

1

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

A popular pack of germs mammoth tale of survival.

2

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

It moaned and creaked.

3

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

I think you could hear collectively everyone holding their breath.

4

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

A crumbling compound that harbored a sinister threat.

5

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

They were people who felt strongly, but these strong beliefs were very dangerous.

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

And an iconic building in the center of a treacherous plot.

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

The capital is a symbol, but that also makes it a target.

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are monumental mysteries.

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

Located on a barrier island off the New Jersey coast is the popular shore town of Margate City.

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

A tiny community with 8,000 residents and million dollar homes.

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

But amongst the hotels and bungalows stands an unconventional building

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

that looks more like it belongs at the circus rather than the beach.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

It's six stories tall. It weighs over 90 tons.

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

It has four feet, 18 toes and two ears.

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00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:19,000

Inside the main room is very Victorian styled with gastric pink walls

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00:01:19,000 --> 00:01:21,000

and it's the only thing like it on earth.

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:29,000

This is Lucy the Elephant, one of the oldest and most beloved roadside attractions in the country.

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

But according to the landmarks executive director Richard Hellfin,

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:37,000

this majestic mammoth wasn't always so adored.

21

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Lucy is very happy where she is.

22

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:42,000

But her life hasn't always been very happy.

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

She met a lot of obstacles along the road.

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:51,000

So what amazing story lies behind this colossal creature?

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:54,000

The 1880s.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:02,000

South Atlantic City is a tiny seaside settlement where residents scrape out a living by fishing and clamming.

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

South Atlantic City was basically just a couple fishing shacks and dunes and beech grass

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

and it was not a desirable place for people to live.

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

But one man aims to change all that.

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

Entrepreneur James Lafferty.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:20,000

The ambitious businessman has acquired property in the area,

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:24,000

believing he can transform this blighted land into a booming resort,

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:27,000

much like Atlantic City to the north.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:32,000

But in order to convince investors to buy and build on his empty lots,

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:36,000

he must first attract their attention with something special.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:39,000

Lafferty is a visionary and an entrepreneur

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00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:44,000

and he comes up with this crazy idea to build this structure.

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:48,000

There was nothing of its kind anywhere on the planet.

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00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:54,000

Inspired by the great showman P.T. Barnum and his exotic circus animals,

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:59,000

Lafferty plans to draw in buyers by constructing a new real estate office

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

in the shape of an elephant.

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

The building is made up of more than a million pieces of wood and 200 kegs of nails.

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00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:11,000

Every single piece is cut by hand.

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:19,000

And in 1881, the 65 foot tall 90 ton epic construction is complete.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

And it isn't long before the peculiar pack-a-derm garners waves of attention.

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:31,000

People arriving are in awe of this six-story mammoth structure.

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00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:35,000

They enter through its left rear leg and are greeted by Lafferty at a desk

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:37,000

where he tries to sell his real estate holdings.

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,000

People love seeing the elephant.

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:46,000

The adored animal, who is eventually named Lucy, doesn't just woo visitors.

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00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:50,000

She also wins the hearts of South Atlantic City's residents.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:53,000

Most people had a tremendous amount of love for Lucy.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:55,000

She was a part of their community.

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00:03:55,000 --> 00:03:59,000

Yet while Lafferty's creation is a popular curiosity,

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00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:02,000

it does little to help him sell his plots.

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00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:05,000

And his ambitious venture ends in failure.

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Although people were in awe of Lafferty's creation, they were not real estate buyers.

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00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

And he's eventually forced to sell the elephant.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:20,000

The bankrupt businessman soon moves away and leaves Lucy behind.

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00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:28,000

Over the years, the orphaned elephant is passed from owner to owner.

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00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Lucy was used as a single-family residence, a tavern, a tourist attraction.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

But throughout her life, she was not a profitable venture.

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:41,000

As the years go by, Lucy begins to fall into disrepair.

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:47,000

Lucy's outer skin is made of tin, so the rust was always a problem.

65

00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:50,000

And Lucy's body begins to decay.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:58,000

By 1969, South Atlantic City has become a popular seaside spot and has been renamed Bargate City.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:03,000

And when the land on which Lucy stands is sold to a new developer,

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00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:07,000

it seems her life as the symbol of the city will come to an end.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:13,000

The new owners, they're going to build a high-rise, so Lucy faces the wrecking ball.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:18,000

But as news of Lucy's impending extinction spreads, residents of Bargate

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:21,000

are suddenly reminded of her special place in their hearts.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:27,000

I think the elephant represented a part of their childhood, their heritage, their home.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:32,000

They felt that Lucy and Bargate were synonymous and said, we have to do something about it.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:38,000

A resident named Josephine Harren, who is now a resident of Bargate City,

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00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:40,000

we have to do something about it.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:47,000

A resident named Josephine Harren gathers a group of locals and forms the Save Lucy Committee.

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00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:51,000

Together they come up with an ambitious plan.

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00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:55,000

To move Lucy from where she has stood for almost 90 years,

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00:05:55,000 --> 00:06:01,000

two blocks away to city-owned land, where she will be forever out of any developer's reach.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:05,000

Turning to the close-knit community,

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00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:09,000

the committee raises the funds needed to relocate the decrepit giant.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:19,000

And on the morning of July 20th, a crowd gathers on Atlantic Avenue to witness Lucy's epic journey.

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:22,000

This is a task of monumental proportions.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:25,000

The skeptics were saying it'll never survive the move.

85

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:30,000

There's excitement, exhilaration, nervousness beyond words.

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:37,000

They have to jack up all four legs and put dollies underneath them and then tie together with steel.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:41,000

People fear that the elephant would collapse as soon as it went off the curb.

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:46,000

It moaned and it creaked.

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00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:49,000

I think you could hear collectively everyone holding their breath.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:56,000

Finally, the 90-tonne dilapidated structure inches off its base and begins to roll down the street.

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00:06:56,000 --> 00:07:02,000

To see this six-story giant coming back to life was an amazing sight.

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00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:10,000

Lucy slowly makes the two-block journey and seven hours later, safely stands in her new home.

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00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:24,000

After extensive restorations, the superstructure is once again open to the public as a tourist attraction.

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00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:32,000

And today, Lucy, the only elephant in America to be declared a national historic landmark,

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:39,000

proudly stands watch over Margate City, now a popular resort thanks in part to her.

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00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:47,000

Washington, DC, the heart of American political power.

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:54,000

On the eastern edge of the city's majestic National Mall sits a neoclassical structure

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:58,000

that is one of the most iconic buildings in the world.

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00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,000

From the outside, it looks very much like a Roman temple.

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

It's partly cast iron, partly sandstone, it's partly marble,

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

and the dome is the most recognizable symbol of American democracy.

103

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:18,000

This is the United States Capitol building, where laws are created and presidents inaugurated.

104

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:29,000

But as Senate historian Don Ritchie can attest, it was also the site where one man threatened to bring American democracy to its knees.

105

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:36,000

This was a major attack on a federal building. The Capitol is a symbol, but that also makes it a target.

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00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:44,000

What devilish plot began with a strike on this most iconic of American institutions?

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00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:54,000

July 2, 1915, Washington, DC. All is quiet in the U.S. Capitol building.

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00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:59,000

But as midnight approaches, there is a thunderous explosion.

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:04,000

Initially, they thought that the Capitol dome had collapsed.

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00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:10,000

It soon discovered, however, that the source of the blast was the Senate reception room.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:13,000

And the scene is one of devastation.

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Windows were blown out, mirrors are broken, doors are blown off the hinges.

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00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:24,000

Moments later, Robert Boardman, the city's chief of detectives, arrives.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:32,000

Initially, he didn't know, was this a bomb or was this something that had happened because of a natural explosion of some sort?

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,000

But the next morning, Boardman finds his answer.

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00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:42,000

The Washington Times has published an incredible letter it received overnight.

117

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,000

The letter is from someone confessing to have planted a bomb in the Capitol building.

118

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

The mystery bomber claims he is an old family member.

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00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:55,000

The mystery bomber claims he is an old-fashioned American with a conscience,

120

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:00,000

whose intention is to prevent the U.S. from siding with the British in World War I.

121

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:07,000

That's when Boardman realized that this was an act of terrorism and that this person could strike again.

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

Suddenly, Detective Boardman was under a great deal of pressure to find out who did this and how they could be stopped.

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:24,000

While Boardman is coordinating the manhunt in Washington, he receives an urgent telegram.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Police on Long Island, New York have in their custody a man named Frank Holt, who claims to be the bomber.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:39,000

And when Boardman arrives at the jail, he realizes Holt is no ordinary villain.

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:43,000

He's proud of his accomplishment as a bomb maker.

127

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:47,000

He says, well, I knew precisely when this bomb would go off.

128

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:52,000

And Boardman begins to realize that Frank Holt is capable of anything.

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00:10:56,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Boardman searches Holt's belongings in a desperate attempt to discover what else the bomber may have planned.

130

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:05,000

And he finds an ominous clue.

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00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:10,000

A timetable for munitions supply ships sailing from the U.S. to Britain.

132

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

The ships were the symbol of everything that Holt was imposing.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:22,000

And when Boardman asks Holt if there are bombs on the vessels, Holt's response is chilling.

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00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:26,000

He smiled and said, you'll find out on July the 7th.

135

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:33,000

That date is only three days away and the detective has no idea which ships are targeted.

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00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:39,000

With time running out, will Boardman get to the bottom of Holt's dastardly terrorist plot?

137

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:47,000

It's 1915 in Washington, D.C.

138

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Detective Robert Boardman is interrogating the bomber who destroyed part of the Capitol, a man named Frank Holt.

139

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:59,000

But Holt reveals that the Capitol building was just the beginning.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:04,000

It seems he's planted several more bombs that will detonate in three days.

141

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:09,000

So can Boardman diffuse this explosive situation?

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00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:18,000

With only 76 hours to go, Boardman believes Holt may have planted bombs on munitions ships heading for Britain.

143

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:22,000

But he has no idea which of them have been targeted.

144

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:26,000

So he frantically wires all vessels to return to port.

145

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:33,000

They really needed to find this dynamite. So there's a real crisis atmosphere that takes place.

146

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Desperate to get more details from Holt, Boardman rushes to question him again.

147

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,000

But at the jail, he discovers his nemesis has yet another deadly surprise.

148

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:48,000

He finds when he gets there that Holt has committed suicide.

149

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:55,000

The best source of evidence about what Holt intended to do died with him.

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00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,000

It seems the master bomb maker may have had the last laugh.

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00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,000

July 7th, the date Holt borned of arrives.

152

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:08,000

Boardman receives a frantic phone call.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:14,000

A munitions ship, the Mini Ha Ha, has just suffered a massive explosion.

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00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

The Mini Ha Ha had six million dollars worth of cargo to be shipped to the British.

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:24,000

Holt's threat has come to pass.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:28,000

However, because the ship's crew had received Boardman's warning,

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,000

they had readied themselves to fight the flames and the ship safely reaches port.

158

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

Holt's plot has failed.

159

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:41,000

And with no further bombings, his reign of terror is at an end.

160

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:48,000

He was capable of doing much more harm. He certainly had the explosives, but the great thing was that he was stopped.

161

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Today, the Capitol building, while once the target of an evil terrorist plot,

162

00:13:55,000 --> 00:14:00,000

still stands as a testament to the enduring power of democracy and freedom.

163

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:11,000

Straddling southern Louisiana's Mississippi River Delta is a melting pot known for its eclectic fusion of cultures.

164

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:13,000

The city of New Orleans.

165

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

Amongst the many architectural beauties of the old French Quarter is an elegant two-story structure that is one of the area's most admired abodes.

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00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:31,000

It is made of brick with large wooden shutters and door-sized windows.

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

And there's a large ornate gallery with cast iron balconies.

168

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

It is considered to be one of the most desirable homes.

169

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:50,000

But as author Kalila Smith can attest, some say this creole townhouse hides a dark and sinister past.

170

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:59,000

According to a centuries-old legend, this building was once home to a man who was believed to be one of the most evil people in history.

171

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

What devilish deeds are rumored to have occurred within these elegant walls?

172

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

1903, New Orleans, Louisiana.

173

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

The city pulsates with music, dancing and social events.

174

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:24,000

There are lavish dinner parties. People are frequenting the pubs and the saloons. It's a great time.

175

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,000

But one night in December, the town's darker side is revealed.

176

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:37,000

According to the story, residents in the old French Quarter are suddenly awakened by a piercing scream.

177

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:43,000

They see a woman hurling over the gallery from the house down the street.

178

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:52,000

She apparently has jumped on her own court. She is trying to escape something horrifying inside that house.

179

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:56,000

When police arrive at the scene, they're stunned by what they find.

180

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:02,000

This woman has a gaping wound on her neck with blood gushing from it.

181

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:11,000

With her dying breaths, the woman tells authorities that she met a charming man at a local bar and was invited back to his home.

182

00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:14,000

And with her back turned, he attacked her.

183

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:19,000

She said he swept up on her with abs and a gun.

184

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:26,000

She said he swept up on her with abnormal speed and with superhuman strength, he bit her on the side of the neck.

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00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:32,000

Fearing for her life, the woman then raced the balcony and jumped.

186

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:39,000

Upon concluding her horrific tale, the wounded victim loses consciousness and dies.

187

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:47,000

When police enter the attacker's house, the man is nowhere to be found.

188

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:57,000

So they start kicking back rugs and they are finding blood stains soaked down into the wooden floors.

189

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:03,000

Then in the wine cellar, they make an even more chilling discovery.

190

00:17:04,000 --> 00:17:08,000

When they opened the bottles, they realized that it's a combination of red wine and human blood.

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00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:16,000

The bites on the neck, the stains on the floor and the bloody wine all point towards one macabre theory.

192

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:21,000

They speculated that perhaps this man might have been a vampire.

193

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

Who is the vicious killer that resides in this dwelling? And could he truly be a real life vampire?

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00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,000

It's 1903 in New Orleans.

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00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:45,000

A desperate woman has just escaped the clutches of a bloodthirsty maniac who sunk his teeth into her neck.

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00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Police raid the suspect's home where in his wine cellar, they make a chilling find.

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

The bottles contain human blood. So have police stumbled onto a real life vampire?

198

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

Investigators learn that the man living in the Creole townhouse was a newcomer to the city named Jacques Saint-Germain.

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00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:15,000

Jacques Saint-Germain appeared to be a wealthy man from the south of France, about 40-45 years old.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Police also discover that the suspect claimed to be a direct descendant of a mysterious 18th century nobleman known as the Count Saint-Germain.

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00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:35,000

And some believe that there is a sinister link between the blood-sucking Jacques Saint-Germain and his ancestor, the enigmatic Count.

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00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:42,000

The Count Saint-Germain spoke several different languages. He could pick up any musical instrument and play it.

203

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:47,000

He knew everything about everything. Physics, astronomy, history.

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00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:53,000

But there was more to this 18th century aristocrat than just books and learning.

205

00:18:53,000 --> 00:19:00,000

He was a very charming, mysterious man who was believed to be hundreds of years old.

206

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:08,000

It was even rumored that his everlasting youth was due to one very special talent.

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00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:19,000

The Count Saint-Germain was an 18th century alchemist. He's got a substance that he called the elixir of life, the secret to eternal youth.

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00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:28,000

There are even reports that over the hundred years that followed, the mysterious Count was cited at a host of historical events.

209

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:34,000

People say he's at the beheading of Marie Antoinette, that he was in Egypt with Napoleon during the wars.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:38,000

In the 1840s, he showed up again.

211

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Leading some to conclude that the mysterious, ever-young aristocrat and his neck-biting, blood-drinking namesake are actually one and the same.

212

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:57,000

The police speculated that perhaps Jacques Saint-Germain was the Count Saint-Germain himself and that he was a vampire.

213

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Maybe all along his elixir of youth was indeed human blood.

214

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Whatever the truth, one thing is certain.

215

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:14,000

After the attack on the woman, Jacques Saint-Germain was never seen again.

216

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:18,000

And the case remains unsolved.

217

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:32,000

And today, this exquisite abode in the city's old French Quarter serves as an intriguing reminder of this blood-curdling tale of intrigue, murder and immortality.

218

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Just an hour's drive from the Mexican border is the old mining camp of Tombstone, Arizona.

219

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

With its weathered storefronts and dusty streets, this historic pioneering town keeps the legend of the Old West alive.

220

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:04,000

But of its many lovingly preserved buildings, there is one that stands apart, an unusually opulent structure that was once the life and soul of the town.

221

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:11,000

It has sculpted metal tiles and is actually a beautiful example of classic Victorian architecture.

222

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

At one time, it was one of the most luxurious places in town.

223

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:20,000

Dating back to 1880, this is the Oriental Saloon.

224

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

Yet according to historian Don Taylor, this elegant establishment was also at the heart of an amazing story of bloodshed murder and innovation.

225

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:39,000

It's one of the most intriguing tales of the American West and what is absolutely stunning is that it began from a small piece of fabric.

226

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:49,000

So what eye-opening discovery was made at this infamous tavern? And how did it inspire an ingenious life-saving invention?

227

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:55,000

1893, Chicago, Illinois.

228

00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:01,000

A young priest named Kazimierz Zeglund has recently arrived from Poland.

229

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:07,000

In a city plagued by violence and crime, he is on a mission to bring peace.

230

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:16,000

And it isn't long before a devastating event gives the hopeful Zeglund an idea as to how to make his mark.

231

00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:19,000

The mayor of Chicago was shot and killed.

232

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:27,000

This was the third such incident in the last 40 years where a major politician was assassinated by a bullet.

233

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Zeglund is deeply saddened by the tragic loss and wonders if there might be a way to prevent such senseless death.

234

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Zeglund was inspired to develop a bulletproof garment that would protect people from gunshot wounds.

235

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:45,000

The young priest begins experimenting with various materials.

236

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:54,000

He was using steel, moss, wood shavings, trying to come up with the one item that would stop the penetration of the bullet.

237

00:22:55,000 --> 00:23:03,000

But none of them are a match for the immense force of a gunshot. It seems his noble quest is doomed to fail.

238

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Then the frustrated inventor stumbles upon a medical journal from the 1880s that contains an intriguing article by a physician in Tombstone, Arizona named Dr. George Goodfellow.

239

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:27,000

George Goodfellow was an expert on gunshot wounds. Most victims of gunplay would seek him out believing that they would have a better chance of survival.

240

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:39,000

The article describes how on one particular night in 1881 the doctor was passing by the Oriental Saloon when a confrontation spilled out onto the streets.

241

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:48,000

Two gamblers were only about six to eight feet apart and then Dr. Goodfellow sees two shots fired by one of them.

242

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:57,000

Goodfellow rushed to the aid of the fallen victim, but it was too late.

243

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:06,000

There were two bullet holes in the suit coat and one of them was actually through the breast pocket where the bullet penetrated his heart and killed him.

244

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:12,000

But then the physician spotted something stuffed inside the bullet wound.

245

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:22,000

And that wound was a handkerchief and as he removed it, Goodfellow found that the bullet was actually wrapped in the handkerchief.

246

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

The bullet had penetrated the fabric of the suit coat and also the muscle, the skin, the bone, but it had not penetrated the handkerchief.

247

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:36,000

The small bit of cloth was completely intact.

248

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:39,000

Goodfellow described it as miraculous.

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

How did a simple piece of fabric withstand the force of a speeding bullet?

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00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:58,000

It's 1893, Chicago, when inventor Kazemir Zeglin sets out to create a bulletproof garment.

251

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:01,000

It seems his quest is doomed to fail.

252

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:14,000

But hope arrives when he stumbles across a decade old article from Tombstone, Arizona that describes an amazing fabric that can supposedly withstand the impact of a speeding bullet.

253

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:17,000

So what is this miracle fiber?

254

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:28,000

Zeglin digs deeper into Goodfellow's research and finds that the strange discovery the doctor made outside the Oriental Saloon was not an isolated incident.

255

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:36,000

The doctor also cataloged other gunshot cases in which a bullet was apparently repelled simply by delicate cloth.

256

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:45,000

One of the victims was actually shot in the neck, but his scarf prevented the bullet from penetrating his carotid artery, basically saving his life.

257

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:51,000

And when Goodfellow compared the incidents, he found a startling similarity.

258

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:56,000

There's one common denominator and that's the fabric. They were all native silk.

259

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:06,000

Goodfellow postulates that several layers of silk may have the ability to actually stop a bullet from penetrating a human body.

260

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:16,000

Yet without the resources to test his theory, Goodfellow simply recorded his findings in the medical journal that Zeglin now holds in his hands.

261

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Inspired by Goodfellow's discovery, Zeglin believes he finally has the key to producing his life-saving garment.

262

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:33,000

He develops a four-ply fabric of silk and with it created a vest.

263

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:43,000

The young inventor conducts a series of trials and in each one, a speeding bullet fails to penetrate the fabric.

264

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:50,000

Then in July of 1897, he performs the ultimate test and slips on the vest.

265

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:57,000

He was actually shot from about 10 feet away with a .32 caliber revolver.

266

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:06,000

All he said was he felt the tap of the bullet.

267

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:10,000

At last, Zeglin has achieved his quest.

268

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

He had created the first bulletproof vest.

269

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

Zeglin's invention becomes an overnight sensation and in 1898, he introduces the world's first commercially available bulletproof vest.

270

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:31,000

For 40 years, silk is the primary material used in personal body armor.

271

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:45,000

And today, the Oriental Saloon in Tombstone's historic district still stands as a reminder of a notorious shootout that inspired this life-saving invention.

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00:27:50,000 --> 00:28:00,000

Los Angeles, California. Rising from humble beginnings more than a century ago, L.A.'s movie industry now grosses over \$10 billion a year.

273

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:13,000

But in a lonely gorge some 15 miles west of Tinseltown is a collection of dilapidated buildings that were the site of one of the darkest chapters in the region's history.

274

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:26,000

There's a power station, an old garage, a huge water tank. It's not a residence or a place of business. It's this odd netherworld.

275

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:40,000

This is Murphy Ranch. And as local historian Randy Young can attest, these abandoned structures were once home to a sinister group held bent on world domination.

276

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:47,000

They were people who felt strong, but these strong beliefs were very dangerous.

277

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:56,000

What role did Murphy Ranch play in an astonishing plot that threatened to destroy the United States from within?

278

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:12,000

December 1941, Los Angeles. Police receive reports from residents in Rustic Canyon of suspicious activity at one of the area's most isolated spots, Murphy Ranch.

279

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:21,000

The Murphy Ranch was this mysterious place in the woods. They had barbed wire, they had chain link fences.

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00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:30,000

Police learn that a group of people have been spotted on the ranch and they seem to be carrying out strange military maneuvers.

281

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:39,000

There were sinister, really crazy people marching around doing drills. It just is odd.

282

00:29:40,000 --> 00:29:49,000

On December 8th, federal agents raid Murphy Ranch. But as they cross the perimeter, they are stunned by what they find.

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00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:58,000

Living there are approximately 50 people who appear to all be wearing the same militaristic uniform.

284

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:02,000

They were marching around in silver shirts with a big red L on it.

285

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Not only that, but they look to be subsisting in an extensive, seemingly fortified compound.

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00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:15,000

The police see these huge concrete substantial structures that look like bomb shelters.

287

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:23,000

A huge 400,000 gallon water tank. They see a power station that could light up a small city.

288

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:28,000

It looked like a self-supporting survivalist camp.

289

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

Who are these people and why have they built a self-sufficient compound in the shadow of the Hollywood Hills?

290

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:53,000

December 1941, authorities have uncovered evidence of a secret community operating out of an isolated ranch some 15 miles west of Los Angeles.

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00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:59,000

But when they raid the compound, they find the beginnings of a self-sufficient militant cult.

292

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

So who are these fanatics and what dastardly scheme are they plotting?

293

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:12,000

The answer can be found a decade earlier on the other side of the country.

294

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:17,000

January 1933, Asheville, North Carolina.

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00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:28,000

43-year-old William Dudley Pelley is an unsuccessful screenwriter who blames his failures on one particular scapegoat, the Jews.

296

00:31:29,000 --> 00:31:34,000

He would write these treatises to crying Jewish power within the world.

297

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:40,000

And Pelley finds a kindred spirit in another anti-Semite across the globe.

298

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Adolf Hitler.

299

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:59,000

When he heard Adolf Hitler's speech, it was in January 1933, he had an epiphany that he was going to be a part of Adolf Hitler's idea of cleaning things up.

300

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Spurred on by Hitler's Nazi doctrine.

301

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:09,000

This is our country as well and we can make it happen.

302

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

Pelley forms the Silver Legion of America in the hope that they will one day rule the country.

303

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:25,000

His vision was Nazi encampments across America that would one day take over the government of the United States.

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00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:39,000

The Legion quickly swells to 15,000 members and an additional 75,000 non-affiliated sympathizers, making it one of the largest and most powerful extremist groups in the U.S.

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00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:48,000

And just like Hitler's brown shirts, the members of the Silver Legion of America also wear a distinctive uniform.

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00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:58,000

It was a silver shirt with a big red L that was supposed to be a symbol of loyalty for his legions.

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00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:09,000

But in 1935, just as the silver shirts are gaining influence, Pelley is convicted of stock fraud.

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00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:15,000

When he was arrested, everything started to fall apart. Everybody abandoned him.

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00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:23,000

So with Pelley out of the picture, who is behind the silver shirts community at Murphy Ranch?

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00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:26,000

And what is the purpose of this vast compound?

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00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Investigations reveal that the ranch's construction may be linked to the man who fueled Pelley's fascist obsession.

312

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:38,000

Adolf Hitler.

313

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:48,000

Adolf Hitler and his followers felt that the minute England started losing the war, Hitler would put military pressure on the United States.

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00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:53,000

The American government was going to collapse and anarchy would break out.

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00:33:54,000 --> 00:34:01,000

Some suggest that the Los Angeles compound was designed as a base for a fascist government, allied with Hitler.

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00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:03,000

That would one day rule America.

317

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:15,000

The followers of the Silver Legions of America thought that Murphy Ranch was very much to be a future facility for a fascist government.

318

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:23,000

But without concrete evidence, the true purpose of this sinister construction may never be known.

319

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:27,000

We have a tough time trying to figure out what was realness.

320

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:33,000

People don't want to come up to you and say, gosh, I was a Nazi and let me tell you all about it.

321

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:44,000

And today, here at Murphy Ranch, only a few remnants of the super compound remain after a devastating wildfire in 1978.

322

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:56,000

But these mysterious ruins still serve as a chilling reminder that Hitler's fascism once had a home base in the United States.

323

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:08,000

From classic historic brownstones to contemporary steel towers, New York boasts a remarkably diverse collection of architectural gems.

324

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:21,000

And at the southern tip of Manhattan stands a notably opulent and important structure, a century old Italian Renaissance behemoth that is essential to the city's survival.

325

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:26,000

It's built entirely of golden limestone.

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00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:33,000

It has 25 floors in its main core and another 15 in its tower.

327

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

It's beautiful.

328

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:41,000

This is the Manhattan Municipal Building, one of the largest government structures in the world.

329

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:52,000

But according to author Deborah Blunk, this impressive monolith was also at the center of a terrifying tale of panic, delirium and death.

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00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:58,000

It's home to one of the most important public health mysteries in the United States.

331

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:06,000

What role did this landmark play in an astounding medical scandal that sparked national outrage?

332

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

1924, New York.

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00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Charles Norris is the city's first appointed chief medical examiner and is charged with investigating any suspicious or unusual deaths in the area.

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00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:30,000

From his base at the Manhattan Municipal Building, he has transformed the forensics department into one of the most sophisticated laboratories in the country.

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

Norris was a completely incorruptible medical examiner.

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

He would take on anyone who he thought was getting in the way of public health. He was fearless.

337

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:48,000

But Norris is about to face his biggest adversary yet.

338

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:56,000

In late October, he receives a request from the city's district attorney to investigate a local factory.

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00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:03,000

He says to Norris, there were reports of these mysterious deaths at the Standard Oil Refinery.

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00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:11,000

Founded in 1870, Standard Oil is one of the most powerful oil producers in the country.

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00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:22,000

But Norris learns that out of 49 workers at the nearby New Jersey plant, 32 have been hospitalized and five have died in the last year alone.

342

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:26,000

All struck down by a strange and frightening illness.

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00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:36,000

They were becoming unusually unstable, stumbling around, even hallucinating.

344

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

Some of these men are so sick and so crazy that they literally have to be strapped into straight jackets.

345

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:51,000

Employees have become so terrified of the plant, they've even given it a nickname.

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00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:54,000

The Looney Gas Building.

347

00:37:55,000 --> 00:38:00,000

Yet despite these alarming figures, Standard Oil denies there is a problem.

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

Their position was that it must be the workers' fault. They said these workers were apparently not up to a man's job.

349

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:09,000

A real man wouldn't have gotten sick.

350

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:17,000

Appalled by the company's callous response, Norris resolves to uncover the origins of the mysterious condition.

351

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:22,000

He knows there's something in this building that's poisoning these men and making them crazy.

352

00:38:23,000 --> 00:38:31,000

With the plant's operations temporarily suspended, Norris begins his investigations by arranging a detailed inspection.

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00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:36,000

And there's one thing about the factory that stands out, the odor.

354

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:44,000

It was a musty, curiously sweet, unique smell. It was a clone.

355

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:51,000

Has Norris found the key to solving the mystery of this bizarre and fatal illness?

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00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:58,000

1924, New York.

357

00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:09,000

Chief medical examiner Charles Norris is investigating reports that workers at the Standard Oil refinery are being struck down by a disease that causes insanity and even death.

358

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:18,000

Standard Oil has publicly denied there is a problem, but an inspection of the facility reveals a strange smell emanating from the equipment.

359

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:24,000

What is this odor? And could it have something to do with what's killing the workers?

360

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:30,000

He picked up this sweet, musty smell. It was a clone.

361

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Back at the lab, Norris and his colleagues test the samples.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:45,000

As they analyze them, they find this repeated pattern. It's three chemicals, carbon, hydrogen and

lead.

363

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:54,000

And because Norris knows the chemistry of toxic compounds, he recognizes this one. It's called tetraethyl lead.

364

00:39:55,000 --> 00:40:06,000

Tetraethyl lead, or TEL, is an additive that boosts the efficiency of fuel and is a key ingredient in Standard Oil's gasoline.

365

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:13,000

Norris realizes the substance emits the same musty odor that was detected back in the plant.

366

00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:22,000

And when he performs autopsies on the deceased workers, it becomes clear that TEL, in particular the lead it contains,

367

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:24,000

has had a devastating effect.

368

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:34,000

He could see a pattern of destruction. Essentially, this chemical was chewing through their brains.

369

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Noting the cause of death as extreme lead poisoning, Norris writes a report calling for TEL to be banned.

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00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Standard Oil is furious and they realize that they have to turn this around.

371

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:55,000

To prove that TEL is safe, its developer, Thomas Midgley, calls a press conference.

372

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:58,000

To assure you these accusations are completely preposterous.

373

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Midgley washes his hands in a bowl of TEL and leans over the bowl so these vapors are rising up and he's entailing them.

374

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Nothing. No nausea, no layheadness.

375

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:19,000

He's trying to send a message to the American public. They have nothing to worry about at all with leaded guests.

376

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:29,000

But a few months after the P.E.R. stunt, it emerges that Midgley has had to take an extended leave of absence.

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00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:35,000

Midgley starts developing symptoms of lead poisoning and has to go and be treated.

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

Based on Norris' damning report, New York City bans TEL.

379

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

Days later, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and the state of New Jersey follow suit.

380

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Norris has discovered late the groundwork for being able to detect lead poisoning in victims that we still use today.

381

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:12,000

And almost a hundred years later, the Manhattan Municipal Building stands as a reminder of the fearless investigator who took on an industry giant to help make the world a safer place.

382

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

From a sinister military cult to a terrifying bout of madness, a blood-sucking aristocrat to a mammoth roadside attraction.

383

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:28,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are Monumental Mysteries.