

ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUR

WRITER

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CHICAGO OUTLET

(11:30-12:30 AM WISQ BLUE (APRIL 15, 1953) (FRIDAY DAY))

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: QUARTET, RANGER'S SONG

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers dedicate today's program to the great naturalist and philosopher, and one of America's outstanding conservationists John Muir. Next week, on April 21st, comes the 100th anniversary of John Muir's birth. America owes much to this great man, whose zealous championing of the cause of conservation was largely instrumental in bringing about the establishment of our great National Parks and National Forests, and the creation of the United States Forest Service, and the movement for preservation and wise use of our natural resources. -- And now I'm turning things over to our friend, Forest Ranger Jim Robbins. Good on ever Jim.

JIM:

(FADING IN) All right, Everett, thanks -- Folks, we need
of the Pine Glen National Forest and I'd like you to hear
special program today about a great man, who fought a great
battle for the conservation of our forest resources. As
Everett Mitchell just said, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers, and
indeed all Americans, owe him a great big debt of gratitude
and we are happy to have this opportunity to pay tribute to
John Muir.

Last week, you remember, we told you that John Muir was born
in Scotland 100 years ago; that he came to this country as a
boy of 11 and grew up in the hard life of a pioneer farm in
Wisconsin, that he went to the University of Wisconsin and
later made a thousand-mile walk to the Gulf, that from
earliest boyhood he was interested in the wonders of nature
and in their protection and vice versa. You remember I told you
how John Muir was befriended by Professor Jarr and his wife
who helped him with his education. Later the Jarrs moved to
California, and it was through them that Muir met Miss
Strentzel. Louie was a chamber woman and had a lot of common
sense. She was a botanist and a naturalist. She stayed at
her home on a ranch in the foothills near San Francisco Bay.
One night at the ranch house, Louie was sitting the piano
as Muir sat listening --

(FADE IN FIAND PLAYING "BRING TO ME ONLY WITH THINE EYES")

MUIR: Yes, they do--

LOUIE: (PAUSE) John--Was't it wrong tonight?

MUIR: Nothing, Louie -- Nothing.

LOUIE: Is it the destruction of the forests again?

MUIR: Oh -- I can't seem to --

LOUIE: I know how you feel, John. People should know about the way the forests are being wasted and --

MUIR: Everyone should know it. But how will they ever learn if no one is interested enough to come and see for himself?

LOUIE: You must tell them, John. You must tell the people the forests are being ruined. You must show them what the country is losing, and what beauty they, themselves can find in their forests.

MUIR: Louie, I can't find words to say those things.

LOUIE: You have, John.

MUIR: Not the kind of words that should tell of such beauty. Look at this very garden. How rarely words can picture the serene loveliness moonlight casts upon it. How can anyone ever find words to make people feel the magnificence of the forests?

LOUIE: But someone who knows the forests must try to make them see. You must do it, John. No one knows and loves the forests better than you do.

MUIR: I am no writer, Louie. Who is it will read my poor words?

LOUIE

But you can write, John. Those letters you wrote to the
 Carve were beautiful. And hasn't the Overland Monthly already
 published some of your articles, and the New York Tribune,
 and Harper's? -- And people are reading them. Think of all
 the people who have written to you about them, and come to
 see you -- even great men like Agassiz and Ralph Waldo
 Emerson --

MIRA

Yes, a few seem interested; but -- if I only could make
everybody see that we must solve this great riddle, that this
 sleep on which forest problems, lawless and blathering
 about their rights, waste the good timber and destroy the
 mountain beauty. If I could tempt men not to desire, but
 to cherish the good things of nature --

LOUIE

But you say, John, I've lost my way -- Some day, I may get
 tired to what you say, John -- Even the nicest of me
 -- if I don't see what you mean --

(MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

MUIR: Would it be good news or bad?

LOUIE: He says he has just received a letter from Washington, John. The President, Theodore Roosevelt, says he wants to talk to you about the forests.

MUIR: Wants to talk to me? Teddy Roosevelt?

LOUIE: Yes. Look at this. It says: "Then we got to talking about the national forest situation, and Teddy said he would like to have a talk with your friend John Muir. In fact, he said he was going to write Mr. Muir to ask if a trip into the High Sierras could be arranged. He appears to be very serious about the matter, saying that he would like to talk alone with Mr. Muir, and find out the truth about our forests." (EAGERLY) What do you think of that, John?

MUIR: (QUIETLY) It - it sounds very good.

LOUIE: Think of it, the President of the United States wants to come all the way across the continent to ask you about the forests.

MUIR: (CHUCKLING) Well -- it's very good of him.

LOUIE: I'm so proud, John -- Oh, but John--

MUIR: Yes.

LOUIE: What about your trip? -- You were planning to start on your world tour with Dr. Sargent in a few days.

MUIR: Yes, everything is arranged. We have to start some time.

LOUIE: (CREATIVELY) You don't want to give up your trip?

MUIR: I do not. That's true.

LOUIE: But Teddy Roosevelt has the power to protect the forest lands as you have suggested. If you can convince him, if you can show him how necessary it is --

MUIR: He could do something for our forests if --

LOUIE: If what, John?

MUIR: If he would. But many powerful interests would oppose him, thinking only of something to put into their own pockets.

LOUIE: But if ever a President has shown strength of character, Teddy is the one.

MUIR: It's true he has had a successful career.

LOUIE: John, if you could talk to the President alone -- without anyone to interfere or bother you, couldn't you get him to see what is really needed for the protection of the forests? There's not another man alive who could do it better than you, John. That's why Teddy's coming to you. He wouldn't think of it if he didn't consider it a serious matter.

MUIR: Well, if the President really wants to see me, I shall set aside my trip. Perhaps some good might come of it in frankly talking around a forest problem. (CHUCKLES) It may be I can do a little forest good.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

MUIR: It was a carpet of green velvet that stretched up to the trees. And when the flowers that used to be there were blooming in the spring, it was a glorious, breath-taking sea of brilliant colors. The first time I saw it I stood for two hours without moving -- just looking up and down its broad expanse of incredible beauty--and now it's a big dusty patch covered with dirty, naked splotches of hoof-beaten soil -- You know, Teddy, I believe God Himself would shudder with disgust and sorrow if he were to see what men have done to the most precious gifts he has given them.

TEDDY: He would, John. He would. And perhaps that's the reason he gives clear vision and courage to such men as yourself.

MUIR: People used to call me crazy because I preferred to live with the sky for my roof and the earth for a bed. (CHUCKLES) Maybe they were right in a way. But if I can help those who have the power to protect our forests and the desperate need for it, perhaps the Lord will forgive me my faults.

TEDDY: (LAUGHING) I think you stand a fair chance of reaching into Heaven, John, if they're lenient with you.

MUIR: Well, one has to think of these things at average. I only hope I don't go before my work is done. If I had one wish--one been to be granted me, I think I should ask to have the power enough to see the forests protected from the Cassidians.

TEDDY: Well, John -- I think I can help you do that work.

TEDDY: Every word you say is true, John -- it there is not a man in the office of the President of these United States, I shall use it -- now. I shall demand that the forests be reserved. I shall see that honorable and capable foresters are placed in charge of them, and that they are maintained not for the temporary benefit of a few but for the permanent good of the whole people.

WANTS, FINAL

ANNOUNCER: President Theodore Roosevelt established a total of ten million acres of land to be administered as National Forests. It was more than three times the amount of all the land surveyed yet sold. And in 1905, the United States Forest Service was established and placed in charge of them. When the end came five days later in 1909, the President said that he had saved the total of 100 million acres of land to be used for the benefit of the people. And in 1909, the United States Forest Service was established and placed in charge of them.

WANTS, THE END

ANNOUNCER: This program comes to you through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company, a national organization of the United States Forest Service. And finally, we are glad to have you support in the preservation of our natural resources. It is presented by the United States Forest Service.

