

1

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

A mythical signpost that marks a devilish deal.

2

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

They say, Rob, what did you do?

3

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

You must have sold your soul to the devil.

4

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

A bayside wharf that harbors a scandalous secret.

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

There's a shocking, desperate tale of deception.

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

And a treacherous forest with a buried secret.

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:25,000

This is a very dangerous area. People disappear.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are monumental mysteries.

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

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the first capital of the United States,

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

plays to a host of other historic firsts.

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00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:54,000

From the country's first art school to its first natural history institution.

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

But on the west side of town, in the city's Clark Park,

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00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:04,000

is an effigy of an artist whose final work is cloaked in mystery.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:11,000

It's a statue of a man seated deep in thought on a five foot tall granite platform.

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:17,000

This sculpture is a memorial to one of history's most celebrated authors,

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

whose artistic achievements are legendary.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,000

But according to writer Rolf Parker Houghton,

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:27,000

his power may have extended far beyond this mortal coil.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

Some say his drive to write was so great

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

that he wouldn't even let death prevent him from finishing his final masterpiece.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:45,000

So who was he? And how did his legacy reach out from beyond the grave?

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:51,000

England, June 9th, 1870.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:58,000

The renowned author of Great Expectations and A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens,

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

dies suddenly after suffering a stroke.

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

His passing leaves legions of disappointed fans

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00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:10,000

who are anxiously awaiting the final chapters of his latest novel,

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:13,000

The Mystery of Edwin Druid.

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00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:17,000

The book was scheduled to be serialized in 12 monthly installments,

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:21,000

but only six had been published before Dickens passing.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

Dickens was in the middle of writing this novel and he died.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:28,000

People were just completely left hanging.

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00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:34,000

It looks like Dickens readers will never know how the gripping novel was supposed to end.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:41,000

But two years later, and thousands of miles away, a new mystery starts to unfold.

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00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:45,000

1872, Brattleboro, Vermont.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:52,000

As the story goes, a young printer named T.P. James is living in a boarding house

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:56,000

when he is invited by his landlady to attend a seance.

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

Spiritualism was wildly popular at the time.

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

The Civil War was attended in the 1860s and there was a lot of desire to contact people who had passed on.

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:12,000

James accepts the invitation, unaware that his life is about to change forever.

41

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:19,000

He's given a pen and paper and is told to allow the spirits to use his hand to convey a message.

42

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:24,000

James is dubious, but closes his eyes as instructed.

43

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:29,000

He falls into a trance and he starts writing on pieces of paper.

44

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

Opening his eyes minutes later,

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

James is shocked by what he sees.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:43,000

A set of notes and instructions, followed by the signature of none other than the late Charles Dickens.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:51,000

It seems that the spirit of the literary giant has chosen the young printer for an extraordinary task.

48

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:58,000

There's a message from Dickens telling him that he wants T.P. James to have a message.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Telling him that he wants T.P. James to help complete Edward Druid so that the novel can be completed.

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00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:15,000

Even though he has no formal education, James announces that he will do the dead author's bidding.

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00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:24,000

So on December 24th, he retires to his room, locks the door behind him and sets to work.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:27,000

For months he toils.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:36,000

Then in October of 1873, James emerges with a finished manuscript.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:45,000

And it's called *The Mystery of Edward Druid Complete*, written by Charles Dickens and completed through the spirit pen of a medium.

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

But when the book is published, the British literary critics breed it with contempt.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:05:00,000

They thought it was completely ludicrous. They pointed out that it read like it was written by an American trying to pretend to be Charles Dickens.

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00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:10,000

Indeed, the idea seems so far-fetched that the press even speculates that James's writing is merely the delusional rantings of an alcoholic.

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00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:17,000

There's a lot of derisive comments, more than being the only spirits involved in this endeavor were those that come out of a bottle.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:25,000

Others claim James's story is simply a hoax, devised to generate publicity and turn a profit.

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00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:34,000

Did he actually pull off the largest con job so that he could publish and sell *The Mystery of Edward Druid*?

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:41,000

But one man is about to come forward with a claim that will turn the entire story on its head.

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00:05:42,000 --> 00:05:49,000

He is none other than the renowned creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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00:05:50,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Doyle, who was actually very interested in spiritualism, made the pronouncement that he, after careful consideration, believed that T.P. James really had channeled Dickens and completed this novel.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Conan Doyle declares that the writing style is so similar to that of Dickens, that it is inconceivable that it could have come from anyone but the great man himself.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:25,000

Despite the controversy, *The Mystery of Edward Druid* is a commercial hit, satiating a hungry audience's desire for a resolution to the thrilling narrative.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:38,000

After the publication of his spiritually guided work, James goes on to write more stories, but never matches his initial success and eventually fades into obscurity.

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00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Whether he actually channeled Dickens' spirit to finish his final masterpiece is a question that will likely remain unanswered forever.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:53,000

But one thing is certain, Dickens' legacy endures.

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00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:00,000

And in 1901, this bronze statue is installed in Philadelphia's Clark Park.

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00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:08,000

A tribute to a man whose talent, passion and spirit continues to inspire the masses.

71

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:15,000

San Francisco, California.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:21,000

The city by the bay is known for its stunning maritime scenery and mouthwatering seafood.

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00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:29,000

And no place exemplifies those qualities more than one celebrated attraction on the city's north shore.

74

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:38,000

There are seals and sea lions. You can get fresh and dunchiness crab right there on the sidewalk. It's a bustle of activity.

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:45,000

Reeling in an astounding 10 million visitors a year, this is Fisherman's Wharf.

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00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:54,000

But this iconic site has another story to tell of a nefarious plan that brought the entire city to its knees.

77

00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Fisherman's Wharf was the heart of one of the biggest scandals ever to hit San Francisco.

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:05,000

There's a shocking and desperate tale of deception.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:10,000

What was this star-crossed scheme that rocked San Francisco?

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:15,000

And what surprising twist is in store at the end of this extraordinary story?

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:25,000

July 1849. Among the hordes of fortune hunters drawn to the city of San Francisco by the Gold Rush

82

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:30,000

is a charismatic construction and real estate magnet from New York named Henry Miggs.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:37,000

Henry Miggs was ambitious, he was personable, he was a consummate businessman.

84

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:47,000

As his wealth and standing grows, honest Harry, as he comes to be known, is elected as an alderman and an esteemed member of the city council.

85

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:54,000

Henry Miggs was a very successful man. He got involved, he donated to charity.

86

00:08:55,000 --> 00:09:02,000

And just a few years after his arrival, he draws up plans for his biggest development project yet.

87

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:05,000

A massive shipping wharf on the north shore of the city.

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00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:13,000

2,000 feet long and 42 feet wide, the wharf would be unlike anything built in San Francisco before.

89

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:20,000

Miggs is hoping that commercial ship captains will pay top dollar to unload their vessels at his new pier.

90

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:31,000

And thanks to his reputation as an honest businessman, he is able to secure the substantial loans he needs from banks and investors to build the mess of birth.

91

00:09:32,000 --> 00:09:40,000

He did all of this based on the strength of his personality, the power of honest Henry Miggs.

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00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:47,000

But in 1853, when Miggs finally completes the wharf, disaster strikes.

93

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,000

The gold rush turns from boom to bust.

94

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Miggs, who has borrowed money from nearly every bank and business in the city, is drowning in a sea of debt.

95

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

Henry Miggs was going bankrupt.

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00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:09,000

So the once honest businessman hatches a desperate plot that will alter his reputation forever.

97

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

In his capacity as an alderman, he steals a book of city promissory notes that have been presigned by the mayor and begins to issue them as collateral for his debt.

98

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:31,000

The plan works perfectly as investors happily accept the notes believing that the city of San Francisco is guaranteeing their loans to Miggs.

99

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:42,000

But Henry Miggs knows full well that his financial house of cards is destined to collapse the minute his creditors try to cash in the fraudulent papers.

100

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:50,000

They weren't issued by the city. The city had no record. And more than that, the city had no money to pay them and wouldn't pay them.

101

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:57,000

With the day of reckoning at hand, Miggs heads with his family to a familiar landing on the city's north shore.

102

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:03,000

He went down probably to his own wharf and he sailed out of the bay.

103

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:08,000

Never to be seen in California again.

104

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:15,000

But his extraordinary tale has a twist so bizarre that no one will see coming.

105

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:29,000

It's 1854 in San Francisco. In a desperate attempt to claw his way out of debt, businessman Henry Miggs has perpetrated a massive fraud.

106

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Cheating the people of the city out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

107

00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:38,000

Now he's run away, disappearing on a ship bound for parts unknown.

108

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:43,000

But what incredible twist of fate awaits the citizens of San Francisco?

109

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:53,000

As soon as San Francisco realized that Henry Miggs had flown the coup, they both started checking on their loans.

110

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:59,000

He owed everybody he knew. He even owed his washerwoman.

111

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

As his fleeced creditors attempt in vain to cash in their promissory notes, the word quickly spreads of Miggs deception.

112

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

Sending shockwaves through San Francisco's financial sector.

113

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

When Henry Miggs left, it took an already bad economic situation in San Francisco and made it much worse.

114

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:28,000

All told, investors lose roughly a million dollars, around 25 million in today's currency.

115

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:36,000

And as a result, Henry Miggs goes from being one of the most beloved figures in San Francisco to one of the most reviled.

116

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:42,000

But the question remains, what has become of Henry Miggs?

117

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Henry Miggs headed to Chile. He says he was so poor that he had to pawn his watch.

118

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:57,000

But soon, Miggs starts over from nothing and begins to rise again.

119

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:04,000

With his personality, his people skills, and I guess you could even say his financial skills,

120

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Henry Miggs went on to be the biggest railroad builder in South America and he was a very rich man.

121

00:13:15,000 --> 00:13:20,000

With his wealth restored, Miggs turns his attention to his tarnished reputation.

122

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:25,000

Henry Miggs really, truly regretted the pain he had caused people.

123

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Determined to make amends, he does something which few conmen have ever attempted to do before.

124

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:36,000

He pays back the money he stole.

125

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:39,000

He did pay back all of the debts he could.

126

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:45,000

According to some historians, Miggs returns every penny with interest.

127

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

And the California legislature absolved him of his crimes and offered to let him come back.

128

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:55,000

But he never did.

129

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:03,000

Today, the renovated piers of Fisherman's Wharf remain the place where one dream died and another began.

130

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:09,000

For one of the most fascinating characters in the proud history of the city by the bay.

131

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:17,000

Some 300 miles north of the mouth of the Mississippi River is Clarksdale, Mississippi.

132

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:25,000

At the intersection of highways 61 and 49 stands one of the region's most defining landmarks.

133

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:31,000

Three gigantic guitars each pointing in a different direction.

134

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:36,000

It's one of the things that you notice when you first come to Clarksdale.

135

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:46,000

This is the Crossroads Monument, a memorial to one of the Delta's finest sons, whose life changed music forever.

136

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:52,000

And whose death casts a pall over all he achieved.

137

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

This spot is the place where blues was born.

138

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:03,000

So what is the strange story behind the Crossroads Monument?

139

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:08,000

And what devilish act is said to have taken place on this very spot?

140

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

1930, Robinsonville, Mississippi.

141

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

19-year-old Robert Johnson is a struggling plantation worker, but he has two loves in his life.

142

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:27,000

His wife Virginia, who is pregnant with their first child.

143

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

And a new musical trend that is sweeping the south.

144

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:35,000

The Blues.

145

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:42,000

But while he's out one night at a local juke joint, tragedy strikes.

146

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

His wife goes into labor, but both she and child die during the birth.

147

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Virginia's parents blamed Robert for her death because he wasn't there.

148

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

And that really took a toll on him.

149

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

Left with nothing but his love of music.

150

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:05,000

The grieving Johnson vows to learn how to play the guitar.

151

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:07,000

He felt like there was an outlet.

152

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:12,000

There was this way of expressing what he was really feeling with him yet.

153

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

But Johnson's attempts to play do not meet with success.

154

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:21,000

My grandfather was awful with the guitar.

155

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:25,000

He was sad that he could not hold a tune and a bucket.

156

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

He was just that bad.

157

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:29,000

People would run in my ways.

158

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:32,000

Robert, get away from me. That sounds terrible.

159

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:41,000

So in 1931, Robert Johnson leaves town and for months, no one in Robinsonville hears from the wannabe blues man.

160

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:48,000

But then over a year later, Johnson returns, a changed man.

161

00:16:51,000 --> 00:17:01,000

He is now a highly accomplished blues guitar player with a unique finger picking style that is accompanied by soulful singing and aching lyrics.

162

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:07,000

A sound that would earn him the moniker, the king of the Delta Blues.

163

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:10,000

It was amazing to those that heard.

164

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:15,000

He was playing so good. They thought it was two or three good guitars playing at the same time.

165

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

And his voice had gotten so sharp and so crisp.

166

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:23,000

No other musician can copy his style.

167

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:32,000

And with song titles like Hell Hound on my Trail and Me and the Devil Blues,

168

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:44,000

a sinister rumor is born that Johnson's newfound talent is so extraordinary that it must come from the devil himself.

169

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:48,000

So did Robert Johnson make a pact with Satan?

170

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:54,000

It's the 1930s in rural Mississippi.

171

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:01,000

An aspiring blues musician named Robert Johnson has been dazzling audiences with his virtuoso guitar playing.

172

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:06,000

But to those who know the man well, something strikes them as strange.

173

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Not so long before, Robert Johnson could barely play a note.

174

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:19,000

And a strange rumor begins to circulate about how Robert Johnson acquired his newfound talent.

175

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:28,000

It's said that one night Johnson ventured out to a place somewhere close to where routes US 61 and 49 now intersect.

176

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:34,000

There he sat down and began to crudely play his guitar.

177

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:44,000

While he was there playing his guitar, the devil came up and said, pass me that guitar.

178

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:52,000

The devil tuned it up and gave it back to him.

179

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:59,000

He said that the devil told him he would always be famous as long as you served me.

180

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:06,000

Whether or not the tale is true, the transformation was certainly complete.

181

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

In 1936, Johnson is signed to a major record label and becomes known as one of the finest blues musicians in the land.

182

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:22,000

But no deal with the devil ever ends well.

183

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:32,000

In August of 1938, the 27-year-old Johnson is playing a juke joint when he suddenly keels over.

184

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

They begin to feel nauseated and in the double-o-wood and pain.

185

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:43,000

He is carried from the club in agony.

186

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:51,000

And days later, he dies, leaving many to conclude that the devil must have finally come to the end.

187

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:55,000

He is called to claim the musician's soul.

188

00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:03,000

But Robert Johnson's grandson, Steven Johnson, has another explanation for his forefather's remarkable transformation.

189

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:12,000

He claims that while Johnson was out of town, he was studying under the tutelage of a prolific blues guitarist named Ike Zimmerman.

190

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Ike Zimmerman became his mentor. Practice make perfect.

191

00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:24,000

As for Robert Johnson's death, Steven has a rational explanation for that as well.

192

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:32,000

He was actually poisoned by the juke joint owner because he was having an affair with the owner's wife.

193

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:44,000

In the end, Robert Johnson leaves behind an enduring legacy as one of the most influential blues artists of all time.

194

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:52,000

My grandfather is known as King of the Delta Blues. There will never be another one like him.

195

00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:05,000

And today, the Crossroads Monument symbolizes a pivotal turning point in the life of a legendary musician and a fateful deal some say he struck with a devil himself.

196

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:22,000

Alaska, one of the most beautiful parts of this icebound territory lies on its southern shores. A breathtaking expanse encompassing 5.4 million acres.

197

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:33,000

It's 1,800 miles of streams, 20 major glaciers. The mountains go from 13,000 feet plunging into the sea. It is a wild place.

198

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:47,000

This is the Chugach National Forest. Yet it's not the splendor of this pristine wilderness that draws author Nick Begich to this place, but the secrets that lie buried in its depths.

199

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:55,000

Within this wilderness area, there was in fact one of the biggest mysteries, one of the biggest manhunts in U.S. history.

200

00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:02,000

So what is the truth behind one of the most baffling, unsolved disappearances in the history of Alaska?

201

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:08,000

October 16, 1972. Anchorage, Alaska.

202

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:21,000

Two high-profile politicians, U.S. House Majority Leader, Hale Boggs and Representative Nick Begich, are on their way to a campaign fundraiser in the state capital of Juneau.

203

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

Hale Boggs, Nick Begich, were getting ready to fly to Juneau from Anchorage in a Cezna 310.

204

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:40,000

Although the weather forecasters are predicting freezing temperatures, the plane's experienced bush pilot, a man named Don Johns, is confident that he can make the trip safely.

205

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

That morning it was foggy, snowing in the upper mountains. Don Johns didn't consider that a big deal.

206

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:57,000

At 9 a.m., the plane takes off on the three-and-a-half-hour journey that will take them directly over the Chugach National Forest.

207

00:22:58,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Twelve minutes into the flight, Johns makes a routine call to the control tower in Anchorage to report at all as well.

208

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:10,000

9-12 was the last radio contact after that. Silence.

209

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:19,000

And when the plane fails to arrive in Juneau, authorities spare no expense in mounting a search-and-rescue operation.

210

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:28,000

You're dealing with the United States Congress, you're dealing with the House of Majority, you're one of the most powerful men. So it was at the time the biggest search in the history of the United States.

211

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:33,000

But the challenge facing the rescue teams is monumental.

212

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:41,000

Just to imagine the space of anyone who's flown over Alaska recognizes this is a very rough, densely-packed area.

213

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:48,000

After 39 days, not a single trace of the plane has been found.

214

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:50,000

They found absolutely nothing.

215

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:55,000

The search is abandoned and the congressmen are presumed dead.

216

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:09,000

The most likely explanation for the disappearance seems to be that bad weather brought down the plane and that the wreckage must lie somewhere in the vast expanse of the Chugach National Forest.

217

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:12,000

There is always a risk to flying in Alaska, particularly this time of year.

218

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

But some wonder why the massive search party was unable to find any trace of the plane.

219

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:23,000

Nothing was found, with the best equipment the U.S. military had to offer.

220

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:31,000

But over the next decades, several more mysterious disappearances occur in the same stretch of wilderness.

221

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:38,000

In 1992, four fishermen flying to Anchorage seemed to vanish in mid-flight.

222

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:45,000

Then, in 2010, a plane carrying a group of park service workers disappeared as well,

223

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:53,000

leading some to dub the area between Anchorage, Juno and Barrow, the Alaska Triangle.

224

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:56,000

This is a very dangerous area.

225

00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:02,000

People step into it, disappear, never heard from again, and nobody can explain why.

226

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:09,000

It's October 1972.

227

00:25:10,000 --> 00:25:18,000

Congressman Hale Boggs and Nick Beggage, along with Bush pilot Don Johns, take off in a small plane from Anchorage, Alaska headed to Juno.

228

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:20,000

They never arrive.

229

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:28,000

And despite the biggest manhunt in state history, no trace of the aircraft or its passengers is ever found.

230

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:34,000

So, were these men simply victims of mother nature, or were there more sinister forces at play?

231

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,000

Some believe that the disappearance was due to more than just bad weather,

232

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:46,000

and that the ill-fated travelers were victims of the so-called Alaska Triangle.

233

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:53,000

Weather is on a plane, hiking, on a ship, people disappear, and they're never found. There's not a trace.

234

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Just like its namesake, the Bermuda Triangle, the region known as the Alaska Triangle, is reportedly plagued by strange atmospheric conditions.

235

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:11,000

This is an area where there's electromagnetic anomalies, where aviation navigation equipment can be disrupted.

236

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Along with weather, terrain, all these things combined can lead to a lot of disorientation.

237

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:22,000

But there is yet another, still more sinister explanation.

238

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

That the Congressman's disappearance was the result of political foul play.

239

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:39,000

In April of 1971, Boggs had delivered a blistering attack on the controversial surveillance tactics used by one of the most powerful men in America.

240

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:42,000

FBI Director Jay Edgar Hoover.

241

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:48,000

Boggs compared him to the Soviet Union in terms of the way he ran his agency, and they just flat did not like each other.

242

00:26:49,000 --> 00:27:01,000

And while there is no trustworthy evidence to support such a theory, one unusual piece of information has come to light that suggests that Hoover may, in fact, have played a role in Boggs' death.

243

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:15,000

In 1991, newly released FBI records indicated that shortly after the disappearance, a downed plane

and two survivors were indeed spotted in the area where Boggs' aircraft was thought to have crashed.

244

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:26,000

And while it was likely just a false report, some believe it is proof of a top-down cover-up that ensured the men were never rescued.

245

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:32,000

Some have suggested that Jay Edgar Hoover was responsible, in part for the non-recovery of the plane.

246

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:41,000

But if Hoover was behind some kind of cover-up, his death in 1972 ensured that he took the secret to his grave.

247

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:51,000

While the men were never found, the incident did bring about an important change in the way air travel is conducted in the U.S.

248

00:27:51,000 --> 00:28:00,000

The Congress passed a law requiring locator beacons on planes. This is a way to find people when they go down and saved hundreds of lives since the 1970s.

249

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:08,000

The case of Hale Boggs, Nick Begich, and Don Johns is unsolved to this day.

250

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:20,000

And until the remains of the men or their plane are found, it seems that the Chugash National Forest in Southern Alaska will hold on to this enduring enigma indefinitely.

251

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

Less than 40 miles from the state capital in Madison, the town of Spring Green, Wisconsin, looks much as it did when it was settled in the mid-1800s.

252

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:42,000

And just outside the village center is one of the country's most renowned architectural landmarks.

253

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:50,000

It is a very tawny building. It's a very suave building, and it's all built from limestone and sandstone.

254

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:59,000

Set on a 600-acre estate that features peaceful gardens and a man-made waterfall, it's a triumph of 20th century design.

255

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:08,000

This is Talle-Essen, the one-time home and workspace of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

256

00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:13,000

But this graceful mansion was once the scene of a horrific tragedy.

257

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:22,000

A lot of people are familiar with the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, but a lot of people are not familiar with the fact that his home was once the scene of the crime of the century.

258

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:31,000

What harrowing event scarred Talle-Essen's striking beauty? And how did it forever change the man who built it?

259

00:29:32,000 --> 00:29:35,000

1914, Spring Green, Wisconsin.

260

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:45,000

47-year-old Frank Lloyd Wright is at the forefront of a new architectural movement that celebrates bold buildings set in harmony with their environment.

261

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:52,000

But despite the acclaim for his designs, his personal life is fraught with controversy.

262

00:29:53,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Separated from his wife, but still legally married, Lloyd Wright has been conducting a passionate affair with divorcee Martha Borthwick Cheney, otherwise known as Mema.

263

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:15,000

He was still not divorced, and his wife was not going to give him a divorce. This did not go over well with the public. They were living in sin.

264

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:29,000

Their relationship is ripe fodder for a scandal-hungry press. Seeking more privacy, Frank and Mema retreat to a secluded villa of the architect's own design. Talle-Essen.

265

00:30:30,000 --> 00:30:38,000

It was a refuge where they could live together quietly and do their creative work and enjoy life away from the prying eyes of society.

266

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:51,000

In the summer of 1914, Frank Lloyd Wright is in Chicago working on a project. But in his absence, the tranquility of Talle-Essen is about to be shattered forever.

267

00:30:52,000 --> 00:31:02,000

On August 15, a man named William Weston, a carpenter who works at the Lloyd Wright home, arrives breathless at a farm about a half-mile from Talle-Essen.

268

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:14,000

And he has some shocking news. Talle-Essen is on fire. Rescuers rush to the scene, but it seems they're too late to save everyone.

269

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:20,000

There were a total of seven people dead or dying, and two were injured as well.

270

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:26,000

Among those who lost their lives is Frank Lloyd Wright's beloved mistress, Mema Cheney.

271

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:38,000

But when police interviewed the survivors, they learned that it wasn't the fire that killed the victims. They had been hacked to death by a man with an axe.

272

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:42,000

So who was responsible for this gruesome crime?

273

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Spring Green, Wisconsin, 1914.

274

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:56,000

A fire breaks out in Talle-Essen, the magnificent estate of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

275

00:31:57,000 --> 00:32:05,000

When neighbors and police arrive, they find a shocking scene. The bodies of seven people, including Lloyd Wright's mistress, Mema Cheney.

276

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:08,000

So can this deranged killer be caught?

277

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Hours later, as neighbors search Talle-Essen's charred living quarters, a chilling sound meets their ears.

278

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:21,000

Someone hears a bone from the basement, and they come down and find Julian.

279

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Julian Carlton, Talle-Essen's butler, is found writhing in pain. The victim of an apparent suicide attempt.

280

00:32:31,000 --> 00:32:36,000

He had a small bottle of hydrochloric acid. He swallowed it and burned his esophagus.

281

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:50,000

And when investigators interview those who managed to escape the fire, they soon learn that Julian Carlton is also the man responsible for this horrific crime.

282

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:56,000

Survivors relate that at noon that day, Mema and her staff had been eating lunch.

283

00:32:56,000 --> 00:32:59,000

When the punch and stench of gasoline filled the air.

284

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

One of the draftsmen noticed a stream of bubbly liquid coming under the door, and then suddenly it burst into flame.

285

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:13,000

Mema and the others tried to flee, but their path was blocked.

286

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Julian Carlton, the butler, was waiting by the door with a hatchet.

287

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,000

When they came rushing out, he was in the car.

288

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:24,000

With a hatchet.

289

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:27,000

When they came rushing out, he just unleashed his fury.

290

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:38,000

Some seven weeks after committing this brutal crime, Julian Carlton dies in jail, taking the reason for his murderous rampage to his grave.

291

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:42,000

So why did he do it?

292

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:50,000

One theory is that a fervently religious Carlton was offended by Lloyd Wright's affair with Mema Cheney.

293

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:56,000

Some thought that Carlton was driven to his crimes by the immorality around him.

294

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:01,000

That he couldn't stand to live amid all this sin and had to smite the wicked.

295

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:08,000

But a more compelling idea develops as investigators interview those who knew Julian Carlton.

296

00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:11,000

He had simply gone insane.

297

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:19,000

There were reports that came in. He was becoming increasingly paranoid, so he just snapped and disappeared.

298

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:22,000

He just destroyed the whole place.

299

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:28,000

But Carlton died before he could be fully evaluated by a psychiatrist.

300

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:33,000

So no one is ever able to discern what prompted his heinous killing spree.

301

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

It will always be a mystery what really propelled this crime.

302

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Following the devastating loss of his beloved Mema, Frank Lloyd Wright undertakes the sole wrenching task of rebuilding Talleusen.

303

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:56,000

Wright's response to all of this shows his strength of character, his ability to move on.

304

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Wright returns Talleusen to its former glory.

305

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:10,000

But some critics note that after the tragedy, the architect's designs appear to become more austere.

306

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:19,000

In fact, some of his most iconic structures, such as New York's Guggenheim Museum and the Johnson-Wax building in Wisconsin,

307

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:21,000

seem almost fortress-like.

308

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:34,000

And today, Talleusen serves as a tribute to a tragic love story, and writes enduring legacy as one of the greatest architects of all time.

309

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:48,000

In the fertile lowlands of western Mississippi is the small town of Rolling Fork.

310

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:58,000

This county seat was originally established as a vast cotton plantation, and just south of town is an expanse of dense deciduous woods.

311

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:05,000

There is a marvelous forest here about. It's a place of wonderment and beauty.

312

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:15,000

This is the Delta National Forest, a pristine stretch of leafy swampland that is home to a wide assortment of flora and fauna.

313

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:29,000

But according to historian and reenactor Case Hicks, this natural landmark was also the setting for a surprising political event that inspired an unlikely invention that is ubiquitous today.

314

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:38,000

It's a wonderful story about a president, a dilemma that he faced, and something extraordinary. It took place in this marvelous hinterland.

315

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:45,000

What pivotal role did the Delta National Forest play in the career of a political giant?

316

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:51,000

And how did this seminal event inspire an emblem of American childhood?

317

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

September 1901, Buffalo, New York.

318

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

Eight days after President William McKinley was struck by an assassin's bullet, his vice president, the former governor of New York, is preparing to take the oath of office.

319

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:17,000

Theodore Roosevelt, a young man at the age of 42, steps into the presidency.

320

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:26,000

As the youngest man to ever become president, the nation holds its breath, uncertain as to how this new, untested commander-in-chief will govern.

321

00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:33,000

One of the first problems to land on his desk is a bitter land dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana.

322

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

Before long, the new president is drawn into the debate.

323

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

The president was asked to come survey things and pass judge.

324

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:46,000

The negotiations proved to be arduous.

325

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:51,000

So the nascent president decides to indulge in one of his favorite pastimes.

326

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:57,000

He arranges a hunting expedition with the region's premier black bear hunter, Holt Collier.

327

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:06,000

And so the president and his guide head off into the arboreal wilderness that is now the Delta National Forest.

328

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:13,000

But the trip fails to live up to expectations, and Roosevelt fails to find a bear.

329

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:19,000

It hasn't gone well, and at times he gets frustrated and grits his teeth. This is not bully!

330

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

With Roosevelt's much lauded hunting skills letting him down, it seems the press may well have a field day if he walks out of the woods without bagging a black bear.

331

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:36,000

To fail at a bear hunt, my goodness, what's he going to fail at politically?

332

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:48,000

But just when it looks like all hope is lost, his guide, Holt Collier, picks up the trail of a bear and finally gets close enough to throw a rope around the exhausted creature.

333

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:55,000

So here's Holt Collier, he's dragging it up on the bank and he's presenting it to the president. Mr. President, you're a bear!

334

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:00,000

But what happens next will change the course of Roosevelt's presidency.

335

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:05,000

Not to mention the bedtime rituals of children everywhere.

336

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:11,000

It's November 1902.

337

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:18,000

Newly inaugurated president Theodore Roosevelt is on a Mississippi hunting trip near the area now known as Delta National Forest.

338

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:21,000

But he has a problem. He can't find a bear.

339

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:34,000

To spare the president the embarrassment of going home empty-handed, his guide, Holt Collier, tracks and captures a bear himself, tethers it, then offers the exhaust beast up to the president for an easy kill.

340

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:40,000

What happens next cements Roosevelt's legacy and inspires a surprising creation.

341

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:50,000

With Holt Collier expecting Roosevelt to pull the trigger and claim his trophy, the president hesitates.

342

00:39:51,000 --> 00:40:00,000

The president now has a dilemma. Theodore Roosevelt steps back, takes his hat off. Holt, I can't shoot this bear.

343

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

In Roosevelt's mind, to kill this trapped and exhausted creature could hardly be considered fair sport.

344

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:20,000

After the president returns from the hunt, the press catches wind of Roosevelt's act of mercy and the story appears in several newspapers.

345

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:27,000

And on November 16th, The Washington Post runs a now famous editorial cartoon by Clifford Berryman.

346

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:31,000

It depicts the president refusing to kill the bear.

347

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And for those who may have questioned how the youngest president would fare in office, the event seems to confirm him as an honorable and decisive leader.

348

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:47,000

What we find out is that we have a president with a very strong character and a very strong moral compass.

349

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:54,000

The image becomes an instant sensation, causing Berryman to reprise the bear in future works.

350

00:40:54,000 --> 00:41:02,000

Whenever the cartoon was about Theodore Roosevelt, no matter what it was, included as one of Clifford Berryman's little bears.

351

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Soon, the little bear takes on a life of its own.

352

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:18,000

And before long, in Brooklyn, New York, a Russian shop owner named Morris Miktham, along with his wife Rose, taking inspiration from Berryman's cartoons,

353

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:25,000

conceive of a new kind of children's toy, one that riffs on Roosevelt's familiar nickname.

354

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:27,000

It's called the teddy bear.

355

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:37,000

They start making small stuffed animals in the image of the Clifford Berryman cartoon, and they prove to be wildly successful.

356

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

Theodore starts handing them out in his reelection bid in 1904.

357

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

And by 1909, when he comes out of the presidency, it is the most popular toy in the entire world.

358

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:57,000

Few realize that these cuddly little toys, a universal symbol of childhood, began in the deep woods of Mississippi.

359

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:07,000

And with black bears now a protected species in the Delta National Forest, their presence here stands as an enduring reminder of the benefits of mercy.

360

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:12,000

And of President Theodore Roosevelt's great love of the outdoors.

361

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:23,000

From a devilish pact to a presidential mascot, a remorseful swindler to an axe-murdering maniac.

362

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:27,000

I'm Don Wildman, and these are Monumental Mysteries.