

1

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

An iconic fortress that may hide buried treasure.

2

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

Could hardly see anything for all the smoke.

3

00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:13,000

A mighty volcano with a vengeful curse.

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00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:15,000

No one knew how to stop it.

5

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

And a national park with a bizarre secret.

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

They're moving while no one else is around.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are monumental mysteries.

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

New York, New York.

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:46,000

For centuries, the Big Apple has extended a dramatic welcome to arrivals to the city by sea.

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000

And one of the harbour's most striking monuments lies on a 27-acre island,

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:55,000

a mile off the tip of Lower Manhattan.

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:01,000

It's a formidable building built of red brick and limestone, four large towers.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:10,000

This is Ellis Island Immigration Station, the former grand gateway for newcomers to New York City.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,000

In its prime, it welcomed 5,000 immigrants a day.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:21,000

But for Sam Von Trapp, whose singing family inspired the film *The Sound of Music*,

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:27,000

the island is a poignant reminder that their classic musical saga almost never got told.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:34,000

It was a very difficult chapter in my family's efforts to emigrate to the United States.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:39,000

So what is the true story of the world-famous Von Trapp family?

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00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:45,000

Salzburg, Austria, 1938.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:52,000

A talented family of singers has burst onto the music scene as one of the finest choral groups in Europe.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:55,000

They are the Von Trapps.

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:05,000

But in the spring of 1938, when Nazi Germany occupies Austria, their lives take a frightening turn.

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:14,000

The head of the family, Baron Von Trapp, a former Austrian naval commander, refuses to go into service for Hitler's navy.

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:19,000

He declines to fly a swastika flag from his family home.

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

And then, he commits the ultimate act of defiance.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:31,000

My family was invited to sing at Hitler's birthday party, which might have been an honor to many people, but my family just absolutely knew they couldn't do that.

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00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:38,000

Having insulted the furor, the family is an easy target for Hitler's brutal secret police, the Gestapo.

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00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:41,000

The Nazi party was totally ruthless.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:47,000

There's no question that if the family had been arrested, they would have been liquidated.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:54,000

Fearing for their lives, the family leaves Austria and embarks on a transcontinental singing tour.

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:03:00,000

And when war breaks out in Europe, returning home is no longer an option.

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

America seemed like the best refuge.

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00:03:05,000 --> 00:03:21,000

So, on October 7, 1939, after 10 days at sea, the Von Trapp family of 12 disembarks on a Brooklyn dock with a six-month work visa and an itinerary to perform concerts across America.

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

Eldest son Rupert is first through immigration.

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00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Born outside of Austria, Rupert's Italian passport sees him through without incident.

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:42,000

But when the rest of the family approaches the immigration desk in the traditional attire of their Nazi-occupied homeland, suspicions are aroused.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:47,000

And then, Maria Von Trapp makes a fatal slip-up.

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:53,000

My mother said to the immigration officer when she was asked how long do you plan on staying,

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:57,000

oh, officer, I'm so glad to be here. I never want to leave.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:02,000

This is not a good thing to say when you have a visitor's visa.

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:13,000

Fearing that the family may have Nazi sympathies and may not be planning to abide by the terms of their visas, the authorities immediately take them into custody.

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:22,000

The only one to make it through customs is Rupert, who reluctantly leaves his loved ones and finds his way to Manhattan.

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00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:29,000

But the rest of the Von Trapp family is taken to the detention facility at Ellis Island.

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00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:37,000

There were bars across the windows. They were allowed only a half hour to go outside each day. It was, for all accounts and purposes, a prison.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:49,000

After several days, the Von Trapp family is called before a judge to determine their intentions and whether they harbor German sympathies.

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00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:55,000

Basically, he didn't believe my family and they were put back in detention. And at that point, things really looked bad.

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00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:07,000

Now the family faces imminent deportation. If turned away from America and sent home, the Von Trapp's fear they could be delivered into the hands of the Gestapo.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:14,000

This was very scary. They were looking at the possibility of being sent back to Europe as it was really exploding into World War II.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:23,000

Meanwhile, their eldest son Rupert, who thanks to his Italian passport is the only member of the Klan to have escaped confinement,

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:33,000

manages to track down the number of a prominent friend in Philadelphia. His name is Harry Drinker.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:42,000

Harry Drinker was well connected and through his law firm he had relationships with politicians and various people of influence.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:53,000

Drinker puts in a call to Washington and vouches for the good character of the family. The next morning, the Von Trapp's are released.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:06:02,000

I'm sure it was an enormous relief for my family when they were able to leave Ellis Island and see the Statue of Liberty from outside the barred windows.

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

And the Von Trapp family gratefully embraces their new freedom in America.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:16,000

As World War II intensifies, the Von Trapp's qualify as refugees and their visas are extended.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:26,000

They continue to travel and sing and we're actually the most prolific performing artists for Columbia artists at that point giving over 90 concerts a year.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:37,000

The family eventually settles in Vermont, surrounded by mountain landscapes reminiscent of their Austrian homeland and opens a ski resort, the Trapp Family Lodge.

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00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:48,000

In 1949, Maria publishes a book about the family's adventures, which is later turned into the Oscar-winning classic, *The Sound of Music*.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:07:02,000

But here in New York's harbor, Ellis Island stands as a reminder of a surprising chapter in the lives of these celebrated singers and the much loved movie that might have had a very different ending.

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00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:16,000

Covering an area of over 4,000 square miles, the island of Hawaii is bigger than all of the other islands in the archipelago combined.

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00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:27,000

It's the site of a dramatic geological wonder. A 330,000 acre expanse of lava fields and scalded desert.

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00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:36,000

You've got huge beds of urned looking rock covering the land and everything smells like sulfur. It's magical.

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00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:45,000

This is the Hawaii Volcano's national park, home to Manaloa, the largest volcano on the planet.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:53,000

And nearly 80 years ago, one particular eruption sparked a chain of events that brought terror to the island.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:55,000

No one knew how to stop it.

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00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:02,000

So what happened when a group of daring men tried to take on the mighty Manaloa?

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00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:07,000

The 1930s, Hilo, Hawaii.

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00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:16,000

The people of this bayside city have long lived at peace with the active Manaloa volcano located less than 50 miles away.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Although it has erupted nearly a dozen times in the previous 50 years, the volcano's lava rarely threatens Hilo or its citizens.

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00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Residents there are always aware of the volcano, but generally they felt safe.

72

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:36,000

But they have no idea of the danger they are about to confront.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:48,000

November 21, 1935. This quiet, full day is suddenly disrupted when the ground begins to shake.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:55,000

Residents look toward the volcano that looms over their town, which has begun to erupt.

75

00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:06,000

But rather than flowing away from the city as it had numerous times before, residents realize the lava is headed straight towards them.

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00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:12,000

It was proceeding towards Hilo very fast. Millions of tons of molten rock.

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:23,000

The lava is flowing at a rate of one mile per day. If it doesn't stop in just two months, Hilo could be wiped off the map forever.

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00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:30,000

But one man has a plan that just might save the city from incineration.

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00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:43,000

A scientist named Thomas Jagger thinks that by bombing the side of the volcano from the air, a new path for the molten lava could be carved, one that would redirect it away from Hilo.

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00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:48,000

There's really no way of stopping this stuff. All you can do is try to get it to change direction.

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00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:57,000

So on December 27, the Army scrambles five planes to execute this unprecedented mission.

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:06,000

1935 was the first time aerial bombs had been used on a lava flow. They didn't know how the magma would react. It was a dangerous mission.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:13,000

The pilots dropped their explosives on strategically mapped out points along the lava flow.

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00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:22,000

So will the pilots be able to save the city of Hilo?

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:35,000

December 1935, when the mighty Mauna Loa volcano erupts, massive lava flows threatened to wipe the Hawaiian city of Hilo off the map.

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00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:40,000

To prevent this disaster, an unprecedented emergency plan is put into action.

87

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Bomb the flow from the air and redirect it away from Hilo.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:48,000

It's a daring plan, but will it work?

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00:10:53,000 --> 00:11:09,000

Over the course of a week, U.S. Army planes continuously bomb the volcano's lava channels, carving a new path for the fiery substance and gradually changing its course, thus sparing Hilo from what seemed like certain destruction.

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00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:16,000

And by January 2, 1936, the flow stops altogether.

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00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:18,000

The mission was a success.

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00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:22,000

The intrepid airmen are hailed as heroes.

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00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:30,000

But on January 24, 1936, terrible news rocks the island of Oahu.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:35,000

Two military aircraft carrying a total of eight men have exploded in midair.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Only two survived.

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00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:39,000

They managed to parachute out.

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00:11:40,000 --> 00:11:41,000

Six other people were killed.

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00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:52,000

And the six dead airmen were identified as members of the historic and heroic Hilo bombing crew.

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:12:08,000

When Army investigators interview the two surviving airmen to determine the cause of this tragedy, they conclude that the two planes must have collided before erupting into flames.

100

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:16,000

You have two airplanes, landing information, possibly near to others, blind spot, and sometimes airplanes just fly into each other.

101

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:21,000

And that impact is thought to have triggered the massive explosion.

102

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:27,000

The fuel tank can rupture and the fuel can get onto a hot exhaust pipe. Instant fireball.

103

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

The Army determines that the crash was ultimately the result of pilot error.

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:42,000

But over time, a very different and some say sinister theory starts to percolate among native Hawaiian islanders.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Was the crash payback for the bombing of Monaloea?

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:53,000

It was only a few weeks after they had been bombing the lava flow on the Big Island.

107

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:57,000

So, who was responsible? Pele?

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00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:05,000

It's said that all volcanic activity on the island is the work of the Hawaiian goddess Pele.

109

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:12,000

And anyone who violates her domain will incur her deadly wrath.

110

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

When you mess with the Aina, which is the Hawaiian word for land, you mess with Pele's children, which means she's going to mess with you.

111

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:27,000

And by bombing Monaloa, some think the six airmen had angered the vengeful goddess.

112

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:45,000

And though questions may still surround their untimely demise, to this day, the six pilots who perished are remembered for their courage as they dared to take on the mighty Monaloea in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

113

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:52,000

A magnificent monument and a formidable force of nature.

114

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:58,000

San Jose, California is an epicenter of innovation.

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00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:06,000

But perhaps the most intriguing landmark in this Silicon Valley city is more than a century old.

116

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:16,000

Constructed over a span of almost four decades, this beautiful and bizarre home is a 160 room maze.

117

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:28,000

It is a sprawling Victorian mansion with 2,000 doors, 10,000 windows, staircases that go nowhere, doors that don't open, windows that look out on other rooms. It's like no other house in America.

118

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

This is the Winchester Mystery House.

119

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:45,000

And as author Mitch Horowitz knows, the tale behind this extravagant structure is one of paranoia, terror, and voices from beyond the grave.

120

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:50,000

This labyrinth of rooms was often called the House that Fear Built.

121

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:56,000

So who built this mysterious estate? And why?

122

00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:01,000

Connecticut, 1866.

123

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:10,000

Sarah Winchester is happily ensconced in Nutmeg State High Society, where she earns the nickname the Bell of New Haven.

124

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:16,000

Sarah was a New England Yankee, a petite refined woman who grew up in the best of New Haven

society.

125

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Her husband, William Winchester, is heir to an extraordinary weapons manual.

126

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:33,000

The Winchester repeating rifle was heavily used on the frontier and it developed a reputation as the gun that won the West.

127

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:42,000

The profits of this successful business afford them every luxury and privilege, and it seems as if their lives are truly blessed.

128

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:51,000

On June 15th, 1866, the happy couple welcomes their first child into the world.

129

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:57,000

Sarah and William had a baby daughter named Annie. This was going to be one of the happiest times of their lives.

130

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:05,000

But their joy is short-lived. Soon after Annie's birth, the two receive crushing news.

131

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:14,000

Annie was born with a rare disease that prevented her from digesting food and her parents were forced to stand by and watch her slowly starve to death.

132

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:23,000

Little Annie's death at just five weeks old leaves Sarah and William inconsolable in their grief.

133

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:29,000

And then, in 1881, tragedy strikes again.

134

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:34,000

William Winchester contracts tuberculosis and dies of it within a year.

135

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Devastated by the loss of yet another loved one, it's said that the isolated widow turns to a psychic advisor.

136

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:53,000

Among Victorian women in America, it was common to consult spirit mediums after loss to try to

understand what had happened or make contact with those who had departed.

137

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:57,000

But the psychic delivers a shocking revelation.

138

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:04,000

The medium tells her that she is being punished by those who had lost their lives to the Winchester rifle.

139

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:10,000

And there's another troubling message for Sarah from beyond the veil.

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00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:18,000

According to the story, the medium tells Sarah that the curse will continue to follow her and that she might be its next victim.

141

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:26,000

The widow is stunk. But the psychic soon reveals that there may be a way to escape her doom.

142

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:30,000

So what will it take for Sarah to evade her curse?

143

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

1881, Connecticut.

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00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:38,000

Socialite Sarah Winchester is distraught over the deaths of her daughter and husband.

145

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:48,000

When she seeks solace in a medium, she's told that vengeful spirits of those killed by guns bearing the Winchester family name have enacted their revenge.

146

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

And they're coming for her next.

147

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:59,000

Sarah is told by the psychic that in order to escape her fate, she will be forced to leave the world.

148

00:18:00,000 --> 00:18:02,000

A great house must be constructed.

149

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:12,000

The medium tells Sarah that the only way to avoid the curse is to move out west and construct a vast house that is built according to the spirit's instructions.

150

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:23,000

The medium explains that as long as the house is never completed, Sarah will remain out of danger and may even be able to attain eternal life.

151

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:35,000

Taking the warning to heart, Sarah buys an unfinished farmhouse in San Jose, California and begins her mission to appease the vengeful ghosts.

152

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:46,000

It's said that every night Sarah calls on the spirits for architectural guidance and sketches out any directives that are passed her way.

153

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:59,000

Then each morning, she hands the drawings over to a crew of workers who immediately tackle the day's set of instructions, no matter how baffling they may be.

154

00:19:00,000 --> 00:19:10,000

They would construct whatever she drafted regardless of whether it made sense, this sometimes included stairways or corridors that seem to go nowhere, doors or windows that open to out of the

way places.

155

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:13,000

It just turned the house into this sprawling mess.

156

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:23,000

This bizarre layout of the house served as a form of protection for Sarah.

157

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:37,000

According to local legend, Sarah would never sleep in the same bedroom twice and her confusing floor plans were designed to confound spirits who had a grudge against the Winchester family.

158

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:46,000

Over the course of nearly four decades, the modest farmhouse expands into a sprawling mansion containing roughly 160 rooms.

159

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:53,000

For decades after Sarah moved in, there was non-stop building on the house. Sometimes it went all day into the night.

160

00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Then in 1922, Sarah at the age of 83 is found in one of her many bedrooms, dead from heart failure.

161

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:11,000

If she had wanted to keep vengeful spirits at bay, she succeeded, but in the end, death did find Sarah Winchester.

162

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:18,000

After 38 years of round the clock construction, work on the house finally ceases.

163

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:31,000

In the end, the mansion reaches a sprawling 24,000 square feet, including 40 stairways, 6 kitchens and 13 bathrooms.

164

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Today, Sarah's sad haunting story survives in the Winchester Mystery House, a powerful reminder of an eccentric heiress who was consumed by superstition, grief and fear.

165

00:20:51,000 --> 00:21:00,000

In Northern Arizona lies a 1.2 million acre geological wonder sculpted by the forces of nature over millions of years.

166

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:05,000

This is the Grand Canyon National Park.

167

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:19,000

But as boater and writer Brad Dimick knows, this majestic locale was once the setting of an ambitious journey that both fascinated and baffled the country for generations.

168

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:27,000

This is the story of mystery, romance, possible murder, and the most stunning of landscapes.

169

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:36,000

So how did the Grand Canyon become the setting for one of the most bewildering mysteries in the annals of adventure?

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:41,000

It's the late 1920s.

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00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:50,000

Two newlyweds from Idaho, Glenn and Bessie Hyde, embark upon a rather unconventional type of honeymoon.

172

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:54,000

A boat trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

173

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:02,000

A journey Glenn hopes will earn his wife a place in the history books.

174

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:06,000

Bessie would be the first woman to have gone down the Colorado.

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00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:17,000

On October 20th, 1928, the daring duo sets off in a large wooden boat, hand-built by Glenn himself.

176

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:21,000

They just get out of the middle of the river and take off.

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00:22:21,000 --> 00:22:36,000

After leaving from Green River, Utah, Glenn and Bessie Hyde plan to wind their way down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and end their 800-mile journey in Needles, California.

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00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:40,000

But the trip isn't easy.

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00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Day after day, the couple battles raging currents that threaten to smash their homemade vessel to pieces.

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00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:59,000

By week three, when they reach the Grand Canyon, the two are exhausted and in desperate need of supplies.

181

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:04,000

So they stop near an Arizona town called Grand Canyon Village.

182

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:16,000

There they meet a local photographer named Emery Kolb, who is surprised to learn that they have been navigating the perilous waters without essential life-saving equipment.

183

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:24,000

He was shocked. On the Colorado River, everybody wore life jackets. You knew that you could have drowned out there.

184

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:30,000

Glenn hides. Oh, no, we're okay. We're good swimmers.

185

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:39,000

Before Glenn and Bessie bid the photographer farewell, he snaps a picture of them.

186

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:49,000

And on November 17th, the Hydes resume their journey, hoping to finish the final 430 miles by December 9th.

187

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:56,000

Glenn had promised his father he would send him a telegram at the very latest on his 30th birthday.

188

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:03,000

But December 9th comes and goes with no word from the couple.

189

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Glenn hides father, Rawlin, alerts the authorities and the press to the couple's disappearance and launches the greatest Grand Canyon manhunt to date.

190

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Almost two weeks later, search crews spy something bombing near the river shore.

191

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:32,000

They finally spot the boat and it's apparently marooned with no one aboard.

192

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:40,000

To their surprise, it's still intact and loaded with supplies, suggesting that it hadn't capsized.

193

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:45,000

They find their hiking shoes, their gun, their money, their journals.

194

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:52,000

But no bodies are ever recovered from the river and the case goes cold.

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00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:59,000

As the years pass, the story of the vanishing honeymooners seems destined to be lost forever.

196

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:12,000

Then, in 1976, in Grand Canyon Village, Arizona, the half-century old case is reopened when a local man passes away.

197

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:20,000

As his relatives sort through his belongings, they make a disturbing finding inside his garage.

198

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:25,000

An old canoe containing human remains.

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00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:32,000

When the remains are examined, they suggest the unidentified individual met a very violent end.

200

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:37,000

They found the skeleton of a tall young man, a bullet hole in the cranium.

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00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:49,000

Digging deeper, investigators learn that the house's original owner was none other than Emery Cole, who may have been the last to see the hides alive.

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00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,000

And that's not all.

203

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:59,000

A belt buckle found near the skeleton appears to match the one worn by Glenn on his fateful journey.

204

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

Looked like the belt buckle in the last photo that Emery Cole took of them.

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00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Is this the body of Glenn Hyde? If so, did Cole have any connection to his death?

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00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:29,000

In 1928, two newlyweds, Glenn and Bessie Hyde, disappear while attempting a record-breaking journey down the Colorado River. Their bodies never found.

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00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Then, almost 50 years later, in 1976, human remains are discovered at the house of one of the last people to ever see the couple alive.

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00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:47,000

A man named Emery Cole. So, will the mystery of their disappearance finally be solved?

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00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:58,000

Cole's descendants tell authorities that the well-known photographer merely found the skeleton and kept it as a rather odd and macabre collectible.

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00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:05,000

And when the remains are sent to the lab, the results confirm that it's not a match to the missing explorer.

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00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:11,000

The musculature was all wrong, facial construction was all wrong for it to be Glenn Hyde.

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00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:15,000

So, what really happened to Glenn and Bessie Hyde?

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

Some have a very simple explanation that Glenn's self-made wooden boat was not up to the challenge of navigating the treacherous Colorado and through its passengers overboard.

214

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Those old wooden sweeps in really big white water are terribly violent. They were not wearing life jackets. I think the river got them.

215

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:53,000

Today, the case of Glenn and Bessie Hyde remains one of the most enduring unsolved mysteries of the American West.

216

00:27:54,000 --> 00:28:02,000

And the couple's strange disappearance is a haunting reminder of the Grand Canyon's devastating beauty and deadly power.

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00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:08,000

San Antonio, Texas.

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00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:17,000

Just a short distance away from the city's picturesque river walk stands the state's most famous landmark.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:28,000

The building is a limestone rock building and it contains many intricate carvings over the windows and the doors.

220

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:38,000

And according to historian Rusty Busby, the adobe walls of this extraordinary monument contain a story of mystery and mayhem.

221

00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:45,000

You would not imagine the horror and bloodshed that happened here 177 years ago.

222

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:52,000

This is the Alamo, a hallowed Texas ground and a site of mass martyrdom.

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00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:59,000

But some say that hidden somewhere in the walls of this legendary fortress is an astounding secret.

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00:29:02,000 --> 00:29:09,000

It's March 1836, the town of San Antonio in the Mexican territory of Texas.

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00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:18,000

The American settlers in this region are bristling under the authoritarian rule of Mexican dictator Antonio López de Santa Ana.

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00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:24,000

At the time, the people that lived here actually lived in a Mexican state.

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00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:34,000

The region's disgruntled people attempt to overthrow Santa Ana's tyrannical rule and establish a free republic of Texas.

228

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:43,000

At the vanguard of this Texas independence movement is a small band of militiamen led by Colonel Jim Bowie.

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00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:55,000

Now they are holed up in a garrison in the converted Spanish mission known as the Alamo, preparing to face an overwhelming foe, the merciless army of Santa Ana.

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00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:04,000

The defenders of the Alamo could look out over the walls and see Mexican troops arriving daily.

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00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:11,000

But Bowie and his 180 or so men are determined not to go down without a fight.

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00:30:11,000 --> 00:30:19,000

The Mexican troops kept coming and kept coming. Some say as many as 4,000 were on hand for the battle.

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00:30:23,000 --> 00:30:28,000

And on March 6th, the Mexican cannons roar and the climactic battle begins.

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00:30:29,000 --> 00:30:37,000

It did not take long for the Mexican troops to swarm the area inside of the Alamo and to violently kill all the occupants.

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00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:51,000

In the weeks following the massacre, the valiant last stand made by Bowie and his men becomes the stuff of myth and legend.

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00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:57,000

The words, remember the Alamo, are a rallying cry for Texas nationalists.

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00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:07,000

Later that year, Santa Ana's army is driven out of the territory and the independent Republic of Texas is established.

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00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:16,000

For generations, Texas school children have thought of the Alamo as a vital citadel in the cause of Texas independence.

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00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:19,000

But something doesn't add up.

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:30,000

Some historians believe that the Alamo was not a strategic position and they question why the troops would stay there and fight Santa Ana in that location.

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00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:41,000

In fact, Bowie and his men could have slipped away days earlier and joined up with the larger militias to the southeast in the town of Goliath.

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00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:51,000

Bowie actually did receive orders to blow up the Alamo, to take all the cannon at the Alamo and deliver them to Goliath.

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00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Bowie however chose not to do that.

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00:31:55,000 --> 00:32:05,000

So what possible reason could there be for the defenders at the Alamo to make their stand here in the face of such overwhelming odds?

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00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:09,000

The extraordinary answer may rewrite the history books.

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00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:23,000

The Alamo 1836. Jim Bowie and his brave militiamen have given their lives for the cause of Texas independence.

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00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:33,000

Their heroic stand against overwhelming odds eventually inspires the people of the region to drive Santa Ana and his Mexican army back across the Rio Grande River.

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00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:41,000

But nearly 180 years later, some historians speculate there could be a surprising twist to this familiar tale.

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00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:53,000

Many have questioned why Jim Bowie and his men chose to defend the garrison at the Alamo when the fort had a limited strategic value.

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00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:06,000

Some believe that a clue might lie in the mysterious events of Jim Bowie's earlier life, five years before the Alamo when he was still a newcomer in the territory of Texas.

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00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Bowie was actually a slave trader and a gambler and a dreamer. He started dreaming about land in this particular territory.

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00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Bowie had heard rumors of incalculable riches in the hill country of central Texas.

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00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:29,000

And in 1831, he led an expedition to search for the lost treasure of the San Sabah mine.

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00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Many believe that Bowie did indeed strike it rich.

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00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:45,000

Legend has it that Bowie recovered all or part of the lost San Sabah mine treasure and taken it back to the Alamo.

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00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:54,000

So did Bowie disobey his orders to abandon the Alamo because he was defending a vast trove of treasure?

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00:33:55,000 --> 00:34:04,000

If this theory is right, some believe the riches which could be worth millions today could still be hidden somewhere inside the Alamo.

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00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Hoping to solve the mystery, in 1995, a historian and treasure hunter named Frank Buschbacher manages to obtain a permit to conduct an archaeological survey inside the walls of the Alamo.

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00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:30,000

There were thousands of people that were interested. Politicians would show up at the site and a real hubbub was created about this particular event.

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00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:40,000

Using ground penetrating radar, the archaeologists identify numerous locations that seem to indicate a large quantity of buried metal.

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00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:46,000

But Buschbacher's permit limits him to just one 15 square foot area in which he can excavate.

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00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:54,000

They discover musket balls, chips of flint and shards of pottery. But no sign of treasure.

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00:34:55,000 --> 00:35:02,000

On the last day of the dig, he took a back hole and dug down 15 feet, finding nothing.

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00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:07,000

But the intrepid treasure hunters are not ready to give up.

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00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:18,000

While it's difficult getting permits to excavate inside a protected historic national monument, they are still hopeful that the 1995 dig will not be the last.

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00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:29,000

Although the elusive San Saba treasure may never be found, there's no doubt that the Alamo will forever remain a shrine to Texas liberty.

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00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:34,000

An enduring symbol of courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

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00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:41,000

In Eastern California lies one of the world's most stunning and treacherous terrains.

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00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:46,000

A striking desert landscape famous for its streams.

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00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:54,000

This is the hottest, driest place in the Western Hemisphere with temperatures above 134 Fahrenheit.

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00:35:55,000 --> 00:36:01,000

This is Death Valley, the largest national park in the world.

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00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:17,000

And as geologist Paula Messina can attest, of all the marvels here, the monuments most intriguing are, on first glance, nothing more than an assortment of boulders.

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00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:24,000

But these rocks are at the heart of a puzzle that has fascinated scientists for decades.

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00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:29,000

These rocks have not yielded their secrets and probably never will.

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00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:35,000

What is the real truth behind the enigmatic rocks known as the Sailing Stones?

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00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:39,000

1948, Death Valley, California.

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00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:51,000

Two geologists named Jim McAllister and Alan Agnew have been assigned by the US Geological Survey to map the bedrock in one of the valley's most remote locales.

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00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:59,000

A dry lake bed hundreds of miles from civilization called the Racetrack Playa.

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00:37:01,000 --> 00:37:07,000

As recently as a thousand years ago there was standing water in this place, but now it's just totally bone-drying.

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00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:14,000

The geologists observe over 150 boulders and rocks dotting the playa's surface.

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00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:20,000

And there's something about these rocks that strikes the two scientists as rather odd.

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00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:30,000

Adjacent to each one of the stones is a long groove in the desert floor, evidence that the stones are doing something extraordinary.

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00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:36,000

The bizarre thing about these rocks is that they appear to move. They're leaving trails.

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00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:45,000

Some of them were close to a half mile long. They thought, well, this is just really crazy.

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00:37:46,000 --> 00:37:54,000

There are no footprints or tracks in the dry earth, and no human or animal could be strong enough to move some of the larger boulders.

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00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:59,000

The rocks range in size to probably more than 700 pounds.

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00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:11,000

Believing they have stumbled upon a mystery as intriguing as Stonehenge, McAllister and Agnew dubbed this bewildering phenomenon the Sailing Stones.

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00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Some scientists dismissed the Sailing Stones as some sort of elaborate prank.

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00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:23,000

But the playa's inaccessibility makes this idea highly unlikely.

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00:38:24,000 --> 00:38:33,000

The racetrack is so difficult to get to that if one wanted to instigate a prank there, he or she would have to be pretty darn serious.

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00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:37,000

It's not the kind of place that you would go to for an evening of fun.

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00:38:38,000 --> 00:38:48,000

Over the next few decades, people ponder this seemingly intractable puzzle, floating theories that range from the scientific to the paranormal.

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00:38:50,000 --> 00:39:00,000

Then in 1968, two geologists named Bob Sharp and Dwight Carey set up an ambitious project to monitor the Sailing Stones,

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00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:06,000

marking their original positions and returning intermittently to measure their movements.

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00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:13,000

Sharp and Carey went back every year to see if the rocks that they had been monitoring had moved.

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00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:20,000

And in 1975, after seven years, they released their astonishing findings.

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00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:27,000

The evidence indicates that the rocks sometimes move at a speed of up to four miles an hour.

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00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:33,000

So what on earth is causing these rocks to glide across the desert?

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00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:40,000

It's 1975 in Death Valley, California.

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00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:48,000

Scientists are puzzled by a set of massive stones that seem to have mysteriously moved across the desert floor all by themselves.

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00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:55,000

And despite studying the rocks for the better part of a decade, they're no closer to understanding the phenomenon.

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00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:59,000

So what has caused this bizarre occurrence?

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00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:07,000

Since no one has ever witnessed the stones in motion, scientists can only theorize as to the cause.

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00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:14,000

Many hone in on Death Valley's extreme temperatures as a possible explanation.

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00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:22,000

While the National Park is known for scorching heat, winters bring occasional periods of overnight freezing.

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00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:31,000

Researchers hypothesize that ice sheets form on the pliab so that the rocks can sail across the pliab without too much of a forceful wind.

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00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:43,000

But some studies indicate that the rocks might actually move year-round, leaving this theory unable to account for times when desert temperatures are at their hottest.

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00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:52,000

So scientists conclude that the most plausible answer comes from the interaction of two of nature's most essential elements.

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00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:54,000

Wind and water.

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00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:06,000

Although the annual rainfall here is just three to four inches, researchers know that the racetrack playa occasionally experiences violent storms,

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00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:11,000

with sudden downpours and wind gusts that exceed 70 miles per hour.

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00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:17,000

You wouldn't need very much rain for the playa surface to become very slick.

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:27,000

And that slick, almost frictionless surface, combined with high winds, could provide the perfect conditions for the rocks to slide.

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00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:33,000

But these circumstances have never been witnessed by human eyes.

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00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

And because the park regulates the use of remote cameras, it may never be.

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00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:48,000

The racetrack is designated wilderness area within a national park, and permanent instrumentation can't be left there.

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00:41:48,000 --> 00:41:55,000

So it's very unlikely that we'll ever have remote instruments to capture the rocks in motion.

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00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:02,000

And so the enigmatic sailing stones may always remain shrouded in mystery,

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00:42:03,000 --> 00:42:10,000

with the secrets of their stealthy journey hidden within the forbidding landscape of Death Valley National Park.

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00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:27,000

From a volcanic curse to a mysterious mansion, buried treasure to sailing stones, I'm Don Wildman, and these are Monumental Mysteries.