"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"

Episode #45

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.S.T. DECEMBER 29, 1932 THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" --

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET

ANNOUNCER: In the administration of the National Forests, it has been the policy of the United States Forest Service, ever since its establishment more than a quarter century ago, that the lands are to be devoted to their most productive use for the permanent good of the people and not for the temporary benefit of a few. Regulations imposed are those necessary to insure the permanence of the national forest resources, and when conflicting interests have had to be reconciled, the guiding principle has always been "The greatest good to the greatest number in the long run." -- For the benefit of some of the less fortunate families of the little village of Winding Creek, Forest Ranger Jim Robbins has issued free permits to cut dead timber on the National Forest for fuel wood, and as we come now for our weekly visit to the Pine Cone District we find Ranger Jim and his young assistant, Jerry Quick, aiding in the cutting, and, of course, seeing to it that the wood is taken without injury to the forest, --

(SOUND OF CHOPPING, OFF - CONTINUES INTERMITTENTLY THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JIM: Well - this ought to help keep the home fires burning, Jerry.

JERRY: Yeah, I'll say. The folks're getting a lot of wood cut up here, all right.

JIM: Yep -- We're sort of killing two birds with one stone on this job. I'll be glad to get the dead timber out of here - especially those old dead snags standing up over there -- they're a bad fire hazard -- and at the same time, I reckon all this fire wood'll come in pretty handy for these folks that're out of jobs. -- Take old Harry Devonshire over there for instance. --

JERRY: Yeah, it'll sure be a blessing for him to have a good supply of wood.

JIM: Yep. Poor old Harry -- when he ain't sick nowadays, his wife is. He hasn't been able to do any work for a couple of years.

JERRY: He won't be able to cut much wood though, Jim. Look at him over there now. He's trying hard enough, but he isn't making much progress.

JIM: Nope.

JERRY: Pretty hard work for an old fellow like him, I guess.

JIM: Yes, it is. I guess I've got it fixed up so he'll be taken care of all right, though.

JERRY: How's that?

JIM: Well, some of us are going to cut enough extra so we'll be sure he gets a good big load.

JERRY: Good! -- Say, it's turned out to be a regular field day today, hasn't it?

JIM: Uh-huh.

JERRY: There's quite a few up here today just to help out with the cutting - and I guess everybody in town that has a truck has donated it to haul the wood back in. -- We've even got the delivery wagon from the store.

JIM: Yep. It's good to see so many folks willing to help their neighbors.

(SOUND OF AUTO HORN, OFF)

JERRY: Here comes somebody -- Look, it's Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: Sure enough, it's Bess. (CHUCKLES) I thought something was up when she wanted me to leave the old car for her to use this morning. -- (SOUND OF AUTO UP, STOPS) -- Well now -- (WITH MOCK FORMALITY) Good morning, Madam. Have you a permit to cut wood on this Forest?

BESS: Go way now, Jim Robbins. -- I guess I could chop wood as good as some of you men at that.

JERRY: I bet you could, Mrs. Robbins.

JIM: Bess has had plenty of experience all right. She stuck right with me in the old days when our Ranger headquarters was pretty much anywhere we pitched our tent.

BESS: Well, never mind that. I've brought up sandwiches and coffee for the men, Jim.

JERRY: Oh Boy, that's great!

BESS: Now don't you get all excited, Jerry. These are for the unemployed, so you and Jim don't get any.

JERRY: Oh.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) No, I reckon we can't qualify. Jerry and I always seem to find plenty of work to do. -- I'm mighty glad you brought 'em up though, Bess. I noticed quite a few of the folks here didn't have any grub, and I was wondering all morning how I could perform a miracle and feed the multitude with the little bit of stuff we packed up.

BESS: Well, this is from the Ladies' Aid Society. We've been making sandwiches all morning at our house.

JIM: You had all the ladies in to the Ranger Station, eh? (CHUCKLES) Who's husband got panned the hardest?

BESS: Well, I don't doubt but what you all deserved it. - We got together all the jugs and things we could find for coffee, too. -- Oh dear, I hope there's enough to go 'round.

JERRY: Sure there is. Gosh, look at all those boxes of sandwiches.

BESS: Well, I'm sure I didn't bring enough cups.

JIM: Don't worry about that. I reckon the boys won't mind taking turns using 'em.

BESS: All right. Will you and Jerry help me pass out the sandwiches?

JIM: Sure. Let me press the auto horn here, and I'll break the news -- (AUTO HORN SOUNDS)-- (RAISING VOICE) Hey, you fellows -- There's grub here -- Coffee and sandwiches, sent up by the Winding Creek Ladies' Aid Society.

(SHOUTS AND CHEERS)

JIM: Come and get it!

(BABEL OF VOICES; CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

BESS: Oh, there's old Mr. Devonshire. (RAISING VOICE) Oh, Mr. Devonshire. Come over here. -- Jerry, give this to him, will you --

JERRY: Sure. -- Here, Mr. Devonshire --

QUARVERING VOICE: Thank you, mum. Thank you sir. Thanks, indeed --

JIM: I guess we have plenty here for everybody, Bess.

BESS: Oh, I'm so glad. -- Soon as everything's passed out, I want to start back, Jim. I have several calls I want to make this afternoon.

JIM. All right.

BESS: You and Jerry will be home before supper-time tonight, won't you?

JIM: Sure. We'll be there early this time. Huh, Jerry?

JERRY: Yeah. We ought to, all right.

BESS: Well, mind you do, now. --

JIM: Sure -- How about some coffee, Harry? --

(FADEOUT WITH BABEL OF VOICES)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF DOOR)

JIM: (COMING IN) Home again, Jerry.

JERRY: Yeah. -- Things went pretty well today - huh, Jim?

JIM: Yep. Pretty well. -- We accomplished quite a bit. -- (CALLS) Oh, Bess.

BESS: (OFF) Yes - ?

JIM: Here we are --

BESS: (COMING UP) Yes - ? I thought you were going to be home early.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well now, it ain't so late, is it?

BESS: I've been waiting supper on you two for half an hour at least.

JIM: Half an hour? Well now, that's too bad. -- Jerry and I thought we'd better help finish hauling the wood out while we were at it. That's what delayed us, Bess.

BESS: Oh, that's it, uh? -- Jim Robbins, I wish you'd make a New Year's résolution to be on time for meals.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Sure. I'll make three of 'em - one for breakfast, dinner and supper.

BESS: Good. And you might as well start right now.

JIM: All right. My first New Year's resolution, effective at once: I hereby resolve to be on time for meals. -- And to see that Jerry does too.

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Hey, I can do my own resolving.

BESS: I should say. You'll be doing pretty well to live up to your own resolution, Jim.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Maybe so. Maybe so.

BESS: Well, suppose you start out right then. Supper's ready and waiting.

JIM: Sure. We'll be right in -- soon as Jerry and I unload ourselves a little here.

BESS: (GOING OFF) All right. Mind you keep your resolution now.

JIM: Oh yes, of course -- (HUMS SNATCH OF SONG TO SELF: "we'll be comin' round the mountain when we come -- ") -- Jerry, you brought in the pack sack, didn't you?

JERRY: Yeah. Right there by your desk.

JIM: Oh yes. -- (RESUMES HUMMING -- INTERRUPTS SELF SUDDENLY) Hey! -- Hey, Bess!

BESS: (OFF) What is it?

JIM: When did the cyclone strike?

BESS: (COMING UP) Cyclone? What cyclone?

JIM: When did the cyclone hit my desk?

BESS: Oh. Jim, your desk was so littered up with papers that I just had to tidy it up before the Ladies' Aid Society met here this morning.

JIM: (WITH GROANS OF MOCK ANGUISH) Oh, terrible, terrible. -- See, that, Jerry? See how women can mess up the affairs of state - the best laid plans of men and mice --

JERRY: (LAUGHING) Gosh, that's sure a calamity.

BESS: Well now. I should say that that desk of yours looked like a cyclone had struck it before I cleaned it up -- that's what it did. I never saw such a disorderly desk --

JIM: Now, I contend that order exists when you know where things are, regardless of esthetic considerations, so to speak --

BESS: Yes? Well, supper's waiting.

JIM: Every paper on that desk had it's place and had been placed in that place with infinite and painstaking care, even though the total effect might've had the appearance of chaos to the uninitiated. Maybe the desk didn't look exactly beautiful, but --

BESS: (CUTTING IN) No? Supper's waiting.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) You see, Jerry, I'm trying to get Bess to realize the seriousness of the crime committed in the name of the Ladies' Aid Society, and she interrupts with such trivial considerations as supper --

BESS: (LAUGHING) Jim Robbins, you're hopeless.

JIM: Well, it's really a very serious matter. For instance, where will I find that permit record? I knew right where it was this morning.

BESS: Never mind that now. You two better come to supper right away. -- (GOING OFF) -- Remember your New Year's resolution.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That's right too. I'll be right along, soon as I make a couple of notes here, Bess. -- (HALF TO SELF) -- I want to note down a couple of things before I forget 'em -- (RUSTLES PAPERS) Hmmm -- Let's see -- Oh Jerry --

JERRY: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Yeah?

JIM: Where do you suppose those permits are?

JERRY: (UP) Maybe they're in that pile of papers there.

JIM: Maybe -- (RUSTLES PAPERS)-- Yep. Here we are. (CHUCKLES) Bess's got this desk too orderly for comfort. I reckon I ought to mess it up a little to make it look natural. Huh, Jerry?

JERRY: That oughtn't to be hard to do.

JIM: On the other hand, I guess it'd please Bess if I did take time to keep this desk straightened up a little better. That might be another good New Year's resolution.

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: 'Tain't such a bad idea at that - this New Year's resolution business. It's worth while checking up now and then to see just what your mistakes and short-comings are.

JERRY: Yeah, I guess it is.

JIM: We've done pretty well this year in keeping up with our work program, in spite of a bad spell of fires - but there's always room for improvement.

JERRY: We oughta make a resolution not to have any fires on our forest next year.

JIM: Well, we'd have to have a lot of cooperation from our fellow citizens, and from the weather man too, to make sure of that.

JERRY: Yeah. I guess we can't keep lightning from striking, yet.

JIM: Nope, -- By the way, they had a late-season lightning storm on the Klamath National Forest this year that started one hundred and nine fires, -- one hundred and nine forest fires from one lightning storm.

JERRY: Gee what a peppering!

JIM: And the boys got every one of 'em - they got every last one of 'em corralled before they reached dangerous size. That took organization, Jerry - organization and mighty fast work.

JERRY: Gee, I'll say.

JIM: Well, we can make a resolution to tighten our fire protection organization still more; you can always find some place where it'll stand a little more tightening. -- When it comes to man-caused fires though, the thing that'd help us most would be to have every one who ever goes into the woods make a resolutiion to be more careful with fire. -- You see, nowadays with all our advances in science and everything, folks are using new kinds of tools and appliances that'll do wonders if they're handled right, but're might dangerous if they're handled wrong.

JERRY: Yeah. That's true enough.

JIM: Even a simple little thing like a match - it's a mighty dangerous thing if it isn't handled right -- and it looks like a lot of folks haven't learned how to handle 'em safely even yet.

JERRY: Yes, it sure does - with all the fires we have caused by carelessness nowadays.

JIM: Yep. -- Well, there's lots of things we can check up on. -- You've been on this job almost a year now and I s'pose I ought to check up and see if I've been training you right.

JERRY: You've been shooting it at me plenty hard all right.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, I ain't exactly dissastisfied about the result - but if you have any short-comings I want to know if it's my fault, by any chance.

JERRY: You needn't worry about it's being your fault, Jim. You've been a mighty good boss.

JIM: I hope so. -- Say (CHUCKLES) Did I ever tell you about the time a couple of the boys kept old Bud Lewis out on the porch of the Ranger Station one cold winter night?

JERRY: No. How was that?

JIM: Well, Bud was fixing to take a bath and he had the old wash tub full of steaming hot water, but when he stuck his toe in I reckon it was too hot, so he slipped on his shoes and a shirt and went out to get some cold water. (CHUCKLES) Well, while he was out there, the boys locked the door on 'im, and kept 'im standin' out there in his shirt tail till he promised to be a good boss.

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Say, that's pretty good.

JIM: Yep. You see, there's more'n one way to make a good boss.

JERRY: Yeah. -- Say, hadn't we better be getting in to supper?

JIM: Sure enough. (CHUCKLES) I durn near forgot all about it. -- Just let me finish making these notes I started here -

JERRY: I guess I'll go on ahead --

JIM: All right. --

BESS: (OFF) Jim Robbins!

JIM: Yeah?

BESS: (COMING UP) Aren't you ever coming to supper?

JIM: Well now, that's funny, Bess. I was thinking about it just this minute.

BESS: Thinking about it, were you? My land! Everything's gotten stone cold now -- You certainly are a brilliant success at keeping your New Year's resolutiion to be on time for supper.

JIM: Say, that's right, too. -- (CHUCKLES) Something must've held us up. -- I guess it was Jerry.

JERRY: Huh?!

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, anyway, Jerry and I're going to have some New Year's resolutions lined up that we will live up to. Huh, Jerry?

JERRY: You bet!

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCER: Well folks, we certainly wish Ranger Jim and his co-workers all success for the coming year in their splendid work of building up and protecting the Nation's forests. -- Each week now for the past year we have brought you these little glimpses of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers. It has been a pleasure to receive the many hundreds of enthusiastic letters from our listeners, and we regret that it has not been possible to answer you all individually. Ranger Jim and his associates in the U.S. Forest Service have asked me to thank you all for your splendid interest in their work of [illegible]vation and up-building of the forests. --

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