

1

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

An elegant plaza at the center of a bizarre heist.

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

It's almost as if the captors are the good guys.

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

A terrifying standoff threatens to destroy the world.

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

This was the most dangerous moment in all of human history.

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

And a visionary who built an architectural first.

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

This building's forever changed in urban skyline.

7

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

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

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

These are the mysteries at the monument.

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

Stockholm, Sweden.

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

Celebrated as the Venice of the North,

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

this low-lying capital spreads across 14 islands

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

and looks out over the Baltic Sea.

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

And built on a former swamp

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

is one of the city's most elegant and prestigious gathering places.

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

It's about 200 feet wide and made of gray cement squares.

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

It's flanked by ornate 19th century buildings

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

that include banks, boutiques and posh shops.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:12,000

In the Swedish version of Monopoly,

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00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:15,000

this is the most expensive property on the board.

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00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:21,000

This is Normamstort, Stockholm's upscale central square.

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

But according to author Keith Elliott Greenberg,

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,000

this plaza was once the site of a crime so bizarre,

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:32,000

it led to the discovery of a new psychological phenomenon.

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:36,000

It is one of the strangest chapters in Stockholm's history.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:42,000

It's a twisted tale of danger, intrigue and unforeseen outcomes.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

August 23, 1973. Stockholm.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:56,000

A bank located on busy Normamstort square

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:59,000

is being held up by two gun-toting robbers.

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00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Convicted felons Jan-Erik Olsen and Clark Olsen.

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

They've taken over one of the country's largest banks.

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:12,000

But that's not the worst of it.

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00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:18,000

They have four people hostage, three women, one man, all bank employees.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:22,000

Leading the investigation is Commissioner Kurt Lindroth.

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00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:26,000

He learns that the robbers are threatening drastic action.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:30,000

They will kill one of the hostages unless their demands are met.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:32,000

They demand three million kroner,

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

the equivalent of about three-quarters of a million dollars,

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,000

and a fast getaway car.

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

Authorities ready the cash and a getaway car.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:45,000

But when the thieves insist on taking the captives with them

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00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:49,000

to ensure a safe passage, negotiations stall.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:55,000

And as the hours drag by, the media descends on Normamstort square.

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

Pretty soon it's an international story,

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

with everybody all around the world following what's known as the bank drama.

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00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:10,000

In the glare of the spotlight, Lindroth makes a desperate plea.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

He asks for permission to enter the bank,

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00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:17,000

so he can confirm all four hostages are unharmed.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:23,000

Lindroth wants to assess the mental and physical well-being of the hostages.

49

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:28,000

His paramount goal is getting the hostages out alive.

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:34,000

After a day of tense negotiations, the Commissioner's request is unexpectedly granted.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:40,000

But an even bigger surprise is waiting for him inside the bank.

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

The veteran officer expects to see the captives cringing in fear.

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00:03:47,000 --> 00:03:50,000

But their demeanor is very different.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,000

They're downright chummy with their captors, putting their arms around each other.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:01,000

They seem to be smiling at each other.

56

00:04:02,000 --> 00:04:09,000

And they're snarling at Lindroth, almost as if he's the enemy and the captors are the good guys.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:22,000

One hostage even insists she be allowed to leave with her captors,

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

because she wants to protect them.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:30,000

Lindroth leaves the building, baffled by the victim's odd mental state.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:32,000

He's completely perplexed.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:36,000

He has never, ever encountered a situation like this before.

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00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:46,000

Finally, after six days of failed negotiations, police resort to a risky plan.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:48,000

Storm the bank.

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

The police release tear gas through the vents

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

to try to force everybody out.

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

Cornered and blinded by the gas, Jan-Erik Olsen and Clark Olsen swiftly surrender.

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00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:14,000

And their hostages, who have endured more than 130 hours in captivity, are released unharmed.

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:19,000

Around Sweden, Kurt Lindroth is an absolute hero.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:26,000

Everyone is celebrating the man who encountered a situation that could have been lethal and ended it peacefully.

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00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:30,000

Both Olsen and Olsen are convicted of robbery.

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:36,000

But there's one thing about the case that continues to perplex the police and the public.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:44,000

Even after the bank workers were freed, their seemingly irrational attachment to their captors persisted.

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:50,000

They continue to insist that the captors are the good guys.

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00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:57,000

One of the hostages even visits Olsen in jail, truly believing that they're friends.

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00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:02,000

So what could account for the hostages' odd behavior?

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

Some psychologists believe the victims were so traumatized by the event

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

that they diluted themselves into believing their abductors were their friends.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:18,000

You distort reality to develop a false sense of security.

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00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:22,000

You convince yourself that these people would never hurt you.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

And that's how you maintain your hope.

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:34,000

In the wake of the case, a Swedish psychiatrist coins a term to describe the bizarre condition.

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00:06:35,000 --> 00:06:37,000

The Stockholm Syndrome.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:46,000

This whole bizarre situation gives rise to a term that has now become part of the international vernacular.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:57,000

More than four decades later, Normamstort is still one of Stockholm's most popular squares.

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00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:02,000

But for many, it also remains a symbol of a botched bank robbery

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

and the confounding phenomenon it exposed to the world.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:14,000

Just a half hour north of Fort Lauderdale, Florida is the breezy city of Boynton Beach.

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:22,000

The town's award-winning shores offer its 71,000 residents a life of relaxation and bliss.

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00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:30,000

But in a park off US Highway 1 stands a stark monument to a more anxious time.

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00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:35,000

It is four feet tall, three feet wide, and made out of great granite.

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00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:40,000

On its surface, it bears the map of the tiny island nation of Cuba.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:44,000

This is a memorial to the Cuban Missile Crisis,

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00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:50,000

the terrifying standoff that brought the world to the brink of nuclear annihilation.

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

But according to historian Peter Kuznick, the event could have ended very differently,

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:07:59,000

were it not for the courage of a little-known Russian officer.

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:03,000

We were closer than anyone realizes to Armageddon.

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00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:09,000

And if it wasn't for one man, it is possible that the human race may no longer have existed.

98

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:16,000

October, 1962.

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00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:21,000

The chill of the Cold War permeates the planet.

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00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:27,000

The United States and the Soviet Union have each amassed dangerous arsenals of atomic weapons.

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00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:36,000

And now, the Soviets are secretly building missile silos, just 90 miles off of Florida's coast.

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00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:41,000

The Soviets think that the US is preparing for a strike, so they put the missiles in Cuba.

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:45,000

They now were within striking distance of the United States.

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00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:51,000

Heading to Cuba to reinforce Soviet troops on the Caribbean island is a Russian submarine,

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:54,000

commanded by Captain Valentin Savitsky.

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

Valentin Savitsky was the one who was barking out the orders on the submarine.

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

He was a very gruff and dogmatic kind of officer, career military man.

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00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:13,000

Savitsky's submarine also carries some very special cargo.

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00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:17,000

On board is a nuclear torpedo of breathtaking power.

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:23,000

The nuclear torpedo aboard the submarine was almost as powerful as the bomb that was used to

destroy the ship.

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00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,000

It was destroyed Hiroshima.

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00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:37,000

But on October 15th, as the subnears Cuba, the captain receives a surprising order.

113

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:40,000

Halt and await further instructions.

114

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

No reason is given for the sudden change of plans.

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00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:51,000

They didn't know what was going on. They would have to stay there.

116

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:56,000

The crew waits, anxious for their next directive.

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00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:02,000

But during that time, radio contact with Moscow cuts out.

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

Then, one week later, disaster strikes.

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00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:14,000

There was a loud fud. They felt as if it was a sledgehammer hitting the submarine.

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:20,000

Fearing they could be under attack, Savitsky and his men scramble to radio Moscow.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:25,000

Once again, there is no reply.

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00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:34,000

The only information they pick up is from Miami radio stations, where there's talk of an expected US invasion of Cuba.

123

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

Savitsky thought the Americans were out to destroy the submarine and to kill them.

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00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:44,000

He assumed that World War 3 had already begun.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Determined to defend his country, Savitsky pulls out the key that will load the nuclear torpedo.

126

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:58,000

He prepares to launch it at the American fleet, even though the move would surely trigger a catastrophic war.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:07,000

We're talking about much of the planet being destroyed, but he thought that it was his duty to attack the American war fleet.

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

The captain inserts the launch key into the control panel.

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

The weapon is armed.

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

This was the most dangerous moment in all of human history.

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00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:33,000

It's October 27, 1962, off the coast of Cuba.

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00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:42,000

Soviet Captain Valentin Savitsky believes his submarine is under attack and fears that World War 3 is about to begin.

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

He's armed his vessel's nuclear torpedo and aimed it squarely at the American fleet.

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:50,000

So how can nuclear holocaust be stopped?

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00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:56,000

Savitsky is desperate to launch the deadly weapon.

136

00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:04,000

But to do so, he needs the approval of another man on the vessel, the commander of the Soviet naval fleet, Vesely Arkapov.

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00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:10,000

Arkapov was a much more meditative, reflective man, so he pondered the situation.

138

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:14,000

Savitsky rages at Arkapov to approve the launch.

139

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:18,000

Savitsky is convinced that this is the right thing to do.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:22,000

He said, we're disgracing the Russian Navy, and we've got to act now.

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00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:30,000

But the veteran officer is all too aware of the consequences of triggering a nuclear conflict.

142

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:39,000

Arkapov had served on a Soviet nuclear sub that had a core reactor accident in which eight people were killed.

143

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:45,000

So he understood in a very visceral way what would happen in the event of a nuclear war.

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00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

An unwavering Arkapov refuses to give the order.

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00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:55,000

The launch is aborted.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:00,000

We came within a hair's breadth of nuclear annihilation.

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

When the Soviet submarine surfaces, the men on board are in for a surprise.

148

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

World War III had not begun.

149

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:21,000

They also learn that the explosion they felt earlier was from a depth charge that a U.S. warship had dropped to drive Russian subs away from Cuba.

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:28,000

They realize that the American destroyers were trying to force them to surface, that they were trying to destroy them.

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00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:35,000

After a period of tense negotiations, the Soviets agree to dismantle their missiles in Cuba.

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00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:40,000

In exchange, the United States vows not to invade the Caribbean island.

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00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:45,000

Kennedy and Khrushchev both side, this is insanity.

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00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:49,000

They realize how close we had come to nuclear war.

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00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:55,000

For decades, the details of this harrowing confrontation are hidden from the public.

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

Then in 2002, the U.S. National Security Archive goes public with the story, finally bringing to light the tale of the cool-headed Russian commander.

157

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:10,000

Arkapov now is considered by many to be the man who single-handedly saved the world.

158

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:18,000

And today, this simple monument in Boynton Beach floor is the first to be built.

159

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:32,000

And today, this simple monument in Boynton Beach, Florida serves as a reminder of the courageous officer who brought both superpowers back from the brink of World War III.

160

00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Honolulu, Oahu.

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00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:46,000

On the south shore of this capital city is Waikiki Beach, once an exclusive retreat for Hawaiian kings.

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00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:52,000

And near the center of town is a majestic structure that recalls this regal spirit.

163

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:02,000

This building is built in its own distinct, really beautiful European style.

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00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:05,000

It's a wonderful jewel in the middle of the Hawaiian island.

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

This is Ayolani Palace, the only royal residence in America.

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00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Originally built to house Hawaiian monarchs, this lavish landmark served as the state capital building until 1969.

167

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

But according to author Dale Hope, a decidedly unregal movement was born here that would alter the very fabric of daily life.

168

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:38,000

What started as a laid-back idea in Hawaii became ingrained across the country.

169

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:41,000

Honolulu, 1961.

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00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,000

For years, the town's tourism industry has been enjoying a spectacular boom.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Among those who profited from this surge is a clothing vendor named Bill Foster.

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00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:00,000

The businessman specializes in the brightly colored iconic Hawaiian tops known as Aloha shirts.

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00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:07,000

The visitors were all born from the traditional Hawaiian clothing.

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00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:12,000

You could find these shirts as souvenirs. It was a postcard you could wear.

175

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:19,000

But Foster is now looking to expand sales by tapping a new market, Hawaiian locals.

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00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:27,000

So with the help of his wife, Mary, Bill designs a line of more muted, subtly colored shirts.

177

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:30,000

I like the palm trees and the flowers.

178

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Their aim was to sell to the sophisticated local, not gaudy Hawaiian, but tasteful Hawaiian.

179

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:42,000

Something that their employees could wear and could in their offices.

180

00:16:43,000 --> 00:16:45,000

I think people are really going to go crazy for this.

181

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:52,000

Investing nearly all they have into the venture, the Fosters open a storefront near Waikiki Beach.

182

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:56,000

But just months after its launch, sales are flagging.

183

00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:59,000

While the shirts are comfortable and cool,

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

Honolulu residents are reluctant to sport such a casual look on workdays.

185

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:10,000

I think the sentiment was that the Aloha shirts were not something I'd have major meetings.

186

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:12,000

It was very undignified.

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00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:21,000

But Foster refuses to accept the fact that the Fosters are not a product of the local market.

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00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:23,000

The status quo.

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:30,000

And he's tailoring a scheme that will split Honolulu's stuffy dress code apart at the seams.

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00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:36,000

This was a bold plan that would help transform American fashion.

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00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:42,000

How did one man on a remote island revolutionize the way Americans dress?

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00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

It's 1962 in Hawaii.

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00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:53,000

With tourism booming, the island's quintessential garment, the Aloha shirt,

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00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:57,000

has turned into a tacky cliché worn mostly by tourists.

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00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:02,000

But businessman Bill Foster has redesigned it as everyday wear for locals.

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00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:07,000

But can he convince his fellow Hawaiians to buy his splashy shirts?

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00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:15,000

With his livelihood on the line, Foster unleashes Operation Liberation.

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00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:17,000

The strategy is simple.

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

Give away his Aloha shirts for free to one particularly influential group of locals.

200

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Bill Foster comes up with a plan to give two shirts to each senator and representative in the Hawaii legislature.

201

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:40,000

Foster hopes that when the lawmakers finally try on the lightweight shirts,

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

they will ditch their hot, uncomfortable suits.

203

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:47,000

Their reaction is swift and decisive.

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00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:51,000

Now that you have a mind, what do you think?

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00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:53,000

Operation Liberation totally worked.

206

00:18:54,000 --> 00:19:00,000

People began throwing off their coats and ties and they started wearing more casual, relaxed shirts.

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00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:09,000

To Bill's delight, lawmakers at Iolani Palace soon pass a resolution

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00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:13,000

that encourages employees to wear Aloha shirts on the last day of the week.

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00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:17,000

The practice comes to be known as Aloha Fridays.

210

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

It was this idea that we can still conduct business and we can still be official.

211

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:25,000

But we're dealing it on our terms and we're doing it with ease.

212

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:33,000

With the birth of Aloha Fridays, Bill Foster's clothing label thrives.

213

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:39,000

The movement he helped trigger also spreads far beyond the Hawaiian islands.

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00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:46,000

And soon, employers across the country adopt their own version of Hawaii's relaxed dress code.

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00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Casual Fridays.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:52,000

Everybody was becoming more relaxed in their offices.

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

Casual Friday really grew out of Aloha Friday.

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00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:05,000

And back in Honolulu, the Iolani Palace, where lawmakers adopted Aloha Fridays,

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00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:13,000

still proudly stands as a symbol of how a far flung paradise can make waves that are felt on distant shores.

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

On the banks of the James River sits Richmond, the capital of Virginia.

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00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Established in 1742, the town boasts a long and storied past.

222

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

It is where founding father Patrick Henry gave his fiery ultimatum,

223

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death.

224

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:47,000

But the city is also home to a monument that honors a lesser known figure.

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:54,000

It's approximately 10 feet tall and 12 feet wide and it's made out of great granite.

226

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

There's a group of bronze figurines and at their center is a slender young woman

227

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

with a determined look on her face and her hand reaching out towards the sky.

228

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:15,000

According to museum official Justin Reed, this sculpture depicts a groundbreaking heroine who inspired a momentous change.

229

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:22,000

She helped found the civil rights movement and laid the groundwork for all that came afterwards.

230

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

1951.

231

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Across the American South, racial segregation is the law of the land.

232

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:40,000

But the separate facilities for black and white citizens are rarely equal, especially when it comes to education.

233

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:46,000

Black students, schools were often very inferior, glaringly so.

234

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Yet in Farmville, Virginia, one 16-year-old student is determined to change the system.

235

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:56,000

Her name is Barbara Rose Johns.

236

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:00,000

Barbara Johns was an engaged student, very involved in student life.

237

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

And there was this maturity about her.

238

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:06,000

She was the type of person that when she did speak, people tended to listen.

239

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:13,000

The teen is frustrated with the conditions at her school, moat and high.

240

00:22:14,000 --> 00:22:21,000

Unlike the local school for white students, moat and high is dilapidated and severely overcrowded.

241

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:28,000

To deal with the overcrowding, the county built additional classrooms made out of tarpaper shacks.

242

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:31,000

The same materials used to build chicken houses.

243

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:34,000

So no insulation whatsoever.

244

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:36,000

The roofs leaked horribly.

245

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:39,000

The students would have to sit under umbrellas when it rained.

246

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:45,000

For years, the county has refused to upgrade the all-black school.

247

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:50,000

But Barbara has an idea that she hopes will finally force officials into action.

248

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:53,000

A student strike.

249

00:22:53,000 --> 00:23:00,000

Barbara wanted to convince the students to walk out and refuse to go to class until they were given a new school building.

250

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

She thought that once people knew how bad the conditions were, that the school board would have to give into their demands.

251

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

April 23rd, 1951.

252

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:15,000

On this clear spring day, Barbara is ready to put her plan into action.

253

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:19,000

But the entire scheme rests on one crucial step.

254

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

The principal must first be lured away from the school property.

255

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

And so this principal was very strict.

256

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:29,000

If he had gotten wind of the strike, he would have stopped it in his tracks.

257

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

For this critical task, she enlists the help of a friend.

258

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:39,000

So one of the students disguises his voice and tells the principal there are students downtown causing trouble.

259

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:41,000

I need you to come down here and take care of it.

260

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:44,000

And that if he doesn't come and get them, he's going to call the police.

261

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:54,000

As the administrator races out, Barbara immediately spreads word that all 450 students should gather in the school auditorium.

262

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:02,000

There, she steps in front of the assembled crowd and asks them to strike.

263

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:06,000

This school is appalling.

264

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:11,000

Barbara thought that they needed to let the entire community know that these schools were awful.

265

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:16,000

And they would do that by refusing to go to class and demonstrating outside of the building.

266

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:20,000

We need to go on strike and we need to do it now.

267

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

At first, her peers are skeptical and afraid of being arrested.

268

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

We're going to go to jail.

269

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:27,000

They're never going to listen to us.

270

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:29,000

But Barbara presses her case.

271

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:34,000

Barbara replies that the formal jail isn't big enough to hold us off.

272

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:35,000

We can do this.

273

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:38,000

She knew that this was their moment and that they needed to seize it.

274

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,000

Finally, the teen activist wins over her peers.

275

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:49,000

They begin chanting, and rising out of their seats, and they all march out of the school building.

276

00:24:53,000 --> 00:24:58,000

Over the next several days, the students protest in front of their nearly empty school.

277

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

But their actions draw a predictably vicious backlash from some of the town's white residents.

278

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:11,000

And a cross is burned in Barbara's front yard.

279

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:13,000

There was intimidation, coercion.

280

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

There were a lot of things at risk for the students.

281

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:20,000

But little do the young protesters know.

282

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:24,000

The reaction will echo far beyond the corridors of Motun Hai.

283

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:33,000

1951, Farmville, Virginia.

284

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:40,000

16-year-old Barbara Rose Johns is fed up with the appalling conditions at her segregated all-black high school.

285

00:25:40,000 --> 00:25:45,000

So she leads a student strike to force administrators to construct a new building.

286

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:49,000

But will her plan to strong arm authorities really work?

287

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:54,000

Barbara and her peers refuse to back down.

288

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:58,000

They continue to strike for two straight weeks.

289

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:02,000

And it seems their determination just might pay off.

290

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:11,000

Barbara is contacted by the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

291

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:15,000

Their attorneys have learned about the student strike in Farmville.

292

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:22,000

They were so impressed with how determined these students were, they agreed to represent them in court.

293

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:28,000

But rather than just fight for a new building, the NAACP has an even bigger goal in mind.

294

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:32,000

The end segregation in all public schools.

295

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:36,000

The thought of integration had never crossed the students' minds.

296

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:41,000

The NAACP says that only through integration could education be equal.

297

00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:45,000

The Farmville lawsuit is combined with four other claims.

298

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:48,000

And they are presented before the U.S. Supreme Court.

299

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:53,000

In a case that becomes known as Brown versus the Board of Education.

300

00:26:54,000 --> 00:27:00,000

Brown versus the Board of Education is the case calling for the complete desegregation of America's

public schools.

301

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

It's history in the making.

302

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:10,000

And in a landmark 1954 ruling, segregation is outlawed in all public schools across the country.

303

00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:14,000

For Barbara, she said it seemed like reaching for the moon.

304

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:19,000

These young people played such a huge role in pioneering the civil rights movement.

305

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

Today, this sculpture in Richmond, Virginia,

306

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:30,000

endures as an inspiring celebration of a courageous girl who refused to see the world in black and white.

307

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:45,000

On the banks of the Genesee River, in New York's Finger Lakes region, lies the small town of Avon.

308

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:51,000

For years, the river's fast flowing waters powered a flourishing paper mill industry.

309

00:27:53,000 --> 00:28:01,000

But it was the advent of the railroad that produced the deceptively simple structure still standing at 100 West Main Street.

310

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:06,000

It's about 80 feet by 24 feet. It has some beautiful wooden details.

311

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:13,000

It's green with maroon trim. And it stands right next to a working train line.

312

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:19,000

This is the old Avon Railroad Station.

313

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

Once a busy depot, today this restored station house is a popular watering hole for locals.

314

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:37,000

But according to historical tour guide Seth Camel, the station is also linked to a stunning first in urban architecture.

315

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:43,000

This building is the launching pad for a man whose ideas forever changed in urban skyline.

316

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

1879. America's network of railroads is rapidly expanding.

317

00:28:52,000 --> 00:29:00,000

And among the industry's leading architects is 26-year-old Bradford Lee Gilbert, designer of the Avon Rail Station.

318

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

The train station in Avon, New York represents a cornerstone of Bradford Lee Gilbert's career.

319

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:12,000

You can really see the care he took in the simplest structures he built.

320

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:18,000

But the young architect yearns for something more.

321

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:26,000

Gilbert wanted to break away from building train stations and build a legacy that would hold up for generations.

322

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

In 1887, Gilbert's friend, John Stearns, approaches him with an opportunity he simply can't pass up.

323

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:41,000

Stearns has recently purchased a narrow 21-foot wide plot of land.

324

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:46,000

On which he plans to build new office space.

325

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:51,000

And the ambitious entrepreneur wants his construction to stand out.

326

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:57,000

Stearns wanted to make a name for himself by being the owner of the tallest building in New York.

327

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:04,000

He tells Gilbert he wants it to be 11 stories high. This presents the architect with a daunting challenge.

328

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:10,000

At the time, high-rise buildings in New York are extremely uncommon.

329

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Most buildings are under six stories.

330

00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:23,000

The idea of building an 11-story structure on really the equivalent of a postage stamp piece of land is seemingly impossible.

331

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

Stearns admits that he's approached almost every architect in the city and all have turned him

down.

332

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

Gilbert is his last hope.

333

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:44,000

Gilbert saw Stearns' problem as a tremendous opportunity to not only break into the urban market, but to do something that had never been done before.

334

00:30:44,000 --> 00:30:51,000

Gilbert works for months at his drafting table.

335

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Suddenly, an image comes to him.

336

00:30:54,000 --> 00:31:01,000

The steel skeleton of a railroad trestle bridge, like the one erected 20 miles from Avon.

337

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Gilbert imagines turning the bridge vertically on its end.

338

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:13,000

Its strong steel framework could be used to support the floors and walls of a tall, narrow building.

339

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:23,000

He envisions a steel skeleton supporting the weight of the building.

340

00:31:23,000 --> 00:31:34,000

On April 17, 1888, using this novel steel framework, Gilbert and Stearns set about constructing the tallest building New Yorkers have ever seen.

341

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:39,000

And eight months later, everything except for its roof is in place.

342

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Stearns and Gilbert called their 11-story building the Tower because it would tower over everything.

343

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:52,000

But the design is so unusual, critics are skeptical it will hold.

344

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Headlines claim that with the first great storm, the building will fall.

345

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:03,000

And soon, their theory will be put to the test.

346

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:09,000

One Sunday morning in 1889, a hurricane approaches New York City.

347

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:19,000

Gilbert rushes to a structure and finds a nervous Stearns and a swarm of disbelievers all expecting the building to collapse.

348

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

With his reputation on the line, Gilbert does something no one would have expected.

349

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:30,000

He grabs a plum line and climbs a scaffolding.

350

00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:36,000

Dropping the plum line from the top will show if the building stays vertical in the buffeting winds.

351

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:39,000

He's going to prove to the world that it's safe and secure.

352

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:46,000

But as Gilbert scales the edifice, the storm intensifies.

353

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:53,000

It's 1889 in New York City.

354

00:32:53,000 --> 00:33:00,000

Architect Bradford Gilbert has nearly completed construction of the tallest building the city has ever seen.

355

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

But as a hurricane approaches, his critics announce the structure is doomed to collapse.

356

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:09,000

So will Gilbert's skyscraper hold up?

357

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:16,000

The crowd watches in disbelief as Gilbert scales the scaffolding floor after floor.

358

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:21,000

The crowd is calling him a fool, suicidal, an idiot.

359

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:29,000

And as he reaches the top, mother nature seems to conspire against him.

360

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:35,000

He's facing 80 mile an hour winds and it knocks him to his knees.

361

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:42,000

The spectators below await his almost certain fall from the top.

362

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:48,000

He crawls to the edge of the building and he drops his plum line.

363

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

The weighted line settles perfectly straight next to the building,

364

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:56,000

proving his structure is still vertical.

365

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:02,000

The crowd breaks out in a cheer and they all celebrate his tremendous victory.

366

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Stearns is thrilled.

367

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:16,000

He's got the tallest building in New York that people now want to be in.

368

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:21,000

Gilbert's creation gains him the recognition he yearned for

369

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:25,000

and makes history as New York City's first skyscraper.

370

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Almost immediately, the design principles are replicated all throughout New York City.

371

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:36,000

Bradford Gilbert's pioneering use of skeleton or curtain wall construction

372

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:40,000

helps transform the urban skyline forever.

373

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:46,000

Today, Gilbert's historic train station in Avon, New York

374

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:50,000

stands as a monument to a visionary who scaled the heights of his profession

375

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:54,000

and changed the face of American architecture.

376

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:04,000

Nevada City, Montana was the site of one of the richest gold strikes in the American West.

377

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:07,000

Boasting more than 100 landmark buildings,

378

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:12,000

the town is now an open-air museum that celebrates daily life on the frontier.

379

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:19,000

And near a cluster of cabins on Main Street is a plaque that recalls a notorious episode

380

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:23,000

from the town's earliest and darkest days.

381

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

It's 24 by 26 inches.

382

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:29,000

It is weathered with age, made of metal,

383

00:35:29,000 --> 00:35:34,000

and it makes a bold claim about the most extraordinary trial in history.

384

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

This sign marks the spot where a despicable outlaw was finally brought to justice.

385

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:44,000

But as historian Ellen Baumler knows,

386

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:49,000

his infamous case uncovered an even more sinister secret.

387

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:53,000

The town would discover something shocking about one of its own.

388

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

What deadly tale of greed, gold, and corruption does this marker commemorate?

389

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

1863, the Montana Territory

390

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:09,000

This rugged region is in the throes of the gold rush.

391

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:14,000

But along with a flood of riches has come a wave of crime and terror.

392

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:22,000

There is no law in order. There is no government presence whatsoever.

393

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:28,000

In particular, outlaws have been targeting stagecoaches carrying gold back east.

394

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:33,000

And all of the bandits seem to share one striking feature.

395

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:37,000

They do seem to wear the same type of masks.

396

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:41,000

So it seems like there may be some network of criminals.

397

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:47,000

The people of Nevada City are baffled by another conspicuous pattern.

398

00:36:47,000 --> 00:36:51,000

Although the stagecoaches transporting the gold look like just any other wagon,

399

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:55,000

the thieves seem to know precisely which ones to hit.

400

00:36:56,000 --> 00:37:02,000

Residents wonder if there are spies in their community who are tipping off the bandits.

401

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:08,000

People are afraid to talk to their neighbors and they're afraid to walk in the streets.

402

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:11,000

So something clearly has to be done.

403

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:16,000

The panicked community demands action from its sheriff, Henry Plummer.

404

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Plummer was a very energetic, genteel person who was proficient with a gun.

405

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:25,000

He was also very persuasive.

406

00:37:25,000 --> 00:37:29,000

Plummer declares he will put a stop to the crimes.

407

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

And in the coming weeks, hopeful Montanans watch their sheriff patrol the surrounding valley.

408

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:42,000

It seems that he was out investigating crimes, doing his job.

409

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:49,000

Citizens observe Henry building a jail. He builds a gallows. He even hangs someone.

410

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:54,000

Despite these tough measures, the banditry only seems to get worse.

411

00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:05,000

And in December of 1863, a young miner is robbed of his mules and gold and slaughtered in cold blood.

412

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:09,000

It was a heinous crime and citizens were very, very upset.

413

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

It seems that the gang is getting bolder and more violent.

414

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:20,000

It seems as if nothing can stop the mysterious gang of outlaws.

415

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:27,000

But then, one day, while Sheriff Plummer is away in a neighboring town, some local miners catch a break.

416

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:34,000

They recognize the murder victim's stolen mules in the possession of a man named George Ives.

417

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:39,000

The men organize a posse and they arrest George Ives.

418

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:45,000

They're thinking that perhaps this might be the beginning of breaking that criminal ring.

419

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:52,000

The miners take Ives to nearby Nevada City and organize a people's court on Main Street.

420

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:55,000

The verdict is put to the people.

421

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

And they vote to convict him.

422

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

Within an hour, they put the noose over his head and hang him.

423

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:17,000

Buied by their success, the miners agree to establish a militia called the Montana Vigilantes.

424

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:22,000

They decide they can't wait for Plummer and so they take the law into their own hands.

425

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:27,000

The men immediately set out to track down Ives' known associates.

426

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:32,000

But little do they know, they're about to make a shocking discovery.

427

00:39:33,000 --> 00:39:37,000

It's 1863, Nevada City, Montana.

428

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

This mining boom town is being terrorized by a gang of ruthless bandits.

429

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:47,000

So locals set up a vigilante committee to hunt down the gang members.

430

00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:52,000

But these self-appointed lawmen are about to make an alarming discovery.

431

00:39:54,000 --> 00:40:00,000

While patrolling the town, the vigilantes spot a known associate of George Ives.

432

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:05,000

I need you to tell me everything that you know about this road-aging gang.

433

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Under questioning, the man admits to being part of the gang that has plagued the area.

434

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:15,000

He goes on to detail the group's elaborate operations.

435

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:19,000

He tells them that there are many, many people involved in this.

436

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:21,000

There's more people than you ever know.

437

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:25,000

The system is much bigger than they could have imagined.

438

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:31,000

But most shocking of all is the revelation of who's really behind the brutal robberies.

439

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:35,000

And the leader of this huge criminal network.

440

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:37,000

It's Henry Plummer.

441

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:44,000

It seems that, as the sheriff, Plummer knew which stagecoaches were loaded with gold.

442

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:47,000

And he would pass on the information to his fellow bandits.

443

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:49,000

His corruption knew no bounds.

444

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:54,000

Even rigged the trials of gang members and let them off the hook.

445

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:02,000

On January 10th, 1864, the vigilantes show up at Sheriff Plummer's home.

446

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:07,000

They arrest him and they lead him to the gallows and hang him.

447

00:41:09,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Over the next few months, 20 other members of Plummer's gang are arrested and executed in the public's quest for justice.

448

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:22,000

They rid the territory of this extremely sophisticated criminal network.

449

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And today, the site where George Ives stood trial endures as a testament to a vicious reign of terror.

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And the outraged citizens who took the law into their own hands to stop it.

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00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:49,000

From a harrowing heist to a Soviet savior, a student strike to a gang of outlaws.

452

00:41:49,000 --> 00:41:54,000

I'm Don Wildman and these are the Mysteries at the Monument.

