

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,640

300 miles east of Alice Springs, Australia, Bill DeCarly and I stand on an impressive

2

00:00:08,640 --> 00:00:14,160

stretch of quartz that he believes could be Lasseter's Reef, the legendary gold deposit

3

00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:17,080

that has eluded seekers for nearly a century.

4

00:00:17,080 --> 00:00:18,080

There's quartz.

5

00:00:18,080 --> 00:00:19,080

There's quartz.

6

00:00:19,080 --> 00:00:20,080

Yep.

7

00:00:20,080 --> 00:00:21,080

Quartz.

8

00:00:21,080 --> 00:00:22,080

Yep.

9

00:00:22,080 --> 00:00:23,080

Quartz.

10

00:00:23,080 --> 00:00:24,080

Yep.

11

00:00:24,080 --> 00:00:25,080

Quartz.

12

00:00:25,080 --> 00:00:26,080

Yep.

13

00:00:26,080 --> 00:00:27,080

I mean, as far as you can see, it's just outcroppings of quartz.

14

00:00:27,080 --> 00:00:28,080

Yep.

15

00:00:28,080 --> 00:00:29,080

It's a reef.

16

00:00:29,080 --> 00:00:32,360

I think I might.

17

00:00:32,360 --> 00:00:34,880

If this is the right spot, there has to be three hills.

18

00:00:34,880 --> 00:00:35,880

You saw those from the chopper.

19

00:00:35,880 --> 00:00:36,880

There you go.

20

00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:37,880

One, two, three.

21

00:00:37,880 --> 00:00:38,880

And you can't mistake them.

22

00:00:38,880 --> 00:00:43,880

They're the only hills that have that hill on top of a hill effect like a sunbond.

23

00:00:43,880 --> 00:00:48,920

Despite my initial skepticism, it's clear that Bill has indeed pinpointed a massive quartz

24

00:00:48,920 --> 00:00:54,120

reef that actually does lie near an unusual formation of three hills.

25

00:00:54,120 --> 00:00:57,080

But whether it's Lasseter's Reef has yet to be proven.

26

00:00:57,080 --> 00:00:58,360

You still have to pass another hurdle.

27

00:00:58,360 --> 00:00:59,360

Okay.

28

00:00:59,360 --> 00:01:00,360

Is there any gold in it?

29

00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:01,600

That's what we're here to find out.

30

00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:02,600

Right.

31

00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:03,600

So, divide and conquer?

32

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:04,600

Absolutely.

33

00:01:04,600 --> 00:01:05,600

All right.

34

00:01:05,600 --> 00:01:06,600

Let's find some gold.

35

00:01:06,600 --> 00:01:07,600

Come on, man.

36

00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:23,960

We combed through the area for over an hour, looking for anything that sparkles yellow

37

00:01:23,960 --> 00:01:28,960

amidst all this bright white.

38

00:01:28,960 --> 00:01:32,640

Oh, Bill.

39

00:01:32,640 --> 00:01:35,240

Bill, come here.

40

00:01:35,240 --> 00:01:39,760

Bill, what is this?

41

00:01:39,760 --> 00:01:43,760

That looks like very, very suspicious.

42

00:01:43,760 --> 00:01:47,560

What is it?

43

00:01:47,560 --> 00:01:49,880

That's gold, mate.

44

00:01:49,880 --> 00:01:50,880

That's gold.

45

00:01:50,880 --> 00:01:51,880

That's gold.

46

00:01:51,880 --> 00:01:52,880

You're sure?

47

00:01:52,880 --> 00:01:53,880

Absolutely.

48

00:01:53,880 --> 00:01:57,600

That's the first flicker of gold from Lasseter's Reef.

49

00:01:57,600 --> 00:01:58,600

Totally.

50

00:01:58,600 --> 00:02:04,920

It ain't much, but that's gold.

51

00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:07,120

That is gold.

52

00:02:07,120 --> 00:02:08,600

Congratulations.

53

00:02:08,600 --> 00:02:10,600

Well done.

54

00:02:10,600 --> 00:02:11,600

Unbelievable.

55

00:02:11,600 --> 00:02:12,600

Great job.

56

00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:17,040

This may not be a huge nugget of gold, but when you think about this whole reef.

57

00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:18,040

That's exactly right.

58

00:02:18,040 --> 00:02:25,320

The miles of this fort.

59

00:02:25,320 --> 00:02:26,320

And you're doing pretty good.

60

00:02:26,320 --> 00:02:28,840

Somewhere in this reef is the mother load.

61

00:02:28,840 --> 00:02:29,840

Right.

62

00:02:29,840 --> 00:02:31,160

And this may be a little piece of it.

63

00:02:31,160 --> 00:02:32,160

And you've got it.

64

00:02:32,160 --> 00:02:33,160

Unbelievable.

65

00:02:33,160 --> 00:02:35,320

You've just got yourself a piece of Lasseter's Reef.

66

00:02:35,320 --> 00:02:36,320

I'm sold.

67

00:02:36,320 --> 00:02:37,520

You know, what else do you need?

68

00:02:37,520 --> 00:02:38,520

There you go.

69

00:02:38,520 --> 00:02:40,000

I'm taking this entire section home with me.

70

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:41,840

Okay, so we're staying here, are we?

71

00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:42,840

All the rocks going...

72

00:02:42,840 --> 00:02:43,840

We're living here now.

73

00:02:43,840 --> 00:02:44,840

This is it, Bill.

74

00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:45,840

You and I live here.

75

00:02:45,840 --> 00:02:54,040

Gold and then their hills, officially.

76

00:02:54,040 --> 00:02:58,800

Mark Twain once wrote that Australian history does not read like history, but like the most

77

00:02:58,800 --> 00:02:59,800

beautiful lies.

78

00:02:59,800 --> 00:03:04,880

While that may apply to the story of Harold Lasseter's lost reef, you can't deny that

79

00:03:04,880 --> 00:03:10,280

I'm standing on rock solid proof that Bill DeCarly's interpretation of the clues has

80

00:03:10,280 --> 00:03:12,880

led to gold in the outback.

81

00:03:12,880 --> 00:03:19,040

But since it's on private land, we don't know how much is here or when it will be excavated.

82

00:03:19,040 --> 00:03:24,520

I came to Australia on an expedition, but found myself on an odyssey across a mythic

83

00:03:24,520 --> 00:03:27,080

landscape filled with the unknown.

84

00:03:27,080 --> 00:03:32,520

My passionate guides and I followed the trail of a character as mysterious as his treasure,

85

00:03:32,520 --> 00:03:34,640

Renaissance man or con man.

86

00:03:34,640 --> 00:03:40,600

Either way, he's undeniably Australian, a dreamer who, like the country itself, forged

87

00:03:40,600 --> 00:03:44,640

his destiny through passion and sheer determination.

88

00:03:44,640 --> 00:03:49,400

In the end, we don't know for sure if the gold Lasseter claimed to find is in the east,

89

00:03:49,400 --> 00:03:51,920

the west, or just in his own mind.

90

00:03:51,920 --> 00:03:57,400

But as long as the legend of Lasseter's reef endures in a place as wild as the outback,

91

00:03:57,400 --> 00:04:00,800

I'd say anything is possible.

92

00:04:00,800 --> 00:04:01,800

Ow!

93

00:04:01,800 --> 00:04:04,800

Hey, it works!

94

00:04:04,800 --> 00:04:09,720

What do we have to go on?

95

00:04:09,720 --> 00:04:14,200

He was always mysterious and the clues that we have aren't mysterious.

96

00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:16,680

It's a siren's call.

97

00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:18,200

It's the lure of gold.

98

00:04:18,200 --> 00:04:22,160

Alright, I'll bait him.

99

00:04:22,160 --> 00:04:23,960

He gave his life for gold.

100

00:04:23,960 --> 00:04:32,240

A man does not die for nothing.

101

00:04:32,240 --> 00:04:33,240

Let's check it out for sure.

102

00:04:33,240 --> 00:04:35,240

We should be getting close now, Josh.

103

00:04:35,240 --> 00:04:36,760

Josh, look at this.

104

00:04:36,760 --> 00:04:37,760

I'm ready.

105

00:04:37,760 --> 00:04:38,760

Let's go.

106

00:04:38,760 --> 00:04:39,760

You believe me now?

107

00:04:39,760 --> 00:04:40,760

I think I might.

108

00:04:40,760 --> 00:04:45,040

Oh my God, hold on a second.

109

00:04:45,040 --> 00:04:54,360

What is that?

110

00:04:54,360 --> 00:04:58,840

They say the desperate times call for desperate measures and at the height of the Great Depression,

111

00:04:58,840 --> 00:05:04,000

an Australian named Harold Lasseter mounted one of the most daring and brazen expeditions

112

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:09,680

of all time in search of the richest gold claim in history.

113

00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:15,640

He becomes a legendary explorer, Australia's equivalent of Daniel Boone.

114

00:05:15,640 --> 00:05:20,880

As a young man, Lasseter claims to have seen a massive outcropping or reef of gold deep

115

00:05:20,880 --> 00:05:22,820

in the Australian outback.

116

00:05:22,820 --> 00:05:27,240

Years later, in 1930, he assembles a team to relocate the treasure.

117

00:05:27,240 --> 00:05:32,880

But the expedition seems cursed from the outset and ends with Lasseter being left to die in

118

00:05:32,880 --> 00:05:34,880

the desert.

119

00:05:34,880 --> 00:05:39,240

Lasseter leaves behind a mysterious diary, cryptic clues, and one of the world's most

120

00:05:39,240 --> 00:05:45,560

fascinating legends, a winding tale of greed, betrayal, and death.

121

00:05:45,560 --> 00:05:52,240

Recently, a long lost document written by Lasseter himself resurfaced in a Sydney attic

122

00:05:52,240 --> 00:05:58,680

and now a renowned author and a determined treasure hunter are mounting their own expeditions.

123

00:05:58,680 --> 00:06:03,840

So saddle up because we're headed down under to find the true location of Lasseter's

124

00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:09,080

Reef.

125

00:06:09,080 --> 00:06:10,560

My name is Josh Gates.

126

00:06:10,560 --> 00:06:11,560

Look at that!

127

00:06:11,560 --> 00:06:17,960

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration, I have a tendency to end

128

00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:20,920

up in some very strange situations.

129

00:06:20,920 --> 00:06:21,920

This is horrible.

130

00:06:21,920 --> 00:06:23,320

This is officially horrible.

131

00:06:23,320 --> 00:06:27,160

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth.

132

00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:41,240

As I investigate the greatest legends in history, this is Expedition Unknown.

133

00:06:41,240 --> 00:06:44,080

Australia, the land down under.

134

00:06:44,080 --> 00:06:49,760

Our mission to walk in Herald Lasseter's footsteps starts in the jewel of the country's crown.

135

00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:55,240

Once a rough and tumble British penal colony, today Sydney is a breathtaking mosaic of modern

136

00:06:55,240 --> 00:06:57,240

and ancient influences.

137

00:06:57,240 --> 00:07:03,760

Right, softly into this beautiful instrument.

138

00:07:03,760 --> 00:07:05,760

Okay.

139

00:07:05,760 --> 00:07:08,960

All right.

140

00:07:08,960 --> 00:07:09,960

Thanks folks.

141

00:07:09,960 --> 00:07:10,960

I'll be here all week.

142

00:07:10,960 --> 00:07:15,640

Have no fear, all of the cultural cliches are here.

143

00:07:15,640 --> 00:07:16,640

The boomerang.

144

00:07:16,640 --> 00:07:19,640

Okay, here's the idea.

145

00:07:19,640 --> 00:07:21,840

Into the wind, slight angle.

146

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:22,840

Good grip.

147

00:07:22,840 --> 00:07:25,840

Baby should come right back to me.

148

00:07:25,840 --> 00:07:31,240

Nope, that's a lie, that thing.

149

00:07:31,240 --> 00:07:34,840

It's pretty obvious why Sydney's nickname is the Harbor City.

150

00:07:34,840 --> 00:07:40,480

With 150 miles of shoreline, this spectacular natural wonder is anchored by two of the most

151

00:07:40,480 --> 00:07:43,560

iconic feats of architecture on earth.

152

00:07:43,560 --> 00:07:48,320

The Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

153

00:07:48,320 --> 00:07:51,840

It is the largest and widest steel arch bridge in the world.

154

00:07:51,840 --> 00:07:54,600

Nearly 53,000 tons.

155

00:07:54,600 --> 00:07:58,760

Supporting eight lanes of traffic, two rail lines, there's a bike path.

156

00:07:58,760 --> 00:08:02,000

And if you're feeling you need some cardio, there's a staircase that goes all the way

157

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:03,000

to the top.

158

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Here we go.

159

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:09,320

Don't look down, don't look down, don't look down, don't look down.

160

00:08:09,320 --> 00:08:10,480

Just keep walking.

161

00:08:10,480 --> 00:08:12,720

Just keep walking.

162

00:08:12,720 --> 00:08:17,200

Looking out today, Sydney really appears kind of like an urban paradise.

163

00:08:17,200 --> 00:08:18,560

You know, the great cities of the world.

164

00:08:18,560 --> 00:08:25,040

But in a time of Harry Lasseter, things weren't quite so bright here.

165

00:08:25,040 --> 00:08:28,520

The Great Depression didn't stop at North America and Europe.

166

00:08:28,520 --> 00:08:31,520

It devastated Sydney's economy.

167

00:08:31,520 --> 00:08:35,760

The construction of the Harbor Bridge created jobs but not nearly enough of them.

168

00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:38,040

Aussies were in need of a miracle.

169

00:08:38,040 --> 00:08:41,360

Enter Harry Lasseter.

170

00:08:41,360 --> 00:08:46,320

Harold Bell Lasseter was well-spoken, self-educated and self-aggrandizing.

171

00:08:46,320 --> 00:08:48,440

An inventor and amateur engineer.

172

00:08:48,440 --> 00:08:50,040

Some called him brilliant.

173

00:08:50,040 --> 00:08:51,040

Others a con man.

174

00:08:51,040 --> 00:08:54,760

You know, Lasseter really saw himself as a Renaissance man.

175

00:08:54,760 --> 00:08:58,960

In fact, he tried to take credit for the design of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, though the story

176

00:08:58,960 --> 00:09:01,560

is dubious at best.

177

00:09:01,560 --> 00:09:05,640

To find out about the real man behind the myths, I'm heading to the oldest library

178

00:09:05,640 --> 00:09:08,680

in Australia to meet Lasseter expert Warren Brown.

179

00:09:08,680 --> 00:09:09,680

Warren.

180

00:09:09,680 --> 00:09:10,680

Good day, Josh.

181

00:09:10,680 --> 00:09:11,680

How are you, mate?

182

00:09:11,680 --> 00:09:12,680

I'm good.

183

00:09:12,680 --> 00:09:13,680

How you doing?

184

00:09:13,680 --> 00:09:14,680

Right to see you.

185

00:09:14,680 --> 00:09:15,680

Nice to meet you.

186

00:09:15,680 --> 00:09:19,200

I'm Richard Lasseter's gold and probably knows more than anyone about the mystery of

187

00:09:19,200 --> 00:09:20,200

his golden treasure.

188

00:09:20,200 --> 00:09:22,840

When does the world really learn the name Harold Lasseter?

189

00:09:22,840 --> 00:09:24,600

When does he come on the scene, really?

190

00:09:24,600 --> 00:09:28,920

In 1929, Harold Lasseter writes a letter to the government, the Australian government,

191

00:09:28,920 --> 00:09:37,160

and says, oh, by the way, 30 years ago, I found a highway of gold that stretches to the horizon.

192

00:09:37,160 --> 00:09:42,520

Lasseter tells authorities that back in 1897, when he was just 17 years old, he stumbled

193

00:09:42,520 --> 00:09:47,400

upon a massive quartz deposit known as a reef deep in the outback.

194

00:09:47,400 --> 00:09:51,840

Embedded in the quartz was a fortune in gold.

195

00:09:51,840 --> 00:09:57,480

Using whatever landmarks he could see, Lasseter noted the reef's location and vowed to return,

196

00:09:57,480 --> 00:10:02,440

which he claims he did three years later, with a surveyor named Joseph Harding.

197

00:10:02,440 --> 00:10:07,440

Harding later dies, but to prove the story is true, Lasseter produces a gold-filled

198

00:10:07,440 --> 00:10:12,080

piece of quartz for authorities, convincing them that he can lead them back to the mother

199

00:10:12,080 --> 00:10:13,080

load.

200

00:10:13,080 --> 00:10:16,720

So what year did the expedition get underway?

201

00:10:16,720 --> 00:10:20,680

Well, the expedition sort of took off in the Australian winter, the middle of the year

202

00:10:20,680 --> 00:10:25,040

in 1930, and it was an extraordinary expedition.

203

00:10:25,040 --> 00:10:32,120

I mean, it utilized the cutting edge of technology, aircraft, six-wheeled trucks, portable wireless,

204

00:10:32,120 --> 00:10:35,320

which in 1930 was, it was science fiction.

205

00:10:35,320 --> 00:10:40,320

It was, in fact, the best-prepared, gold-prospecting expedition ever.

206

00:10:40,320 --> 00:10:42,920

And so how does it go?

207

00:10:42,920 --> 00:10:47,080

Well, it goes badly.

208

00:10:47,080 --> 00:10:53,160

Several months in, the expedition yields exactly zero gold.

209

00:10:53,160 --> 00:10:57,960

Descent sets in among the ranks.

210

00:10:57,960 --> 00:11:02,720

And when Lasseter is accused of having no clue where he's going, push comes to shove,

211

00:11:02,720 --> 00:11:07,080

the crew abandons him in the desert.

212

00:11:07,080 --> 00:11:12,440

So how much of what happens to Lasseter once he's left alone is hearsay and rumour, and

213

00:11:12,440 --> 00:11:14,680

how much of it is something that we know?

214

00:11:14,680 --> 00:11:19,640

Well, that is a fantastic question, because I'll have something really special I want

215

00:11:19,640 --> 00:11:20,640

to show you.

216

00:11:20,640 --> 00:11:21,640

Okay.

217

00:11:21,640 --> 00:11:22,640

Let's have a look at this.

218

00:11:22,640 --> 00:11:23,640

Yeah.

219

00:11:23,640 --> 00:11:35,080

This is the most extraordinary piece of the Lasseter puzzle.

220

00:11:35,080 --> 00:11:38,720

What you're looking at here is Harold Lasseter's diary.

221

00:11:38,720 --> 00:11:40,320

Wow, look at that.

222

00:11:40,320 --> 00:11:41,320

That's incredible.

223

00:11:41,320 --> 00:11:46,520

Wow, look at that.

224

00:11:46,520 --> 00:11:50,400

And it's just filled page after page.

225

00:11:50,400 --> 00:11:55,200

After being forsaken by the rest of his team, Lasseter eventually becomes sick and takes

226

00:11:55,200 --> 00:12:00,600

shelter in a cave where he writes a diary detailing his innermost thoughts.

227

00:12:00,600 --> 00:12:05,400

When Lasseter makes a final Hail Mary trek toward the nearest town, he leaves the diary

228

00:12:05,400 --> 00:12:07,700

behind.

229

00:12:07,700 --> 00:12:09,720

So what's contained inside the diary?

230

00:12:09,720 --> 00:12:10,960

Well, all sorts of things.

231

00:12:10,960 --> 00:12:13,200

There are stories about how he's perishing.

232

00:12:13,200 --> 00:12:17,200

He's talking to his wife, darling, I want you to remember me as when we first met, and

233

00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:18,880

not the scarecrow that I am now.

234

00:12:18,880 --> 00:12:22,760

The flies have nearly eaten my face.

235

00:12:22,760 --> 00:12:27,880

But one thing is very clear in this document and that is he's unflinching belief in the

236

00:12:27,880 --> 00:12:29,520

reef, in the gold.

237

00:12:29,520 --> 00:12:32,880

And this is one of the most insightful bits of the story here.

238

00:12:32,880 --> 00:12:36,040

And he says, what good a reef worth millions?

239

00:12:36,040 --> 00:12:38,320

I would give it all for a loaf of bread.

240

00:12:38,320 --> 00:12:39,800

I mean, that's Shakespeare.

241

00:12:39,800 --> 00:12:40,800

Indeed.

242

00:12:40,800 --> 00:12:41,800

He's my kingdom for a horse.

243

00:12:41,800 --> 00:12:42,800

It is, it is.

244

00:12:42,800 --> 00:12:43,800

She's Prince Richard III.

245

00:12:43,800 --> 00:12:45,440

I mean, this is like pure tragedy.

246

00:12:45,640 --> 00:12:48,560

Recently, another artifact surfaced.

247

00:12:48,560 --> 00:12:55,000

A letter Lasseter wrote to his wife was found in an elderly couple's estate near Sydney.

248

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:56,000

What does the letter say?

249

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,240

There's this sort of sense of urgency, this calamity that's going on.

250

00:13:00,240 --> 00:13:02,640

It's the writing of someone who's clearly in distress.

251

00:13:02,640 --> 00:13:08,160

So it's a tragic, tragic snapshot of his last moments.

252

00:13:08,160 --> 00:13:13,160

Warren is determined to use the clues in the diary and the letter to retrace Lasseter's

253

00:13:13,200 --> 00:13:17,560

steps, starting at the end and working backwards to find the gold.

254

00:13:17,560 --> 00:13:19,920

But there's one major obstacle.

255

00:13:19,920 --> 00:13:25,840

Where Lasseter Country is, if you want to call it like that, is in incredibly sacred Aboriginal

256

00:13:25,840 --> 00:13:26,840

land.

257

00:13:26,840 --> 00:13:32,520

But I'm really delighted to say that I've been able to get permission for us to go into

258

00:13:32,520 --> 00:13:36,720

off-limits Aboriginal sites to go and explore Lasseter Country.

259

00:13:36,720 --> 00:13:37,720

When do we leave?

260

00:13:37,720 --> 00:13:38,720

First thing tomorrow morning.

261

00:13:38,720 --> 00:13:42,680

Oh man, alright, let's do it.

262

00:13:42,680 --> 00:13:47,360

The next day we board a flight that takes us 1300 miles to the center of the continent

263

00:13:47,360 --> 00:13:52,360

and to the outback town of Yolara.

264

00:13:52,360 --> 00:13:55,440

In other words, we're officially in the middle of nowhere.

265

00:13:55,440 --> 00:13:58,480

Willmite, welcome to Central Australia.

266

00:13:58,480 --> 00:14:01,280

Good to be here.

267

00:14:01,280 --> 00:14:05,400

The first order of business is hooking up with Warren's local contact Clive, who will

268

00:14:05,400 --> 00:14:08,360

serve as a critical guide for our expedition.

269

00:14:08,360 --> 00:14:17,000

We choose the most conspicuous and, well, only meeting spot within 200 miles.

270

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:21,240

Once known as Ayers Rock, the proper name is Uluru.

271

00:14:21,240 --> 00:14:25,080

Landmarks don't get any bigger than this.

272

00:14:25,080 --> 00:14:29,440

It sticks out like a big red sore thumb in the featureless desert landscape.

273

00:14:29,440 --> 00:14:34,280

It's magnificent isn't it?

274

00:14:34,280 --> 00:14:35,280

Huge.

275

00:14:35,280 --> 00:14:36,280

The pictures do it no justice.

276

00:14:36,280 --> 00:14:37,280

No, no.

277

00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:39,280

It's just absolutely enormous.

278

00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:45,280

G'day mate, how are ya?

279

00:14:45,280 --> 00:14:46,280

There you go.

280

00:14:46,280 --> 00:14:48,120

Josh, this is a very good mate of mine.

281

00:14:48,120 --> 00:14:49,120

This is Clive.

282

00:14:49,120 --> 00:14:50,120

Hey Clive, nice to meet you.

283

00:14:50,120 --> 00:14:54,000

I'd have to say this is one of the most stunning backdrops I've ever seen.

284

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,200

Yeah, it is the absolutely awesome place.

285

00:14:56,200 --> 00:15:00,960

This is the gateway to Lasseter Country.

286

00:15:00,960 --> 00:15:03,720

Lasseter's expedition traveled in this direction.

287

00:15:03,720 --> 00:15:08,680

This team used a cutting-edge truck known as a thornycroft that, despite its size, was

288

00:15:08,680 --> 00:15:14,000

eventually disabled in the desert sands.

289

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:19,120

They also used a plane to search for the reef, but it too crashed, not far from this very

290

00:15:19,120 --> 00:15:20,120

spot.

291

00:15:20,120 --> 00:15:25,360

The outback, it seemed, outmatched Lasseter's team at every turn.

292

00:15:25,360 --> 00:15:29,280

How different is this territory today from Lasseter's time?

293

00:15:29,280 --> 00:15:32,440

The land is still the way the land was as Uluru is.

294

00:15:32,440 --> 00:15:36,960

There's a strong Aboriginal culture, but there are no European settlements between

295

00:15:36,960 --> 00:15:38,200

here and where we're going.

296

00:15:38,200 --> 00:15:39,880

Wow, so still a really wild place.

297

00:15:39,880 --> 00:15:42,440

Yeah, and look, that's why Clive is so important to us.

298

00:15:42,440 --> 00:15:44,720

He has the respect of the Aboriginal people here.

299

00:15:44,720 --> 00:15:45,720

He can speak the language.

300

00:15:45,720 --> 00:15:47,960

He's the guy he'll be able to get us through.

301

00:15:47,960 --> 00:15:49,160

So Clive is our man in Havana.

302

00:15:49,160 --> 00:15:50,640

Oh, our man in Uluru.

303

00:15:50,640 --> 00:15:51,640

Our man in Uluru.

304

00:15:51,640 --> 00:15:52,640

Exactly.

305

00:15:52,640 --> 00:15:56,440

Happy to have you aboard Clive.

306

00:15:56,440 --> 00:16:01,080

And as we drive away, the mystical Uluru gives us a sign that we're on the right track.

307

00:16:03,160 --> 00:16:07,320

A stunning atmospheric send-off toward the proverbial Pot of Gold.

308

00:16:10,520 --> 00:16:13,520

Now we're heading directly west to Lasseter's Cave.

309

00:16:13,520 --> 00:16:17,400

It's one of the only true landmarks we know where we can get to to strike out from there

310

00:16:17,400 --> 00:16:18,400

to find his gold.

311

00:16:18,400 --> 00:16:20,400

OK, got it.

312

00:16:20,400 --> 00:16:23,920

It's 150 miles to Lasseter's Cave.

313

00:16:23,920 --> 00:16:32,000

But once we hit this rocky dirt road, it feels like forever.

314

00:16:32,040 --> 00:16:35,520

So we pass the time with a traditional outback sing-along.

315

00:16:35,520 --> 00:16:42,520

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a cooler bar tree.

316

00:16:42,520 --> 00:16:47,040

And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled.

317

00:16:47,040 --> 00:16:50,920

You'll come a-wall-sing the tilde with me.

318

00:16:50,920 --> 00:16:52,920

Wall-sing the tilde.

319

00:16:52,920 --> 00:16:54,920

Wall-sing the tilde.

320

00:16:54,920 --> 00:16:57,920

You'll come a-wall-sing the tilde with me.

321

00:16:58,840 --> 00:17:02,840

He sang as he sat and waited till his billy boiled.

322

00:17:02,840 --> 00:17:05,840

You'll come a-wall-sing the tilde with me.

323

00:17:05,840 --> 00:17:07,840

How many verses are there?

324

00:17:07,840 --> 00:17:08,840

Four.

325

00:17:08,840 --> 00:17:09,840

Oh, good.

326

00:17:09,840 --> 00:17:11,840

Wall-sing the tilde.

327

00:17:11,840 --> 00:17:13,840

Wall-sing the tilde.

328

00:17:13,840 --> 00:17:15,840

Wall-sing the tilde with me.

329

00:17:15,840 --> 00:17:23,840

After six plus hours of sand, singing, and more sand, we finally close in on our destination.

330

00:17:23,840 --> 00:17:25,840

Josh here on the list.

331

00:17:25,840 --> 00:17:27,840

That, that, there.

332

00:17:28,760 --> 00:17:29,760

That is it.

333

00:17:29,760 --> 00:17:30,760

Stop.

334

00:17:30,760 --> 00:17:31,760

That is it.

335

00:17:31,760 --> 00:17:33,760

Wow, look at that.

336

00:17:33,760 --> 00:17:34,760

The spot.

337

00:17:34,760 --> 00:17:37,760

That is the spot we've come all this bloody way.

338

00:17:37,760 --> 00:17:44,760

And this is the most tangible, geographical point we can link to Lasseter.

339

00:17:44,760 --> 00:17:50,760

This is where Lasseter's journey to find the gold tragically ended, but where ours is just beginning.

340

00:17:51,680 --> 00:17:57,680

I'm in the unforgiving Australian outback, following the legend of Harold Lasseter's

341

00:17:57,680 --> 00:17:58,680

lost gold.

342

00:17:58,680 --> 00:18:04,680

We're about to enter the place where a dying and deranged Lasseter wrote his final words.

343

00:18:04,680 --> 00:18:05,680

That's Lasseter's cive.

344

00:18:05,680 --> 00:18:06,680

That's it.

345

00:18:06,680 --> 00:18:07,680

That is it.

346

00:18:07,680 --> 00:18:10,680

So he came here really in, in the sorryest of states.

347

00:18:10,680 --> 00:18:14,680

Well, it was, but he kind of passed this cive and he became horribly ill.

348

00:18:14,680 --> 00:18:18,680

And he sets up a camp in here and he lives here for a year.

349

00:18:19,600 --> 00:18:22,600

We know that this is a real place.

350

00:18:22,600 --> 00:18:24,600

This is a marker.

351

00:18:24,600 --> 00:18:26,600

So where is the gold from here, do we think?

352

00:18:26,600 --> 00:18:28,600

Well, I mean, the gold is somewhere to the west.

353

00:18:28,600 --> 00:18:33,600

I mean, according to Lasseter's writings, he made his way as far as Lake Christopher,

354

00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:35,600

which is about a hundred miles.

355

00:18:35,600 --> 00:18:40,600

In the diary, Lasseter alleges that before taking refuge in the cave, he located the

356

00:18:40,600 --> 00:18:45,600

reef and notes the lake and other natural rock features as bearing points.

357

00:18:46,520 --> 00:18:51,520

Somewhere between here and that lake and that hundred miles or so hypothetically is

358

00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:52,520

the reef.

359

00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:53,520

Yes, that's exactly right.

360

00:18:53,520 --> 00:18:56,520

But this is the final act in the Lasseter story.

361

00:18:56,520 --> 00:18:58,520

And now he's alone.

362

00:18:58,520 --> 00:19:00,520

But Lasseter isn't truly alone.

363

00:19:00,520 --> 00:19:05,520

A local aboriginal community takes note of a strange white man who's apparently taken

364

00:19:05,520 --> 00:19:07,520

up residence in the cave.

365

00:19:07,520 --> 00:19:12,520

They offer assistance and food, but Lasseter is weak and nearly blind.

366

00:19:13,440 --> 00:19:16,440

With their help, he attempts to walk back to civilization.

367

00:19:16,440 --> 00:19:20,440

He makes it 30 miles to a riverbed, but he's too far gone.

368

00:19:20,440 --> 00:19:25,440

He collapses, dies, and is buried in a shallow grave.

369

00:19:29,440 --> 00:19:34,440

Hoping our desert expedition has a happier ending, we leave the cave and drive west

370

00:19:34,440 --> 00:19:37,440

toward the area around Lake Christopher.

371

00:19:37,440 --> 00:19:40,440

But where we're going, there are no roads.

372

00:19:41,360 --> 00:19:46,360

We drive as a range to meet a local contact with a fleet of highly advanced off-road vehicles.

373

00:19:46,360 --> 00:19:47,360

Is this your guy?

374

00:19:47,360 --> 00:19:49,360

Yeah, this is him.

375

00:19:49,360 --> 00:19:51,360

Look at that!

376

00:19:55,360 --> 00:19:57,360

Alright, that's the wine of travel in the desert.

377

00:19:57,360 --> 00:19:58,360

That's for sure.

378

00:19:58,360 --> 00:20:00,360

The original four-wheel drive.

379

00:20:00,360 --> 00:20:02,360

Alright, let's load them up, yeah?

380

00:20:02,360 --> 00:20:04,360

Take it coming down.

381

00:20:04,360 --> 00:20:07,360

We transfer our gear from the truck to the camels.

382

00:20:08,280 --> 00:20:12,280

We're pressed to find a Walmart around here, so we pack up everything we'll need to trek

383

00:20:12,280 --> 00:20:15,280

and just generally not die.

384

00:20:15,280 --> 00:20:18,280

I'll let you in on a little secret.

385

00:20:18,280 --> 00:20:20,280

I hate camels.

386

00:20:20,280 --> 00:20:25,280

They're foul-tempered, horrible beasts.

387

00:20:25,280 --> 00:20:29,280

They spit, they bite, they do whatever the hell they want to do.

388

00:20:29,280 --> 00:20:34,280

But with no other option to move ahead, I'm going to maintain a positive attitude.

389

00:20:35,200 --> 00:20:38,200

Well, that lasted five seconds.

390

00:20:38,200 --> 00:20:40,200

He seems really friendly.

391

00:20:40,200 --> 00:20:42,200

Up!

392

00:20:47,200 --> 00:20:49,200

Stand.

393

00:20:54,200 --> 00:20:55,200

And we're up.

394

00:20:55,200 --> 00:20:58,200

Alright, Lasseter's Reef, here we come.

395

00:20:58,200 --> 00:21:01,200

Or, you know, death in the desert.

396

00:21:01,200 --> 00:21:03,200

One of the two.

397

00:21:05,200 --> 00:21:12,200

In terms of clues Lasseter left behind, what do we have to go on from here on out?

398

00:21:12,200 --> 00:21:17,200

Well, he was always mysterious in the clues that we have on, mysterious.

399

00:21:17,200 --> 00:21:22,200

A map has never been found, so we're following a handful of cryptic clues from the diary,

400

00:21:22,200 --> 00:21:28,200

as well as hints Lasseter reportedly dropped in conversation with his expedition mates.

401

00:21:28,200 --> 00:21:34,200

Lasseter claimed that the reef is located 300 miles from the outback town of Alice Springer,

402

00:21:35,120 --> 00:21:40,120

and also 800 miles from a place called Canarvan, which should put us somewhere in this general

403

00:21:40,120 --> 00:21:43,120

vicinity, and then it gets weird.

404

00:21:43,120 --> 00:21:46,120

He mentioned a couple of really interesting landmarks.

405

00:21:46,120 --> 00:21:48,120

So what are we looking for?

406

00:21:48,120 --> 00:21:52,120

Well, we're looking for what he describes as some mountains that look like three women

407

00:21:52,120 --> 00:21:54,120

in sunbonds talking to each other.

408

00:21:54,120 --> 00:21:58,120

He calls them the Three Sisters, which is a very odd thing.

409

00:21:59,040 --> 00:22:04,040

According to Lasseter's description, the reef lies southeast of these Three Sisters

410

00:22:04,040 --> 00:22:06,040

in sunbonnets.

411

00:22:06,040 --> 00:22:08,040

Warren, you see these rocks up over here?

412

00:22:08,040 --> 00:22:09,040

Yes.

413

00:22:09,040 --> 00:22:10,040

I don't know how far in that goes.

414

00:22:10,040 --> 00:22:12,040

We might want to go in there and check it out.

415

00:22:12,040 --> 00:22:15,040

It might also give us the ability to get our bearings if we can get up on some high rocks

416

00:22:15,040 --> 00:22:16,040

there.

417

00:22:16,040 --> 00:22:18,040

Clive, you want to hang with the camels for a minute?

418

00:22:18,040 --> 00:22:20,040

We're going to go have a look at this.

419

00:22:20,040 --> 00:22:22,040

Push, Gizma.

420

00:22:22,040 --> 00:22:24,040

Let's go have a look, Warren.

421

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:29,960

I guess the key really to finding the gold is finding quartz.

422

00:22:29,960 --> 00:22:34,960

I think the biggest landmark in Lasseter's whole story is the reef itself.

423

00:22:34,960 --> 00:22:37,960

For gold prospectism and quartz is the dead giveaway.

424

00:22:37,960 --> 00:22:41,960

As soon as you find that, there's a chance that you can find gold.

425

00:22:41,960 --> 00:22:43,960

Eyes open for quartz.

426

00:22:43,960 --> 00:22:44,960

We can do that.

427

00:22:44,960 --> 00:22:45,960

We're in the money.

428

00:22:45,960 --> 00:22:47,960

It should be like a brilliant white.

429

00:22:47,960 --> 00:22:49,960

Just see it from a distance.

430

00:22:49,960 --> 00:22:51,960

Wow, there it is.

431

00:22:52,880 --> 00:22:57,880

We push deeper into the canyon and suddenly we realize we might actually be in the right

432

00:22:57,880 --> 00:22:58,880

spot.

433

00:22:58,880 --> 00:22:59,880

Oh my God, look at this.

434

00:22:59,880 --> 00:23:00,880

Oh, yeah.

435

00:23:00,880 --> 00:23:01,880

It's rarer than gold.

436

00:23:09,880 --> 00:23:13,880

Deep in the Australian outback, we're on the hunt for a legendary fortune.

437

00:23:13,880 --> 00:23:19,380

A massive quartz reef filled with gold that was reportedly found and then lost by Harold

438

00:23:19,380 --> 00:23:22,300

Lasseter more than 100 years ago.

439

00:23:22,300 --> 00:23:26,800

Lasseter died trying to retrace his steps to the treasure and we're hoping to avoid

440

00:23:26,800 --> 00:23:28,800

the same fate.

441

00:23:31,300 --> 00:23:37,400

After five hours on camelback, Lasseter expert Warren Brown and I find the first indication

442

00:23:37,400 --> 00:23:39,400

we might be on the right track.

443

00:23:42,400 --> 00:23:44,400

Oh my God, look at this.

444

00:23:44,400 --> 00:23:45,400

Oh, yeah.

445

00:23:45,400 --> 00:23:46,400

Rarer than gold.

446

00:23:46,400 --> 00:23:48,400

Oh, this is a fantastic find, Josh.

447

00:23:48,420 --> 00:23:50,420

This is what they call a rock hole.

448

00:23:50,420 --> 00:23:55,620

Water sources are incredibly scarce in the outback and it's a solid bet that prospectors

449

00:23:55,620 --> 00:24:00,420

like Lasseter pass through areas like this where they could replenish their supplies.

450

00:24:00,420 --> 00:24:04,260

All right, so I think along with keeping our eyes peeled for quartz, we should have a look

451

00:24:04,260 --> 00:24:06,420

around for any signs anybody camped out here.

452

00:24:06,420 --> 00:24:08,420

I'll scan the banks up here if you want to have a peek up on this side.

453

00:24:08,420 --> 00:24:09,420

Yeah, sure.

454

00:24:09,420 --> 00:24:11,420

Okay, let's do it.

455

00:24:11,440 --> 00:24:18,440

We carefully explore the canyon surrounding the rock hole, scanning for any evidence

456

00:24:18,440 --> 00:24:20,440

of a human presence here.

457

00:24:27,440 --> 00:24:29,440

Josh, look at this.

458

00:24:29,440 --> 00:24:31,440

Look what I found.

459

00:24:31,440 --> 00:24:32,440

What is it?

460

00:24:32,440 --> 00:24:33,440

This is a billy tin.

461

00:24:33,440 --> 00:24:34,440

What is a billy tin?

462

00:24:34,440 --> 00:24:36,440

A billy tin is what a swaggy would boil his team.

463

00:24:36,440 --> 00:24:38,440

You know, it's a kind of...

464

00:24:38,440 --> 00:24:39,440

What?

465

00:24:39,440 --> 00:24:40,440

I can't understand a word you're saying.

466

00:24:40,460 --> 00:24:42,460

What's a swaggy?

467

00:24:42,460 --> 00:24:43,460

A swaggy.

468

00:24:43,460 --> 00:24:45,460

You know, a swaggy is short for a swagman.

469

00:24:45,460 --> 00:24:46,460

A swagman.

470

00:24:46,460 --> 00:24:47,460

What's a swagman?

471

00:24:47,460 --> 00:24:48,460

This is going to go 100 levels deep.

472

00:24:48,460 --> 00:24:52,460

A swagman is like a bushman who would travel throughout the outback through the scrub

473

00:24:52,460 --> 00:24:54,460

with a niviniva with a swag on his back.

474

00:24:54,460 --> 00:24:55,460

A niviniva.

475

00:24:55,460 --> 00:24:56,460

A niviniva.

476

00:24:56,460 --> 00:24:57,460

And now you're making big sums.

477

00:24:57,460 --> 00:24:58,460

No, I'm not.

478

00:24:58,460 --> 00:24:59,460

Is it heat exhaustion?

479

00:24:59,460 --> 00:25:00,460

You're just making words up now.

480

00:25:00,460 --> 00:25:03,460

I need like an American to Australian English translation dictionary.

481

00:25:03,460 --> 00:25:04,460

We're in the bloody niviniva.

482

00:25:04,460 --> 00:25:05,460

This is the niviniva.

483

00:25:05,460 --> 00:25:06,460

We're in the niviniva.

484

00:25:06,460 --> 00:25:08,460

And he carries something on his back called a swag.

485

00:25:08,480 --> 00:25:10,480

And a swag, you lie down and you have a kip in.

486

00:25:10,480 --> 00:25:12,480

A kip is a sleep.

487

00:25:12,480 --> 00:25:13,480

So it's like a big bedroll.

488

00:25:13,480 --> 00:25:14,480

Like a sleeping bag.

489

00:25:14,480 --> 00:25:15,480

Sure.

490

00:25:15,480 --> 00:25:16,480

You've heard of those, surely.

491

00:25:16,480 --> 00:25:17,480

Yes, yes.

492

00:25:17,480 --> 00:25:18,480

That's the word.

493

00:25:18,480 --> 00:25:19,480

Sleep and bag.

494

00:25:19,480 --> 00:25:20,480

You're a sleeping bag.

495

00:25:20,480 --> 00:25:21,480

See, that makes sense.

496

00:25:21,480 --> 00:25:26,480

So to review, out here in the Never Never, a swaggy would boil his tea in a billy tin

497

00:25:26,480 --> 00:25:28,480

before having a kip.

498

00:25:28,480 --> 00:25:32,480

Translation, Warren believes this was a very old campsite.

499

00:25:32,480 --> 00:25:34,480

Maybe even Lassitors.

500

00:25:34,500 --> 00:25:38,500

This is promising.

501

00:25:38,500 --> 00:25:43,500

We scan the rest of the area and uncover even more rusted remains of a human presence

502

00:25:43,500 --> 00:25:44,500

here.

503

00:25:44,500 --> 00:25:48,500

We're clearly following someone's trail and we climb back aboard our cantankerous

504

00:25:48,500 --> 00:25:50,500

camels to see where that trail leads.

505

00:25:54,500 --> 00:25:55,500

Hi Josh.

506

00:25:55,500 --> 00:25:56,500

Yeah.

507

00:25:56,500 --> 00:25:58,500

Can you see rocks through there?

508

00:25:58,500 --> 00:26:00,500

What, what rocks?

509

00:26:00,500 --> 00:26:02,500

Definitely see lighter colored rocks.

510

00:26:02,500 --> 00:26:03,500

Could be quartz.

511

00:26:03,520 --> 00:26:04,520

Let's check it out for sure.

512

00:26:04,520 --> 00:26:09,520

We've spotted what appear to be light colored rocks, peeking out from the ubiquitous red

513

00:26:09,520 --> 00:26:10,520

sand.

514

00:26:10,520 --> 00:26:11,520

Let's go check it out for a moment.

515

00:26:11,520 --> 00:26:16,520

Clive secures the camels and Warren and I head out on foot.

516

00:26:16,520 --> 00:26:18,520

All this light colored rock in here.

517

00:26:18,520 --> 00:26:19,520

Look at that.

518

00:26:19,520 --> 00:26:21,520

There's quartz all over the place.

519

00:26:21,520 --> 00:26:22,520

Oh quartz here.

520

00:26:22,520 --> 00:26:23,520

Yeah, I got some too.

521

00:26:23,520 --> 00:26:24,520

You got quartz?

522

00:26:24,520 --> 00:26:25,520

Yeah, yeah, yeah, look at that.

523

00:26:25,520 --> 00:26:26,520

It's everywhere.

524

00:26:26,520 --> 00:26:27,520

Look at this.

525

00:26:27,520 --> 00:26:28,520

Look at this.

526

00:26:28,520 --> 00:26:29,520

There's quartz all through here.

527

00:26:29,520 --> 00:26:30,520

Look at these big pieces coming up.

528

00:26:30,520 --> 00:26:31,520

All of this is just riddled with it.

529

00:26:31,520 --> 00:26:32,520

And look at this.

530

00:26:32,540 --> 00:26:33,540

Look at this.

531

00:26:33,540 --> 00:26:34,540

The size of that.

532

00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:35,540

Amazing.

533

00:26:35,540 --> 00:26:39,540

It's crazy to just be walking out in this desert for mile after mile after mile of nothing

534

00:26:39,540 --> 00:26:44,540

but red sand and then to find this bone white porch just sticking out of the hills.

535

00:26:44,540 --> 00:26:45,540

Absolutely.

536

00:26:45,540 --> 00:26:47,540

Let's hunt around and see how much of it's here.

537

00:26:47,540 --> 00:26:48,540

Okay.

538

00:26:48,540 --> 00:26:53,540

Finding this reef is a major victory because somewhere among all these rocks could be a

539

00:26:53,540 --> 00:26:55,540

vein of gold.

540

00:26:55,540 --> 00:27:03,280

So, one thing I think there's no doubt about, there's a ton of quartz here.

541

00:27:03,280 --> 00:27:05,320

I mean, it runs this whole line here.

542

00:27:05,320 --> 00:27:06,320

Oh yeah.

543

00:27:06,320 --> 00:27:07,520

The question is, is it Lassiter's quartz?

544

00:27:07,520 --> 00:27:09,120

Could this be part of the reef that he found?

545

00:27:09,120 --> 00:27:11,280

Remember, we're not looking for gold nuggets.

546

00:27:11,280 --> 00:27:13,720

We're looking for traces of gold within the quartz.

547

00:27:13,720 --> 00:27:14,720

Small bits of gold.

548

00:27:14,720 --> 00:27:16,720

Small bits of gold, but hate solvents.

549

00:27:16,720 --> 00:27:19,440

All right, so how do we figure out if there's gold inside the quartz?

550

00:27:19,440 --> 00:27:21,960

Well, we probably need to crush it up.

551

00:27:21,960 --> 00:27:24,160

And we just brought the dolly pot here.

552

00:27:24,160 --> 00:27:25,160

Dolly pot.

553

00:27:25,260 --> 00:27:26,500

So, what is a dolly pot?

554

00:27:26,500 --> 00:27:27,500

It's a crusher.

555

00:27:27,500 --> 00:27:30,740

We put the stone inside, crush it up, and then we compare it.

556

00:27:30,740 --> 00:27:32,740

All right, let's get crushing.

557

00:27:32,740 --> 00:27:38,300

All right, this seems like a pretty straightforward mortar and pestle situation.

558

00:27:38,300 --> 00:27:42,180

Drop in the quartz, give it some muscle, and pray for gold.

559

00:27:42,180 --> 00:27:46,420

Okay, maybe I overestimated my quartz crushing stamina.

560

00:27:46,420 --> 00:27:48,860

Now guys, I don't want to take all the glory here.

561

00:27:48,860 --> 00:27:50,580

Are you sure you guys don't want to come in?

562

00:27:50,580 --> 00:27:51,580

Oh, for goodness sikes.

563

00:27:51,580 --> 00:27:53,100

Let me show you how to do it.

564

00:27:53,100 --> 00:27:55,140

So, I let Warren take a turn.

565

00:27:55,140 --> 00:27:56,720

Let's figure out Tom Sawyer's style.

566

00:27:56,720 --> 00:27:58,220

Big yellow piece.

567

00:27:58,220 --> 00:28:01,220

At the bottom, I'm gonna get it.

568

00:28:01,220 --> 00:28:03,220

Come on.

569

00:28:03,220 --> 00:28:06,920

Break your bugger with a thing.

570

00:28:06,920 --> 00:28:07,920

Gold fever, it's real.

571

00:28:07,920 --> 00:28:11,240

I mean, these are the effects of madness with gold fever, obviously.

572

00:28:11,240 --> 00:28:13,240

Shit, bitch.

573

00:28:13,240 --> 00:28:16,240

He's got me.

574

00:28:16,240 --> 00:28:19,240

Hasn't beaten me, but it's...

575

00:28:19,240 --> 00:28:23,240

I'm done, it's all right.

576

00:28:23,820 --> 00:28:26,100

All right, let's pan this sucker, come on.

577

00:28:26,100 --> 00:28:31,700

We've mashed up enough quartz to start the panning portion of our program.

578

00:28:31,700 --> 00:28:33,540

The panning is laborious.

579

00:28:33,540 --> 00:28:37,820

It takes us hours to get through just a few pounds of quartz.

580

00:28:37,820 --> 00:28:44,180

Down at the bottom, we have a lot of quartz.

581

00:28:44,180 --> 00:28:48,740

We sift through nearly all of our crushed quartz when finally there's a glimmer of hope.

582

00:28:48,740 --> 00:28:50,740

Wait a minute, why did the panning look like this?

583

00:28:50,740 --> 00:28:51,740

Wait, wait, wait, wait.

584

00:28:51,740 --> 00:28:52,740

What do you got?

585

00:28:52,740 --> 00:28:54,240

A little tony flake.

586

00:28:54,240 --> 00:28:59,240

Hold on a second, what is that?

587

00:29:06,240 --> 00:29:08,740

I'm somewhere in the middle of nowhere, Australia.

588

00:29:08,740 --> 00:29:13,940

Warren, Clive and I have searched, hickaxed and crushed our way through quartz in hopes

589

00:29:13,940 --> 00:29:18,240

of determining if this is Harold Lasseter's lost gold reef.

590

00:29:18,240 --> 00:29:19,240

Wait a minute, why did the panning look like this?

591

00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:20,240

What do you got?

592

00:29:20,240 --> 00:29:22,740

And now, the moment of truth.

593

00:29:22,740 --> 00:29:26,740

Hold on a second, what is that?

594

00:29:27,740 --> 00:29:28,740

It's sparkling.

595

00:29:28,740 --> 00:29:30,240

It looks like gold.

596

00:29:30,240 --> 00:29:31,740

Is it gold?

597

00:29:31,740 --> 00:29:32,740

Is it gold?

598

00:29:32,740 --> 00:29:33,740

What do you reckon?

599

00:29:33,740 --> 00:29:35,740

Sparkles like gold.

600

00:29:35,740 --> 00:29:38,240

I hate to say this guys, but I think it's pyrite.

601

00:29:38,240 --> 00:29:39,240

Fool's gold.

602

00:29:39,240 --> 00:29:40,240

Pyrite.

603

00:29:40,240 --> 00:29:41,240

No.

604

00:29:41,240 --> 00:29:42,240

That is so frustrating.

605

00:29:42,240 --> 00:29:43,240

But it looks like gold.

606

00:29:43,240 --> 00:29:45,740

It certainly does, that's how it gets its name, right?

607

00:29:45,740 --> 00:29:47,240

I mean, you see something like that?

608

00:29:47,240 --> 00:29:48,740

Well, you bet, you think you're the money.

609

00:29:48,740 --> 00:29:52,740

I guess it's true what they say, all the glitters really isn't gold.

610

00:29:52,740 --> 00:29:54,740

But here's the thing, how's your heart right now?

611

00:29:54,740 --> 00:29:55,740

Pale.

612

00:29:55,740 --> 00:29:56,740

I know, mine too.

613

00:29:56,740 --> 00:29:58,240

But that's the intoxication, right?

614

00:29:58,240 --> 00:29:59,240

Gold fever.

615

00:29:59,240 --> 00:30:01,740

You can see how people would lose themselves looking for something like this.

616

00:30:01,740 --> 00:30:04,740

It's a sirens call, it's the lure of gold.

617

00:30:04,740 --> 00:30:06,740

And that's the whole story of Lasseter.

618

00:30:06,740 --> 00:30:12,740

I mean, he gave his life for gold and so many people believed in him afterwards and it's ruined lives.

619

00:30:12,740 --> 00:30:14,740

But, it's not going to ruin us though.

620

00:30:14,740 --> 00:30:15,740

No.

621

00:30:15,740 --> 00:30:16,740

But we should also keep looking for it, right?

622

00:30:16,740 --> 00:30:17,740

Absolutely.

623

00:30:17,740 --> 00:30:20,740

We're the next generation of Lasseters.

624

00:30:20,740 --> 00:30:22,740

Let's keep digging boys, come on, let's get back to it.

625

00:30:24,740 --> 00:30:26,740

And that's how the rest of the day goes.

626

00:30:26,740 --> 00:30:30,740

And the next day, before we reluctantly head back from whence we came.

627

00:30:37,740 --> 00:30:42,740

Our trip into the Never Never brought us to landmark locations from the Lasseter legend,

628

00:30:42,740 --> 00:30:47,740

as well as the remains of a lost campsite and even a large reef of quartz.

629

00:30:47,740 --> 00:30:51,740

Time and future expeditions might even discover gold out here.

630

00:30:51,740 --> 00:30:59,740

Meanwhile, I've got another expert to meet who claims he knows exactly where those glimmering

riches are hiding.

631

00:30:59,740 --> 00:31:03,740

To find him, I make my way to the historic town of Alice Springs.

632

00:31:03,740 --> 00:31:14,740

A city built a thousand miles from nowhere on the backs of trailblazing pioneers.

633

00:31:18,740 --> 00:31:25,740

It was and still is a place for rugged souls and a welcome refuge in the unforgiving outback.

634

00:31:25,740 --> 00:31:29,740

It is also a place solemnly connected to the Lasseter story.

635

00:31:29,740 --> 00:31:34,740

His expedition set off from here and in some ways it ended here as well.

636

00:31:36,740 --> 00:31:39,740

This is the final resting place of Harold Lasseter.

637

00:31:39,740 --> 00:31:43,740

Emphasis on the word final since he certainly didn't die here in Alice Springs.

638

00:31:43,740 --> 00:31:46,740

Far from it, we know that he perished way out in the middle of the desert.

639

00:31:46,740 --> 00:31:52,740

But just like every other aspect of the Lasseter story, even his death is the stuff of legend.

640

00:32:00,740 --> 00:32:03,740

High Adventure with Lowell Thomas

641

00:32:03,740 --> 00:32:08,740

High Adventure is an American television series that ran for a few years in the mid-50s.

642

00:32:08,740 --> 00:32:16,740

The show's host, Lowell Thomas, was an adventurer who traveled far and wide in search of, well, high adventure.

643

00:32:16,740 --> 00:32:18,740

Wait, you mean I'm not the first to do this?

644

00:32:18,740 --> 00:32:26,740

In an episode called Australian Outback, Thomas, a.k.a. Josh 1.0, seeks out Lasseter's burial location.

645

00:32:26,740 --> 00:32:30,740

And then he actually digs up the grave to verify the story.

646

00:32:30,740 --> 00:32:35,740

Queue obligatory Hamlet reference in 3, 2, 1.

647

00:32:35,740 --> 00:32:38,740

Last Harry, I didn't know you well.

648

00:32:38,740 --> 00:32:44,740

For 28 years, the mystery of the disappearance of Harold Lasseter has shaken a continent.

649

00:32:44,740 --> 00:32:49,740

So why not take him to Alice Springs and reenter with a proper monument?

650

00:32:51,740 --> 00:32:58,740

Upon arrival in Alice Springs, Thomas' team is promptly arrested for, oh, I don't know, digging up a dead body?

651

00:32:58,740 --> 00:33:04,740

Eventually, they're released from jail and Lasseter is given a proper burial right here.

652

00:33:06,740 --> 00:33:17,740

Just up the street, an explorer named Bill DeCarly has agreed to meet me at a real Outback Steakhouse that celebrates Alice Springs' pioneering spirit.

653

00:33:17,740 --> 00:33:19,740

Bill.

654

00:33:19,740 --> 00:33:20,740

Josh, how are you, mate?

655

00:33:20,740 --> 00:33:21,740

I'm doing good, how you doing?

656

00:33:21,740 --> 00:33:23,740

Yeah, I'm doing great, great, great.

657

00:33:23,740 --> 00:33:26,740

Okay, talk to me about Lasseter's reef.

658

00:33:26,740 --> 00:33:27,740

What do you want to know?

659

00:33:27,740 --> 00:33:29,740

Well, I want to know where it is.

660

00:33:29,740 --> 00:33:35,740

First of all, I've been out in the desert, I have looked for the gold, and I sit before you, not a wealthy man.

661

00:33:35,740 --> 00:33:38,740

Well, that's because you went to the wrong place, just like everybody else.

662

00:33:38,740 --> 00:33:41,740

Okay, how is that possible? Because I went to the cave.

663

00:33:41,740 --> 00:33:45,740

How could I be in the wrong place if I was where Lasseter went, where Lasseter died?

664

00:33:45,740 --> 00:33:47,740

Because Lasseter was in the wrong place.

665

00:33:47,740 --> 00:33:48,740

He was in the wrong place?

666

00:33:48,740 --> 00:33:51,740

Absolutely. Lasseter had never seen the reef.

667

00:33:51,740 --> 00:33:55,740

So, how...

668

00:33:55,740 --> 00:33:58,740

Okay, now my whole world is falling apart.

669

00:33:58,740 --> 00:34:03,740

So, you're telling me that in 1897, Lasseter did not go out and find this big reef of gold?

670

00:34:03,740 --> 00:34:04,740

No.

671

00:34:04,740 --> 00:34:05,740

It never happened?

672

00:34:05,740 --> 00:34:06,740

Never happened.

673

00:34:06,740 --> 00:34:08,740

He couldn't have been in Australia in 1897.

674

00:34:08,740 --> 00:34:11,740

His own sister claims that he was heading to England.

675

00:34:11,740 --> 00:34:12,740

On a ship?

676

00:34:12,740 --> 00:34:13,740

On a ship.

677

00:34:13,740 --> 00:34:16,740

So, the very year that he's supposed to go out and find this reef, he's actually sailing to England?

678

00:34:16,740 --> 00:34:17,740

Absolutely.

679

00:34:17,740 --> 00:34:18,740

Then, isn't everything alive?

680

00:34:18,740 --> 00:34:19,740

No.

681

00:34:19,740 --> 00:34:21,740

Is the whole reef story now debunked?

682

00:34:21,740 --> 00:34:27,740

No, because he's repeating a story which was told to him by a man called Joseph Hardy.

683

00:34:28,740 --> 00:34:29,740

Remember Hardy?

684

00:34:29,740 --> 00:34:36,740

After Lasseter claims he found the reef as a young man, he said he went back a few years later with a surveyor named Joseph Hardy,

685

00:34:36,740 --> 00:34:40,740

who later died before he could attest to Lasseter's story.

686

00:34:40,740 --> 00:34:41,740

Well, that never happened.

687

00:34:41,740 --> 00:34:42,740

Okay.

688

00:34:42,740 --> 00:34:44,740

He couldn't have been out there in 1900.

689

00:34:44,740 --> 00:34:46,740

He was still in England.

690

00:34:46,740 --> 00:34:47,740

What do you have that shows that?

691

00:34:47,740 --> 00:34:57,740

Well, as you've got here, when he applies to the Army, he states that he spent four years in the Royal Navy,

692

00:34:57,740 --> 00:34:59,740

left England in 1901.

693

00:34:59,740 --> 00:35:02,740

He couldn't have been in the Royal Navy for four years at the same time.

694

00:35:02,740 --> 00:35:08,740

So, if he couldn't have been in the desert in 1897, and he couldn't have gone back out there in 1900,

695

00:35:08,740 --> 00:35:14,740

then it seems like the story should be a lie, except that he had these gold nuggets, right?

696

00:35:14,740 --> 00:35:15,740

That's right.

697

00:35:15,740 --> 00:35:16,740

So, where did those come from?

698

00:35:16,740 --> 00:35:18,740

From Joseph Hardy.

699

00:35:19,740 --> 00:35:23,740

Bill's research shows that Lasseter and Harding lived near each other,

700

00:35:23,740 --> 00:35:27,740

and in 1917, both found themselves in the same hospital.

701

00:35:28,740 --> 00:35:33,740

His theory is that the two men grow close, and when Harding realizes his days are numbered,

702

00:35:33,740 --> 00:35:38,740

he tells Lasseter about the gold-bearing reef and gives him a sample as proof.

703

00:35:40,740 --> 00:35:44,740

So, you think that Harding went out there, found the reef, brought back the samples,

704

00:35:44,740 --> 00:35:46,740

and that Lasseter kind of inherited the story?

705

00:35:46,740 --> 00:35:47,740

Absolutely.

706

00:35:47,740 --> 00:35:48,740

Okay.

707

00:35:48,740 --> 00:35:52,740

When Harding told him about the reef, how did Lasseter and everybody who followed him

708

00:35:52,740 --> 00:35:55,740

end up, as you think, in the wrong place?

709

00:35:55,740 --> 00:35:57,740

The one mistake, Knaven.

710

00:35:57,740 --> 00:35:58,740

Knaven?

711

00:35:58,740 --> 00:36:01,740

That was part of Lasseter's description of where the reef was, right?

712

00:36:01,740 --> 00:36:02,740

Yep.

713

00:36:02,740 --> 00:36:06,740

Lasseter pinpointed the reef as being 300 miles from Alice Springs,

714

00:36:06,740 --> 00:36:10,740

but also 800 miles from a place called Knaven.

715

00:36:11,740 --> 00:36:16,740

Now, on the western side is a Knaven, and there's also a Knaven on the eastern side in the Drick latitude.

716

00:36:16,740 --> 00:36:17,740

There are two Knavans.

717

00:36:18,740 --> 00:36:23,740

According to Bill, the reef isn't 800 miles from the Knaven in western Australia,

718

00:36:23,740 --> 00:36:28,740

but rather 800 miles from a different Knaven on the eastern side of the country,

719

00:36:28,740 --> 00:36:33,740

putting the gold 300 miles east of Alice Springs, not west.

720

00:36:34,740 --> 00:36:37,740

So, everyone went and took the bearings off the wrong town?

721

00:36:37,740 --> 00:36:38,740

Yes.

722

00:36:47,740 --> 00:36:52,740

Australian explorer Bill DeCarly believes he knows the location of Lasseter's reef,

723

00:36:52,740 --> 00:36:55,740

and it's nowhere near where legend says.

724

00:36:55,740 --> 00:36:58,740

Everyone went and took the bearings off the wrong town?

725

00:36:58,740 --> 00:36:59,740

Yes.

726

00:36:59,740 --> 00:37:03,740

How are you so confident that this alternate version is true,

727

00:37:03,740 --> 00:37:06,740

that somehow this reef lies to the east of Alice Springs?

728

00:37:06,740 --> 00:37:07,740

Because I've seen it.

729

00:37:07,740 --> 00:37:08,740

You have?

730

00:37:08,740 --> 00:37:09,740

13 miles with the reef.

731

00:37:09,740 --> 00:37:10,740

With your own eyes?

732

00:37:10,740 --> 00:37:11,740

With my own eyes.

733

00:37:12,740 --> 00:37:14,740

And so what are you doing sitting talking to me for?

734

00:37:14,740 --> 00:37:16,740

How come you're not retired on a private island somewhere?

735

00:37:16,740 --> 00:37:17,740

I wish.

736

00:37:17,740 --> 00:37:18,740

It's not that easy.

737

00:37:18,740 --> 00:37:20,740

Okay, what's missing then?

738

00:37:20,740 --> 00:37:25,740

Well, I haven't actually gone to the actual spot where Harding got the samples from.

739

00:37:25,740 --> 00:37:26,740

Where the gold came from?

740

00:37:26,740 --> 00:37:27,740

Where the gold came from.

741

00:37:27,740 --> 00:37:29,740

You've got to remember, this reef is huge.

742

00:37:30,740 --> 00:37:31,740

Right.

743

00:37:31,740 --> 00:37:32,740

It runs for 13 odd miles.

744

00:37:32,740 --> 00:37:35,740

So you have to find that spot where the actual gold is?

745

00:37:35,740 --> 00:37:36,740

Absolutely.

746

00:37:36,740 --> 00:37:37,740

Got it.

747

00:37:37,740 --> 00:37:38,740

But you're confident you can do that?

748

00:37:38,740 --> 00:37:39,740

Yes.

749

00:37:39,740 --> 00:37:40,740

And I can show you.

750

00:37:40,740 --> 00:37:41,740

I'm ready.

751

00:37:41,740 --> 00:37:42,740

This is it.

752

00:37:42,740 --> 00:37:43,740

Let's go.

753

00:37:46,740 --> 00:37:52,740

We head to the Alice Springs Airport, where Bill has chartered a plane to fly us nearly 300 miles to the east.

754

00:37:55,740 --> 00:38:01,740

Bill has examined parts of the reef before, but much of it is situated on privately owned land.

755

00:38:03,740 --> 00:38:08,740

This will be the first time anyone is allowed to search the section which he believes contains the gold.

756

00:38:08,740 --> 00:38:10,740

You ready to find the reef?

757

00:38:10,740 --> 00:38:11,740

I'm ready.

758

00:38:11,740 --> 00:38:12,740

Let's do it.

759

00:38:12,740 --> 00:38:13,740

Ha!

760

00:38:15,740 --> 00:38:20,740

If Bill is right, our next stop is Lasseter's Reef and all that gold.

761

00:38:24,740 --> 00:38:28,740

How many expeditions over the years have been out to this western area?

762

00:38:28,740 --> 00:38:30,740

We're all off and at least 300.

763

00:38:30,740 --> 00:38:31,740

At least 300?

764

00:38:31,740 --> 00:38:32,740

Absolutely.

765

00:38:32,740 --> 00:38:33,740

If not more.

766

00:38:33,740 --> 00:38:35,740

And how many people have looked out here to the east where you're headed?

767

00:38:35,740 --> 00:38:36,740

One.

768

00:38:36,740 --> 00:38:37,740

Just you?

769

00:38:37,740 --> 00:38:38,740

Yes.

770

00:38:38,740 --> 00:38:41,740

And so why do you think that this easterly one is more promising?

771

00:38:41,740 --> 00:38:46,740

Because what Lasseter describes fits in better on this side than what it does on the western side.

772

00:38:46,740 --> 00:38:49,740

You've got to find Lasseter's landmarks that he describes.

773

00:38:49,740 --> 00:38:51,740

So in terms of the landmarks, what are we looking for?

774

00:38:51,740 --> 00:38:55,740

You're looking at three hills according to Lasseter that look like women in sunbottoms talking to each other.

775

00:38:55,740 --> 00:38:56,740

Okay.

776

00:38:56,740 --> 00:38:58,740

And southeast of that is the reef.

777

00:38:58,740 --> 00:38:59,740

Okay.

778

00:39:01,740 --> 00:39:03,740

We should be getting close now, Joe.

779

00:39:03,740 --> 00:39:04,740

Okay, got it.

780

00:39:05,740 --> 00:39:10,740

We descend toward what barely passes for a landing strip, surrounded by pretty much nothing.

781

00:39:10,740 --> 00:39:13,740

I definitely don't see a quartz reef anywhere.

782

00:39:16,740 --> 00:39:17,740

We're down.

783

00:39:17,740 --> 00:39:21,740

It turns out that's because the charter flight is only step one.

784

00:39:21,740 --> 00:39:26,740

To reach the spot that Bill believes is Lasseter's Reef, we need to swap aircraft.

785

00:39:26,740 --> 00:39:29,740

This helicopter can land where a plane can't.

786

00:39:34,740 --> 00:39:35,740

Okay.

787

00:39:47,740 --> 00:39:52,740

Bill, what would you say to people who think there's no such thing as Lasseter's Reef?

788

00:39:52,740 --> 00:39:53,740

It was all made up.

789

00:39:53,740 --> 00:39:55,740

The man does not die for nothing.

790

00:39:55,740 --> 00:39:56,740

Right.

791

00:39:56,740 --> 00:39:59,740

And if it's not out in the west, then where is it?

792

00:39:59,740 --> 00:40:00,740

Right.

793

00:40:01,740 --> 00:40:04,740

And the most important thing, the whole lot, is the landmark.

794

00:40:04,740 --> 00:40:08,740

If you don't have the landmarks, you haven't got Lasseter's Reef.

795

00:40:08,740 --> 00:40:09,740

Got it.

796

00:40:12,740 --> 00:40:14,740

That's them, on the right.

797

00:40:14,740 --> 00:40:15,740

Right over there.

798

00:40:15,740 --> 00:40:16,740

Yep.

799

00:40:17,740 --> 00:40:21,740

Those are three hills in an otherwise pretty featureless landscape.

800

00:40:22,740 --> 00:40:24,740

Alright, I'm biting.

801

00:40:24,740 --> 00:40:25,740

Yep.

802

00:40:26,740 --> 00:40:29,740

Well, there's the little quartz running out through there.

803

00:40:29,740 --> 00:40:31,740

You can see it all in the distance.

804

00:40:31,740 --> 00:40:32,740

The white stuff?

805

00:40:32,740 --> 00:40:33,740

Yep, that's all quartz.

806

00:40:33,740 --> 00:40:34,740

That's all quartz?

807

00:40:34,740 --> 00:40:35,740

Yep.

808

00:40:35,740 --> 00:40:41,740

In the distance, a series of white outcroppings ripple through the landscape like a sea monster.

809

00:40:41,740 --> 00:40:44,740

Okay, Josh, this is the spot here.

810

00:40:44,740 --> 00:40:45,740

This is where we're going to land.

811

00:40:45,740 --> 00:40:46,740

This is it?

812

00:40:46,740 --> 00:40:47,740

Yep.

813

00:40:47,740 --> 00:40:48,740

Okay, let's put her down.

814

00:40:55,740 --> 00:41:04,740

All that white stuff up there is quartz?

815

00:41:04,740 --> 00:41:05,740

Yep.

816

00:41:05,740 --> 00:41:07,740

It's only the tip of the iceberg.

817

00:41:07,740 --> 00:41:10,740

And this is the start of Lasseter's Reef.

818

00:41:10,740 --> 00:41:16,740

As if out of nowhere, we're suddenly walking along what looks like a snaking river of quartz.

819

00:41:16,740 --> 00:41:21,740

Bright white stones rising and falling into the sand as far as the eye can see.

820

00:41:22,740 --> 00:41:23,740

Quartz.

821

00:41:23,740 --> 00:41:24,740

Everywhere.

822

00:41:24,740 --> 00:41:25,740

Yeah, I know, you like it?

823

00:41:25,740 --> 00:41:26,740

Look at it.

824

00:41:26,740 --> 00:41:27,740

Yep.

825

00:41:27,740 --> 00:41:29,740

Tons of it.

826

00:41:29,740 --> 00:41:30,740

It's all quartz.

827

00:41:30,740 --> 00:41:32,740

Yep, there's the quartz.

828

00:41:32,740 --> 00:41:33,740

Just keeps going.

829

00:41:33,740 --> 00:41:35,740

There's the quartz.

830

00:41:35,740 --> 00:41:36,740

There's the quartz.

831

00:41:36,740 --> 00:41:37,740

It keeps going.

832

00:41:37,740 --> 00:41:38,740

There's the quartz.

833

00:41:38,740 --> 00:41:39,740

It's all quartz.

834

00:41:39,740 --> 00:41:41,740

There's the quartz.

835

00:41:42,740 --> 00:41:43,740

It's a reef.

836

00:41:43,740 --> 00:41:44,740

Yep.