

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,440

MUSIC

2

00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:10,040

So the FBI's official story is...

3

00:00:10,040 --> 00:00:10,840

Wrong.

4

00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:12,040

That's a bombshell.

5

00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:16,240

MUSIC

6

00:00:16,240 --> 00:00:18,080

Who do you think D.B. Cooper is?

7

00:00:18,080 --> 00:00:20,520

I know who D.B. Cooper is.

8

00:00:20,520 --> 00:00:21,720

It's this young man.

9

00:00:21,720 --> 00:00:22,880

MUSIC

10

00:00:22,880 --> 00:00:23,960

Hey, Josh.

11

00:00:23,960 --> 00:00:24,960

I think I got something here.

12

00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:27,360

I think it could be a serial number off the parachute.

13

00:00:27,360 --> 00:00:29,320

Oh! Look at this!

14

00:00:29,320 --> 00:00:32,880

I know the precise spot where the money was buried.

15

00:00:32,880 --> 00:00:34,600

MUSIC

16

00:00:34,600 --> 00:00:35,600

Here it goes!

17

00:00:35,600 --> 00:00:37,480

MUSIC

18

00:00:37,480 --> 00:00:38,280

Careful, careful, careful!

19

00:00:38,280 --> 00:00:39,280

Oh!

20

00:00:39,280 --> 00:00:40,280

F***!

21

00:00:40,280 --> 00:00:44,480

MUSIC

22

00:00:44,480 --> 00:00:45,480

Eric!

23

00:00:45,480 --> 00:00:46,480

Look at this!

24

00:00:46,480 --> 00:00:47,480

MUSIC

25

00:00:47,480 --> 00:00:49,120

That looks like it's off a briefcase.

26

00:00:49,120 --> 00:00:57,200

MUSIC

27

00:00:57,200 --> 00:01:00,560

There aren't many cold cases that could still captivate a nation

28

00:01:00,560 --> 00:01:02,160

after half a century.

29

00:01:02,160 --> 00:01:06,640

But then again, D.B. Cooper has always been one of a kind.

30

00:01:06,640 --> 00:01:11,240

A daring criminal who skyjacked a domestic flight in 1971,

31

00:01:11,240 --> 00:01:14,120

he grabbed hundreds of thousands of dollars in ransom

32

00:01:14,120 --> 00:01:18,320

before parachuting into the realm of legend.

33

00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:21,040

Despite a massive FBI manhunt,

34

00:01:21,040 --> 00:01:25,120

Cooper's whereabouts and identity are a hotly debated mystery.

35

00:01:25,120 --> 00:01:29,640

And it remains the only unsolved skyjacking in American history,

36

00:01:29,640 --> 00:01:31,520

perhaps the perfect crime.

37

00:01:31,520 --> 00:01:33,800

MUSIC

38

00:01:33,800 --> 00:01:39,400

A few years ago, I decided to enter what experts call the Cooper Vortex,

39

00:01:39,400 --> 00:01:45,400

a virtual black hole swirling with theories pursued by obsessive citizen sleuths.

40

00:01:45,400 --> 00:01:47,080

Hell, I became one myself.

41

00:01:47,080 --> 00:01:48,080

D.B. Cooper!

42

00:01:48,080 --> 00:01:49,080

D.B. Cooper!

43

00:01:49,080 --> 00:01:50,080

Yeah!

44

00:01:50,080 --> 00:01:52,840

I searched low and high.

45

00:01:52,840 --> 00:01:54,320

Oh my God!

46

00:01:54,440 --> 00:01:58,560

And helped uncover some of the most momentous evidence in decades,

47

00:01:58,560 --> 00:02:03,480

the discovery of rare element particles on Cooper's necktie.

48

00:02:03,480 --> 00:02:06,480

And now, the case is turning hot yet again.

49

00:02:06,480 --> 00:02:08,600

MUSIC

50

00:02:08,600 --> 00:02:12,880

Recently uncovered audio recordings are revealing a new suspect

51

00:02:12,880 --> 00:02:15,040

and an unexplored search area.

52

00:02:15,040 --> 00:02:20,600

Meanwhile, a high-tech discovery is rewriting the story of the missing ransom money.

53

00:02:20,600 --> 00:02:26,000

And one resolute investigator with FBI documents believes he's honed in

54

00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:29,280

on the true location of Cooper's daring jump.

55

00:02:29,280 --> 00:02:30,880

MUSIC

56

00:02:30,880 --> 00:02:34,160

So grab a parachute and join me if you dare,

57

00:02:34,160 --> 00:02:39,560

as we dive back into the vortex in pursuit of the real D.B. Cooper.

58

00:02:39,560 --> 00:02:42,720

MUSIC

59

00:02:42,720 --> 00:02:44,680

My name is Josh Gates.

60

00:02:44,680 --> 00:02:45,920

Hello!

61

00:02:45,920 --> 00:02:47,760

Explorer.

62

00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:48,560

Adventurer.

63

00:02:48,560 --> 00:02:49,880

This is sick!

64

00:02:50,640 --> 00:02:53,680

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situation.

65

00:02:53,680 --> 00:02:54,680

Oh, f***!

66

00:02:54,680 --> 00:02:56,280

Whoo! That was exciting!

67

00:02:56,280 --> 00:02:59,440

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

68

00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:01,960

I travel to the ends of the earth,

69

00:03:01,960 --> 00:03:04,960

investigating the greatest legends in history.

70

00:03:04,960 --> 00:03:06,520

Okay, let's punch it!

71

00:03:06,520 --> 00:03:08,720

This is Expedition Unknown.

72

00:03:08,720 --> 00:03:18,640

MUSIC

73

00:03:18,640 --> 00:03:21,440

Thanksgiving Eve, 1971.

74

00:03:21,440 --> 00:03:24,320

A mysterious figure behind dark sunglasses

75

00:03:24,320 --> 00:03:28,520

carries a briefcase aboard Northwest Orient Flight 305,

76

00:03:28,520 --> 00:03:32,640

a domestic hop from Portland, Oregon to here, Seattle, Washington,

77

00:03:32,640 --> 00:03:35,880

home of Boeing and the inspiring Museum of Flight.

78

00:03:35,880 --> 00:03:38,200

MUSIC

79

00:03:38,200 --> 00:03:39,600

The name on his ticket?

80

00:03:39,600 --> 00:03:40,840

Dan Cooper.

81

00:03:40,840 --> 00:03:41,800

MUSIC

82

00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:45,640

An unassuming-looking man, later described as in his mid-40s

83

00:03:45,640 --> 00:03:48,560

and about 5'10" tall.

84

00:03:48,560 --> 00:03:51,000

He takes his seat in 18E.

85

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:53,680

MUSIC

86

00:03:53,680 --> 00:03:56,000

Upon takeoff, he informs the flight attendant

87

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:59,440

that his briefcase contains a bomb.

88

00:03:59,440 --> 00:04:01,440

Once back on the ground in Seattle,

89

00:04:01,440 --> 00:04:03,600

Cooper agrees to release the passengers

90

00:04:03,600 --> 00:04:07,480

in exchange for \$200,000 for parachutes

91

00:04:07,480 --> 00:04:10,160

and a promise of safe passage to Mexico.

92

00:04:10,160 --> 00:04:12,080

MUSIC

93

00:04:12,080 --> 00:04:14,400

Back in the air, the pilots inform Cooper

94

00:04:14,400 --> 00:04:17,040

they'll need to stop in Reno to refuel.

95

00:04:17,040 --> 00:04:20,320

But before they can get there, a light goes off in the cockpit

96

00:04:20,320 --> 00:04:22,600

indicating that a door has been opened.

97

00:04:22,600 --> 00:04:27,520

You see, DB Cooper chose the Boeing 727 for a reason.

98

00:04:27,520 --> 00:04:29,880

It's unique aft staircase.

99

00:04:29,880 --> 00:04:32,360

MUSIC

100

00:04:32,360 --> 00:04:34,840

Jumping from the side door of a commercial jet

101

00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:36,480

could kill a skydiver,

102

00:04:36,480 --> 00:04:39,800

but Cooper simply had to walk out the back.

103

00:04:39,800 --> 00:04:42,160

Outside, a storm is raging,

104

00:04:42,160 --> 00:04:45,680

and somewhere in the darkness above the Pacific Northwest,

105

00:04:45,680 --> 00:04:47,240

Cooper jumps.

106

00:04:47,240 --> 00:04:49,240

MUSIC

107

00:04:49,240 --> 00:04:51,240

And that's where the mystery deepens,

108

00:04:51,240 --> 00:04:53,600

because by the time the plane lands in Reno,

109

00:04:53,600 --> 00:04:57,440

both the hijacker and the money have vanished.

110

00:04:57,440 --> 00:04:58,760

Who are you?

111

00:04:58,760 --> 00:05:01,320

MUSIC

112

00:05:01,320 --> 00:05:03,680

Over the years, there have been countless suspects

113

00:05:03,680 --> 00:05:05,800

fitted for Cooper's shades.

114

00:05:05,800 --> 00:05:08,360

Marvel fans even saw Tom Hiddleston's Loki

115

00:05:08,360 --> 00:05:10,520

take credit for the crime.

116

00:05:10,520 --> 00:05:14,440

Today, though, I'm trying to answer the \$200,000 question,

117

00:05:14,520 --> 00:05:20,080

who is DB Cooper by enlisting the A-Team of Cooper researchers?

118

00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:22,480

Mark Meltzer, criminal defense attorney

119

00:05:22,480 --> 00:05:25,680

with over 50 years of skydiving experience,

120

00:05:25,680 --> 00:05:28,600

a top authority on Cooper's jump.

121

00:05:28,600 --> 00:05:32,240

Joe Kenig, lead investigator in the Jimmy Hoffa case,

122

00:05:32,240 --> 00:05:35,840

26-year veteran of the Michigan State Police.

123

00:05:35,840 --> 00:05:38,200

And Bruce Smith, veteran sleuth

124

00:05:38,200 --> 00:05:41,840

and author of DB Cooper and the FBI.

125

00:05:41,840 --> 00:05:44,400

Oh, and me. I'm here too.

126

00:05:45,160 --> 00:05:47,080

All right, guys, I got a lot of questions.

127

00:05:47,080 --> 00:05:48,840

We got answers. I hope so.

128

00:05:48,840 --> 00:05:49,920

Let's start with this.

129

00:05:49,920 --> 00:05:53,760

Most books that I've read about DB Cooper have a suspect.

130

00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:55,160

Mark, I know you're an attorney.

131

00:05:55,160 --> 00:05:56,560

Does it seem strange to you

132

00:05:56,560 --> 00:05:59,160

how many potential suspects there are in this case?

133

00:05:59,160 --> 00:06:00,240

It's very unusual.

134

00:06:00,240 --> 00:06:04,040

The FBI has said there have been hundreds of confessions.

135

00:06:04,040 --> 00:06:07,280

Right. You don't normally have hundreds of guys confessing to the crime.

136

00:06:07,280 --> 00:06:07,920

Correct.

137

00:06:07,920 --> 00:06:12,880

Got to remember, the DB Cooper skyjacking was innovative.

138

00:06:12,880 --> 00:06:14,160

No one else had ever done it.

139

00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:16,480

In fact, skydivers the next day were saying,

140

00:06:16,480 --> 00:06:18,240

why didn't I think of that?

141

00:06:18,240 --> 00:06:20,240

Right. Exactly.

142

00:06:20,240 --> 00:06:23,560

So, OK, let's start where the FBI started.

143

00:06:23,560 --> 00:06:26,760

The primary witness to the skyjacking

144

00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:30,320

is the flight attendant who sat next to DB Cooper.

145

00:06:30,320 --> 00:06:31,920

Tina. That's Tina Muklau.

146

00:06:31,920 --> 00:06:32,600

Right.

147

00:06:32,600 --> 00:06:35,600

And she and the FBI start to come up with a sketch.

148

00:06:35,600 --> 00:06:38,920

And this was the first sketch.

149

00:06:38,920 --> 00:06:39,720

OK.

150

00:06:39,720 --> 00:06:41,800

However, over the next year,

151

00:06:41,880 --> 00:06:45,480

a lot of other people came forward like passengers.

152

00:06:45,480 --> 00:06:49,480

And so they came up with a different composite sketch.

153

00:06:51,520 --> 00:06:52,560

Are they accurate?

154

00:06:52,560 --> 00:06:57,160

Is eyewitness testimony for composite sketches really valuable?

155

00:06:57,640 --> 00:07:00,720

I never found it to be all that valuable.

156

00:07:01,080 --> 00:07:07,480

So much depends on the eyewitness's ability to recall an image.

157

00:07:07,480 --> 00:07:08,280

Right.

158

00:07:08,280 --> 00:07:10,160

So let's wipe this slate here.

159

00:07:10,200 --> 00:07:12,480

Let's talk about actual suspects.

160

00:07:12,480 --> 00:07:15,600

Who are some of the people that really rose to the top

161

00:07:15,600 --> 00:07:17,640

and were the greatest hits in this case?

162

00:07:17,640 --> 00:07:20,560

Well, the very first guy was Ted Mayfield.

163

00:07:20,560 --> 00:07:22,960

And people were already calling the FBI

164

00:07:22,960 --> 00:07:24,400

while the plane was still in the air.

165

00:07:24,400 --> 00:07:26,040

And Cooper hadn't even jumped yet, saying,

166

00:07:26,040 --> 00:07:27,400

your guy is Ted Mayfield.

167

00:07:27,400 --> 00:07:28,520

Why? Why were people so in the air?

168

00:07:28,520 --> 00:07:32,400

Because he ran a corrupt operation as a skydiver.

169

00:07:32,400 --> 00:07:35,080

And people ended up dying there.

170

00:07:35,080 --> 00:07:35,520

Wow.

171

00:07:35,520 --> 00:07:37,840

From a bad training, bad equipment.

172

00:07:37,840 --> 00:07:39,240

He even stole an airplane.

173

00:07:39,240 --> 00:07:41,760

So did Ted Mayfield hold up as a suspect?

174

00:07:41,760 --> 00:07:42,440

No, he didn't.

175

00:07:42,440 --> 00:07:44,960

He was immediately ruled out, and I think correctly so,

176

00:07:44,960 --> 00:07:46,280

because he was far too short.

177

00:07:46,280 --> 00:07:48,760

He did not meet the height requirements of Cooper.

178

00:07:48,760 --> 00:07:49,760

He was way below it.

179

00:07:49,760 --> 00:07:51,640

OK, so we get rid of Ted Mayfield.

180

00:07:51,640 --> 00:07:52,760

Who else?

181

00:07:52,760 --> 00:07:54,720

Within a few days of the crime, the FBI

182

00:07:54,720 --> 00:07:58,280

received a tip that they should investigate Sheridan Peterson.

183

00:07:58,280 --> 00:07:59,560

Sheridan Peterson.

184

00:07:59,560 --> 00:08:00,280

OK.

185

00:08:00,280 --> 00:08:01,400

Who's he?

186

00:08:01,400 --> 00:08:04,360

Sheridan Peterson was a very experienced skydiver.

187

00:08:04,360 --> 00:08:06,040

He was an instructor.

188

00:08:06,080 --> 00:08:09,280

And he worked at Boeing in technical documentation.

189

00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:11,120

OK, so this guy's looking pretty good.

190

00:08:11,120 --> 00:08:11,640

He is.

191

00:08:11,640 --> 00:08:12,640

What's wrong with him?

192

00:08:12,640 --> 00:08:16,440

His alibi is that he was living in a mud hut in Nepal

193

00:08:16,440 --> 00:08:17,920

at the time.

194

00:08:17,920 --> 00:08:19,240

That's a pretty big problem.

195

00:08:19,240 --> 00:08:21,000

Yeah, I don't think he's Cooper.

196

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:22,120

OK.

197

00:08:22,120 --> 00:08:23,680

Let me rifle through a few more.

198

00:08:23,680 --> 00:08:24,560

John List.

199

00:08:24,560 --> 00:08:25,800

Forget about him.

200

00:08:25,800 --> 00:08:27,120

It's not even worth discussing.

201

00:08:27,120 --> 00:08:27,760

Nah.

202

00:08:27,760 --> 00:08:29,000

OK, he's gone.

203

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:30,160

Dwayne Weber.

204

00:08:30,160 --> 00:08:32,560

He has no parachuting experience.

205

00:08:32,560 --> 00:08:33,880

He was arrested 23 times.

206

00:08:33,880 --> 00:08:34,720

So he's not.

207

00:08:34,720 --> 00:08:35,320

23 times?

208

00:08:35,320 --> 00:08:36,320

He's now a master criminal.

209

00:08:36,320 --> 00:08:36,840

OK, he's out.

210

00:08:36,840 --> 00:08:38,560

This guy is not a master criminal.

211

00:08:38,560 --> 00:08:39,040

That's right.

212

00:08:39,040 --> 00:08:39,520

He's done.

213

00:08:39,520 --> 00:08:40,840

He's done.

214

00:08:40,840 --> 00:08:44,000

In the end, the FBI maintains that none of these men were

215

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Cooper and that he most likely died

216

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:47,600

in his leap from the plane.

217

00:08:47,600 --> 00:08:51,360

The men at this table might respectfully disagree.

218

00:08:51,360 --> 00:08:53,200

Who's a guy who could be Cooper?

219

00:08:53,200 --> 00:08:55,280

As far as capabilities go, Robert Rackstra

220

00:08:55,280 --> 00:08:57,280

had every skill needed.

221

00:08:57,280 --> 00:09:01,240

A Robert Rackstra was an Army helicopter pilot

222

00:09:01,240 --> 00:09:03,720

and was an experienced halo parachutist.

223

00:09:03,720 --> 00:09:06,480

That means high altitude, low opening.

224

00:09:06,480 --> 00:09:09,400

Joe, do you think Rackstra could be Cooper?

225

00:09:09,400 --> 00:09:10,280

I don't think so.

226

00:09:10,280 --> 00:09:11,320

He was too young.

227

00:09:11,320 --> 00:09:12,240

How old was he?

228

00:09:12,240 --> 00:09:13,240

29.

229

00:09:13,240 --> 00:09:14,920

Oh, I mean, really young.

230

00:09:14,920 --> 00:09:16,800

But he had the capability.

231

00:09:16,800 --> 00:09:20,120

Rackstra had every skill needed, but nobody

232

00:09:20,120 --> 00:09:21,080

can put him on the plane.

233

00:09:21,080 --> 00:09:23,800

And in fact, the flight attendant Tina Mucló

234

00:09:23,800 --> 00:09:26,160

said no when she was shown his picture.

235

00:09:26,160 --> 00:09:30,200

So you can't equate capability with culpability.

236

00:09:30,200 --> 00:09:30,760

Right.

237

00:09:30,760 --> 00:09:31,560

And what about you, Joe?

238

00:09:31,560 --> 00:09:33,960

Who do you think DB Cooper is?

239

00:09:33,960 --> 00:09:37,640

I know who DB Cooper is.

240

00:09:37,640 --> 00:09:39,040

This young man.

241

00:09:39,040 --> 00:09:40,040

Walter Recca.

242

00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:40,960

Correct.

243

00:09:40,960 --> 00:09:42,400

This is DB Cooper.

244

00:09:42,400 --> 00:09:43,880

He's the one.

245

00:09:43,880 --> 00:09:46,000

OK.

246

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,200

Tell me, who is Walter Recca?

247

00:09:49,200 --> 00:09:51,560

Walter Recca was a paratrooper.

248

00:09:51,560 --> 00:09:55,400

He was in the Air Force Reserves C&R Rescue Squad.

249

00:09:55,400 --> 00:09:57,520

And I go to my parachute expert here.

250

00:09:57,520 --> 00:09:58,960

This guy knew how to jump.

251

00:09:58,960 --> 00:10:01,440

He was a US Air Force Reserve parorecue jumper.

252

00:10:01,440 --> 00:10:02,560

They're called PJs.

253

00:10:02,560 --> 00:10:04,200

He absolutely had the skills.

254

00:10:04,200 --> 00:10:04,920

They know everything.

255

00:10:04,920 --> 00:10:07,800

They know night jumps, water jumps, combat rescue.

256

00:10:07,800 --> 00:10:09,400

I've been jumping for 53 years.

257

00:10:09,400 --> 00:10:13,080

I don't have a hundredth of the skills that Recca had.

258

00:10:13,080 --> 00:10:13,800

OK.

259

00:10:13,800 --> 00:10:15,520

So he knew how to jump.

260

00:10:15,520 --> 00:10:18,840

And he's DB Cooper because of his confession, which

261

00:10:18,840 --> 00:10:21,760

was very detailed.

262

00:10:21,760 --> 00:10:24,360

After he jumped from the 727, Recca

263

00:10:24,360 --> 00:10:28,280

is said to have landed in the town of Cleolum, Washington.

264

00:10:28,280 --> 00:10:29,840

But don't take my word for it.

265

00:10:29,840 --> 00:10:32,560

Here's an excerpt of Walter Recca's confession,

266

00:10:32,560 --> 00:10:34,480

recorded by a close friend of his,

267

00:10:34,480 --> 00:10:38,760

shortly before his death in 2014.

268

00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:39,920

I hit three first.

269

00:10:39,920 --> 00:10:43,320

No any f---- dead tree to force, then I happened to get to it.

270

00:10:43,320 --> 00:10:45,800

I mean, my leg broke.

271

00:10:45,800 --> 00:10:48,360

Because I could feel it swelling up.

272

00:10:48,360 --> 00:10:50,440

Just gathered it all up right there,

273

00:10:50,440 --> 00:10:52,520

left it there with the broken trees

274

00:10:52,520 --> 00:10:54,760

through a few branches on top of it.

275

00:10:54,760 --> 00:10:58,280

And I could see in the distance right there, traffic.

276

00:10:59,040 --> 00:11:00,720

I'll put the money in the raincoat.

277

00:11:00,720 --> 00:11:02,600

Like a bundle.

278

00:11:02,600 --> 00:11:06,080

Does anybody see this guy walking in the rain along this road?

279

00:11:06,080 --> 00:11:07,880

Yes.

280

00:11:07,880 --> 00:11:09,600

Really?

281

00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:11,720

One witness, a local truck driver,

282

00:11:11,720 --> 00:11:14,080

reports passing Reca on the road on his way

283

00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:15,640

to a nearby diner.

284

00:11:15,640 --> 00:11:19,000

The man is walking in the rain in a suit.

285

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:21,360

Shortly after, he limps into the diner

286

00:11:21,360 --> 00:11:23,800

and asks for change to use the phone.

287

00:11:23,800 --> 00:11:26,600

Here's Walter Recca again.

288

00:11:26,600 --> 00:11:30,440

I give it to the guy with the dump trucks, the telephone.

289

00:11:30,440 --> 00:11:32,400

I remember him going to a cowboy,

290

00:11:32,400 --> 00:11:34,760

and he giving the directions.

291

00:11:34,760 --> 00:11:36,840

Because I don't know where it was.

292

00:11:36,840 --> 00:11:39,160

It was a done and I moved through it.

293

00:11:39,160 --> 00:11:42,680

I've evaluated those tapes to determine truthfulness.

294

00:11:42,680 --> 00:11:44,240

That's your area of expertise.

295

00:11:44,240 --> 00:11:45,160

Exactly.

296

00:11:45,160 --> 00:11:46,880

He was being truthful.

297

00:11:46,880 --> 00:11:47,840

You're convinced?

298

00:11:47,840 --> 00:11:48,640

I am.

299

00:11:48,640 --> 00:11:50,320

I don't want to start a fight here.

300

00:11:50,320 --> 00:11:51,120

What do you think?

301

00:11:51,120 --> 00:11:52,280

Could it be Recca?

302

00:11:52,280 --> 00:11:55,200

The place where he landed is over 100 miles

303

00:11:55,200 --> 00:11:57,360

from where this aircraft was flying.

304

00:11:57,360 --> 00:12:00,760

It is also true that there is no actual record

305

00:12:00,760 --> 00:12:02,440

of where that plane flew, right?

306

00:12:02,440 --> 00:12:03,280

There was a record.

307

00:12:03,280 --> 00:12:04,080

They didn't preserve it.

308

00:12:04,080 --> 00:12:05,120

They didn't preserve it.

309

00:12:05,120 --> 00:12:06,760

This raises another question.

310

00:12:06,760 --> 00:12:08,600

If you're going to make up a story about being

311

00:12:08,600 --> 00:12:12,520

DB Cooper, why place yourself 100 miles from there?

312

00:12:12,520 --> 00:12:15,880

If there's something very puzzling about the Recca case,

313

00:12:15,880 --> 00:12:17,200

I can't figure it out.

314

00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:18,640

I agree with Joe.

315

00:12:18,640 --> 00:12:22,400

Walter Reza landed in Clay Island, Washington

316

00:12:22,400 --> 00:12:23,920

the night in question.

317

00:12:23,920 --> 00:12:26,840

And was soaking to the skin by the rain.

318

00:12:26,840 --> 00:12:27,720

You buy that?

319

00:12:27,720 --> 00:12:28,600

I buy that.

320

00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:29,720

Absolutely.

321

00:12:29,720 --> 00:12:32,920

So there's two guys jumping out of airplanes,

322

00:12:32,920 --> 00:12:37,320

wearing business suits the night before Thanksgiving in 1971.

323

00:12:37,320 --> 00:12:38,240

That's impossible.

324

00:12:38,240 --> 00:12:41,000

I'd rather have you say it never happened.

325

00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:42,600

There was no guy walking down the road.

326

00:12:42,600 --> 00:12:45,920

But you're telling me that there was a guy in a business

327

00:12:45,920 --> 00:12:47,840

suit on that night walking down the road.

328

00:12:47,840 --> 00:12:49,440

Then how could he not be DB Cooper?

329

00:12:49,440 --> 00:12:55,240

I think the Walter Reza story opens up a huge story.

330

00:12:55,240 --> 00:12:58,680

And the story is, what the hell was Walter Reza doing

331

00:12:58,680 --> 00:13:00,800

in Clay Elm that night?

332

00:13:00,800 --> 00:13:05,440

This is a relatively new suspect, landed in an unsearched area.

333

00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:08,200

And hopefully, with your help, we'll

334

00:13:08,200 --> 00:13:12,800

find some evidence to seal this case.

335

00:13:12,800 --> 00:13:15,360

If you think that sounds like a challenge, well, it does to me

336

00:13:15,360 --> 00:13:17,280

too.

337

00:13:17,280 --> 00:13:19,440

Looks like Joe and I are going to Clay Elm.

338

00:13:23,800 --> 00:13:27,440

Joe travels ahead to assemble his team of Cooper fanatics,

339

00:13:27,440 --> 00:13:30,200

leaving me to drive the 85 miles solo.

340

00:13:33,520 --> 00:13:37,080

I arrive where the Tinoa Junction Cafe once stood

341

00:13:37,080 --> 00:13:38,560

and rejoin Joe Kenig.

342

00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:43,120

How are you, man?

343

00:13:43,120 --> 00:13:43,920

Good, Josh.

344

00:13:43,920 --> 00:13:44,520

How are you?

345

00:13:44,520 --> 00:13:44,720

Good.

346

00:13:44,720 --> 00:13:45,360

Good to see you.

347

00:13:45,360 --> 00:13:45,860

Good.

348

00:13:45,860 --> 00:13:46,360

Good.

349

00:13:46,360 --> 00:13:47,160

What do you think of my car?

350

00:13:47,200 --> 00:13:48,960

I love it, a mini Cooper.

351

00:13:48,960 --> 00:13:50,080

Exactly.

352

00:13:50,080 --> 00:13:52,800

I'll go a long way for a bad joke.

353

00:13:52,800 --> 00:13:53,440

This for me?

354

00:13:53,440 --> 00:13:53,800

Yeah.

355

00:13:53,800 --> 00:13:54,520

Thank you, sir.

356

00:13:54,520 --> 00:13:56,280

And you've got an army of people out here.

357

00:13:56,280 --> 00:13:56,780

We do.

358

00:13:56,780 --> 00:14:00,000

We've got a bunch of volunteers from the Clay Elm area

359

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:03,160

and a professional metal detectorist.

360

00:14:03,160 --> 00:14:04,600

So we are in the spot.

361

00:14:04,600 --> 00:14:06,280

This is the spot.

362

00:14:06,280 --> 00:14:08,120

Should we go find DB Cooper's parachute?

363

00:14:08,120 --> 00:14:09,000

Let's do it.

364

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:10,560

Let's go.

365

00:14:10,560 --> 00:14:13,120

Joe believes that Cooper must have landed near where

366

00:14:13,120 --> 00:14:15,520

the treeline is today, an area that

367

00:14:15,520 --> 00:14:18,360

was deep in the woods in 1971.

368

00:14:18,360 --> 00:14:20,560

The years may have changed the landscape,

369

00:14:20,560 --> 00:14:23,720

but the buckles, fasteners, and other metallic pieces

370

00:14:23,720 --> 00:14:27,800

of Cooper's parachute can't hide from a metal detector.

371

00:14:27,800 --> 00:14:31,440

Our team is fanned out across the field and into the trees.

372

00:14:31,440 --> 00:14:34,440

This is the largest search ever made here for evidence

373

00:14:34,440 --> 00:14:36,480

in the Cooper case.

374

00:14:36,480 --> 00:14:38,920

And it may be about to pay off.

375

00:14:38,920 --> 00:14:39,520

Got something?

376

00:14:40,520 --> 00:14:43,520

What do we got over here?

377

00:14:43,520 --> 00:14:46,520

What's in this vicinity?

378

00:14:46,520 --> 00:14:47,520

Let's get a little deeper here.

379

00:14:54,520 --> 00:14:55,520

Oh, we got metal here.

380

00:15:01,520 --> 00:15:04,520

Let's get a little deeper here.

381

00:15:04,520 --> 00:15:06,520

Oh, we got metal here.

382

00:15:06,520 --> 00:15:08,520

I've joined in to the search.

383

00:15:08,520 --> 00:15:12,520

I've joined investigator Joe Kenig in Cleelam, Washington

384

00:15:12,520 --> 00:15:16,520

to explore his theory that a man named Walter Recca was also

385

00:15:16,520 --> 00:15:21,520

Skyjacker DB Cooper and that he landed in these very woods.

386

00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:23,520

See rust down here.

387

00:15:23,520 --> 00:15:24,520

Here we go.

388

00:15:24,520 --> 00:15:25,520

Look, see how it's curved?

389

00:15:25,520 --> 00:15:26,520

Yeah.

390

00:15:26,520 --> 00:15:27,520

Big chunk of metal.

391

00:15:27,520 --> 00:15:28,520

What do you got?

392

00:15:32,520 --> 00:15:33,520

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

393

00:15:33,520 --> 00:15:34,520

Look at that.

394

00:15:34,520 --> 00:15:35,520

Is it a drum lid?

395

00:15:35,520 --> 00:15:36,520

Yeah.

396

00:15:36,520 --> 00:15:39,520

OK, somebody at some point buried a bunch of drums back here.

397

00:15:39,520 --> 00:15:41,520

Probably not DB Cooper.

398

00:15:41,520 --> 00:15:42,520

Probably not.

399

00:15:42,520 --> 00:15:44,520

OK, moving on.

400

00:15:48,520 --> 00:15:51,520

The team continues metal detecting while the properties owner

401

00:15:51,520 --> 00:15:54,520

Wayne Willett brings us back into the forest

402

00:15:54,520 --> 00:15:56,520

in search of any sign of our suspect.

403

00:16:00,520 --> 00:16:02,520

Is this the underside of a tree?

404

00:16:02,520 --> 00:16:03,520

These are all roots.

405

00:16:03,520 --> 00:16:05,520

Now, in terms of this tree from the Cooper story,

406

00:16:05,520 --> 00:16:07,520

Reca, when he parachuted in here,

407

00:16:07,520 --> 00:16:10,520

he said that he hit a dead tree, right?

408

00:16:10,520 --> 00:16:12,520

Yeah, he said the only dead tree in the woods.

409

00:16:12,520 --> 00:16:14,520

So this is obviously a big dead tree, although I wouldn't say

410

00:16:14,520 --> 00:16:16,520

it's been dead for that long.

411

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

How long have you been on this property?

412

00:16:18,520 --> 00:16:20,520

We moved out here in about 72.

413

00:16:20,520 --> 00:16:21,520

So a year after the Cooper jump?

414

00:16:21,520 --> 00:16:22,520

Yes.

415

00:16:22,520 --> 00:16:24,520

So was there a big old dead tree here at that time?

416

00:16:24,520 --> 00:16:25,520

There was.

417

00:16:25,520 --> 00:16:27,520

It was right in here somewhere.

418

00:16:27,520 --> 00:16:29,520

OK, well, maybe we come across it.

419

00:16:29,520 --> 00:16:30,520

Yeah.

420

00:16:30,520 --> 00:16:31,520

Let's keep looking.

421

00:16:32,520 --> 00:16:34,520

Nobody said it was going to be easy.

422

00:16:39,520 --> 00:16:42,520

As far as landmarks go, the remains of a 50-year-old

423

00:16:42,520 --> 00:16:45,520

dead tree in the forest don't exactly stick out,

424

00:16:45,520 --> 00:16:48,520

and these woods aren't exactly a walk in the park.

425

00:16:52,520 --> 00:16:53,520

Good, good, good.

426

00:16:53,520 --> 00:16:55,520

Careful, careful, careful, careful, careful.

427

00:16:55,520 --> 00:16:56,520

Oh!

428

00:16:56,520 --> 00:16:58,520

There I go.

429

00:16:58,520 --> 00:16:59,520

OK.

430

00:17:01,520 --> 00:17:03,520

Come here.

431

00:17:03,520 --> 00:17:06,520

I rushed to his aid, but as a retired cop,

432

00:17:06,520 --> 00:17:08,520

I hit my head on that thing.

433

00:17:08,520 --> 00:17:12,520

Joe is one tough mother, and he bounces back quickly.

434

00:17:12,520 --> 00:17:13,520

Ha ha!

435

00:17:13,520 --> 00:17:14,520

You all right?

436

00:17:14,520 --> 00:17:16,520

Yeah, yeah.

437

00:17:16,520 --> 00:17:18,520

You didn't feel a parachute down there, did you?

438

00:17:18,520 --> 00:17:19,520

I didn't.

439

00:17:19,520 --> 00:17:20,520

Come on.

440

00:17:20,520 --> 00:17:22,520

Let's get you dried off.

441

00:17:25,520 --> 00:17:28,520

After changing into dry clothes, he brings me to meet

442

00:17:28,520 --> 00:17:31,520

one of the volunteers who's helping us today,

443

00:17:31,520 --> 00:17:34,520

a man who's driven by this area once before,

444

00:17:34,520 --> 00:17:38,520

on November 24, 1971.

445

00:17:38,520 --> 00:17:41,520

That's right, Jeff O'Shatitz is the key eye witness

446

00:17:41,520 --> 00:17:43,520

from Walter Recca's story.

447

00:17:43,520 --> 00:17:44,520

Hey, nice to meet you.

448

00:17:44,520 --> 00:17:45,520

Nice to meet you, too.

449

00:17:45,520 --> 00:17:46,520

How are you?

450

00:17:46,520 --> 00:17:47,520

Good.

451

00:17:47,520 --> 00:17:49,520

Wow, you're the guy who saw Recca that night out on the road.

452

00:17:49,520 --> 00:17:50,520

Right.

453

00:17:50,520 --> 00:17:52,520

I can picture it just like it happened yesterday.

454

00:17:52,520 --> 00:17:54,520

So I want to hear this from your lips.

455

00:17:54,520 --> 00:17:57,520

You're driving this truck, and what do you see out the window?

456

00:17:57,520 --> 00:18:00,520

I see a man standing on the side of the road with a black suit,

457

00:18:00,520 --> 00:18:02,520

white shirt, soaking wet.

458

00:18:02,520 --> 00:18:03,520

And he's not wearing his raincoat?

459

00:18:03,520 --> 00:18:05,520

No, it's rolled up under his arm.

460

00:18:05,520 --> 00:18:06,520

Crazy.

461

00:18:06,520 --> 00:18:08,520

I thought this guy's French for a short of a happy meal.

462

00:18:08,520 --> 00:18:10,520

Ha ha ha!

463

00:18:10,520 --> 00:18:13,520

So you drive past him, you go to the diner.

464

00:18:13,520 --> 00:18:14,520

He comes walking in.

465

00:18:14,520 --> 00:18:16,520

He says to me, kid, where am I?

466

00:18:16,520 --> 00:18:19,520

And I said, you're about four miles east of Clialum.

467

00:18:19,520 --> 00:18:23,520

And he says, if I make a phone call, can you tell his friend

468

00:18:23,520 --> 00:18:25,520

of mine how to get here to pick me up?

469

00:18:25,520 --> 00:18:28,520

Hands me the phone, I talk to the guy, I say, where are you coming from?

470

00:18:28,520 --> 00:18:32,520

You might have inadvertently helped Cooper get out of town that night.

471

00:18:32,520 --> 00:18:34,520

You're lucky Joe doesn't arrest you.

472

00:18:34,520 --> 00:18:36,520

I'm still looking for the FBRC, I assure you.

473

00:18:36,520 --> 00:18:38,520

This is it, sir. This is a stink.

474

00:18:38,520 --> 00:18:40,520

Ha ha ha ha!

475

00:18:40,520 --> 00:18:41,520

What's so amazing about you?

476

00:18:41,520 --> 00:18:45,520

You're a corroborating witness, and that's something that almost no other

477

00:18:45,520 --> 00:18:47,520

Cooper suspect has.

478

00:18:47,520 --> 00:18:51,520

But he's not the only witness on which Joe's case relies.

479

00:18:51,520 --> 00:18:54,520

He then takes me to meet Wrecka's niece, Lisa Story,

480

00:18:54,520 --> 00:18:58,520

who was with Wrecka shortly before his death in 2014.

481

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

Did he ever confess to you?

482

00:19:00,520 --> 00:19:01,520

Yes.

483

00:19:01,520 --> 00:19:02,520

He did?

484

00:19:02,520 --> 00:19:06,520

In 2013, he asked me to go grab this envelope and pull out this letter,

485

00:19:06,520 --> 00:19:09,520

and he wanted to sign it and have it notarized.

486

00:19:09,520 --> 00:19:12,520

The last testament of Walter R. Packa, Jr.,

487

00:19:12,520 --> 00:19:14,520

because that was his birth name.

488

00:19:14,520 --> 00:19:15,520

Right.

489

00:19:15,520 --> 00:19:20,520

Names here after Walter R. Wrecka and D.B. Cooper.

490

00:19:20,520 --> 00:19:23,520

Wow. This is a full confession.

491

00:19:23,520 --> 00:19:24,520

Yes.

492

00:19:24,520 --> 00:19:29,520

The deathbed confession letter left Lisa convinced that her uncle was Cooper.

493

00:19:29,520 --> 00:19:32,520

But that's not the only disturbing thing she learned about Walter.

494

00:19:32,520 --> 00:19:38,520

In the years after the skyjacking, he has one, two, three, four, five different passports.

495

00:19:38,520 --> 00:19:41,520

He has a British passport.

496

00:19:41,520 --> 00:19:42,520

Yes.

497

00:19:42,520 --> 00:19:46,520

With his photo under the name Frank Drinkel.

498

00:19:46,520 --> 00:19:48,520

Yep.

499

00:19:48,520 --> 00:19:50,520

Look at this. He's in Saudi.

500

00:19:50,520 --> 00:19:53,520

He's in Indonesia. He's in Saudi again.

501

00:19:53,520 --> 00:19:56,520

He's got foreign service IDs.

502

00:19:56,520 --> 00:19:58,520

And what's this?

503

00:19:58,520 --> 00:20:01,520

This is a KGB?

504

00:20:01,520 --> 00:20:03,520

Yeah.

505

00:20:03,520 --> 00:20:05,520

This is a Soviet KGB ID.

506

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:06,520

Yes.

507

00:20:06,520 --> 00:20:07,520

He spoke Russian.

508

00:20:07,520 --> 00:20:08,520

Polish and Russian.

509

00:20:08,520 --> 00:20:09,520

And he spoke Russian.

510

00:20:09,520 --> 00:20:10,520

He did.

511

00:20:10,520 --> 00:20:12,520

What is he doing with a Soviet ID?

512

00:20:12,520 --> 00:20:15,520

I think that was cover in case he was caught.

513

00:20:15,520 --> 00:20:22,520

I think he was working freelance for the CIA as a mercenary and undercover behind the iron curtain.

514

00:20:22,520 --> 00:20:24,520

Like, forget the skyjacking.

515

00:20:24,520 --> 00:20:26,520

This guy is a true man of mystery.

516

00:20:26,520 --> 00:20:27,520

Yes.

517

00:20:27,520 --> 00:20:29,520

Wow.

518

00:20:29,520 --> 00:20:34,520

Anywhere in here does he write down where he's stashed his parachute and the rest of that money or...

519

00:20:34,520 --> 00:20:35,520

No, I wish.

520

00:20:35,520 --> 00:20:37,520

Is that in here that you found yet?

521

00:20:37,520 --> 00:20:39,520

I wish I had asked him.

522

00:20:40,520 --> 00:20:45,520

As the sun lowers in the sky, we return to the search.

523

00:20:48,520 --> 00:20:50,520

Something right here.

524

00:20:55,520 --> 00:20:57,520

Got a coin.

525

00:20:58,520 --> 00:21:01,520

19... how about this?

526

00:21:01,520 --> 00:21:03,520

1969.

527

00:21:03,520 --> 00:21:06,520

Most of the \$20 bills that Cooper had were from 69.

528

00:21:06,520 --> 00:21:08,520

So we're in the right time period here for Cooper.

529

00:21:08,520 --> 00:21:11,520

Yeah, could have dropped out of his pocket on the way down.

530

00:21:11,520 --> 00:21:12,520

Look at that, right?

531

00:21:12,520 --> 00:21:14,520

Hopefully this is a lucky penny.

532

00:21:15,520 --> 00:21:22,520

And soon, one of Joe's most experienced team members, expert metal detectorist Chris Holden, proves why he's a pro.

533

00:21:26,520 --> 00:21:29,520

Hey, Josh, I think I got something here.

534

00:21:29,520 --> 00:21:30,520

What do you got?

535

00:21:30,520 --> 00:21:33,520

It's like a little copper band with a serial number on it.

536

00:21:33,520 --> 00:21:35,520

I think it could be a serial number off the parachute.

537

00:21:35,520 --> 00:21:36,520

Look at that, it's stamped.

538

00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:38,520

158.

539

00:21:38,520 --> 00:21:40,520

Lots of things in aviation are stamped.

540

00:21:40,520 --> 00:21:42,520

It's light, a tag of some kind, right?

541

00:21:42,520 --> 00:21:44,520

This is meant to slot into here.

542

00:21:44,520 --> 00:21:45,520

What do you think?

543

00:21:45,520 --> 00:21:51,520

I think we should bag it and target with some resources to see if it's related to a parachute.

544

00:21:51,520 --> 00:21:54,520

Yeah, photograph it, see if we can figure out what that is.

545

00:21:54,520 --> 00:21:55,520

Okay.

546

00:21:55,520 --> 00:21:56,520

Okay, we're on the case.

547

00:21:59,520 --> 00:22:04,520

We don't have much light, but the detectors sniff out one more target for us to examine.

548

00:22:07,520 --> 00:22:09,520

I have a good hit here.

549

00:22:09,520 --> 00:22:10,520

Let me see.

550

00:22:12,520 --> 00:22:13,520

That's it.

551

00:22:13,520 --> 00:22:14,520

What is that?

552

00:22:16,520 --> 00:22:17,520

It's a bullet.

553

00:22:17,520 --> 00:22:18,520

I can tell by its weight.

554

00:22:18,520 --> 00:22:20,520

That's not just a bullet.

555

00:22:20,520 --> 00:22:22,520

That is a really old bullet.

556

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

Oh my God.

557

00:22:23,520 --> 00:22:24,520

Look at that.

558

00:22:24,520 --> 00:22:25,520

That's un-fired.

559

00:22:25,520 --> 00:22:26,520

Look at the end.

560

00:22:26,520 --> 00:22:27,520

That is un-fired.

561

00:22:27,520 --> 00:22:29,520

You can see the indentations there, yeah?

562

00:22:29,520 --> 00:22:31,520

That's late 1800s, early 1900s.

563

00:22:31,520 --> 00:22:32,520

Yeah.

564

00:22:32,520 --> 00:22:33,520

Definitely over 100 years old.

565

00:22:33,520 --> 00:22:35,520

This is like a black powder bullet, right?

566

00:22:35,520 --> 00:22:37,520

Like you're putting in your gunpowder, your paper.

567

00:22:37,520 --> 00:22:38,520

This is old school.

568

00:22:38,520 --> 00:22:43,520

And the fact that it's un-fired is even rarer because you usually find them and they struck something.

569

00:22:43,520 --> 00:22:45,520

Probably a military issue.

570

00:22:45,520 --> 00:22:48,520

There were soldiers in this area in the late 1800s.

571

00:22:48,520 --> 00:22:50,520

This place is a time machine.

572

00:22:50,520 --> 00:22:53,520

We've way overshot our time period.

573

00:22:53,520 --> 00:22:55,520

This is a really cool find.

574

00:22:58,520 --> 00:23:03,520

All right, well, judging by the failing light here, I don't think anybody could say we didn't put in a long day.

575

00:23:03,520 --> 00:23:04,520

Yeah, I'm tired.

576

00:23:04,520 --> 00:23:08,520

Okay, look, I am so impressed by your passion for this case.

577

00:23:08,520 --> 00:23:10,520

And I know you're all in on RECA.

578

00:23:10,520 --> 00:23:14,520

But to convince the world, you're going to have to go find that parachute.

579

00:23:14,520 --> 00:23:17,520

Yes, and we're going to continue looking for it.

580

00:23:17,520 --> 00:23:18,520

Good. Keep me posted?

581

00:23:18,520 --> 00:23:19,520

I will.

582

00:23:19,520 --> 00:23:20,520

Should we go find a beer?

583

00:23:20,520 --> 00:23:21,520

Yeah.

584

00:23:21,520 --> 00:23:22,520

Let's do it.

585

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

Sounds good.

586

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

We've earned it.

587

00:23:24,520 --> 00:23:25,520

Come on, let's go boys.

588

00:23:25,520 --> 00:23:36,520

The next morning I leave Cleelum with something nagging at me about Joe's suspect.

589

00:23:36,520 --> 00:23:41,520

All right, Joe is all in on Walt RECA and in some ways why wouldn't he be?

590

00:23:41,520 --> 00:23:45,520

You know, it's hard to imagine a more compelling story than the one we just heard.

591

00:23:45,520 --> 00:23:47,520

But something is bothering me.

592

00:23:47,520 --> 00:23:51,520

We're pretty far from Cooper's accepted jump zone.

593

00:23:51,520 --> 00:23:58,520

The FBI established Cooper's likely flight path as being a highway in the sky known as Victor 23.

594

00:23:58,520 --> 00:24:05,520

Cleelum is way outside of that, a fact that casts some real doubt on RECA as a likely suspect.

595

00:24:05,520 --> 00:24:10,520

But the Cooperverse is full of doubts, including some that I am just beginning to have now.

596

00:24:10,520 --> 00:24:16,520

When you think about all these DB Cooper suspects, not just Walt RECA, but all of them, they all have something in common.

597

00:24:16,520 --> 00:24:19,520

They're all guys that got away with the crime.

598

00:24:19,520 --> 00:24:21,520

But what if the FBI was right?

599

00:24:21,520 --> 00:24:24,520

What if the most obvious answer here is the right one?

600

00:24:24,520 --> 00:24:30,520

What if Cooper died during the jump?

601

00:24:30,520 --> 00:24:35,520

To try and determine the likelihood of Cooper's survival, I drive out of the mountains.

602

00:24:35,520 --> 00:24:41,520

While on a runway near flight path V-23, another vehicle begins its own journey.

603

00:24:41,520 --> 00:24:45,520

Which brings us to Andy Farrington, age 41.

604

00:24:45,520 --> 00:24:48,520

Jumps 26,000 and counting.

605

00:24:48,520 --> 00:24:51,520

Current altitude, about 10,000 feet.

606

00:24:51,520 --> 00:24:56,520

Oh, and he's wearing a C9 parachute, the same likely used by DB Cooper.

607

00:24:56,520 --> 00:24:59,520

Andy's task for today is simple.

608

00:24:59,520 --> 00:25:03,520

Get to the ground in one piece and tell me if, in his professional opinion,

609

00:25:03,520 --> 00:25:09,520

DB Cooper could have survived his final leap into the sky.

610

00:25:09,520 --> 00:25:19,520

I'm waiting in Andy's drop zone with his father Jeff, who is himself a professional skydiving

instructor.

611

00:25:19,520 --> 00:25:22,520

Okay, Andy, how you looking up there?

612

00:25:22,520 --> 00:25:25,520

Looking way better than a November day.

613

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

I'm about 30 seconds out.

614

00:25:28,520 --> 00:25:33,520

Just to be clear, Andy is about to jump out of a plane wearing an antique.

615

00:25:33,520 --> 00:25:36,520

Let's hope it still does its job.

616

00:25:36,520 --> 00:25:40,520

Okay, Andy, you are good to jump. Repeat, you are good to jump.

617

00:25:53,520 --> 00:25:56,520

Okay, Andy, you are good to jump.

618

00:26:00,520 --> 00:26:02,520

Here it goes.

619

00:26:03,520 --> 00:26:10,520

To test the long-held FBI theory that DB Cooper died making his legendary parachute jump,

620

00:26:10,520 --> 00:26:17,520

I've enlisted professional skydiver Andy Farrington to make a similar dive using the exact same equipment as Cooper.

621

00:26:17,520 --> 00:26:20,520

So far, so good.

622

00:26:20,520 --> 00:26:23,520

That parachute's not really steerable, right?

623

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

Oh, that one's not at all.

624

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

Andy, we are in the drop zone waiting for you.

625

00:26:30,520 --> 00:26:35,520

A gust of wind in almost any direction, and Andy could find himself sailing into the trees,

626

00:26:35,520 --> 00:26:40,520

which may tell us what we want to know about Cooper, but probably wouldn't be so fun for Andy.

627

00:26:53,520 --> 00:26:55,520

He's down.

628

00:26:56,520 --> 00:26:59,520

Hey!

629

00:27:02,520 --> 00:27:04,520

How are you, man?

630

00:27:04,520 --> 00:27:05,520

Not bad, not bad.

631

00:27:05,520 --> 00:27:07,520

Well, you know how to make an entrance, I'll give you that.

632

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

Great jump. This is the C9, right?

633

00:27:09,520 --> 00:27:10,520

Yep.

634

00:27:10,520 --> 00:27:13,520

This is the shoot that we think Cooper probably jumped in.

635

00:27:13,520 --> 00:27:16,520

I mean, it looks like it's a fair vintage.

636

00:27:16,520 --> 00:27:19,520

It's definitely way older than I am.

637

00:27:19,520 --> 00:27:21,520

When did they start making these things?

638

00:27:21,520 --> 00:27:23,520

About 1964.

639

00:27:23,520 --> 00:27:26,520

So why was this shoot so attractive as a military shoot?

640

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

Reliability.

641

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

Right.

642

00:27:28,520 --> 00:27:30,520

100% got the job done.

643

00:27:30,520 --> 00:27:33,520

So reliable, but not very maneuverable.

644

00:27:33,520 --> 00:27:34,520

That's correct.

645

00:27:34,520 --> 00:27:37,520

Okay, Jeff, how many jumps have you done in a round shoot?

646

00:27:37,520 --> 00:27:39,520

Probably 600.

647

00:27:39,520 --> 00:27:46,520

Would you jump out of a plane into a lightning storm for \$200,000 then, the equivalent of a million dollars today?

648

00:27:46,520 --> 00:27:51,520

Well, certainly my financial position is way different now than it was back then.

649

00:27:51,520 --> 00:27:53,520

In 1971, you would have thought about it?

650

00:27:53,520 --> 00:27:54,520

Yeah, I would have thought about it.

651

00:27:54,520 --> 00:27:55,520

Right, right.

652

00:27:55,520 --> 00:27:56,520

All right.

653

00:27:56,520 --> 00:27:59,520

Could Cooper have survived the jump wearing this shoot?

654

00:27:59,520 --> 00:28:00,520

Yep.

655

00:28:00,520 --> 00:28:01,520

He could have.

656

00:28:01,520 --> 00:28:04,520

Because this shoot will open at, up to what speed would you say?

657

00:28:04,520 --> 00:28:08,520

275 knots or 315 miles per hour.

658

00:28:08,520 --> 00:28:09,520

Got it.

659

00:28:09,520 --> 00:28:12,520

And we know that the 727 at that time was flying kind of low and a little slower.

660

00:28:12,520 --> 00:28:14,520

It was doing just under 200.

661

00:28:14,520 --> 00:28:17,520

So technically that could work.

662

00:28:17,520 --> 00:28:18,520

Yes.

663

00:28:18,520 --> 00:28:22,520

But I think the deck was so stacked against his favor.

664

00:28:22,520 --> 00:28:25,520

He jumped out into November.

665

00:28:25,520 --> 00:28:26,520

Yep.

666

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

Cold, rainy, windy.

667

00:28:28,520 --> 00:28:32,520

And Cooper was jumping into, most likely, wilderness.

668

00:28:32,520 --> 00:28:33,520

Treason rivers.

669

00:28:33,520 --> 00:28:34,520

Yep.

670

00:28:35,520 --> 00:28:38,520

Cooper jumped wearing nothing but a parachute and a suit.

671

00:28:38,520 --> 00:28:41,520

Freezing to death would be a real possibility.

672

00:28:41,520 --> 00:28:47,520

Windshear could have collapsed his shoot in the storm, or he could have landed in the water.

673

00:28:47,520 --> 00:28:50,520

So do you think he could have survived the jump?

674

00:28:50,520 --> 00:28:51,520

The jump part I do.

675

00:28:51,520 --> 00:28:53,520

I wouldn't want to land in a river.

676

00:28:53,520 --> 00:28:55,520

I wouldn't want to land in a lake.

677

00:28:55,520 --> 00:28:58,520

My first choice would probably be landing in a tree.

678

00:28:58,520 --> 00:28:59,520

Really?

679

00:28:59,520 --> 00:29:02,520

It's reasonably soft.

680

00:29:02,520 --> 00:29:03,520

Well, awesome jump.

681

00:29:03,520 --> 00:29:04,520

It was a real treat to see that.

682

00:29:04,520 --> 00:29:05,520

Right on.

683

00:29:05,520 --> 00:29:06,520

Nice work, man.

684

00:29:06,520 --> 00:29:07,520

Perfect.

685

00:29:07,520 --> 00:29:08,520

Thank you so much.

686

00:29:08,520 --> 00:29:09,520

You betcha.

687

00:29:09,520 --> 00:29:10,520

Appreciate it.

688

00:29:10,520 --> 00:29:11,520

So did Cooper survive?

689

00:29:11,520 --> 00:29:16,520

To say that he did seems possible, but I wouldn't say it's overwhelmingly likely.

690

00:29:16,520 --> 00:29:21,520

It feels like I and every other DB detective have been chasing a ghost.

691

00:29:22,520 --> 00:29:29,520

Fortunately, though, I have friends in smart places, something I remember when I get a call from Tom Kay.

692

00:29:29,520 --> 00:29:38,520

On my first trip down the Cooper rabbit hole, Tom and I turned up traces of rare earth elements on the necktie that DB Cooper left on the plane.

693

00:29:38,520 --> 00:29:43,520

Incredible new evidence that gave Cooper fanatics their first new clue in years.

694

00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:50,520

The infamous hijacker may have worked in the production of cathode ray tubes used in aviation radar screens.

695

00:29:50,520 --> 00:29:54,520

Now Tom says he has something new to show me.

696

00:29:54,520 --> 00:30:00,520

I hit the gas and speed toward a state of the art lab in Hillsborough, Oregon.

697

00:30:00,520 --> 00:30:02,520

What's on the docket today?

698

00:30:02,520 --> 00:30:03,520

What have you got for me?

699

00:30:03,520 --> 00:30:04,520

I'm excited.

700

00:30:04,520 --> 00:30:11,520

What we've got today in this fantastic facility, TSS microscopy has allowed us to use their flagship electron microscope.

701

00:30:11,520 --> 00:30:15,520

To me, this is like something from Ant-Man. Are we shrinking people today Tom?

702

00:30:15,520 --> 00:30:20,520

No, no, but we could see Ant-Man in here no matter how small he was. We could see him with this machine, right?

703

00:30:20,520 --> 00:30:21,520

Okay.

704

00:30:21,520 --> 00:30:24,520

We saw the type particles before. Today's different. Look what we've got here.

705

00:30:24,520 --> 00:30:25,520

Well, these I recognize.

706

00:30:25,520 --> 00:30:26,520

Yep, these are.

707

00:30:26,520 --> 00:30:35,520

Stubs. These are the little platforms you put inside these microscopes. We used these before and we had little fibers from the tie last time.

708

00:30:35,520 --> 00:30:37,520

Go ahead and open it up.

709

00:30:37,520 --> 00:30:40,520

Okay, I see something else on these today, little bits of something.

710

00:30:40,520 --> 00:30:45,520

So what's on here now are chunks of Cooper cash.

711

00:30:45,520 --> 00:30:57,520

In 1980, nearly a decade after the Cooper hijacking, an eight-year-old boy named Brian Ingram dug up \$6,000 of buried cash in a place called Tina Bar, Washington.

712

00:30:57,520 --> 00:31:00,520

The serial numbers matched the Cooper ransom.

713

00:31:01,520 --> 00:31:11,520

The FBI theorized that Cooper must have fatally splashed down somewhere in the Columbia River, though exhaustive searches and dredging of the river turned up nothing.

714

00:31:11,520 --> 00:31:18,520

To date, the money found in the sand at Tina Bar is the only part of the Cooper ransom ever recovered.

715

00:31:18,520 --> 00:31:23,520

Now, we're about to get the closest look at that cash that's ever been taken.

716

00:31:23,520 --> 00:31:29,520

After Tom carefully places the sample in the scanner, it's time to show me the money.

717

00:31:29,520 --> 00:31:31,520

Alright, so here's our stub.

718

00:31:31,520 --> 00:31:33,520

That's a piece of Cooper's cash.

719

00:31:33,520 --> 00:31:35,520

So what'd you find on the money?

720

00:31:35,520 --> 00:31:43,520

Last time we talked about the tie particles. This time we're doing the same techniques to go in and look at microscopic particles that are found in water.

721

00:31:43,520 --> 00:31:44,520

Okay.

722

00:31:44,520 --> 00:31:50,520

And these are called diatoms. These are single algae cells that grow this glass shell around them.

723

00:31:50,520 --> 00:31:52,520

Okay, it looks like a fossil almost.

724

00:31:52,520 --> 00:31:54,520

They actually are. That is so cool.

725

00:31:54,520 --> 00:31:57,520

So these diatoms are just little algae organisms.

726

00:31:57,520 --> 00:31:58,520

Correct.

727

00:31:58,520 --> 00:32:00,520

So you've zoomed in on this bill how much now?

728

00:32:00,520 --> 00:32:02,520

8,000 times.

729

00:32:02,520 --> 00:32:05,520

So in order for these diatoms to get on the money, the money has to be out in the water.

730

00:32:05,520 --> 00:32:12,520

It takes about 10 to 15 minutes for money to get soaked enough that they fan out in the water and that's when they would be exposed to the diatoms.

731

00:32:12,520 --> 00:32:22,520

Mr. Cooper has made a contribution to forensic science because we found out that we can use diatoms to determine what season the money got wet.

732

00:32:22,520 --> 00:32:23,520

Oh.

733

00:32:23,520 --> 00:32:25,520

This has never been done before in forensic science.

734

00:32:25,520 --> 00:32:29,520

That diatom is called *esterinella formosa*.

735

00:32:29,520 --> 00:32:33,520

I was going to say it looked like *esterinella formosa*.

736

00:32:33,520 --> 00:32:37,520

So this particular species only blooms in the spring.

737

00:32:37,520 --> 00:32:38,520

Whoa.

738

00:32:38,520 --> 00:32:42,520

It's not in the river in November when Cooper jumped.

739

00:32:42,520 --> 00:32:49,520

So could the money have hit the water in November but then next spring these diatoms work their way in?

740

00:32:49,520 --> 00:32:51,520

There are diatoms that live in the winter.

741

00:32:51,520 --> 00:32:52,520

Yes.

742

00:32:52,520 --> 00:32:55,520

And if it went in the water in the winter we'd see those diatoms.

743

00:32:55,520 --> 00:32:56,520

We don't see them.

744

00:32:56,520 --> 00:32:58,520

My brain is kind of melting here.

745

00:32:58,520 --> 00:33:04,520

This means that the money didn't enter the river when Cooper jumped but it did get wet in the spring.

746

00:33:04,520 --> 00:33:05,520

Correct.

747

00:33:05,520 --> 00:33:07,520

And then got buried in that sand.

748

00:33:07,520 --> 00:33:10,520

So the FBI's official story is...

749

00:33:10,520 --> 00:33:11,520

Wrong.

750

00:33:11,520 --> 00:33:13,520

I mean that's huge.

751

00:33:13,520 --> 00:33:14,520

That's a bombshell.

752

00:33:14,520 --> 00:33:21,520

I'm in Oregon breaking D.B. Cooper news once again with scientist Tom Kay.

753

00:33:21,520 --> 00:33:33,520

He's inspected the only cache ever recovered from the Cooper skyjacking and found particles of algae known as diatoms in the fibers that could throw gasoline on this rearming case.

754

00:33:33,520 --> 00:33:35,520

So the FBI's official story is...

755

00:33:35,520 --> 00:33:36,520

Wrong.

756

00:33:36,520 --> 00:33:38,520

I mean that's huge.

757

00:33:38,520 --> 00:33:39,520

That's a bombshell.

758

00:33:39,520 --> 00:33:41,520

Yeah, it's a big deal.

759

00:33:41,520 --> 00:33:43,520

You may say we're going to get it.

760

00:33:43,520 --> 00:33:47,520

You may say well what if the sand flooded and got the money wet wouldn't you get diatoms in the sand?

761

00:33:47,520 --> 00:33:49,520

We tested that.

762

00:33:49,520 --> 00:33:50,520

It can't happen.

763

00:33:50,520 --> 00:33:55,520

We buried money in sand, we poured diatom water over it and the diatom did not penetrate.

764

00:33:55,520 --> 00:34:00,520

My brain is racing a little bit to come up with a scenario where that happens.

765

00:34:00,520 --> 00:34:02,520

It just bends your brain.

766

00:34:02,520 --> 00:34:10,520

It doesn't mean that Cooper survived the jump necessarily but you can't dump money out of a 727 and dump it at a Tina Bar and have this result.

767

00:34:10,520 --> 00:34:11,520

Correct.

768

00:34:11,520 --> 00:34:16,520

And when it left the plane to when it got wet is a six month journey somewhere somehow.

769

00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:25,520

Like our earlier breakthrough with Cooper's necktie, Tom's new find has the potential to turn a 50 year old investigation on its ear.

770

00:34:25,520 --> 00:34:27,520

But it begs a huge question.

771

00:34:27,520 --> 00:34:40,520

What circumstances explain the money's brief but single exposure to the water of the Columbia River before becoming trapped in the sand at Tina Bar to be discovered by Brian Ingram in 1980?

772

00:34:40,520 --> 00:34:46,520

One Cooper researcher has a theory that he claims fits all the newly available facts.

773

00:34:46,520 --> 00:34:51,520

So I return to Tina Bar Washington to connect with Eric Eules.

774

00:34:51,520 --> 00:34:53,520

Hey man how are ya?

775

00:34:53,520 --> 00:34:54,520

Hey brother how you doing man?

776

00:34:54,520 --> 00:34:56,520

I'm doing good Eric nice to meet you man.

777

00:34:56,520 --> 00:34:58,520

Eric isn't a former cop or a reporter.

778

00:34:58,520 --> 00:35:05,520

He's come by his Cooper knowledge the old fashioned way through decades of exhaustive research and collaboration.

779

00:35:05,520 --> 00:35:07,520

I know you're familiar with Tom K's work.

780

00:35:07,520 --> 00:35:11,520

What's the story that fits with these diatoms that have been found or not found on the money?

781

00:35:11,520 --> 00:35:17,520

Well what we know is that the money was exposed to the Columbia River but during the spring time only.

782

00:35:17,520 --> 00:35:28,520

I believe that D.B. Cooper landed very close to this area probably within a mile and on the night that he landed here actually buried the money on the beach before he worked his way back into town.

783

00:35:28,520 --> 00:35:30,520

So the first part of that theory works great.

784

00:35:30,520 --> 00:35:35,520

He lands out here he buries the money in a dry location somewhere up on the beach or up in the woods here.

785

00:35:35,520 --> 00:35:36,520

That's right.

786

00:35:36,520 --> 00:35:39,520

And we don't have those pesky winter diatoms on the money.

787

00:35:39,520 --> 00:35:43,520

But how does the money get wet at some point with these spring diatoms?

788

00:35:43,520 --> 00:35:58,520

I've actually researched the Columbia River and there were only two times between 1971 when the skyjacking took place and 1980 when the money was found that there were flooding events where the water actually reached the money burial spot.

789

00:35:58,520 --> 00:36:03,520

The spring of 72 was one event and the spring of 74 was another event.

790

00:36:03,520 --> 00:36:09,520

So that's why I'm saying that D.B. Cooper realizing that hey the money may get swept out to the Pacific Ocean.

791

00:36:09,520 --> 00:36:12,520

Right he's like a place where I hid this stuff is about to be underwater.

792

00:36:12,520 --> 00:36:13,520

He's got to come back.

793

00:36:13,520 --> 00:36:15,520

It's probably under five or six inches of water.

794

00:36:15,520 --> 00:36:17,520

He pulls the bag out of the watery grave.

795

00:36:17,520 --> 00:36:20,520

A few of those packets get left behind exposed to the Columbia River.

796

00:36:20,520 --> 00:36:28,520

But after he leaves those that sand fills back in covers those money packets back up and the money is locked into the beach to be found eight years later.

797

00:36:28,520 --> 00:36:30,520

Okay so now here's the problem.

798

00:36:30,520 --> 00:36:35,520

You would need to know where little Brian Ingram found that money in 1980.

799

00:36:35,520 --> 00:36:41,520

That's part of the problem when the FBI dug up the beach in 1980 and left they didn't mark the spot.

800

00:36:41,520 --> 00:36:42,520

Right and it was pre GPS.

801

00:36:42,520 --> 00:36:43,520

That's exactly right.

802

00:36:43,520 --> 00:36:54,520

Now I actually took it upon myself to start researching to try to determine precisely where the money was buried and I eventually did and I know the precise spot today.

803

00:36:54,520 --> 00:36:55,520

Show me.

804

00:36:55,520 --> 00:36:56,520

All right absolutely.

805

00:36:57,520 --> 00:37:02,520

We walked to the area where Eric has determined the money was originally found.

806

00:37:02,520 --> 00:37:05,520

I'm skeptical until I see who's holding the fort.

807

00:37:05,520 --> 00:37:08,520

Josh I've got a special guest.

808

00:37:08,520 --> 00:37:09,520

I know who this is.

809

00:37:09,520 --> 00:37:11,520

What's up man.

810

00:37:11,520 --> 00:37:12,520

How you doing buddy.

811

00:37:12,520 --> 00:37:17,520

Little Brian Ingram the only man who's ever found DB Cooper's money.

812

00:37:17,520 --> 00:37:19,520

We refer to Brian as Cooper royalty.

813

00:37:19,520 --> 00:37:29,520

Brian was just eight years old when he made the only true break in this case finding bundles of Cooper's ransom money on the beach here at Tina Bar.

814

00:37:29,520 --> 00:37:32,520

So all told you found just under \$6000 of Cooper's money.

815

00:37:32,520 --> 00:37:33,520

Correct.

816

00:37:33,520 --> 00:37:35,520

Would you like to see some of it.

817

00:37:35,520 --> 00:37:36,520

You have it.

818

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

I do.

819

00:37:37,520 --> 00:37:39,520

Get out of here.

820

00:37:39,520 --> 00:37:41,520

That's insane.

821

00:37:41,520 --> 00:37:42,520

Cooper's money.

822

00:37:42,520 --> 00:37:43,520

Like I have chills.

823

00:37:43,520 --> 00:37:50,520

This is the real deal folks remnants of the actual bills that were carried through the air by our mystery skyjacker.

824

00:37:50,520 --> 00:37:53,520

This money went out that plane with DB Cooper.

825

00:37:53,520 --> 00:37:55,520

That's incredible.

826

00:37:55,520 --> 00:37:56,520

Thank you.

827

00:37:56,520 --> 00:37:57,520

Okay.

828

00:37:57,520 --> 00:38:01,520

We have to be relatively close to where you found the money but it's changed so much since then.

829

00:38:01,520 --> 00:38:02,520

That's right.

830

00:38:02,520 --> 00:38:04,520

So how do we know right where the money was found.

831

00:38:04,520 --> 00:38:06,520

Here take a look at this.

832

00:38:07,520 --> 00:38:09,520

So this looks like old aerial footage.

833

00:38:09,520 --> 00:38:10,520

That's correct.

834

00:38:10,520 --> 00:38:14,520

This is footage taken from a news helicopter that was filmed during the FBI search.

835

00:38:14,520 --> 00:38:16,520

You can see the agents on the beach.

836

00:38:16,520 --> 00:38:17,520

Right.

837

00:38:17,520 --> 00:38:19,520

First thing that pops out here is how much beach there is.

838

00:38:19,520 --> 00:38:21,520

I mean it's all sand.

839

00:38:21,520 --> 00:38:22,520

It's completely different.

840

00:38:22,520 --> 00:38:27,520

There's an old gravel road that you can see in the footage here that an FBI car is actually sitting on.

841

00:38:27,520 --> 00:38:28,520

That's part of what we walked on.

842

00:38:28,520 --> 00:38:29,520

That gravel road is right up there.

843

00:38:29,520 --> 00:38:30,520

Right.

844

00:38:30,520 --> 00:38:35,520

And utilizing landmarks I was able to identify the precise money find spot.

845

00:38:35,520 --> 00:38:40,520

They've got a still image from the footage that you're looking at that shows a little better.

846

00:38:40,520 --> 00:38:42,520

Exactly a money find spot.

847

00:38:42,520 --> 00:38:48,520

Now somebody might say all this is well and good but isn't the FBI all over this place?

848

00:38:48,520 --> 00:38:54,520

The FBI did not search from the money find spot back up to the gravel road.

849

00:38:54,520 --> 00:38:55,520

I don't know why.

850

00:38:55,520 --> 00:38:57,520

Should we pick up some metal detectors and some shovels?

851

00:38:57,520 --> 00:38:58,520

I think so.

852

00:38:58,520 --> 00:38:59,520

Are you here to help?

853

00:38:59,520 --> 00:39:00,520

I'm in.

854

00:39:00,520 --> 00:39:02,520

There's \$194,000 still out there.

855

00:39:02,520 --> 00:39:04,520

You're a lucky charm, Brian.

856

00:39:04,520 --> 00:39:06,520

Give me a shovel.

857

00:39:06,520 --> 00:39:12,520

We grab our metal detectors and begin exploring the area from the shore up to the old gravel road.

858

00:39:12,520 --> 00:39:19,520

Our team is now four strong including Brian and Eric's friend expert metal detectorist Jeff Morgan.

859

00:39:19,520 --> 00:39:22,520

Something's hitting hard, huh?

860

00:39:22,520 --> 00:39:24,520

Yeah, something down there.

861

00:39:24,520 --> 00:39:25,520

What you got?

862

00:39:25,520 --> 00:39:27,520

A strong hit right here.

863

00:39:27,520 --> 00:39:31,520

Something here.

864

00:39:31,520 --> 00:39:32,520

What is that?

865

00:39:32,520 --> 00:39:33,520

It's an odd enough piece.

866

00:39:33,520 --> 00:39:35,520

I just can't tell what it is.

867

00:39:35,520 --> 00:39:36,520

I mean it could be anything.

868

00:39:36,520 --> 00:39:38,520

It could be part of a barbed wire fence.

869

00:39:38,520 --> 00:39:39,520

Yeah, interesting.

870

00:39:39,520 --> 00:39:40,520

But hey, it's a start.

871

00:39:40,520 --> 00:39:41,520

Yeah.

872

00:39:41,520 --> 00:39:42,520

All right, keep looking.

873

00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:46,520

The wire is just the beginning as we start to pile up the hits.

874

00:39:46,520 --> 00:39:49,520

Looks like a feeder straw of some kind.

875

00:39:49,520 --> 00:39:50,520

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

876

00:39:50,520 --> 00:39:51,520

That's WD-40 can.

877

00:39:51,520 --> 00:39:54,520

Did Cooper jump with WD-40?

878

00:39:54,520 --> 00:39:55,520

Shotgun shell.

879

00:39:55,520 --> 00:39:57,520

Okay, we got a shotgun shell.

880

00:39:57,520 --> 00:40:00,520

We got permission to be on this property, right?

881

00:40:00,520 --> 00:40:01,520

Nice nail.

882

00:40:01,520 --> 00:40:03,520

We were in the iron collection business.

883

00:40:03,520 --> 00:40:04,520

Yeah.

884

00:40:04,520 --> 00:40:11,520

It would be rich.

885

00:40:11,520 --> 00:40:16,520

Now in terms of the actual money find spot, Brian said it was right around here, yeah?

886

00:40:16,520 --> 00:40:17,520

That's correct.

887

00:40:17,520 --> 00:40:19,520

If you see that furthest boulder out right there.

888

00:40:19,520 --> 00:40:20,520

Yes.

889

00:40:20,520 --> 00:40:22,520

If you go out from there, that's exactly where the money was found.

890

00:40:22,520 --> 00:40:23,520

In the water.

891

00:40:23,520 --> 00:40:24,520

That's correct.

892

00:40:24,520 --> 00:40:26,520

Nowadays the money find spot's about 15 feet offshore.

893

00:40:26,520 --> 00:40:30,520

Well, it feels like one of us should probably get out there and check that out.

894

00:40:30,520 --> 00:40:31,520

Good luck, Josh.

895

00:40:31,520 --> 00:40:32,520

Damn.

896

00:40:32,520 --> 00:40:40,520

All right, I'll go.

897

00:40:40,520 --> 00:40:42,520

Time to get wet.

898

00:40:42,520 --> 00:40:49,520

I trade in my detector for an aquatic model and wade back into the search.

899

00:40:49,520 --> 00:40:54,520

Okay, so around here, two feet to the left of that shark over there.

900

00:40:54,520 --> 00:40:55,520

All right.

901

00:40:55,520 --> 00:40:59,520

There's no sharks in Portland.

902

00:40:59,520 --> 00:41:04,520

There's no sharks, right?

903

00:41:04,520 --> 00:41:10,520

Using Eric's coordinates, I program my phone's GPS to zero in on the exact spot where Brian

904

00:41:10,520 --> 00:41:20,520

found Cooper's cache.

905

00:41:20,520 --> 00:41:21,520

Got a hit?

906

00:41:21,520 --> 00:41:34,520

There is literally a hit right here.

907

00:41:34,520 --> 00:41:36,520

It's like an old spike.

908

00:41:36,520 --> 00:41:41,520

You know the cool thing about this, Josh, this is exactly what I think D.B. Cooper went through

909

00:41:41,520 --> 00:41:44,520

in June of 1972, retrieving the money.

910

00:41:44,520 --> 00:41:47,520

I mean, D.B. Cooper could have been standing right here.

911

00:41:47,520 --> 00:41:48,520

That's right.

912

00:41:48,520 --> 00:42:08,520

Now we're just going to see if he left anything else behind.

913

00:42:08,520 --> 00:42:09,520

Eric!

914

00:42:09,520 --> 00:42:10,520

Yes.

915

00:42:10,520 --> 00:42:14,520

Hey, check this out.

916

00:42:14,520 --> 00:42:16,520

What is it?

917

00:42:16,520 --> 00:42:17,520

Look.

918

00:42:17,520 --> 00:42:22,520

It's like a buckle.

919

00:42:22,520 --> 00:42:24,520

A hint or a buckle?

920

00:42:24,520 --> 00:42:25,520

Yeah, yeah.

921

00:42:25,520 --> 00:42:30,520

Those are clearly two rivets, and it looks like the kind of piece you would have on a briefcase.

922

00:42:30,520 --> 00:42:31,520

I mean, it really does.

923

00:42:31,520 --> 00:42:32,520

I mean, what else would you use it for?

924

00:42:32,520 --> 00:42:33,520

I don't know.

925

00:42:33,520 --> 00:42:34,520

Very cool.

926

00:42:34,520 --> 00:42:38,520

I mean, that's pretty unbelievable.

927

00:42:38,520 --> 00:42:39,520

It's pretty intriguing.

928

00:42:39,520 --> 00:42:40,520

Okay, that's going right there.

929

00:42:40,520 --> 00:42:42,520

I'm going back to that same area to keep searching.

930

00:42:42,520 --> 00:42:44,520

Things are heating up.

931

00:42:44,520 --> 00:42:51,520

Just like right in here.

932

00:42:51,520 --> 00:42:54,520

Big hit.

933

00:42:54,520 --> 00:43:00,520

Oh.

934

00:43:00,520 --> 00:43:01,520

Eric!

935

00:43:01,520 --> 00:43:03,520

Look at this!

936

00:43:03,520 --> 00:43:08,520

Come here, come here, come here!

937

00:43:08,520 --> 00:43:15,520

Portland's Northwest Escape Experience has a D.B. Cooper-inspired escape room.

938

00:43:15,520 --> 00:43:18,520

Okay, here we go.

939

00:43:18,520 --> 00:43:24,520

In a kind of loose sequel to the skyjacking, I have 60 minutes to find the \$200,000 that

940

00:43:24,520 --> 00:43:27,520

have eluded the FBI for 50 years.

941

00:43:27,520 --> 00:43:30,520

Oh, and I have to stop this bomb from exploding.

942

00:43:30,520 --> 00:43:33,520

Of course, this is an escape room.

943

00:43:33,520 --> 00:43:39,520

I have to navigate a gauntlet of fiendish puzzles that Cooper never had to contend with.

944

00:43:39,520 --> 00:43:44,520

There are hidden messages, and secret clues.

945

00:43:44,520 --> 00:43:48,520

Until finally.

946

00:43:48,520 --> 00:43:50,520

Northwest Orient Bag.

947

00:43:50,520 --> 00:43:51,520

Full of money.

948

00:43:51,520 --> 00:43:52,520

I got the money.

949

00:43:52,520 --> 00:43:53,520

I'm rich.

950

00:43:53,520 --> 00:43:54,520

One.

951

00:43:54,520 --> 00:43:55,520

System deactivated.

952

00:43:55,520 --> 00:43:56,520

Yeah!

953

00:43:56,520 --> 00:43:57,520

You win.

954

00:43:57,520 --> 00:43:58,520

All right, boys.

955

00:43:58,520 --> 00:43:59,520

Here's our on me.

956

00:44:19,520 --> 00:44:25,520

I'm in the Columbia River near Tina Bar, Washington, looking for evidence of D.B. Cooper with

957

00:44:25,520 --> 00:44:27,520

investigator Eric Eulis.

958

00:44:27,520 --> 00:44:29,520

And we just found something.

959

00:44:29,520 --> 00:44:30,520

Eric!

960

00:44:30,520 --> 00:44:31,520

Look at this!

961

00:44:31,520 --> 00:44:33,520

Come here, come here, come here, come here!

962

00:44:33,520 --> 00:44:36,520

Let's check this out.

963

00:44:36,520 --> 00:44:38,520

That's a clasp.

964

00:44:38,520 --> 00:44:42,520

That's a f***ing clasp.

965

00:44:42,520 --> 00:44:44,520

That is an absolute clasp.

966

00:44:44,520 --> 00:44:45,520

There's no doubt about that.

967

00:44:45,520 --> 00:44:47,520

That looks like it's off a briefcase.

968

00:44:47,520 --> 00:44:49,520

That is definitely from a briefcase.

969

00:44:49,520 --> 00:44:51,520

Do we know what his briefcase looked like?

970

00:44:51,520 --> 00:44:52,520

No.

971

00:44:52,520 --> 00:44:53,520

There's no photo of it, right?

972

00:44:53,520 --> 00:44:54,520

No, no photo at all.

973

00:44:54,520 --> 00:44:57,520

We don't know if it was metal or what the case was, but that definitely looks like a

974

00:44:57,520 --> 00:45:00,520

clasp that could have gone to his briefcase.

975

00:45:00,520 --> 00:45:02,520

And it is rusted to high hell.

976

00:45:02,520 --> 00:45:03,520

And look where this is.

977

00:45:03,520 --> 00:45:05,520

This was found close to this.

978

00:45:05,520 --> 00:45:07,520

These could be from the same thing, I think.

979

00:45:07,520 --> 00:45:09,520

I mean, how could they not be from the same thing?

980

00:45:09,520 --> 00:45:13,520

You got a clasp and you've got what appears to be some sort of hinge or something like that.

981

00:45:13,520 --> 00:45:17,520

I'm kind of flabbergasted because, I mean, we're at V-spot, V-money spot.

982

00:45:17,520 --> 00:45:18,520

That's right.

983

00:45:18,520 --> 00:45:23,520

That could actually be the very first piece of evidence we found related to D.B.

984

00:45:23,520 --> 00:45:26,520

Cooper since the money in the same spot.

985

00:45:26,520 --> 00:45:27,520

That's insane.

986

00:45:27,520 --> 00:45:28,520

That is very cool.

987

00:45:28,520 --> 00:45:30,520

Unbelievable.

988

00:45:30,520 --> 00:45:33,520

Oh, my word.

989

00:45:33,520 --> 00:45:35,520

Ha!

990

00:45:39,520 --> 00:45:41,520

Okay, I need to go back and see if there's anything else in here.

991

00:45:41,520 --> 00:45:42,520

Stand by.

992

00:45:44,520 --> 00:45:47,520

Coming up with any more hits out there?

993

00:45:47,520 --> 00:45:49,520

It's all quiet now.

994

00:45:49,520 --> 00:45:50,520

Not a...

995

00:45:50,520 --> 00:45:55,520

I scan the water up and down the bank to be sure there's nothing else to find.

996

00:45:55,520 --> 00:46:02,520

And soon, the sun begins to set on Tina Bar and on this chapter of my hunt for D.B. Cooper.

997

00:46:02,520 --> 00:46:06,520

In the days that follow, we conclude that the serial number on the tag found in Cleolom

998

00:46:06,520 --> 00:46:12,520

doesn't match the registry of any known components of a parachute canopy, container, or harness.

999

00:46:12,520 --> 00:46:16,520

The hinge and clasp found at Tina Bar have been carefully examined

1000

00:46:16,520 --> 00:46:22,520

and appear to match those found on many soft briefcases from the 1960s and 70s.

1001

00:46:22,520 --> 00:46:26,520

Unfortunately, they also match any number of other containers

1002

00:46:26,520 --> 00:46:29,520

and are therefore compelling but inconclusive.

1003

00:46:29,520 --> 00:46:34,520

For me, the biggest headline here is the discovery of the diatoms on Cooper's cache.

1004

00:46:34,520 --> 00:46:38,520

New forensic evidence in a case that's supposedly cold

1005

00:46:38,520 --> 00:46:41,520

but feels significantly hotter today.

1006

00:46:45,520 --> 00:46:49,520

Still, D.B. Cooper remains at large,

1007

00:46:49,520 --> 00:46:52,520

anonymous after 50 years.

1008

00:46:52,520 --> 00:46:56,520

His idea of the discovery of the diatoms on Cooper's cache

1009

00:46:56,520 --> 00:46:59,520

is anonymous after 50 years.

1010

00:46:59,520 --> 00:47:03,520

His identity, his motivations, his life or death are unknown,

1011

00:47:03,520 --> 00:47:06,520

leaving us to fill in the blanks.

1012

00:47:06,520 --> 00:47:09,520

And perhaps that's why we're so fascinated by him

1013

00:47:09,520 --> 00:47:14,520

because we've been able to make his story into whatever we want it to be.

1014

00:47:14,520 --> 00:47:17,520

To some, a terrorist.

1015

00:47:17,520 --> 00:47:21,520

To others, a kind of Thomas Crown and James Bond rolled into one,

1016

00:47:21,520 --> 00:47:25,520

most recently as the Norse god of mischief, Loki.

1017

00:47:25,520 --> 00:47:27,520

Maybe Cooper was Walter Wrecker,

1018

00:47:27,520 --> 00:47:32,520

whose detailed confession and strange appearance in that diner are hard to ignore.

1019

00:47:32,520 --> 00:47:34,520

Or maybe he was this guy.

1020

00:47:34,520 --> 00:47:36,520

Or this guy.

1021

00:47:36,520 --> 00:47:37,520

Or him.

1022

00:47:37,520 --> 00:47:38,520

Or him.

1023

00:47:38,520 --> 00:47:41,520

Or maybe someone no one's thought of.

1024

00:47:41,520 --> 00:47:47,520

And maybe he died alone in a place still undiscovered after half a century.

1025

00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:50,520

It seems like we can't let go of D.B. Cooper.

1026

00:47:50,520 --> 00:47:54,520

He's still out there in our imaginations where anything is possible.

1027

00:47:54,520 --> 00:47:57,520

So he won't be going away anytime soon.