

1

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

A peculiar schoolhouse linked to a legendary outlaw.

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

Some say it held salvation for this very wicked man.

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

An elegant statue of an unlikely hero.

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

He was petrified and wondered,

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

could this be the moment where his life is over?

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

And a majestic lake at the center of a chilling crime.

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

It was almost as though the lake preserved this evidence

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

that convicted a killer.

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00:00:30,000 --> 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 --> 00:00:48,000

In southern Vermont, nestled in a lush and verdant valley,

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

is the peaceful New England enclave of Brookline.

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

While this rural community treasures its tranquility,

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

in the center of town is an unusual building

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

that is rumored to harbor a sinister secret.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:06,000

As it made a brick, it's about 22 feet in diameter,

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:10,000

it's completely circular and it has windows in all sides.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:13,000

It really is the only one of its kind in America.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:18,000

This is the Round Schoolhouse.

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:21,000

As historian Robert Dugranier explains,

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:24,000

this place of learning is linked to a bizarre

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:27,000

and shocking tale of deceit.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:29,000

It might seem like it's just a small schoolhouse,

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:35,000

but some say it held salvation for this very wicked man for many years.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

So why is this cylindrical structure

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

known as the layer of a nefarious felon?

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:49,000

1821, Brookline, Vermont.

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

This flourishing farming community is searching for a teacher

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:55,000

to educate its children.

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00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:58,000

Fortunately, there is a newcomer to town

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

who seems to be a perfect fit.

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

37-year-old Dr. John Wilson.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:09,000

Dr. Wilson was a very learned gentleman.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:11,000

He had a great Scottish accent

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

and he said he studied medicine in Edinburgh

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:17,000

and he thought he'd be a great candidate to teach their children.

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00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:20,000

Dr. Wilson is eager to accept the job,

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:23,000

but he has one condition.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:27,000

He wants to build a schoolhouse that is round.

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00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

This was a little bit odd for the community,

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:34,000

but he told them that it's better to keep the room equally heated.

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00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:38,000

He also required that there were windows in every access of the building

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

to bring in an even amount of light.

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

And Dr. Wilson's strange taste in architecture

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,000

isn't the only idiosyncrasy the townsfolk notice.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:52,000

He wouldn't talk about his past

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:55,000

and he always wore a muffler covering his neck,

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00:02:55,000 --> 00:02:59,000

even in the heat of July, which seemed very odd to his friends.

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

Yet in spite of these quirks,

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

when the school term begins,

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:08,000

the new instructor proves to be a formidable force in the classroom.

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

The community loved Dr. Wilson

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

and the round schoolhouse was a huge success.

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00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:19,000

But on March 22, 1847,

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00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:23,000

Dr. Wilson dies of an acute infection.

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00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:27,000

The community is grief-stricken over the loss of their beloved teacher

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00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:30,000

and ready themselves to mourn.

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:34,000

However, as the coroner prepares the body for the funeral,

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00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

he makes a surprising discovery.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

He took off his muffler and found these very strange scars on his neck

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

that almost looked like they could have been caused by a chain.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

And when they removed his pants,

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00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

there on the back of his calf was a bullet wound

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

that had obviously been dug out by a knife.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Although these faded scars are clearly not the cause of death,

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

they suggest there is more to Dr. Wilson's story than meets the eye.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:10,000

The news gets out, so the sheriff gets involved,

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:13,000

and they start to search his house.

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00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:16,000

While scouring the schoolmaster's home,

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:19,000

deputies make an even more disturbing find.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:22,000

They discovered a cache of jewels and treasures

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

and an arsenal of weapons,

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00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:30,000

swords, many shotguns, dueling pistols,

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:35,000

and a lot of these firearms were ready to be engaged.

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00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:41,000

Determined to get to the truth, investigators turn to those who knew Dr. Wilson best.

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:45,000

And an intriguing clue quickly surfaces.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:49,000

His friends stated that on his deathbed, raging in fever,

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

he kept mentioning this character.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Lightfoot.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:53,000

Captain Lightfoot.

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00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Lightfoot.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

The name is well known across New England.

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

Captain Lightfoot was one half of a notorious duo of highway bandits.

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

His partner was a legendary outlaw and master of disguise

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

known as Captain Thunderbolt.

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

Captain Thunderbolt apparently would take clothes from his victims

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00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:20,000

and he'd become a clergyman, he'd become a washerwoman.

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00:05:20,000 --> 00:05:24,000

He could change in a second and be a chameleon in a crowd.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Together, Thunderbolt and Lightfoot robbed and pilfered

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:31,000

and left people in terror.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:37,000

But after stealing a fortune in jewelry, cash, and watches,

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:43,000

the two criminals parted ways and Lightfoot was eventually arrested in Massachusetts.

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:48,000

Captain Lightfoot was caught robbing a stagecoach and finally they hung him.

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:57,000

Yet Thunderbolt disappeared and has never been found.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

But investigators now think they have a lead.

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:03,000

Just before Lightfoot was executed,

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:09,000

he gave a local newspaper a detailed account of his history with his former partner in crime.

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00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:15,000

And when the Brookline Sheriff reads Lightfoot's testimony, a few crucial details emerge.

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00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:21,000

It said that Captain Thunderbolt was shot in the calf and he had to dig out the bullet.

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00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:29,000

And he was once put into jail and supposedly put in chains around his neck.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:37,000

The scars on Dr. Wilson's body, the cache of treasure, and the arsenal of weapons

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:40,000

leave the sheriff with little doubt.

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00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Dr. Wilson must have been Captain Thunderbolt.

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00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:53,000

It seemed that Dr. Wilson was another of his disguises and he fooled the community.

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:59,000

And if their theory is true, then it might also explain why the teacher had insisted

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00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:03,000

on having a round schoolhouse with windows on every side.

107

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:11,000

Some people thought it was so that you could see the law coming from any direction and escape yet again.

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

Today, the round schoolhouse remains a prized historic structure,

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:23,000

not only for the education it provided, but also for its founder's mysterious double life.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:33,000

In the shadow of New York's Freedom Tower and at the northern edge of the city's financial district,

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:40,000

is a small marker that acts as a reminder that this area was once dominated by a different industry.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:49,000

It's bronze with raised wetters, mounted on granite, the stands four to six inches off the ground.

113

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:55,000

This unobtrusive plaque sits on what was formerly known as Newspaper Row,

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:01,000

and honors one of the most successful publications of the 19th century, the New York World.

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

But as historical tour guide Seth Campbell can attest,

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:15,000

this very spot also saw a grassroots uprising that transformed American publishing forever.

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00:08:16,000 --> 00:08:24,000

The plaque is a reminder of a moment in time when two great titans of industry almost saw their empires brought to the knees.

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00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:30,000

So what incredible and unexpected revolt was born at this site?

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00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:36,000

1898, New York City.

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

It is the golden age for newspapers, and the two most powerful publishers are Joseph Pulitzer, owner of the New York World,

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:49,000

and William Randolph Hearst, owner of the New York Journal.

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00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:57,000

However, their profits are built on the backs of children, the news boys who sell papers on street corners.

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00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:10,000

Most of them were to the ages of 10 and 15, completely poverty stricken, malnourished, many of them were homeless, disregarded by New York society.

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00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:20,000

The young vendors barely make a living as they must pay publishers 50 cents for a bundle of 100 newspapers, which sell for a penny each.

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00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:27,000

So at best, the news boys can make a slim profit of just 50 cents per day.

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00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:34,000

Making matters worse, the news boys must absorb the cost of any unsold newspapers they have purchased.

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00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:42,000

There are so many ways that a news boy could lose money, wet newspapers, torn newspapers, stolen newspapers.

128

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:46,000

The publishers didn't care. They had their 50 cents up front.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:52,000

And soon the opportunity presents itself for the publishers to make even more money.

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00:09:53,000 --> 00:10:03,000

In the summer of 1898, the Spanish-American war breaks out, and every day the public is desperate to read about the latest developments.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:11,000

Newspapers circulation doubled, and the majority of the profit went directly into the pockets of the owners of the newspapers.

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00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:19,000

To capitalize on the spike, Pulitzer and Hearst raised the price on the news boys' bundle from 50 to 60 cents.

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00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Further cutting into the news boys' profits.

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00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:33,000

These media titans argued that news boys were making so much money selling extra newspapers that they wouldn't even notice the difference.

135

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

You gotta pay it, or you don't get the papers.

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00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:43,000

But the news boys immediately realized that this meager 10 cents was significant.

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00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:54,000

After the Spanish-American war ends, newspaper sales drop, but the bundle price for the news boys stays at the elevated price of 60 cents.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:59,000

As a result, the desperate children are no longer able to make a living.

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

And so, on July 19th, 1899, a group of disgruntled news boys gathers outside the offices of the world and the journal.

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00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Among them is a one-eyed 13-year-old, nicknamed Kid Blink.

141

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:24,000

It said, what does 10 cents matter to these millionaires, these titans of industry, compared to us,

the poor ragged news boys?

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00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:28,000

Kid Blink said, we're away from movement, let's strike now.

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00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:36,000

Under Blink's leadership, the angry news boys attack the delivery wagons, coming out of the publishers' offices.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:44,000

They throw rocks and sticks at the horse drivers. They try to stop the delivery of newspapers outside of those buildings.

145

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Can these children force the media moguls Pulitzer and Hearst to cut them a fair deal?

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:58,000

It's 1899, New York.

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00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:06,000

The city's impoverished news boys are on strike against their paymasters, Joseph Pulitzer and

William Randolph Hearst.

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00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:13,000

The news boys need more pay to survive, but the money-hungry Pulitzer and Hearst flatly refuse.

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00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:18,000

So who will win? The news boys or the media moguls?

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00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:25,000

Despite the attack on the delivery wagons, Pulitzer and Hearst dig in their heels.

151

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:33,000

These media titans knew that the news boys either had to go to work or basically starve.

152

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

They estimated a matter of days before they would give up.

153

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:48,000

What these media titans didn't know is that when you're already poor and have nothing, it's hard to take anything away from you.

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00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:57,000

On July 24, just five days into the strike, 5,000 news boys gather for a rally.

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

Their leader, Kid Blink, takes the stage.

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00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:07,000

He jumped off and he demanded that the news boys stick together like glue until the strike was won.

157

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

And the news boys roared in agreement.

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00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:25,000

The rally catches the attention of other newspapers, whose owners compete against Pulitzer and Hearst, and they publish articles supporting the children.

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00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:33,000

The other newspapers took the opportunity to really make the news boys seem like horribly poor victims and they need to be saved and helped.

160

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

And Joseph Pulitzer is just a terrible person.

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00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:44,000

The public, in solidarity with the strikers, stop buying Pulitzer and Hearst newspapers.

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00:13:45,000 --> 00:13:52,000

In a single week, the New York world went from 360,000 papers a day to 125,000.

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

And finally, under intense financial pressure, Pulitzer and Hearst concede defeat.

164

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:06,000

While they refused to lower the price on each bundle of newspapers, they proposed a compromise.

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00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:13,000

Any newspapers unsold at the end of the day would be purchased by the publisher at no cost to the children selling them.

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

Less than two weeks after the protest began, the victorious strike leaders accept the bargain.

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:28,000

And this new arrangement, where publishers buy back unsold newspapers, continues to this day.

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00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:33,000

The newspaper delivery person of today is the news boy of a hundred years ago.

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00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:39,000

And they would not be able to survive if these news boys hadn't stood up for their rights.

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00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:48,000

Today, a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical celebrates the news boys' daring triumph.

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00:14:50,000 --> 00:15:00,000

And this unobtrusive plaque marks the spot where a group of children face down two of New York's most formidable businessmen and one.

172

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:08,000

Located a hundred miles to the west of Seattle, Washington, is Olympic National Park,

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00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:13,000

a verdant wonderland that attracts more than three million visitors a year.

174

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:23,000

And in the center of this spectacular expanse is a stunning body of water that was carved out by glaciers thousands of years ago.

175

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:34,000

It's very, very cold. It's very, very deep. It's about 12 miles long and it's so clean and so pure.

176

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:40,000

This is Lake Crescent, celebrated for its remarkably pristine waters.

177

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:53,000

But according to author and historian Mavis Amundsen, this unsullied pool once held a twisted tale of blood betrayal and murder.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:59,000

The legend of Lake Crescent is that it conspired to bring a killer to justice.

179

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

What notorious crime was committed near these shores. And how did this majestic landmark help crack the case?

180

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:15,000

July 6, 1940, Lake Crescent, Washington.

181

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

The tranquility of this quiet resort town is shattered when police arrive to investigate a mysterious bundle that has been spotted floating in the frigid water.

182

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:32,000

Upon hauling the object ashore, they make a grisly discovery.

183

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Hog tied between layers of blankets is a human corpse.

184

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Here is this woman that is essentially fully clothed. She had a barbren hair. She was about 5'5", 5'6".

185

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:50,000

Weight about 130 pounds.

186

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:54,000

Then they notice something very unusual about the body.

187

00:16:55,000 --> 00:17:01,000

Her flesh is basically very waxy, like ivory soap.

188

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:12,000

When the coroner examines the corpse, he realizes the strange state of the body is the result of a chemical process called saponification.

189

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

He could run his fingers down the side of her arm and make indentations on her skin.

190

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:33,000

As the near freezing temperatures of the lake staved off decomposition, minerals in the water slowly transformed her body into a giant bar of soap.

191

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:42,000

The coroner said that she had been in the water for 6 months. But basically the lake refrigerated her body and preserved it.

192

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:50,000

And because of this remarkably well preserved state, authorities are able to clearly discern the cause of death.

193

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:53,000

It seems the woman has been strangled.

194

00:17:54,000 --> 00:18:01,000

When investigators compare the victim's teeth to dental records throughout the country, they eventually get a match.

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00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:10,000

The town is stunned to learn that the lady of the lake was a local waitress named Hallie Illingworth.

196

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Hallie had a job. She was a doctor. She was a nurse.

197

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:19,000

She was a local waitress named Hallie Illingworth.

198

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

Hallie had a job at Lake Crescent Tavern. She was very beautiful, very personable. People liked her.

199

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:45,000

Police interview Hallie's family and coworkers. They learn that though she was married to a local truck driver, just prior to her disappearance, she had supposedly been having an affair with a naval officer with whom she'd run off.

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00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:48,000

And no one has heard from her since.

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00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:55,000

Yet when a detective eventually tracks down the naval officer, he learns the story doesn't hold up.

202

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:01,000

He finds this naval officer and discovers no, she didn't run off with him.

203

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

So what is the truth behind Hallie Illingworth's disappearance? And how did she end up floating in Lake Crescent?

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

1941, Washington State. The body of missing waitress Hallie Illingworth has been pulled from the chilly waters of Lake Crescent.

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00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:31,000

According to her husband, the victim left him to have an affair with another man.

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00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:40,000

But when detectives discover that the affair never took place, they start to wonder, what really happened to Hallie Illingworth?

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00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:47,000

In their search for evidence, police turned their attention to the rope that was wrapped around the corpse.

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00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:54,000

And while interviewing hardware vendors in the area, they get a major break in the case.

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00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:01,000

A local merchant remembers having carried the same type of cord in his store.

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00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:09,000

And they're surprised that the shopkeeper still had a remnant of that same piece of rope.

211

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:18,000

Lab results reveal that the fibers from the sample are an exact match to the rope that was found on the corpse.

212

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

Not only that, but the store owner recalls that years ago, he lent several feet of the cord to a local truck driver.

213

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:32,000

None other than the victim's husband, Monkey Illingworth.

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00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:39,000

In October of 1941, Illingworth is arrested and charged with murder.

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00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:47,000

In the ensuing trial, witnesses report Hallie's relationship with Monty was fraught with violence.

216

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:54,000

Had we at one point said that if this relationship keeps up, one of us is going to kill each other.

217

00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:03,000

In February of 1942, Monty Illingworth is found guilty and sentenced to life behind bars.

218

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:12,000

And it was this body of water where his wife was found that played a crucial role in helping investigators crack the case.

219

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:19,000

It was almost as though the lake preserved this evidence that convicted a killer.

220

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:34,000

And today, visitors to Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park can still marvel at how these crystalline waters were the key to bringing a cold-blooded killer to justice.

221

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:45,000

The densely populated island of Manhattan includes the diverse neighborhood of Harlem,

222

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:51,000

which in the 1920s became renowned as the African American artistic mecca.

223

00:21:54,000 --> 00:22:03,000

And situated on its southern edge, overlooking Central Park, is a depiction of a man with 19th century clothing and a pensive stare.

224

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:10,000

It is a bronze statue standing eight feet high. It is extraordinarily lifelike.

225

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:15,000

What it communicates is not so much physical details as inner strength.

226

00:22:16,000 --> 00:22:21,000

This is Frederick Douglass, one of the greatest African American heroes of all time.

227

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:32,000

But according to author Mitch Horowitz, some believe that the secret of Douglass' success came from the unlikeliest of places.

228

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:40,000

As a teenager, Douglass came upon a plant that had an enormous influence on the course of his life.

229

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

So how did a simple vegetable help Douglass become an inspiring leader?

230

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:53,000

1833, St. Michael's, Maryland.

231

00:22:54,000 --> 00:23:00,000

A 15-year-old slave named Frederick Bailey has secretly taught himself to read and write.

232

00:23:01,000 --> 00:23:09,000

Newspapers, political pamphlets, product labels, anything he could find, he used to teach himself to become fully literate.

233

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:17,000

But Bailey is constantly under the tyrannical eye of his slave master, a man named Edward Covey.

234

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:21,000

Covey was known as a breaker of slaves.

235

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:30,000

It's objected Bailey to routine beatings, humiliations. He never gave him a moment's peace.

236

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:39,000

The torment becomes so severe that one night, Bailey runs away from the farm and into the nearby valley.

237

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:45,000

He didn't know what to do. He felt if he went back to Covey, he would receive his worst beating ever.

238

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,000

And he just hit Petrified in the woods that night.

239

00:23:49,000 --> 00:24:00,000

After a couple of hours on the land, Bailey is discovered by an older slave named Sandy Jenkins, who has special privileges to travel between plantations.

240

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:06,000

Jenkins is a practitioner of a specific type of magic called Houdou.

241

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Many slaves believed that Houdou was a connection to the old religious beliefs of West and Central Africa.

242

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:25,000

It was a magical religious system that used various household objects to work spells.

243

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:32,000

Bailey confesses to Jenkins that he is too scared to return to Covey's farm.

244

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:41,000

Jenkins advised him that he had no choice but to return to Covey, but he said there was an object of protection that could help him when he did.

245

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:47,000

Jenkins hands Bailey a plant from the ground that he calls the magic Houdou root.

246

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:53,000

It is a hard, spherical nub with a flesh-like exterior.

247

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:57,000

It probably would have been about the size of a large acorn.

248

00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:01,000

It is very likely the root was John the Conqueror.

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00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:11,000

A relative of the sweet potato, John the Conqueror root is rarely eaten, but is prized in African American folk traditions for its powerful magic.

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00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:15,000

Jenkins then gives Bailey a set of instructions.

251

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:21,000

He said he must carry it on his right hand side at all times and no harm could come to him.

252

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:31,000

Bailey returns to his master's plantation with the special root in his right hand pocket just as Jenkins had instructed.

253

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:37,000

He was petrified and wondered, could this be the moment where his life is over?

254

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:44,000

It's 1833 in St. Michael's, Maryland.

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00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:51,000

A runaway slave named Frederick Bailey is on his way back to the plantation to face his master's wrath.

256

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

But in his hand is something that he's been told will protect him from all harm.

257

00:25:57,000 --> 00:25:59,000

A supposedly enchanted root.

258

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

So can this desperate man really be saved by a magic plant?

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00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Bailey enters the property and soon comes across his master.

260

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:17,000

He was shocked to find that Covey was downright polite.

261

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:27,000

He behaved in an almost friendly fashion and Bailey thought, could the magical properties of the root actually be working?

262

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:34,000

But Bailey is also aware that it's a Sunday and Covey's good nature could simply be because he's on his way to church.

263

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:40,000

And so the following day the true power of the root is put to the test.

264

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:43,000

Bailey, get over here!

265

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:46,000

On Monday the devil in him returned.

266

00:26:47,000 --> 00:26:51,000

Covey cornered Bailey in the barn so that he could subject him to a beating.

267

00:26:52,000 --> 00:27:00,000

But for the first time in his years as a slave, Bailey, with the root still in his pocket, does something extraordinary.

268

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:05,000

At that moment Bailey resolved to stand up in his own defense.

269

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:15,000

It was a kind of inner revolution that he might be a slave in physical fact, but he would no longer be a slave in spirit.

270

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

For two exhausting hours the men struggled.

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00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:24,000

But Covey could not get the better of him. He couldn't physically hurt him.

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00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:28,000

This was the first time that this had ever happened on Covey's farm.

273

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Covey is ashamed that he has been beaten and never mentions the incident again.

274

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

And after that the days of continual beatings were gone.

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:44,000

So was this magic root responsible for Bailey's victory?

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00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Looking back Bailey wondered where the confidence had come from to stand up to this cruel man.

277

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:57,000

And it did cross his mind that maybe there was something in this root that Sandy had given to him.

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00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:06,000

Whatever physical or psychological effect the root may have had for Bailey, this triumph is a major turning point in his life.

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00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:14,000

In 1838 Bailey escapes to New York where slavery was abolished over a decade earlier.

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00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:19,000

And he chose a new name by which he became known in history.

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00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:23,000

Frederick Douglass.

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00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:32,000

Douglass goes on to write a famously inspiring autobiography and also becomes an influential figure in the abolition movement.

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00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:42,000

And this statue in Harlem erected in 2010 stands as a symbol of one man's determination and courage,

284

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:47,000

which helped the righteous struggle for racial equality to take root.

285

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Roswell, New Mexico has become synonymous with the alleged UFO incident of 1947.

286

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

But in the center of town is a dedication to a former resident who arguably holds a more tangible claim to the city's place in history.

287

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:17,000

It's a life-sized statue of a man and he has a determined gaze on his face that's looking to the horizon.

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00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:22,000

And his left hand is reaching out to something that looks like a control panel.

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00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:30,000

According to physicist Deborah Berebeshez, the gentleman depicted here helped shatter the boundaries of human exploration.

290

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:36,000

Thanks to this man's singular determination, our world was changed forever.

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00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:45,000

How did this steadfast pioneer become a pivotal figure in taking one giant leap for mankind?

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00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:53,000

It's the early 1900s. The age of aviation is ushered in by the Wright brothers,

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00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:57,000

who make history by flying the first engine-powered plane.

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

But in Worcester, Massachusetts, a physics professor named Robert Goddard is determined to go even higher.

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00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:18,000

He knew at a very young age that he wanted to dedicate his entire life to building a device that would carry man one day into space.

296

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:29,000

And by 1914, after exploring the problem for years, Goddard believes the key to achieving this dream lies in a very different airborne device.

297

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

The rocket.

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00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:35,000

But to the public, the idea is preposterous.

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00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:42,000

At the time, rockets are primarily used as fireworks or weapons and are unable to travel very far at all.

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00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:49,000

Yet the scientist declares he's found the secret to launching one into space.

301

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:55,000

He will change the way the projectile is powered, switching from solid to liquid fuel.

302

00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:00,000

This is a game-changing idea. A liquid fuel rocket.

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

Because up until then, they were only using gunpowder to propel rockets.

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00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:12,000

While more complex to produce, fluid fuel provides more thrust than powder.

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00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:15,000

This allows the rocket to travel further.

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00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:25,000

Over the next several years, Goddard dedicates himself to his mission, presenting his theories in numerous publications.

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00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:29,000

But his unconventional work is ridiculed by the press.

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00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:35,000

They call this idea of the possibility of traveling to outer space outlandish.

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00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:38,000

Yet Goddard is undeterred.

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00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:50,000

And in 1926, on his aunt's cabbage patch, the physicist and his team are ready to test one of his first liquid-fueled rockets, which he calls NEL.

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00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:55,000

They gather to put this colossal project to the test.

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00:31:56,000 --> 00:31:59,000

They nervously ignite the diminutive rocket.

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00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:02,000

And wait.

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

It's 1926, Worcester, Massachusetts.

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00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Physicist Robert Goddard is convinced that one day, rockets will reach the moon.

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00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:20,000

But he's ridiculed by the press, who claim he's nothing but a dreamer.

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00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:26,000

So can Goddard prove his ambitious ideas on more than just pie in the sky?

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00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:33,000

Goddard has just ignited NEL, his revolutionary liquid-fueled rocket.

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00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:36,000

He watches.

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00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:43,000

And to his great delight, the rocket takes off.

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00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:48,000

It climbs 41 feet.

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00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,000

And then it falls down to the ground.

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00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Despite not traveling very high, the projectile has made history.

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00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:04,000

It's the world's first successful launch of a liquid-fueled rocket.

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00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:14,000

In 1930, Goddard moves his team to Roswell, New Mexico, where he continues to build bigger and better rockets.

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00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Some climb almost two miles above the Earth's surface.

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00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:26,000

But despite these achievements, the press continues to mock him.

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

Goddard received an incredible amount of criticism, and yet he believed in his goal, and he remained determined to make it happen.

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00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:43,000

However, in August 1945, tragedy strikes.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:47,000

Goddard is diagnosed with cancer and passes away.

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00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:51,000

And it looks like his dream has died with him.

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00:33:53,000 --> 00:34:00,000

But then, in 1957, three decades after Goddard launched his first rocket from his aunt's cabbage patch,

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00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:06,000

President Eisenhower establishes NASA, with the eventual goal of sending a man to the moon.

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00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:13,000

And when NASA started researching how to achieve this, they realized that there's no way to do this,

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00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:17,000

unless they take into account all of Goddard's research.

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00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:23,000

And in 1969, having been transported into space by a liquid-fueled rocket,

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

Neil Armstrong takes man's first steps on the moon.

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00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:36,000

The historic event vindicates the pioneer, who was once so mercilessly mocked by the press.

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00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:41,000

If Goddard had been alive, he would have said, I told you so.

340

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:50,000

And today, this statue in Roswell, New Mexico, shows a determined Goddard gazing into the distance at one of his rockets.

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00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:57,000

A visceral reminder of how a childhood dream to reach for the skies became reality.

342

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:11,000

Colorado's stunningly beautiful San Luis Valley is actually a high altitude basin located 7,000 feet above sea level.

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00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:17,000

On two sides, there are mountain ranges, there are streams, strange plant life, dense forest.

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00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:21,000

However, in the middle of it all, there's this 30-squared-mile surprise.

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00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:26,000

This is Great Sand Dunes National Park.

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00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:31,000

These strange formations are the tallest dunes in North America

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00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:36,000

and attract 300,000 tourists a year from all over the world.

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:45,000

But as filmmakers Scott Marcus can attest, this rugged landscape may also have had visitors from even farther away.

349

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:53,000

In this valley, a strange, scary, and really horrific incident happened that science is still trying to understand.

350

00:35:54,000 --> 00:36:01,000

What bizarre phenomenon led to tales of death, conspiracy, and visitors from other worlds?

351

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:08,000

September 7, 1967, midnight.

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00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Dr. John Alt Shuler, a well-known pathologist, is exploring Great Sand Dunes National Park.

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00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Dr. John Alt Shuler is a very respected professor at the Colorado University,

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00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:25,000

but he's doing something very unusual at this park. He's hunting UFOs.

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00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:34,000

Dr. Alt Shuler is investigating the many reports of other worldly lights seen from this desert plateau.

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

As a doctor, as a scientist doing his due diligence, he wanted to find out what's going on around Great Sand Dunes National Park.

357

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:49,000

As he scans the blackness of the night sky, Dr. Alt Shuler encounters something he can hardly believe.

358

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:57,000

He sees three lights flying below the mountaintop level, and they're coming towards him.

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00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:06,000

He knows they're not stars, he knows they're not airplanes. These lights linger for a long time, before shooting up into the sky and disappearing.

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00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Dr. Alt Shuler returns home shaken by what he has witnessed. But little does he know, things are about to get even more bizarre.

361

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:27,000

The following day, he learns that a local rancher has found one of his horses brutally and inexplicably slaughtered.

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00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:33,000

A curious Alt Shuler visits the ranch and is shown the horse's body.

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

Alt Shuler is shocked. This is not something he's ever seen before.

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00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:47,000

As he examines the animal's corpse, Dr. Alt Shuler makes a number of baffling observations.

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00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:54,000

The wounds all seem to be cauterized. Nothing that science had at that time could make these types of incisions.

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00:37:55,000 --> 00:37:56,000

I've never seen anything like this before.

367

00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:01,000

You'd need a laser scalpel, which at that time was science fiction.

368

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:03,000

It doesn't look like it was done by an animal.

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00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:08,000

The pathologist also notes the horses' lungs, heart, and thyroid are missing.

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00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:14,000

But incredibly, there's no blood anywhere on or around the body.

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00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:24,000

The idea that somebody could cut into an animal, remove its heart, and not leave any blood behind is just not possible.

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00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:32,000

The third unexpected finding is that the nearest human or animal footprint is about a hundred feet away.

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

So it appears as if something picked up this animal and then placed it here.

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

Alt Shuler then remembers the strange lights he saw the previous night and wonders if the two events are connected.

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00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:52,000

He comes up with a theory that this horse was experimented on by instrumentation more advanced than anything we have on Earth.

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00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:54,000

Probably not something from this world at all.

377

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

He's starting to wonder, did aliens kill this horse?

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

Could Alt Shuler's extraterrestrial theory be right, or is there a more down-to-earth explanation?

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00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:14,000

It's 1967 in Colorado.

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00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:25,000

On a ranch in the San Luis Valley, pathologist John Alt Shuler is examining the dead remains of a horse when he makes a series of extraordinary discoveries.

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00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Not only are the animals' internal organs surgically removed, but there are absolutely no footprints or animal tracks anywhere around the corpse.

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00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:40,000

So who or what killed this horse and why?

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00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:49,000

Taking in all of this evidence, Alt Shuler comes up with a theory that the lights are connected to what happened here.

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:53,000

He believes that aliens experimented on this horse.

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

Word of the pathologist's radical conclusion spreads.

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00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:04,000

And before long, the Associated Press picks up the story.

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00:40:05,000 --> 00:40:08,000

People all over the country now want to find out, did aliens kill this horse?

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00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:18,000

With public interest mounting, the U.S. Air Force sends in its own pathologist, who rejects Alt Shuler's theory of alien involvement.

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00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:24,000

The government pathologist finds that the horse had a very serious leg infection at the time of his death,

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00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:30,000

and postulates that maybe somebody found this horse and took pity by slitting his throat putting him out of his misery.

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00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:37,000

He also arrives at an alternative explanation for the absence of blood.

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00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:46,000

He explains that the very dry prairie air caused the evaporation of all fluids within the body, so all the blood evaporated.

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00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:58,000

But what this pathologist seems unable to explain is how the horse came to be in the middle of a field without any footprints around it.

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

Many people think that this Air Force employee is just covering up the truth.

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00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Beautiful community believes that these guys are paid by the government to provide disinformation and throw people off the trail.

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00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:15,000

And this isn't the only case of its kind.

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00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:25,000

In 1975, a Colorado senator goes on record saying that there's at least 130 similar cases in Colorado.

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00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:31,000

In all of these cases, these animals seem to be killed by something that is not a predator. It's not anything natural.

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00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:42,000

The occurrence of so many bizarre and inexplicable mutilations has led some to believe that aliens really did experiment on the animals.

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00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:52,000

And with cattle mutilations continuing to occur worldwide, scientists have been unable to prove otherwise.

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00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:59,000

It's almost 50 years since this first incident and we still don't really quite know what happened here.

402

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:10,000

And today, Great Sand Dunes National Park continues to be a haven for UFO hunters hoping to glimpse extraterrestrial visitors.

403

00:42:13,000 --> 00:42:21,000

From a circular schoolhouse to a starry-eyed scientist striking news boys to a magical route.

404

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:26,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are Monumental Mysteries.