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00:00:00,364 --> 00:00:07,144

In search of has investigated the mystery of many ancient monuments, the pyramids,

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00:00:07,144 --> 00:00:13,104

stonehenge, and Easter Island. A solution to these puzzles may be concealed in

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00:00:13,104 --> 00:00:19,624

Florida's Coral Castle. This monumental structure was created by one man with his

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00:00:19,624 --> 00:00:27,464

bare hands in the 20th century. What strange forces created this castle of

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00:00:27,464 --> 00:00:29,784

secrets?

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00:00:49,105 --> 00:00:54,265

Coral Castle has been called the eighth wonder of the world. This place is a

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00:00:54,305 --> 00:01:00,225

fantasy garden and an engineering marvel. The blocks are cut and set with

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00:01:00,225 --> 00:01:07,545

great precision, locked without mortar. At 30 tons, the greatest single stone in

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00:01:07,545 --> 00:01:14,305

Coral Castle is twice as massive as any in the pyramid. Here are massive megaliths,

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00:01:14,305 --> 00:01:22,265

huge astrological symbols, and structures whose purpose is a total mystery.

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00:01:22,705 --> 00:01:30,426

Surprisingly, 25 miles away is Cosmopolitan Miami. Coral Castle was built

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00:01:30,426 --> 00:01:37,146

not in ancient times, but in the 20th century. Most curious of all, Coral

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00:01:37,146 --> 00:01:43,266

Castle was built in secret by one man, Edward Leedskalman, a frail little

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00:01:43,266 --> 00:01:50,146

hermit. With no modern machinery and with no help, he somehow hand-carved and

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00:01:50,146 --> 00:01:57,266

lifted every single block, a total of three million pounds.

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00:02:04,306 --> 00:02:09,426

With all our modern technology, we might be able to duplicate the pyramids, but

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00:02:09,426 --> 00:02:13,746

how could we ever do it with our bare hands? Dreamers beyond the fringe of

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00:02:13,746 --> 00:02:19,426

science have postulated a long lost art of harnessing anti-gravity. It seems

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00:02:19,466 --> 00:02:23,626

incredible, but Ed Leedskalman may have rediscovered these ancient secrets.

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00:02:23,626 --> 00:02:29,506

Let's look at his life story. The mystery of Coral Castle began in rural

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00:02:29,506 --> 00:02:34,067

South Florida just after World War I.

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00:02:37,387 --> 00:02:42,667

Settlers and land speculators began to move down from the East Coast, displacing

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00:02:42,667 --> 00:02:49,507

the indigenous Seminole Indians. The newcomers found a humid, sprawling,

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00:02:49,507 --> 00:02:54,667

tropical land full of mosquitoes and opportunities.

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00:02:56,667 --> 00:03:01,667

The great Florida land boom was on.

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00:03:03,667 --> 00:03:10,427

In 1919, as recreated here, a real estate man named Moser was scouting land

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00:03:10,427 --> 00:03:17,987

along back roads near the Everglades. He spotted a stranger. At first, he thought

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00:03:17,987 --> 00:03:24,347

it was a board and was surprised to encounter a very small grown man. The

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00:03:24,347 --> 00:03:28,667

stranger couldn't weigh more than 90 pounds.

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00:03:30,428 --> 00:03:35,428

Moser, always friendly, offered a ride.

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00:03:36,428 --> 00:03:44,308

The little man introduced himself. Edward Leedskalman. Recently immigrated from

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00:03:44,308 --> 00:03:48,628

Latvia, he said with a smile, was searching this part of Florida for a

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00:03:48,628 --> 00:03:51,908

specific plot of land.

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00:03:53,628 --> 00:04:00,028

Moser realized the little man had advanced tuberculosis.

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00:04:06,428 --> 00:04:14,548

Mrs. Moser always welcomed the strangers her husband brought home. Life was lonely

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00:04:14,548 --> 00:04:20,628

in this new land. Edward Leedskalman was very friendly, very polite, and confessed

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00:04:20,628 --> 00:04:24,868

outright he hadn't a penny to his name.

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00:04:29,428 --> 00:04:34,789

The Mosers selflessly took young Ed into their home and nursed him back to

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00:04:34,789 --> 00:04:36,789

health.

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00:04:43,109 --> 00:04:48,589

They listened with respect to his story of leaving Latvia, of his search all

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00:04:48,589 --> 00:04:55,029

over America for the right type of land. I'll know when I find it, he said. It's

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00:04:55,029 --> 00:05:01,909

for my sweet 16. He would never explain who she was, but Ed was obviously haunted

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00:05:01,909 --> 00:05:09,909

by a dream or a memory of land and a castle for his sweet 16.

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00:05:13,749 --> 00:05:18,709

As soon as he regained his health, Ed continued searching the back country.

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00:05:18,709 --> 00:05:27,149

Crazy Ed and his rusty bike became the butt of many local jokes. Neighbors

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00:05:27,149 --> 00:05:31,310

watching him prod the ground began rumors that he was hunting for buried

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00:05:31,310 --> 00:05:33,830

treasure.

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00:05:37,990 --> 00:05:47,270

Ed always rejected the good farmland. When people wondered why, he only smiled.

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00:05:48,270 --> 00:05:57,790

Finally, he excitedly brought Moser to a remote plot. Moser was astounded, for Ed

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00:05:57,790 --> 00:06:03,790

had unerringly located the worst acre in the state. It was all bedrock, right up

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00:06:03,790 --> 00:06:09,830

to the surface. You couldn't plow it, you couldn't farm it. Moser gladly gave a

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00:06:09,830 --> 00:06:13,630

small section to his friend.

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00:06:17,270 --> 00:06:26,030

A few weeks later, Moser's curiosity got the better of him. He dragged his wife

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00:06:26,030 --> 00:06:32,151

out through the brush to see what Ed could possibly do with that land.

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00:06:32,151 --> 00:06:49,311

They couldn't believe their eyes. Ed had somehow cut a 10-ton block of solid

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00:06:49,311 --> 00:06:55,311

coral right out of the bedrock and hoisted it into the air. As they nervously

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00:06:55,311 --> 00:06:58,871

approached his flimsy tripod and the block which could crush them in an

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00:06:58,911 --> 00:07:05,551

instant, they realized there was something more than craziness in Ed. How did he do it?

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00:07:05,551 --> 00:07:13,711

Ed smiled and said, it's not difficult really. The secret is in knowing how. Why

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00:07:13,711 --> 00:07:22,471

did he do it? He smiled again. Someday my sweet 16 will come.

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00:07:29,631 --> 00:07:37,392

Working alone, he cut more blocks. All the locals had to visit and gape at this

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00:07:37,392 --> 00:07:43,192

accomplishment. Ed was friendly but firm. He would never tell his secret

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00:07:43,192 --> 00:07:48,792

techniques and he would always stop work when people came near.

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00:07:49,112 --> 00:07:57,752

Trying to catch him at work, the neighbors took to spying.

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00:08:06,752 --> 00:08:13,632

Some people swear they saw the rocks move. Ed could somehow sense their

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00:08:13,672 --> 00:08:19,712

inquiring gaze. He would simply stop working and patiently wait until they gave

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00:08:19,712 --> 00:08:32,033

up trying to discover his secrets. 60 years later, the completed coral castle

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00:08:32,033 --> 00:08:42,313

still embodies a number of unsolved mysteries. Francis Wilson. This block weighs

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00:08:42,353 --> 00:08:47,193

nine tons. It's just one piece of rock. See what you can do with one hand?

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00:09:00,193 --> 00:09:03,313

It's quite interesting the safety. I know that. And he always wanted to make sure

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00:09:03,313 --> 00:09:07,553

the children couldn't get down in here and that was his gate to keep children

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00:09:07,593 --> 00:09:11,713

from going down the steps. Those who knew Ed remember him with great respect.

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00:09:11,713 --> 00:09:17,673

Charles Williams and Vodal Lowe. I guess I was maybe six, seven years old. I was

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00:09:17,673 --> 00:09:22,753

born and raised about 300 yards from this place and I would see Ed quite often

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00:09:22,753 --> 00:09:26,433

at the little country store we had and he was a very slight man. I don't think he

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00:09:26,433 --> 00:09:29,634

was probably any taller than I am. I'm about five, six. Probably weighed

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00:09:29,634 --> 00:09:32,674

somewhere in the neighborhood of a hundred pounds. He always looked frail and

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00:09:32,754 --> 00:09:38,314

thickly but obviously very strong. He'd say this is because of the stars and the

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00:09:38,314 --> 00:09:42,354

moon and he would go on and he would show us his electrical machine now. He

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00:09:42,354 --> 00:09:48,034

made electricity and he would jump in his bathtub and show how the water would

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00:09:48,034 --> 00:09:52,834

come to certain levels and how he heated it with the sun. He'd always divert

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00:09:52,834 --> 00:09:58,274

your question. As I say, a very gentle kind person. He was of course highly

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00:09:58,314 --> 00:10:04,314

intelligent. Many people thought he was a little cracked because he was smarter,

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00:10:04,314 --> 00:10:08,074

I think than they were probably. His whole life and whole being was very frugal.

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00:10:08,074 --> 00:10:12,114

Just sustained himself, I think more or less. And some nights we'd come in the

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00:10:12,114 --> 00:10:18,594

moonlight and sit and walk around in his park and he would come out and tell us

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00:10:18,594 --> 00:10:23,714

his story if he had a small audience and he would go along in a very normal sort

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00:10:23,714 --> 00:10:27,994

of a voice and then we'd ask him why he did it and they say, oh well someday

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00:10:28,034 --> 00:10:33,035

my sweet 16 is coming and he'd look up in the stars and he would get very

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00:10:33,035 --> 00:10:38,515

ethereal in his voice and he just loved talking about his sweet 16. Then he

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00:10:38,515 --> 00:10:43,115

always spoke of her as sweet 16. She never grew any older. It's kind of nice.

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00:10:44,635 --> 00:10:49,395

There were many rumors about mysterious Ed. One held that he was an eccentric

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00:10:49,395 --> 00:10:55,875

miser and kept a stash of money. Late one evening in the 1930s, a band of

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00:10:55,915 --> 00:11:01,795

tufts waited until he was alone in Coral Castle. Little Ed could never have

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00:11:01,795 --> 00:11:05,315

imagined such a shocking intrusion into his private world.

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00:11:19,875 --> 00:11:23,795

The attack prompted the most extraordinary feat of his life.

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00:11:26,475 --> 00:11:32,876

Coral Castle was originally built in a remote area of Florida. For years, Ed

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00:11:32,876 --> 00:11:38,476

Lee Scowen felt safe in isolation away from the harsh realities of the cities.

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00:11:38,476 --> 00:11:44,316

He had carved this place with his bare hands as a Shangri-La for his sweet 16.

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00:11:47,316 --> 00:11:52,436

Barely surviving a brutal robbery, however, Ed decided to seek safer ground.

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00:11:52,476 --> 00:11:58,436

When he moved, Ed took more than his toothbrush. He took Coral Castle itself.

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00:12:01,436 --> 00:12:06,356

He hired a local truck owner and with characteristic secrecy, politely asked

103

00:12:06,356 --> 00:12:10,716

the man to step around the corner. The truck would be loaded in just a minute.

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00:12:22,436 --> 00:12:51,757

Peace by Peace, Ed moved all three million pounds of rock 10 miles to its

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00:12:51,757 --> 00:12:58,377

present location near Homestead, Florida. As usual, no one ever managed to see how he

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00:12:58,377 --> 00:13:02,677

lifted the giant rocks, which weighed up to 30 tons apiece.

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00:13:02,677 --> 00:13:07,977

How did he do it? There are many theories.

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00:13:07,977 --> 00:13:16,177

60 million years ago, this was all of South Florida. Thousands of miles of living coral

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00:13:16,177 --> 00:13:23,697

reef. The rock which he used, fossil coral, may have internal forces which only Ed understood.

110

00:13:23,697 --> 00:13:34,538

A huge brain coral seems almost conscious, perhaps contemplating ancient secrets.

111

00:13:34,538 --> 00:13:42,578

Living coral constructs its own undersea castles.

112

00:13:42,578 --> 00:13:52,418

Forces deep in the earth fuse dead coral into oolite, a dense, strong organic rock.

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00:13:52,418 --> 00:13:56,578

And most of South Florida has little topsoil over this bedrock.

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00:13:56,578 --> 00:14:04,298

We asked the men at a rock quarry to try an experiment, to cut and lift a giant block

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00:14:04,298 --> 00:14:13,658

of oolite. With diamond-tipped power saws, the cutting alone took several hours.

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00:14:13,658 --> 00:14:32,859

The only way to break the block free, through force.

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00:14:32,859 --> 00:14:43,059

Then the test. Could they detect any unusual buoyancy in the rock itself?

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00:14:43,059 --> 00:14:58,379

Using a 600 horsepower crane, could they lift the rock?

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00:14:58,379 --> 00:15:24,419

After the crane almost tipped over, they managed to drag the block a few yards.

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00:15:24,419 --> 00:15:31,180

What modern equipment would it take to duplicate coral castle?

121

00:15:31,180 --> 00:15:51,140

Charles Valois comments. This is the only known photo of Ed, apparently working.

122

00:15:51,140 --> 00:15:55,540

Although he seems to be breaking the block free with wedges, a close look reveals that

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00:15:55,540 --> 00:16:01,060

the block is already cut free with a cable underneath.

124

00:16:01,060 --> 00:16:04,220

Engineers have been puzzled by this photo.

125

00:16:04,220 --> 00:16:08,260

Bruce Cathy has extensively studied and written on earth forces.

126

00:16:08,260 --> 00:16:14,660

He believes that a harmonic grid inside the earth's surface can create actual anti-gravity

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00:16:14,660 --> 00:16:20,500

at certain nodes on the grid. And that coral castle was built on a position of harmonic

128

00:16:20,860 --> 00:16:31,861

resonance. He's moved stones up to or coral blocks up to 25 tons. And he put them up overnight

129

00:16:31,861 --> 00:16:36,501

just on his own. After he died, he checked some of the instruments he was using and they're

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00:16:36,501 --> 00:16:41,461

very, very primitive. Chisels and hammers and rapses and pulleys and things. Nobody can

131

00:16:41,461 --> 00:16:44,221

understand even today how he's done this.

132

00:16:44,301 --> 00:16:50,141

I found when I applied the harmonic mathematical basis to his position on the earth's surface

133

00:16:50,141 --> 00:16:56,981

geometrically that the same harmonic values popped up on the area where he was.

134

00:16:56,981 --> 00:17:03,701

He always said that he had the secrets of anti-gravity and magnetic fields and he also

135

00:17:03,701 --> 00:17:07,941

said that he knew how they built the pyramids. So it appears if he was telling the truth

136

00:17:07,941 --> 00:17:11,341

that it looks like he did have these secrets.

137

00:17:15,221 --> 00:17:24,221

Ed performed many strange experiments with magnetism, although he had no source of conventional

138

00:17:24,861 --> 00:17:30,822

electricity. He hinted to neighbors he was on the verge of a monumental breakthrough and

139

00:17:30,822 --> 00:17:37,822

published his preliminary results. His book, however, is as incomprehensible as Einstein's

140

00:17:37,822 --> 00:17:44,822

unified field theory. Just as Ed always worked in secret, he also preferred to take his own

141

00:17:46,182 --> 00:17:53,182

photographs, posing in his one suit with a self-timed box brownie.

142

00:17:53,182 --> 00:18:00,182

These films are not the best quality, but they are the only known movies of Ed Leedskalnan.

143

00:18:08,942 --> 00:18:15,942

They were discovered in 1980 in the back of a closet. They revealed the Ed that most

144

00:18:23,262 --> 00:18:30,263

visitors knew. Animated, friendly, a simple man.

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00:18:42,383 --> 00:18:48,383

With this same simplicity, Ed awoke one morning in December of 1951. He put on his one suit

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00:18:48,383 --> 00:18:53,823

off the bus and checked into Miami's county hospital. The doctors were appalled to find

147

00:18:53,823 --> 00:19:00,103

him near death from malnutrition. For a while he rallied under their care and then died

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00:19:00,103 --> 00:19:03,103

quietly in his sleep.

149

00:19:10,943 --> 00:19:17,063

Even after his death, Ed left a few surprises. Neighbors guarded the grounds until authorities

150

00:19:17,063 --> 00:19:24,063

could make an official investigation. They found his living quarters as Spartan and as

151

00:19:33,624 --> 00:19:40,624

ingenious as the rest of Coral Castle.

152

00:19:47,064 --> 00:19:54,064

They also found \$3,800 in crisp \$100 bills and what resembled a treasure map. All attempts

153

00:20:08,224 --> 00:20:13,544

to follow the directions on the map were futile. Nothing seemed to correspond to our

154

00:20:13,544 --> 00:20:20,544

normal three dimensional geometry. Ed left many mysteries, a lot of money and a castle

155

00:20:21,024 --> 00:20:28,024

for his sweet 16. Was she a real person or was she a dream, an ideal of all that is

156

00:20:29,145 --> 00:20:36,145

good?

157

00:20:36,745 --> 00:20:42,025

Children loved to visit Coral Castle. They instinctively respond to the childlike sense

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00:20:42,025 --> 00:20:48,505

of play which is so magnificently sculpted here. In his life, Ed would lead Scounden

159

00:20:48,505 --> 00:20:55,505

Carved and lifted over 3 million pounds of rock. Yet there is one small stone weighing

160

00:20:56,465 --> 00:21:03,465

50 pounds which he never managed to lift. Ironically, on both sides of his simple grave

161

00:21:04,625 --> 00:21:11,625

in Miami are the graves of two little children. We think he would have felt at home.

162

00:21:12,025 --> 00:21:19,025

Coming up next, 20th century with Mike Wallace reports on the pros and cons of United Nations

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00:21:27,745 --> 00:21:32,366

peacekeeping and peace building missions. Then weapons at war takes you from the beaches

164

00:21:32,366 --> 00:21:37,266

of Normandy and Iwo Jima to the sands of the Persian Gulf with a history of amphibious

165

00:21:37,266 --> 00:21:44,266

warfare.