bradley -- they would have to come along just when I was battling the old mule to get 'er across.
- JIM: (LAUGHS) You're most embarrassing moment, eh?
- JERRY: Embarrassing! Shucks! That fellow Bradley went and <u>led</u> us across the bridge! I felt like thirty cents.
- JIM: (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) Well, now that's a shame. -- Did you get the trail posted all right?
- JERRY: Yeah -- except there was one sign supposed to be put up there at the bridge. -- After putting on a show like that with the mule, I'd've felt foolish standing there tacking up a sign with Mary and that friend of hers looking on.
- JIM: (SERIOUSLY) Jerry, there's nothing a ranger has to do that he needs to be ashamed of. A ranger's work is useful work and public service -- every bit of it -- even posting signs. The only thing you ever need to be ashamed of is when you don't do it well - with the best that's in you.
- JERRY: I know it, Jim. -- I -- I guess I acted like a ten-year-old.

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JERRY: All right. I'll get it up on my day off.

JIM: Okay -- (<u>CHUCKLES</u>) By the way, Mary Halloway stopped by the road camp on her way back and left this note for you.

JERRY: For me? A note? -- What is it?

JIM: I don't know. -- She told me you sure looked funny on that mule.

JERRY: She's probably rubbing it in now -- thanks --

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, what you grinning about?

JERRY: (CHEERY AGAIN) She says she hopes I won't have to work next Sunday, Jim. I guess that means she wouldn't mind me asking her for a date.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Might be.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) I'll take her with me while I post that sign at the bridge. How's that?

JIM: Want a mule to take along?

JERRY: Sure!

(FADEOUT WITH JIM AND JERRY LAUGHING)

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ANNOUNCER:

Well, folks, it goes to show that riding a mule is one way of getting there. --

Vacation time is at hand. Plans are being made for pleasant summer outings, and many will want to spend at least a part of their vacation in the mountains and forests. Uncle Sam's national forests offer splendid opportunities for outdoor recreation; they contain some of the finest mountain scenery in America; they contain vast stretches of timber, high mountain rangelands where cattle and sheep graze, and excellent opportunities for camping and fishing. Resorts and hotels are found in or near many of the national forests, and the U. S. Forest Service also maintains free public campgrounds where the transient camper may pitch his tent. Visitors are welcomed; there is no charge for entering a national forest. All that Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers ask is that the visitor observe good forest manners. This means caring for your forest the same as you do for your home. It means observing the few simple rules for care with fire and sanitation.--

Forest Ranger Jim and Jerry will be with us again at this time next week. "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 cast today included -- etc.

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