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ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

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ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: In a message to Congress one month after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt said, quote, "It is part of our war effort to maintain civilian services which are essential to the basic needs of human life. In the same way it is necessary in war-time to conserve our natural resources and keep in repair our national plant. We can-not afford waste or destruction, for we must continue to think of the good of future generations of Americans"..... And now, once again, to the Pine Cone National Forest where Ranger Jim Robbins seems to be thinking about the good of furture generations of Americans, too. He's working rather late and we join him just as his wife, Bess, walks into his little office at the Ranger Station....

BESS: (COMING ON) Jim Robbins, do you realize what time is it? You ought to be in bed, Jim. You can't keep working all night.

JIM: There's a lot of work to be done these days, Bess.

BESS: Yes, of course, Jim, but you've been working such long hours lately. I know you haven't had enough sleep....What are you so busy with tonight?

JIM: Fire organization plans.

BESS: For the Pine Cone, Jim?

JIM: Yes, and for the town of Winding Creek, too.

BESS: What in the world? Winding Creek has a volunteer fire department now.

JIM: Yeah, I know. But it's a small outfit, and it'd be swamped if we came up against several fires all going the same time.

BESS: Yes, I guess that's true.

JIM: Yeah, you see, Bess, if we had a real bad fire emergency ... a lot of fires at once... the only way to deal with 'em would be to have firemen everywhere - men, women, and children, even, ... puttin' the fires out as fast as they start. And that calls for organization and training.

BESS: Did the Defense Committe assign this job to you, Jim?

JIM: Nope. I kinda took it on my self, Bess. And to tell the truth I'm wonderin' a bit, and, yeah, worryin' too, whether or not the Committee's goin' to take time to really go ahead and put a plan like mine into effect. They've got a lot to do, you know.

BESS: But fire precautions usually come first of all, Jim. Fire and rescue work.

JIM: Yeah, that's right. They haven't overlooked the possibility of fires in town. But, seems to me, they haven't been givin' much attention to the danger of forest fires out around the town and the need for organized action to put them out too. Winding Creeks' like a lot of towns in this country. It's got woods all around and if several fires got started out in the woods, well.....

BESS: Yes. Winding Creek would go up in smoke. Nothing could prevent it.

JIM: Well, that's my slant. I've worked out the whole plan here... Say, aren't Mary and Jerry back yet? Mary's goin' to spend the night here, I thought.

BESS: They ought to be along shortly, Jim. They said the Defense Committee was going to start a big Victory program of some kind and they might be late... But, you were talking about your plan.

JIM: Yeah. I've got a map of Winding Creek and the surrounding woods country right here, see?

BESS: What are those red lines and marks all over the map?

JIM: That shows how I've split the town and the neighboring forest country into sectors. And those little circles show where fire fighting equipment will have to be located for effective supperssion if fires do start. My plan calls for about twenty-five 10-man crews as part of the fire service. They'd all be assigned secotrs and have a captain or Chief in charge of each one.

BESS: Aren't you afraid there'd be a conflict with the town fire crews?

JIM: No indeed. The town's fire setup would be a big part of it. What we need is to be organized for forest fire protection as well as for town and house protection. There'd have to be extra training of course, in forest fire fighting.

BESS: You and Jerry could help on that.

JIM: We'd be doggoned glad to. And I know the folks sittin' in on the training sessions would be just as interested as they've been during those talks they've had on house fires, explosives and the like from Andy Goodman and Tom Jeffries and the others. The way I look at it, Bess, this forest fire protection is important, mighty important!

BESS: Of course it is, and the men will see that too, Jim. I know they will.

JIM: I dunno. I'm afraid they're not as forest fire conscious as they should be, Bess. I kinda thought I'd talk first to Andy Goodman, then to one or two other fellows, and then, finally bring it up at a regular Committee meeting.....

BESS: But, as you say, Jim, the town's fire crews should be trained and equipped to put out forest fires as well as fires in town and I just know....

(DOOR OPENS, SLAMS SHUT) Oh, here's Jerry & Mary now.....

JERRY: (BUSTING IN) Howdy everybody! Hey folks, just listen to this! Ready, Mary!

MARY: Ready. Fire when you're ready, Gridley!

JERRY: Dirt in your fingers
Sun on your back

MARY: Dig for Victory!

JERRY: Turn the good earth
Sow the seed

MARY: Plant for Victory!

JERRY: Weed and water
Rake and hoe

MARY: Grow for Victory!

JERRY: Food builds courage higher
Food makes work come easier
Food brings Victory nearer

MARY & JERRY: Garden for Victory!

BESS: What in the world?

JERRY: Ladies and gentlemen, you're looking at Jeremiah V-for-Victory Quick, Chairman of the Publicity Sub-committe of the Victory Garden Program of the fair town of Winding Creek. And what you've just heard is a sample, just a sample, folks of what my fertile mind intends to conjure up in the Food-for Freedom Campaign of our noble community.

JIM: Hmpf! Sounds like you got it out of a book.

MARY: He did, Mr. Robbins. The only original thing Jerry's said since we came in the house is that he's on the Publicity Sub-committee of Winding Creek's Garden for Victory program. In fact, he's the committee, all by himself.

BESS: So Winding Creek is going in for a Victory garden?

JERRY: Yes ma'am! That's what kept us so long. The committee worked out the best doggonned plans I've ever seen, Jim. Everybody's in on it - the County Agent, the Home Demonstration Agent, the 4-H Club, a lot of just plain folks and....

MARY: They're going to use that school field as the nucleus for the community garden, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: I see. Well, they can certainly grow all kinds of vegetables there. It's fertile soil.

JIM: Yeah. I can see some sense to that. You've got to have good soil and people that know how to use it. I remember some of the war gardens of the last war. Gosh, when I think of the waste of seed and equipment, and effort that went into so many of the gardens; a lot of folks tried to plant in two-by-four backyards, on poor soil and all...

BESS: Yes, Jim. It seems to me there's a place for gardens, in fact an urgent need for them, around farms, and small communities and the like. But only where there's good garden land and people willing to stick to it and make it produce.

JERRY: Which brings me to another master-mind thought: Our nation at war needs every ounce of food soil and able hands can grow. But gardens in wartime need careful planning. We have no time or seeds or tools to spare for wasteful planting...How's that, Mary?

MARY: Very good, Jerry. Did you think of that all by yourself?

JERRY: We won't go into that, Mary. The fact that it's true should be sufficient. But to get back to the planning, Jim.

JIM: Yeah. I'm interested in how the Committee's goin' about this Victory Garden program.

JERRY: Well, Andy Goodman's chariman of the main garden committee. Then there are a lot of sub-committees but all mighty important, I think, for carrying out the program. There's a survey committee, to determine what vegetables and how many to grow, you know, like for school lunchrooms, the hospital, needy families and such. Then there's land committee to locate fertile garden plots, make soil tests and...

MARY: They're going to put you on the labor and transportation sub-committees, Mr. Robbins, to help enroll people to work in the town garden and schedule the activities and arrange for transportation of workers and tools and materials.

JIM: That suits me fine. The way folks around here go at a job we can't miss getting out the food.

BESS: Mary, is there any way I could help on any of the committees? I'd like to...

MARY: You and I are on the food preservation sub-committee, Mrs. Robbins. We've got to help hunt up all canning and preservation equipment around, like cooking utensils, jars and caps, and we'll have to recruit colunteers for the actual canning...and find storage places.

BESS: Oh, I like that, Mary...I suppose they'll go in strong for the growing of leafy vegetables and tomatoes and carrots and the like.

JERRY: That they will. That they will, Mrs. Robbins. Foods rich in minerals and vitamins are what'll count. Let's see now.. We're gonna plant lettuce, turnip greens, cabbage and, uh, and...

MARY: Beets, rutabagas, potatoes, parsnips, turnips, squash, radishes, and...

BESS: Perhaps some fruits and berries like strawverries and melons and blackberries?

JIM: What, no cucumbers for salads or pickles?

ALL LAUGH

JERRY: Sure, cucumbers are on the list, but, seriously, they've really got a jim-dandy program outlined. They plan to pool all garden equipment in the community and they're going to try and locate and patch up unused tools or stuff that needs repairin The whole thing is my idea of a fine cooperative project.

JIM: It sure sounds like heady planning, Jerry. And it's goin' to take cooperation, level-headed cooperation of everybody, all through the program to make it come out on top. And the folks around here can do it. Look at the way they've gotten behind the community forest. Winding Creek's town forest is going places 'cause the folks are pushing it.

JERRY: Say. It just occurred to me. What are you folks doing up so late? You weren't worried about Mary and me, were you?

BESS: No indeed, Jerry. Jim's been hard at work all evening. On a fire organization and training plan he's quite anxious about, and..

JIM: Yeah. We need to organize better for forest fire protection around here, Jerry, but so many folks seem to think woods fires are something that just happen along like the weather, I'm afraid they're too indifferent to the danger of.....

JERRY: Rest you mind easy, my fine fellow. I knew how conserned you were about the Defense committe not giving enough attention to fire protection so I took the liberty to....

MARY: He spoke right out in the meeting. I was so proud of you, Jerry.

JIM: Huh? What's this all about? You talked about forest fires?

JERRY: Yes sir! And listen to this, Jim. Andy Goodman, speaking for the Committee, asked me to ask you if you'd go ahead and make up a plan that could tie in with the present fire-fighting organization. And he asked me to ask you if you and I could help with the training. Now, how's that?

BESS: Why, that's wonderful, Jerry. And Jim has the whole plan all worked out already. He was very much conerened, I don't mind telli you, about whether the Defense Committee would give enough attention to forest fire fighting in the defense organization.

JIM: Looks like I was barkin' up the wrong tree huh, Bess? This young scamp here....

MARY: (LAUGHS) He means you Jerry.

JIM: He did in a couple of minutes what I expected I'd have a hard time doing in a week or more.

JERRY: Nothin' to it, Jim. All you gotta do is present the facts...Say, now that that's all settled, you can help me on my publicity for the Community Garden for Victory.

BESS: Not tonight, Jerry. It's late enough as it is. All of you better march up to your rooms and go to bed.

JIM: Just a minute, Bess. Jerry's right. I owe him somethin' for gettin' that forest fire business all straightened out. I got a slogan for your Garden campaign, Jerry. How's this?

JERRY: We're all ears.

JIM: Vis for vittles!

JERRY: Did you say vittles?

JIM: Yeah, V. is for vittles 'cause you need vittles for victory...Now, don't you?

ALL LAUGH OUT

MUSICAL FINALE

ANNOUNCER: To the people of California now celebrating their State's Eighth Annual Conservation Week, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers send greetings. We express, with Californians, the fervent hope that their splendid timber lands, through good management, will continue to contribute their full and proper share to the defense and welfare of California and the entire nation. We pray, with Californians, that their magnificent forests will forever remain green, free from the scourge of fire as only loyal citizens can make them.

Uncle Sam's forest Rangers comes to you each week during the Farm and Home Hour in cooperation with the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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