

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,000

The Ashley gang robbed more than 40 banks while Dillon's are only robbed 24.

2

00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:12,000

How much money did they get away with over the course of this crime spree?

3

00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:15,000

In today's money, millions.

4

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

He couldn't put his proceeds in the bank. He had to hide it.

5

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:23,000

So, do you know where it is?

6

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:25,000

The money is stolen.

7

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:33,000

For almost 100 years now, people have been digging holes trying to find it.

8

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,000

Guys, come here.

9

00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:38,000

Oh my God. Oh my God. Shut up. No. Woo!

10

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

Oh my God. My heart is beating.

11

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:43,000

This is what we've been looking for.

12

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Are you kidding me?

13

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

Ashley, treasure. There you go.

14

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

This place is like a gold mine. This is insane.

15

00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:57,000

Most gangsters are associated with big cities.

16

00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:00,000

Al Capone was synonymous with Chicago.

17

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:02,000

New York had Lucky Luciano.

18

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

And LA, Mickey Cohen.

19

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:06,000

But unless you're from Florida,

20

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,000

well, you've probably never heard of John Ashley.

21

00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:12,000

His story is like something out of the movies, except it's all real.

22

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

He was known as the king of the Everglades

23

00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:20,000

and led a vicious gang that terrorized the Sunshine State from 1914

24

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:22,000

to 1924.

25

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Back then, Florida was an un-air-conditioned, vast and lawless frontier

26

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:33,000

where the Ashley gang went on a notorious decade-long crime spree

27

00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:38,000

of bank robbery, bootlegging, piracy, and murder.

28

00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:41,000

Their criminal enterprises netted a fortune

29

00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:46,000

and reports of millions in hidden Ashley loot have swirled for a century.

30

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

Now, research for a new museum exhibit on the gang

31

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:51,000

has turned up incredible new clues

32

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

and treasure hunters are finally closing in.

33

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

One has unearthed a lost document

34

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

that points to a real-life treasure island

35

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:01,000

that might contain actual buried loot,

36

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:05,000

while a historian claims to have located an entire lost town

37

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

and traces of the Ashley gang's hideout.

38

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

We're on a hunt for truth and treasure,

39

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,000

so put down the video and let us know what you think.

40

00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,000

We're on a hunt for truth and treasure,

41

00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:19,000

so put down the golf clubs, set aside your bingo card,

42

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:23,000

and get ready for an expedition to an unknown Florida from a century ago

43

00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:26,000

where the only way to retire was with a bullet.

44

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

My name is Josh Gates.

45

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Hello!

46

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,000

Explorer.

47

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:35,000

Adventurer.

48

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Amazing!

49

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:37,000

Woo!

50

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

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

51

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

Oh, s***!

52

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Woo! That was exciting.

53

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

A Korean archaeology and a passion for the unexplained.

54

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,000

I travel to the ends of the earth,

55

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,000

investigating the greatest legends in history.

56

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:53,000

Okay, let's punch it!

57

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:55,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

58

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:06,000

We begin our journey in Miami, the Magic City.

59

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:08,000

No matter how hot it gets,

60

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,000

sooner or later there's a cool breeze coming in.

61

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:18,000

Okay, so this episode is about bank robbers in the 20s

62

00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:20,000

and not drug cops in the 80s,

63

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:22,000

but come on, Miami Vice is a classic,

64

00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:24,000

plus turquoise is really my color.

65

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:29,000

All right, down to business.

66

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,000

The heart of our story actually takes place

67

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:37,000

about 100 miles north of Miami in the quaint town of Stewart.

68

00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:40,000

Along with classic Florida beachside vibes,

69

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

this town is literally calling out to me about the Ashley Gang.

70

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Well, John Ashley grew up in the Everglades.

71

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:52,000

Those in the Wim City wasn't all that bad.

72

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:57,000

Those he murdered might just disagree with that.

73

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Turns out people here are really into the Ashley Gang.

74

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

This band, they're called the Ashley Gang,

75

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:06,000

and they're singing about, who else, the Ashley Gang.

76

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,000

They went out looking for trouble,

77

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:10,000

Troubles what they found,

78

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Sheriff Baker made a promise,

79

00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Before they laid him in the ground,

80

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:18,000

He'd see the Ashley Gang go down.

81

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:21,000

Thanks.

82

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

Even the beer here is named after the Ashley Gang,

83

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,000

and I'll give you one guest with the name of the bartender is...

84

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:27,000

My name's Susie.

85

00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:29,000

I'm from the city of Miami.

86

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

I'm from the city of Miami.

87

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

I'm from the city of Miami.

88

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:35,000

My name's Susie.

89

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

I'm from the city of Miami.

90

00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:39,000

I'm from the city of Miami.

91

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:42,000

And I'll give you one guest with the name of the bartender is...

92

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:43,000

My name's Susie.

93

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:44,000

It's Ashley.

94

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:45,000

It's definitely Susie.

95

00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:47,000

Okay, nice try Ashley.

96

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:51,000

The City Ashley Gang go down.

97

00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:58,000

In addition to bands and beer,

98

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

Stewart, Florida is also home to a new exhibit

99

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:02,000

dedicated to the Ashley Gang.

100

00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:08,800

Founded in 1961, this terrific and eclectic collection celebrates the spirit of invention,

101

00:05:08,800 --> 00:05:12,960

along with art and Florida history.

102

00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:16,560

Amidst the miles of memorabilia, I find CEO Rob Steele.

103

00:05:16,560 --> 00:05:17,560

Rob?

104

00:05:17,560 --> 00:05:20,080

Josh, welcome to the Elliott Museum.

105

00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:21,080

Nice to meet you.

106

00:05:21,080 --> 00:05:22,080

I'm thrilled to have you here.

107

00:05:22,080 --> 00:05:23,080

I'm thrilled to be here.

108

00:05:23,080 --> 00:05:24,580

This place is amazing.

109

00:05:24,580 --> 00:05:25,580

It's eclectic.

110

00:05:25,580 --> 00:05:26,880

You never know what's around the next corner.

111

00:05:26,880 --> 00:05:30,240

Well, that kind of brings me to my first question, I guess, which is the place is so

112

00:05:30,240 --> 00:05:31,240

diverse.

113

00:05:31,720 --> 00:05:38,160

These awesome cars and, you know, Americana baseball collection, and now a new exhibit

114

00:05:38,160 --> 00:05:40,760

on a group of notorious criminals.

115

00:05:40,760 --> 00:05:43,000

We love notorious criminals, the Ashley Gang.

116

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:44,000

Right.

117

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:46,600

The Ashley Gang is not, I would say, a household name.

118

00:05:46,600 --> 00:05:47,840

They're really not.

119

00:05:47,840 --> 00:05:52,560

The John Dillinger's carry more notoriety, but the Ashley Gang robbed more than 40 banks

120

00:05:52,560 --> 00:05:54,520

while Dillinger only robbed 24.

121

00:05:54,520 --> 00:05:55,520

Wow.

122

00:05:55,520 --> 00:05:58,640

In the course of their work, it was impressive.

123

00:05:58,640 --> 00:06:02,520

It's a story that is waiting to be told that everyone should know about.

124

00:06:02,520 --> 00:06:05,600

At the center of this gang is John Ashley.

125

00:06:08,320 --> 00:06:11,320

When does John's criminal career kick off?

126

00:06:11,320 --> 00:06:16,280

In his early 20s, John Ashley is in the Everglades and he has a partner who is a Seminole Indian

127

00:06:16,280 --> 00:06:17,680

named DeSoto Tiger.

128

00:06:17,680 --> 00:06:22,140

They would routinely take a canoe and set trap lines to catch otters and sell the pelts

129

00:06:22,140 --> 00:06:24,520

for cash to the nearby trading posts.

130

00:06:24,520 --> 00:06:28,960

At some point in the game DeSoto Tiger ends up shot dead and his body floating in the

131

00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:30,760

river.

132

00:06:30,760 --> 00:06:36,040

Not long after, John Ashley sells a tall stack of otter pelts with Seminole markings at a

133

00:06:36,040 --> 00:06:39,120

trading post in Miami.

134

00:06:39,120 --> 00:06:43,560

Enter Palm Beach Sheriff George Baker, whose pursuit of the Ashley's will become a family

135

00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:47,640

obsession carried on by his son, Sheriff Bob Baker.

136

00:06:47,640 --> 00:06:53,560

With ties to the KKK, Sheriff Bob's participation ensures there are no good guys in the story

137

00:06:53,560 --> 00:06:55,880

of the Ashley gang.

138

00:06:55,880 --> 00:07:00,920

In response to the murder of DeSoto Tiger, a detail of deputies are sent to arrest John

139

00:07:00,920 --> 00:07:02,280

Ashley.

140

00:07:02,280 --> 00:07:03,360

And how does that go?

141

00:07:03,360 --> 00:07:04,680

Not all together well.

142

00:07:04,680 --> 00:07:08,320

They're met with the rifles of the Ashley family.

143

00:07:08,320 --> 00:07:14,320

And John notoriously sent a message to the Sheriff saying, don't send any more chicken-hearted

144

00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:16,800

men with rifles, they're liable to get hurt.

145

00:07:16,800 --> 00:07:17,880

Wow.

146

00:07:17,880 --> 00:07:19,000

At 19 years old.

147

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:22,680

19 years old, he stood toe to toe against the Sheriff.

148

00:07:22,680 --> 00:07:26,520

And that was the beginning of a feud that lasted till the end of John's life between

149

00:07:26,520 --> 00:07:28,840

Sheriff Baker and John Ashley.

150

00:07:28,840 --> 00:07:30,840

Wow.

151

00:07:30,840 --> 00:07:35,960

As the murder case attracts more attention and controversy, John Ashley eventually surrenders

152

00:07:35,960 --> 00:07:39,960

himself to authorities, only to then break out of jail.

153

00:07:39,960 --> 00:07:45,040

Once a fugitive, John forms a gang of outlaws joined by his brothers and occasional other

154

00:07:45,040 --> 00:07:47,880

partners in crime.

155

00:07:47,880 --> 00:07:52,320

This gang that he forms, this is largely a family affair, right?

156

00:07:52,320 --> 00:07:55,920

Four brothers and a nephew, along with John and his father.

157

00:07:55,920 --> 00:08:00,800

The first few scores are a little bumpy, proving that even a life of crime has a learning

158

00:08:00,800 --> 00:08:02,300

curve.

159

00:08:02,300 --> 00:08:05,480

First thing that they knocked over as a gang was a train, right?

160

00:08:05,480 --> 00:08:06,480

Attempted train robbery.

161

00:08:06,480 --> 00:08:09,080

It didn't go exactly according to plan.

162

00:08:09,080 --> 00:08:13,360

The Teller windows from the Bank of Stuart, which was their first successful robbery as

163

00:08:13,360 --> 00:08:14,360

a gang.

164

00:08:14,360 --> 00:08:15,680

These are the actual windows from the bank?

165

00:08:15,680 --> 00:08:16,680

Those are the windows.

166

00:08:16,680 --> 00:08:17,680

Wow.

167

00:08:17,680 --> 00:08:19,280

Did they get away with in that robbery?

168

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:21,440

\$5,000 was their take.

169

00:08:21,440 --> 00:08:22,640

Not bad for a day's work.

170

00:08:22,640 --> 00:08:26,680

Not bad when you consider the fact that that's \$140,000 in today's dollars.

171

00:08:26,680 --> 00:08:28,600

Oh, that's a very good day's work.

172

00:08:28,600 --> 00:08:30,040

It turns out I should be robbing banks.

173

00:08:30,040 --> 00:08:33,440

You might want to reconsider a career change when you hear how the getaway went.

174

00:08:33,440 --> 00:08:34,960

Oh, they don't get away scot-free?

175

00:08:34,960 --> 00:08:39,800

One of the gang members had a misfire of his firearm, and the bullet passed through John

176

00:08:39,800 --> 00:08:43,880

Ashley's jaw, lodged in his skull, and caused his eye to be removed.

177

00:08:43,880 --> 00:08:44,880

Wow.

178

00:08:44,880 --> 00:08:46,640

So that's why we always see him with that eye patch.

179

00:08:46,640 --> 00:08:49,400

With an eye patch and a glass eye.

180

00:08:49,400 --> 00:08:56,480

Now every good story needs a little romance, and John Ashley's is no exception.

181

00:08:56,480 --> 00:08:58,840

And there's also a Bonnie to his Clyde, right?

182

00:08:58,840 --> 00:08:59,840

Absolutely.

183

00:08:59,840 --> 00:09:01,480

Laura Up the Grove has devoted.

184

00:09:01,480 --> 00:09:02,880

Sorry, what now?

185

00:09:02,880 --> 00:09:04,360

Laura Up the Grove.

186

00:09:04,360 --> 00:09:06,520

Sir, this is a family program.

187

00:09:06,520 --> 00:09:07,520

Her name is Up the Grove?

188

00:09:07,520 --> 00:09:08,640

Up the Grove.

189

00:09:08,640 --> 00:09:10,920

And she wasn't just a hangar on here, right?

190

00:09:10,920 --> 00:09:11,920

Not at all.

191

00:09:11,920 --> 00:09:13,480

She was a full partner in crying.

192

00:09:13,480 --> 00:09:18,640

Laura earned her way into the gang with her solid marksmanship and cunning criminal mind.

193

00:09:18,640 --> 00:09:24,120

She cased potential robbery spots, oftentimes planned to the heist, and even drove the getaway

194

00:09:24,120 --> 00:09:25,120

car.

195

00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:27,480

In short, she became a key player.

196

00:09:27,480 --> 00:09:29,520

She was a stalwart member of the gang.

197

00:09:29,520 --> 00:09:32,880

There was nothing they couldn't ask her to do.

198

00:09:32,880 --> 00:09:37,400

With a gunslinging love interest now added to the team, John and the gang embark on a

199

00:09:37,400 --> 00:09:40,840

10-year crime spree that is simply epic.

200

00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:46,360

Along with daring bank robberies, the gang become major moonshiners in the swamps, producing

201

00:09:46,360 --> 00:09:51,680

and selling illegal hooch and even engaging in piracy off the Florida coast.

202

00:09:51,680 --> 00:09:56,760

As a criminal enterprise, the Ashley gang is bold and very diversified.

203

00:09:56,760 --> 00:09:58,480

And what's he doing with all this money?

204

00:09:58,480 --> 00:10:00,040

He's like a swamp guy, right?

205

00:10:00,040 --> 00:10:01,880

So like, is he live in large?

206

00:10:01,880 --> 00:10:04,360

John Ashley was actually reinvesting in the community.

207

00:10:04,360 --> 00:10:09,520

There are lots of oral histories from people that were directly affected by his generosity.

208

00:10:09,520 --> 00:10:14,880

Like Jesse James, Dillinger, and other criminal anti-heroes, John Ashley has gained a folkloric

209

00:10:14,880 --> 00:10:19,800

reputation as a kind of robin hood, sometimes called the swamp bandit.

210

00:10:19,800 --> 00:10:24,360

John's enterprises bring some infrastructure and money to an otherwise undeveloped and

211

00:10:24,360 --> 00:10:25,360

impoverished region.

212

00:10:25,360 --> 00:10:30,240

And he had a lot of people on the salary too to run all these enterprises.

213

00:10:30,240 --> 00:10:34,640

But other locals, like people in Stewart whose money was in the bank John robbed, see him

214

00:10:34,640 --> 00:10:36,440

for what he was.

215

00:10:36,440 --> 00:10:37,760

A crook.

216

00:10:37,760 --> 00:10:42,160

But his spree eventually comes to an end, the culmination of his long grudge with Sheriff

217

00:10:42,160 --> 00:10:43,760

Baker.

218

00:10:43,760 --> 00:10:49,240

On November 1st, 1924, Baker's deputies are part of a trap set to capture John Ashley

219

00:10:49,240 --> 00:10:55,080

and three of his men as they travel north to Jacksonville.

220

00:10:55,080 --> 00:10:59,480

In the aftermath, John and his associates are shot dead.

221

00:10:59,480 --> 00:11:05,280

Afterward, John Ashley's glass eye is plucked out of its socket and delivered to Sheriff

222

00:11:05,280 --> 00:11:06,280

Baker.

223

00:11:06,280 --> 00:11:10,400

The Sheriff has a twisted trophy to mark the end of their bitter feud.

224

00:11:10,400 --> 00:11:13,960

Oh, my word.

225

00:11:13,960 --> 00:11:16,560

Pretty amazing staring back at you.

226

00:11:16,560 --> 00:11:18,840

Literally staring back at me.

227

00:11:18,840 --> 00:11:20,840

This is his actual glass eye.

228

00:11:20,840 --> 00:11:22,440

Correct.

229

00:11:22,440 --> 00:11:28,200

It's actually kind of hard to look at because suddenly it actually seems like this larger

230

00:11:28,200 --> 00:11:31,560

than life character is looking back at us.

231

00:11:31,560 --> 00:11:33,960

The Sheriff intended to use it to make a key chain.

232

00:11:33,960 --> 00:11:34,960

Okay.

233

00:11:34,960 --> 00:11:36,960

That's a good way to keep an eye out for your car keys.

234

00:11:36,960 --> 00:11:40,360

I'm going to give this back to you.

235

00:11:40,360 --> 00:11:41,360

Thank you.

236

00:11:41,360 --> 00:11:42,360

Back in the case.

237

00:11:42,360 --> 00:11:44,840

Can I get the Purell?

238

00:11:44,840 --> 00:11:49,000

But let's keep an eye on the prize and stay focused on the potential treasure.

239

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:52,400

How much money did they get away with over the course of this crime spree?

240

00:11:52,400 --> 00:11:54,520

In today's money, millions.

241

00:11:54,520 --> 00:11:55,520

Millions.

242

00:11:55,520 --> 00:11:56,520

Okay.

243

00:11:56,520 --> 00:11:59,640

So I take it the money wasn't recovered at the time.

244

00:11:59,640 --> 00:12:00,640

No.

245

00:12:00,640 --> 00:12:04,480

For almost 100 years now, people have been digging holes in Martin County trying to find

246

00:12:04,480 --> 00:12:05,480

it.

247

00:12:05,480 --> 00:12:06,480

And what do you think?

248

00:12:06,480 --> 00:12:07,760

Do you think that that treasure is still out there?

249

00:12:07,760 --> 00:12:12,080

If that amount of money ever saw the light of day, we'd be aware of it.

250

00:12:12,080 --> 00:12:13,240

Just sort of vanished.

251

00:12:13,240 --> 00:12:14,240

Absolutely.

252

00:12:14,240 --> 00:12:16,680

Well, well now we just got to find it.

253

00:12:16,680 --> 00:12:19,120

It's a tall task.

254

00:12:19,120 --> 00:12:21,480

Somebody's got to do it.

255

00:12:21,480 --> 00:12:24,680

Fortunately, several investigators are hot on the case.

256

00:12:24,680 --> 00:12:28,960

One is author Patrick Mesmer, who's written three books on the Ashley gang and is now

257

00:12:28,960 --> 00:12:32,000

going after their treasure in the swamps.

258

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,520

I head to a nearby dock to meet him.

259

00:12:35,520 --> 00:12:36,520

Patrick, how are you?

260

00:12:36,520 --> 00:12:37,880

Hey Josh, good meeting you.

261

00:12:37,880 --> 00:12:39,240

Nice to meet you too, man.

262

00:12:39,240 --> 00:12:40,240

Beautiful day.

263

00:12:40,240 --> 00:12:41,240

Oh, it's an awesome day.

264

00:12:41,240 --> 00:12:42,960

Is it a beautiful day for finding treasure?

265

00:12:42,960 --> 00:12:44,600

Every day is a good day for finding treasure.

266

00:12:44,600 --> 00:12:45,600

I like that attitude.

267

00:12:45,600 --> 00:12:47,020

Okay, Ashley gang.

268

00:12:47,020 --> 00:12:50,920

Is there any truth to the idea that there's Ashley gang treasure out there?

269

00:12:50,920 --> 00:12:52,240

I believe there is.

270

00:12:52,240 --> 00:12:53,240

Really?

271

00:12:53,240 --> 00:12:56,080

Because I've studied a lot about that period of history in this area.

272

00:12:56,080 --> 00:12:57,080

Right.

273

00:12:57,080 --> 00:13:01,360

Patrick's research has turned up information about a largely forgotten Ashley gang moonshining

274

00:13:01,360 --> 00:13:05,120

site, a place where John may have stashed the gang's loot.

275

00:13:05,120 --> 00:13:07,800

And I guess more importantly, do you happen to know where to find it?

276

00:13:07,800 --> 00:13:11,240

I have a pretty good idea of where it is, but it's not where you would think.

277

00:13:11,240 --> 00:13:12,520

Is it in the middle of a marina?

278

00:13:12,520 --> 00:13:16,840

No, it's not here, but we need to leave from here to get where we need to go.

279

00:13:16,840 --> 00:13:19,040

All right, so which one of these yachts is yours?

280

00:13:19,040 --> 00:13:20,040

Yacht.

281

00:13:20,040 --> 00:13:21,040

Who needs a yacht?

282

00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:23,080

I think everybody needs a yacht, don't they?

283

00:13:23,080 --> 00:13:25,320

I've got something better and much faster.

284

00:13:25,320 --> 00:13:29,920

What's better than a yacht?

285

00:13:29,920 --> 00:13:34,880

Everybody, everyone doesn't need a yacht.

286

00:13:34,880 --> 00:13:39,920

Besides these little boater cycles are a lot of fun and very fast.

287

00:13:39,920 --> 00:13:41,920

Holy s***.

288

00:13:41,920 --> 00:13:43,920

Come on.

289

00:13:43,920 --> 00:13:45,920

Oh.

290

00:13:45,920 --> 00:13:52,120

We're headed from Stewart to a tiny, narrow patch of land in the mangroves called Corset

291

00:13:52,120 --> 00:13:53,120

Island.

292

00:13:53,120 --> 00:13:55,680

I'll see what you got, Patrick.

293

00:13:55,680 --> 00:13:57,920

Patrick lets her rip, and I'm in hot pursuit.

294

00:13:58,560 --> 00:14:01,920

On a quest for some good old-fashioned Sunshine State treasure.

295

00:14:10,920 --> 00:14:13,720

Okay, Josh, this is Corset Island.

296

00:14:13,720 --> 00:14:19,920

I found an old newspaper article from the 1920s that said that the Ashley Gang camp

297

00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:22,080

was here on this island.

298

00:14:22,080 --> 00:14:26,840

I'm jet skiing in Florida with author turned treasure hunter Patrick Mesmer as we search

299

00:14:26,960 --> 00:14:32,040

for bank robber and bootlegger John Ashley's old hideout.

300

00:14:32,040 --> 00:14:36,760

He believes this area was a base for one of their major moonshining operations.

301

00:14:36,760 --> 00:14:39,040

This is impenetrable.

302

00:14:39,040 --> 00:14:42,040

That is if we can actually get onto the island.

303

00:14:42,040 --> 00:14:43,560

Just all mangroves.

304

00:14:43,560 --> 00:14:47,160

Hey, Josh, I think we can get in over here.

305

00:14:47,160 --> 00:14:48,160

Go for it.

306

00:14:48,160 --> 00:14:51,520

Finally, a possible way in.

307

00:14:51,520 --> 00:14:53,520

We dock at a break in the mangroves.

308

00:14:53,520 --> 00:14:54,520

Okay, here we are.

309

00:14:54,520 --> 00:14:56,520

Let's go find some treasure.

310

00:14:56,520 --> 00:15:04,520

So what's the move here?

311

00:15:04,520 --> 00:15:05,520

We have some metal detectors.

312

00:15:05,520 --> 00:15:09,360

I think what we're going to do is just check this little shallow area here.

313

00:15:09,360 --> 00:15:11,360

There's some sandy beaches around the island.

314

00:15:11,360 --> 00:15:14,520

We just kind of work our way along and see if anything pops up.

315

00:15:14,520 --> 00:15:17,520

Okay, well, let's get after it.

316

00:15:17,520 --> 00:15:24,040

The gang's moonshining exploits peak during prohibition, the period between 1920 and 1933,

317

00:15:24,040 --> 00:15:29,320

when it was illegal to transport, buy or sell alcohol within the United States.

318

00:15:29,320 --> 00:15:33,320

You get bull sharks in here?

319

00:15:33,320 --> 00:15:34,320

A few.

320

00:15:34,320 --> 00:15:35,720

Good, good, good, good.

321

00:15:35,720 --> 00:15:36,720

Perfect.

322

00:15:36,720 --> 00:15:41,320

Remote, hidden and near the coast, Patrick believes this area was a base for one of their

323

00:15:41,320 --> 00:15:46,200

major booze operations, as the gang took full advantage of prohibition, building enough

324

00:15:46,200 --> 00:15:50,680

liquor stills to kick their side hustle into a large-scale production.

325

00:15:50,680 --> 00:15:53,880

Hey, Josh, I got a hit.

326

00:15:54,880 --> 00:15:59,520

Let me see.

327

00:15:59,520 --> 00:16:04,120

That's a hit for sure.

328

00:16:04,120 --> 00:16:05,640

Certainly smells like treasure.

329

00:16:05,640 --> 00:16:11,640

There it is.

330

00:16:11,640 --> 00:16:12,640

A copper pipe.

331

00:16:12,640 --> 00:16:13,640

Copper pipe.

332

00:16:13,640 --> 00:16:15,760

Hey, a copper pipe was used in a still.

333

00:16:15,760 --> 00:16:16,760

That's absolutely right.

334

00:16:16,760 --> 00:16:17,760

It's old copper too.

335

00:16:17,760 --> 00:16:18,760

Yep.

336

00:16:18,760 --> 00:16:20,280

That could be still copper.

337

00:16:20,280 --> 00:16:21,280

What's that doing here?

338

00:16:21,280 --> 00:16:22,280

Right.

339

00:16:23,280 --> 00:16:26,880

Our first find elevates our spirits quite a bit.

340

00:16:26,880 --> 00:16:30,960

Now we press inland in hopes of uncovering even more.

341

00:16:30,960 --> 00:16:36,360

Hey, Josh, looks like we got an opening here.

342

00:16:36,360 --> 00:16:39,360

Let's see where it goes.

343

00:16:39,360 --> 00:16:40,360

Wow.

344

00:16:40,360 --> 00:16:45,360

Oh, look at that.

345

00:16:45,360 --> 00:16:48,760

I found the interior.

346

00:16:48,760 --> 00:16:50,240

See this opens up in here.

347

00:16:50,240 --> 00:16:51,240

Oh, wow, it really does.

348

00:16:51,240 --> 00:16:52,240

Look at that.

349

00:16:52,240 --> 00:16:55,240

It's building material.

350

00:16:55,240 --> 00:16:56,240

Yeah.

351

00:16:56,240 --> 00:17:04,280

So this area looks like it had buildings on it.

352

00:17:04,280 --> 00:17:08,280

After getting a lay of the land, it doesn't take long for Patrick to surmise how this

353

00:17:08,280 --> 00:17:12,600

would have been an ideal area for a bootlegging operation.

354

00:17:12,600 --> 00:17:13,600

That is a road.

355

00:17:13,600 --> 00:17:14,600

That looks like a road.

356

00:17:14,600 --> 00:17:15,600

It is a road.

357

00:17:15,600 --> 00:17:16,600

Look at that, too.

358

00:17:16,600 --> 00:17:18,600

It's like an old abandoned trail that connects the camp out to the water.

359

00:17:18,600 --> 00:17:21,480

This looks like an old trail in here.

360

00:17:22,480 --> 00:17:24,960

We got a bluff here.

361

00:17:24,960 --> 00:17:27,920

Once the booze was made, it had to be moved.

362

00:17:27,920 --> 00:17:33,240

Patrick explains how Corso Island operated as a staging ground for the Ashleys to transport

363

00:17:33,240 --> 00:17:35,520

their product discreetly.

364

00:17:35,520 --> 00:17:39,160

This would have been a great spot for the Ashley gang to have a camp.

365

00:17:39,160 --> 00:17:42,080

On the other side of that is the ocean.

366

00:17:42,080 --> 00:17:47,240

This would have been a perfect departure point for trips to the Bahamas just 50 miles away,

367

00:17:47,240 --> 00:17:53,240

where they could buy liquor legally and smuggle it back to the United States.

368

00:17:53,240 --> 00:17:58,000

They would buy cases of booze and they would bring it back, unload it at a dock here at

369

00:17:58,000 --> 00:17:59,000

this site.

370

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:04,000

A lot of times the profit margin on booze was six times what they paid for it.

371

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:05,000

Wow.

372

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:08,080

It's \$70,000 or \$80,000 for one trip.

373

00:18:08,080 --> 00:18:10,560

Imagine if you did five trips a week.

374

00:18:10,560 --> 00:18:15,080

They actually had a lock on the rum running trade for several years, where no one could

375

00:18:15,080 --> 00:18:16,080

do it except them.

376

00:18:17,080 --> 00:18:22,560

But as lucrative as this was, the Ashley gang wanted even more.

377

00:18:22,560 --> 00:18:25,040

They weren't just bootleggers, they were also pirates.

378

00:18:25,040 --> 00:18:26,880

They would attack other rum runners.

379

00:18:26,880 --> 00:18:28,480

You mean literal pirates.

380

00:18:28,480 --> 00:18:29,480

These guys are crazy.

381

00:18:29,480 --> 00:18:30,480

Yes.

382

00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:32,000

How much money are we talking about here?

383

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:33,000

A lot.

384

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:34,880

And where is that money?

385

00:18:34,880 --> 00:18:38,880

Underneath our feet.

386

00:18:38,880 --> 00:18:41,800

Convinced we have the right spot, Patrick and I get to work.

387

00:18:46,080 --> 00:18:54,480

Hey, Josh, I got a hit.

388

00:18:54,480 --> 00:18:56,480

Here?

389

00:18:56,480 --> 00:18:57,480

Yep.

390

00:18:57,480 --> 00:19:00,000

Right in that area right there.

391

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:03,960

Patrick, why don't you dive in there and get that out?

392

00:19:03,960 --> 00:19:04,960

All right.

393

00:19:04,960 --> 00:19:09,760

Patrick, you couldn't find stuff on land?

394

00:19:09,760 --> 00:19:11,520

Hold on for a second.

395

00:19:11,520 --> 00:19:16,000

Remember kids, treasure hunting is dangerous business.

396

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:17,000

Just ask my camera operator.

397

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Don't hit my leg.

398

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:21,000

What?

399

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

It's a crab.

400

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:26,000

What is happening?

401

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:28,000

You all right?

402

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,000

What was it?

403

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:31,000

A crab.

404

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:32,000

A crab.

405

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:33,000

A big crab?

406

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

No, a little crab.

407

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:39,360

Sure, there's a joke here to be made about my cameraman catching crabs, but I'm above

408

00:19:39,360 --> 00:19:40,360

that.

409

00:19:40,360 --> 00:19:42,200

I thought an alligator had your leg.

410

00:19:42,200 --> 00:19:45,000

Okay, where were we?

411

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Hold this for a second.

412

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Here we go.

413

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Oh, I got it.

414

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:59,000

What is that?

415

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:00,000

Wow.

416

00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:06,000

I thought it was a beer tab for a second, but it's not.

417

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:07,000

You know what this is?

418

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:08,880

I think this is part of a lantern.

419

00:20:08,880 --> 00:20:11,000

I think that's the wick turner on an oil lamp.

420

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:12,000

Yeah.

421

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:13,000

A really old oil lamp.

422

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:14,000

Wow.

423

00:20:14,000 --> 00:20:15,000

Let's see it stamped.

424

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

It says Deets Company.

425

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:23,000

A trusty 1920s Deets oil lamp would have been the perfect way for the Ashley gang to illuminate

426

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:26,000

their bootlegging activities in the stealth of night.

427

00:20:26,000 --> 00:20:35,000

That is so cool.

428

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:39,000

Gold coin, gold coin, come on, gold coin, come on.

429

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Oh, whatever this is.

430

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:43,000

What do you think?

431

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:45,000

Some kind of armature.

432

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Whatever it is, it's not treasure.

433

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Keep moving.

434

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:56,000

We continue to search and to dig and dig.

435

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:57,000

Have at it, Patrick.

436

00:20:57,000 --> 00:20:59,000

How's it going, Patrick?

437

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:00,000

I'm determined.

438

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Yeah, that's how I started.

439

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:06,000

Now I'm determined to find a daiquiri.

440

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:10,000

After a few hours of investigating, it feels like we need a new tactic.

441

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:13,000

All right, so promising spot for sure.

442

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:14,000

A couple cool finds.

443

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:15,000

No treasure yet.

444

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:16,000

No, but I'll tell you what.

445

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:21,000

I brought a couple of special tools that I think might give us an edge.

446

00:21:21,000 --> 00:21:26,000

All right, what do you got?

447

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Magnets.

448

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:30,000

Magnets?

449

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Magnets.

450

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:38,000

Magnet fishing, as the pros call it, is actually a surprisingly effective way to recover items

451

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:39,000

underwater.

452

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:42,000

And it's also a hell of an upper body workout.

453

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Okay, Josh, this magnet has 3,600 pounds of pull.

454

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:48,000

I take it that strong.

455

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:49,000

It's very strong.

456

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:50,000

Okay.

457

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:55,000

It won't pick up gold or silver, but sometimes those items get concreted in with other things,

458

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:57,000

like a case or a box.

459

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:03,000

After 100 years of storms and erosion, anything the Ashley's may have buried on Corse at Island

460

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:08,000

is just as likely to be bogged down in the water's edge as it is in the ground.

461

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Now, is there a specific technique to this?

462

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:13,000

We take the magnet, we throw it in the water.

463

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:14,000

Okay.

464

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:15,000

Run that by me one more time.

465

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:18,000

We take the magnet and we throw it in the water.

466

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:24,000

I got it now.

467

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:26,000

That was a good one.

468

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:28,000

I feel real good about this one.

469

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:34,000

We cast out into the water again and again, until finally Patrick feels a little added

470

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

resistance on his line.

471

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:37,000

Oh, I got something.

472

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:41,000

What do you got?

473

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Come on.

474

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:47,000

It's shiny.

475

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:49,000

What is that?

476

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:51,000

It's a knife.

477

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:54,000

It's a steak knife.

478

00:22:54,000 --> 00:22:55,000

All right.

479

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Well, is that a weapon from the Ashley gang?

480

00:22:57,000 --> 00:22:59,000

I don't think so.

481

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:02,000

John Ashley was known for holding up banks, not steak houses.

482

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:03,000

You get three more of those.

483

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:06,000

We got a set.

484

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:09,000

Oftentimes success relies upon perseverance.

485

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:12,000

With magnet fishing, that's even more so.

486

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:14,000

There's worse ways to spend an afternoon.

487

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:22,000

We continue to toss our magnets into the water in the hopes we can drag in some of that sweet Ashley gang treasure.

488

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Old nail.

489

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Unfortunately, hours later, we have little to show for it, but some sore shoulders.

490

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:35,000

I got a fish hook.

491

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:38,000

What's it going to take to find Ashley gang treasure out here, you think?

492

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:42,000

I think it's going to take dedication and hard work, just like we've been doing today.

493

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:50,000

Florida has 1,300 miles of coastline, and for hundreds of years, it's been all about smuggling and piracy all along our coast.

494

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:53,000

And a lot of that story is still buried here.

495

00:23:53,000 --> 00:23:54,000

Right.

496

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:58,000

And as we see over and over again, and even today, that history keeps coming back to the surface.

497

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Yes, it does.

498

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:00,000

All right.

499

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:01,000

Well, we got to keep looking.

500

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:03,000

We should probably go make sure those jet skis are still there.

501

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:04,000

I agree.

502

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Let's go.

503

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:06,000

Let's go.

504

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:13,000

Patrick and I jet back towards civilization, having explored what might be one of the Ashley gang's bases of operation.

505

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:19,000

But there's another critical location associated with the gang that might yield even more.

506

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Back in the town of Stewart, I'm following in the gang's footsteps to see where they lead and where they end.

507

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:29,000

This restaurant over here used to be the old Bank of Stewart.

508

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:31,000

It's where John Ashley lost his eye.

509

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:34,000

And in fact, the gang robbed this place not once, but twice.

510

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:39,000

By the second time, they were so recognizable that they couldn't just walk in unnoticed.

511

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:44,000

So John's nephew slipped in by wearing a dress.

512

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:51,000

As for John, he found himself in and out of prison, escaping for the third time in 1923.

513

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:59,000

By this time, the Ashley gang kicks their robberies into high gear, operating out of a homestead

and moonshining headquarters deep in the swamp,

514

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:03,000

where many believe their ill-gotten treasure was ultimately buried.

515

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:05,000

The only problem?

516

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:09,000

The town was torched to the ground and then lost to history.

517

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:12,000

But now, two experts believe they've found it.

518

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:19,000

I'm on the trail of the notorious bandit and moonshiner John Ashley.

519

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:33,000

Now, Florida historians Steve Carr and Chessie Ricca believe they relocated a lost town that might contain the lost treasure of the notorious gangster.

520

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:36,000

So let's start with a little orientation. Where are we?

521

00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:38,000

Well, you're standing in the town of Fruta.

522

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:40,000

I'm sorry, the town?

523

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:41,000

The town of Fruta, yeah.

524

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:43,000

The ghost town of Fruta.

525

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:46,000

I don't even see a ghost town. Like, where is it?

526

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Well, you gotta look hard. It's here.

527

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:52,000

So there was a town here. And when was this town in existence?

528

00:25:52,000 --> 00:26:03,000

Roughly 1910 through 1912, it began its roots homesteaded by Joe Ashley, the father of the notorious bandit John Ashley.

529

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:07,000

John Ashley actually called this home and this was his base of operation.

530

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:09,000

And their home was where?

531

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:10,000

It was right here where you're standing.

532

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Like right here? Right here?

533

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:15,000

Yeah. This is the Ashley homestead. You're standing on top of it.

534

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:22,000

If Steve is right, this is the location of one of the most dramatic and bloody events in the gang's history.

535

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:27,000

Remember Sheriff Bob Baker, the one who would eventually use John's glass eye as a key chain?

536

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Well, having had quite enough of the Ashley gang's exploits, Baker orders a large group of heavily armed deputies to raid the Ashley homestead in the pre-dawn hours of January 9, 1924.

537

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:49,000

A massive shootout ensues.

538

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:57,000

And while John escapes, the sheriff's men burn the Ashley home and their moonshining operation into

oblivion.

539

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:04,000

Right here, Josh. That's ceramics from the, probably from the Ashley homestead.

540

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:09,000

This place was burned to the ground. The dishes inside it, of course, were crushed.

541

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Wow.

542

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:13,000

There's archaeological evidence that the house existed and was here.

543

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:16,000

Look at that. A dinner plate that might have been in the Ashley home.

544

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:19,000

John Ashley made it, eaten off of that plate.

545

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:27,000

How crazy is that? This famous raid that went down, that was supposed to have taken place near one of the big stills. They were moonshining, right?

546

00:27:27,000 --> 00:27:38,000

So in one fell swoop, the idea was to bring enough deputies here. And Josh, they didn't come with warrants. They came here to do business, to take this place out.

547

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:42,000

Frutta is gone. It was destroyed in one night.

548

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:45,000

The main target of the raid was the gang's whiskey stills.

549

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:52,000

Steve and Chessie not only believe they've found that area, they think the Ashley treasure could still be buried there.

550

00:27:53,000 --> 00:28:00,000

So let's talk about this treasure, right? There are these rumors, these stories that it might have been hidden out near this still site.

551

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:05,000

Do we know where this raid took place, the actual kind of flash point out here?

552

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Yes, we do. We're lucky to have photographs of where the site was.

553

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:15,000

And I think with 99% certainty, Josh, I can put you on that whiskey still site, which was the whole point of the raid.

554

00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Can we see it?

555

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:17,000

You ready to go?

556

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:18,000

Please.

557

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:26,000

Now, Josh, I want you to keep an eye out for these cactuses here.

558

00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:27,000

Yeah.

559

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:32,000

Also, there's one other thing you've got to keep an eye out for. We've got pygmy rattlesnakes.

560

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:34,000

What the hell's a pygmy rattlesnake?

561

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:38,000

It's like a rattlesnake, but small and it has no rattle.

562

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,000

But the rattle's the one way you know they're there.

563

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:43,000

Welcome to Florida.

564

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:45,000

This state is crazy.

565

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:46,000

Alright, come on.

566

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:53,000

Keeping an ever-watchful eye out for non-rattling snakes and whatever other wildlife Florida has in store for us,

567

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:58,000

we finally arrive at a clearing which Steve believes was at the center of the police raid.

568

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:03,000

So, Josh, where we're standing, this was that major still site.

569

00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:05,000

The big whiskey still was right here.

570

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:06,000

Right here in front of you.

571

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:13,000

Now, there's an old photograph that showed the sheriff's deputies who raided this place in 1924.

572

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:16,000

Yes, I've seen that. They're all lined up, right, in front of a building.

573

00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Correct. And that building was right there.

574

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:23,000

And was that building the still?

575

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:25,000

It was the still house.

576

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:28,000

It was the operation during prohibition.

577

00:29:28,000 --> 00:29:31,000

They were producing over 100 gallons of whiskey a day.

578

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:33,000

Sorry, 100 gallons of whiskey a day?

579

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:36,000

100 gallons of whiskey a day. This was a massive operation.

580

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:40,000

This was one of the most productive activities anywhere in the country.

581

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:42,000

So, how do we know that still was right here?

582

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:44,000

I'm going to prove that to you.

583

00:29:45,000 --> 00:29:47,000

So, Josh, I got something I want you to see here.

584

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:49,000

Oh, look at this. What do we got?

585

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:54,000

I believe that's going to be part of the foundation stone for the still that we were talking about.

586

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:56,000

I mean, that is a cut stone for sure. Look at that.

587

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:57,000

It is.

588

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:58,000

What do you got?

589

00:29:58,000 --> 00:29:59,000

That's some blue glass.

590

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Blue glass? So, what's blue glass doing out here?

591

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:08,000

Well, John Ashley's brother Bill produced his own brand of moonshine, and he put it in those blue bottles.

592

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:09,000

That's it right there, right?

593

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:10,000

Yeah, that.

594

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:13,000

We've got moonshiner's glass and a foundation stone in the middle of nowhere.

595

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:15,000

And we've got a lot more over here to show you too.

596

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:16,000

Wow.

597

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:18,000

All right. Well, let's go find it.

598

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:22,000

Everything points to this being the location of the raid.

599

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:24,000

I got a broken whiskey bottle.

600

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:25,000

Look at that. Whiskey bottle.

601

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:28,000

If you find a full one, Chessie, let me know.

602

00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:33,000

If this is the spot, it makes sense that treasure could be buried here too.

603

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:38,000

After all, the gang was making a lot of money here, and most of it has never been found.

604

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:46,000

A lot of people believe that they could have been producing as much as \$5,000 a day in revenue.

605

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:49,000

That's a hell of a lot of money in 1920.

606

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Ashley had a penchant for swapping paper money out for gold.

607

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:56,000

He couldn't put his proceeds in the bank.

608

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:57,000

He had to hide it.

609

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Yeah.

610

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:06,000

If he's producing \$5,000 a day, Josh, we could be talking millions, if not billions of dollars in gold.

611

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:12,000

It's believed that John may have buried boxes of gold coins out here near their base of operations.

612

00:31:12,000 --> 00:31:20,000

Our mission? Look for the loot, but also see if we can find any remnants of the gang's presence, which would be historic.

613

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:25,000

We point our noses to the ground and slowly start walking the site.

614

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:27,000

Oh, I got metal. Steve.

615

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:30,000

So what do you think?

616

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:33,000

Uh, it could be part of a stove.

617

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:41,000

As we scour the land, I can't help but feel goosebumps at the idea that John Ashley and his gang may have stood in this very place.

618

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:44,000

Hey guys, I think I got something cool over here.

619

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:50,000

Where? Look at that. Wow.

620

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:56,000

Hey guys, I think I got something cool over here.

621

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:01,000

We're in the swamps of Florida searching for traces of the Ashley gang and their treasure.

622

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:04,000

I think I got a bullet. Wow.

623

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:09,000

Now, we may have just uncovered a remnant from one of the bloodiest chapters in their history.

624

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:11,000

Oh, big one. Look at that.

625

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:14,000

That is too cool.

626

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:16,000

So that is...

627

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:21,000

That's 12 gauge. Look at that.

628

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

Look, we got another one.

629

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:25,000

Two of them. They're just literally laying there?

630

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:26,000

Yeah.

631

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:29,000

Josh, this speaks to the violent nature of the story.

632

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:33,000

When Sheriff Baker's men come to the homestead, they're not here to negotiate.

633

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:36,000

They immediately open fire on the gang.

634

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:41,000

In the mayhem, Joe Ashley, John's father, is shot and killed.

635

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:47,000

Having witnessed his father's death, John immediately fires back in retaliation,

636

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:52,000

killing Officer Fred Baker, cousin of Sheriff Baker.

637

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:58,000

John's girlfriend, Laura, is also seriously injured, taking three wounds to the abdomen.

638

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:02,000

John, however, miraculously escapes.

639

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:08,000

And, like almost every other part of John Ashley's story, though, they don't kill him.

640

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:11,000

Yeah, he has kind of a sixth sense about these things.

641

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:15,000

And while everybody was sleeping, John always seemed to have one eye open.

642

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Remember me?

643

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Well, it's all he had. Sorry, it was right in front of me. It was right in front of me.

644

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:26,000

Just the idea that we may be holding the shells that were used to kill somebody out here.

645

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:27,000

Absolutely.

646

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:28,000

People died out here.

647

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:30,000

This was a life and death situation, man.

648

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:33,000

This was one of the biggest battles in Palm Beach County history.

649

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:42,000

One of the reasons John survived is that he was sleeping in a campsite away from the main whiskey still and the Ashley home.

650

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:49,000

This site must be close by, and there's been a long-standing local rumor that another whiskey still was there as well.

651

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:55,000

We head deeper into the swamp to search, and Chessie almost immediately detects something.

652

00:33:57,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Hey guys, I got a good mark over here.

653

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:04,000

Could just be a piece of metal. See if it'll come out here.

654

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

Is that it?

655

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Is it a scrap iron or something?

656

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:12,000

Yeah, that's what it looks like. Just a thin piece of scrap metal.

657

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Okay, well...

658

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:15,000

That's a good sign.

659

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:18,000

Soon, even more metal comes out of the ground.

660

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:21,000

There's like a little nail in there.

661

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:25,000

It's got that rounded kind of edge.

662

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:29,000

This was attached to whatever the remainder of that is over there.

663

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Like edge of a crate maybe? Something was here.

664

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:35,000

I don't know if it tells us that we're at this campsite, but...

665

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:39,000

It tells you that man at one point in time was in fact right here.

666

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:41,000

That's a start. We'll take it.

667

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:42,000

Alright, let's keep looking.

668

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:46,000

What might be the edge of a box handle is an intriguing sign.

669

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:49,000

In fact, there are signs everywhere.

670

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:52,000

Ah, hey Josh, I got something for you.

671

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:53,000

More scrap metal?

672

00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:55,000

Well, I don't think so.

673

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:58,000

This looks like an old trap.

674

00:34:58,000 --> 00:34:59,000

Oh my lord.

675

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:01,000

They were otter hunters.

676

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Careful that thing's not still loaded.

677

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:04,000

It is definitely a trap.

678

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Yeah!

679

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Ow!

680

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:07,000

We can take it off at the top.

681

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:08,000

Son of a...

682

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Yeah, it's a trap.

683

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:12,000

It's an old animal trap.

684

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:14,000

And what's cool about it is it's got a lot of stuff.

685

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:15,000

It's got a lot of stuff.

686

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:16,000

It's got a lot of stuff.

687

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:17,000

It is a trap.

688

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:18,000

An old animal trap.

689

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:21,000

And what's cool about it is it's still got the chain stuck to it.

690

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:22,000

Right?

691

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:24,000

I don't want to break it obviously, but the crazy thing is, look at that.

692

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:25,000

You can still...

693

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:26,000

You can still move and...

694

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:27,000

You can still actually set this trap.

695

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:29,000

All the pieces of it are here.

696

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:33,000

All the things these guys are known for, the moonshining, the guns, the traps, the...

697

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:38,000

Like, we're finding all of these things that are so closely associated with these guys, too, right?

698

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:45,000

That's the beauty and archeology is it allows us to tell their story from what they left behind.

699

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:53,000

Hey guys, I think I got something cool over here.

700

00:35:53,000 --> 00:36:02,000

I think I found something crazy.

701

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:03,000

What?

702

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:06,000

It's ripped on the side like a coin, but it's thicker than a coin.

703

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Thank you so much.

704

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:08,000

That's probably that.

705

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:09,000

What?

706

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:11,000

Is that a coin?

707

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:12,000

It's a silver dollar.

708

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:13,000

It's actually...

709

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:14,000

It's two silver dollars.

710

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Those are coins.

711

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:17,000

It's two silver dollars stuck together.

712

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:18,000

Are you kidding me?

713

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:19,000

Ashley, treasure.

714

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:20,000

There you go.

715

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,000

Right there.

716

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

What?

717

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Look at that.

718

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:33,000

These are two peace liberty dollars, minted between 1921 and 1928, which puts us right on the money for the Ashley gang.

719

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:35,000

Hey, nice job.

720

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:37,000

Thank you, sir.

721

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:47,000

These discoveries are strong indicators that we may be close to the camp and long lost moonshine still, where John Ashley was sleeping the night of the raid.

722

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:51,000

Encouraged, we press our search into more unforgiving territory.

723

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:53,000

Josh, this is getting thick back here.

724

00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:55,000

I mean, super overgrown.

725

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:58,000

This is the old, uh, old Florida.

726

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:01,000

This is like prehistoric Florida.

727

00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:08,000

If you were a pioneer back in early Florida, this is what you had to survive.

728

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:09,000

Seen him glass?

729

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:11,000

I'm not seeing much.

730

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:15,000

I mean, neither.

731

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:18,000

Hey, Josh, check this out.

732

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:20,000

This is what we've been looking for.

733

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:22,000

This is what we've been looking for.

734

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:24,000

Look at this.

735

00:37:24,000 --> 00:37:25,000

This is part of a stilt.

736

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

This is the boiler tank for a skit out of here.

737

00:37:29,000 --> 00:37:30,000

That's insane here.

738

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:31,000

That's too cool.

739

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:33,000

We found the boiler tank.

740

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:36,000

Dude, that's unbelievable.

741

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:38,000

Take a look at this.

742

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Is that blue paint in there?

743

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Yeah, well, no, it's a ceramic finish inside, which is important because in the moonshine still, you had to keep the mash perfectly clean.

744

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:50,000

It couldn't mix with rust or anything else.

745

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Guys, look.

746

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Sitting right here.

747

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:55,000

A bottle literally right in front of you.

748

00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:56,000

Right there.

749

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

That's insane.

750

00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:00,000

This whole site, I think, is just littered with this stuff.

751

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:01,000

Yeah.

752

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:04,000

This is now, I think, a significant place.

753

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:08,000

This old stilt is a remarkable piece of American history.

754

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:14,000

It's the very tool of the trade that the Ashley gang used to amass great wealth during the time of prohibition.

755

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:16,000

This place is like a gold mine.

756

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:18,000

There's stuff everywhere.

757

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:20,000

All right, everybody keep looking around.

758

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Everybody.

759

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Got it, Josh.

760

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:23,000

This is insane.

761

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:30,000

Believing we're now in the heart of John Ashley's camp, we immediately fan out around the still to see if anything else is here.

762

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Getting a lot thicker in here.

763

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:38,000

Steve?

764

00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:39,000

Yeah.

765

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:40,000

What the f**k is this?

766

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

Guys, come here.

767

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:44,000

There's a huge hunk of metal here.

768

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:45,000

Wow.

769

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:47,000

What the hell is this?

770

00:38:54,000 --> 00:39:05,000

Life is a journey filled with crossroads and choices, but in Stuart, Florida, one of the more terrifying feats of civil engineering lies here at an intersection affectionately called confusion corner.

771

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:08,000

It doesn't seem so confusing.

772

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:09,000

Sorry.

773

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:15,000

I guess I go here and comes here.

774

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:17,000

Oh, good lord.

775

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Eight streets, a traffic circle and a train all meet in one jumbled junction.

776

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:25,000

What could possibly go wrong?

777

00:39:25,000 --> 00:39:27,000

Look here, it's Big Ben.

778

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:29,000

Who designed this?

779

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:35,000

So the next time your life is at a crossroads, no matter how bad you think it is, it could always be worse.

780

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:39,000

Oh, and merge carefully.

781

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:41,000

Go ahead. Go ahead.

782

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:43,000

We got it.

783

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Sweet lord above.

784

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

I'm alive.

785

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:49,000

Somebody's got to fix that.

786

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Guys, come here.

787

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:55,000

There's a huge hunk of metal here.

788

00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Wow.

789

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:58,000

What the hell is this?

790

00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:09,000

Having found a long forgotten whiskey still, we're scouring the location of a lost campsite belonging to the notorious John Ashley, and we've just made another find.

791

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Wait, is this actually a car?

792

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Whatever it is, it's big.

793

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:14,000

Oh my god. Oh my god.

794

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:16,000

Well, that answers your question.

795

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Dude, it's a car.

796

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:20,000

You asked and I think-

797

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Why is there a car in the middle of the forest?

798

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:24,000

Can you just grow out of it?

799

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:27,000

You got a tree growing through the center.

800

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:33,000

John would have had a vehicle out at this camp to move moonshine into town and across the state.

801

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,000

There's a headlight.

802

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Look how tinny these-

803

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:38,000

That's a headlight, look at that.

804

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

That's ancient.

805

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

Old car.

806

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:43,000

1920s, definitely.

807

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Wait, this could be John Ashley's car.

808

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:49,000

That's insane.

809

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:51,000

Yeah, look at this, Josh.

810

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:55,000

This kind of looks like maybe the griller where a radiator could be.

811

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:57,000

It's a lot of metal, like you said.

812

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:59,000

Yeah, it is a lot of metal.

813

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:01,000

This is a fender.

814

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:07,000

I'm thinking it might be a truck, because the trucks from the 20s had the door cut out.

815

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:10,000

Can you see how it follows like a cut out pattern right here?

816

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:14,000

I think this is an old truck, like an old Model T.

817

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:19,000

Based on the pieces we've found, Steve believes this could be a Ford Model T-T,

818

00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:24,000

which debuted in 1917 and fits the timeline of John Ashley.

819

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:26,000

This is truly a remarkable discovery.

820

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:29,000

This changes everything, Josh.

821

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

In my mind, I can almost see the whiskey camp right here.

822

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Boiling whiskey over here, the truck to load up the whiskey when it's ready to go.

823

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

Trails running back here to who knows where.

824

00:41:41,000 --> 00:41:45,000

We're finding bottles that clearly date to the period.

825

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:47,000

I mean, what more could you ask?

826

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:49,000

This is really a treasure.

827

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:52,000

To me, this is treasure.

828

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Finding an antique truck in the middle of the Everglades,

829

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:59,000

clearly nobody has been here before us.

830

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:01,000

I see no signs of modern.

831

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:03,000

No, nothing modern.

832

00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:05,000

Not a beer can, not anything.

833

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:09,000

I'm just discovering the whiskey camp of the Ashley Gang.

834

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:11,000

This is treasure. This is real treasure.

835

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:14,000

To an archaeologist, this is a lifetime of work.

836

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:16,000

I mean, this is a whole camp here.

837

00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:19,000

An archaeologist could work out here for years.

838

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:21,000

This is so awesome.

839

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:27,000

As for John Ashley himself, he escapes the raid, but not the long arm of the law.

840

00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:32,000

In November of 24, fed up and embarrassed by John Ashley's exploits,

841

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Sheriff Baker receives a tip that the Ashley's will be traveling north on the Dixie Highway.

842

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:42,000

The police place a chain across the road, stopping the car and handcuffing the gang.

843

00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:46,000

According to one of the deputies, John Ashley makes a sudden move,

844

00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:51,000

giving the officers no choice but to shoot all of the men.

845

00:42:51,000 --> 00:42:56,000

The gang, like this site, will eventually fall to ruin.

846

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:59,000

Laura, it is said, lays low in Palm Beach County,

847

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:03,000

operating a gas station until 1927 when she dies by poisoning,

848

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:06,000

possibly having taken her own life.

849

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:11,000

The so-called King of the Everglades finally receives his Florida retirement.

850

00:43:11,000 --> 00:43:16,000

Today, the Ashley Family Cemetery resides within the bounds of a private country club

851

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:20,000

near the 18th hole of a beautiful golf course.

852

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:25,000

Given John's crime-ridden past, it's a pretty decent lie.

853

00:43:25,000 --> 00:43:29,000

And while he's received a reputation as a beloved scoundrel,

854

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:33,000

the fact is he was undoubtedly a ruthless criminal.

855

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:40,000

Personally, I'm more intrigued by those who are trying to preserve the early history of this wild state

856

00:43:40,000 --> 00:43:44,000

and rediscover the gang that thrived in its humid swamps.

857

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:48,000

Beneath the overgrown vines, we've unearthed historic finds

858

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:52,000

that help to paint a fuller picture of the Ashley gang.

859

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:59,000

I thank Steve and Chessie for the incredible adventure and wish them luck on future excavations.

860

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:06,000

Oh, and of course, I remind them to call me if and when they ever find a missing box of Ashley treasure.