1

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

On this edition of CITINGS, what's the British military hiding?

2

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

Two Army helicopters approached us and appeared to be harassing us.

3

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

Startling videotape reveals the truth behind crop circle formations.

4

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

Then, is the human race the result of an extraterrestrial experiment?

5

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

We are the direct descendants of the intelligent people who landed here.

6

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

Also, dangerous entities are terrorizing this hotel.

7

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

It's even possible these people don't know that they're dead.

8

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

Plus, a young girl's premonition turns to tragedy.

9

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

She drew that picture. She knew she was going to die.

10

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

And...

11

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

It was exactly the kind of signal that we were looking for.

12

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

A narrowband signal, a clear of the intelligent origin.

13

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

Have we made contact with a civilization from another galaxy?

14

00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:47,000

Finally, an update.

15

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

The sculptor whose psychic vision helps families find missing loved ones.

16

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:22,000

Music

17

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Welcome to CITINGS. I'm Tim White.

18

00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:30,560

The ancient hamlet of Avery in southwestern England is the site of two distinctly different

19

00:01:30,560 --> 00:01:32,260

supernatural events.

20

00:01:32,260 --> 00:01:38,000

In the Avery area, more than 300 crop circles have been discovered since 1990.

21

00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:43,680

And then there are the bizarre glowing orbs that locals have dubbed the Avery Mystery

22

00:01:43,680 --> 00:01:44,880

Lights.

23

00:01:44,880 --> 00:01:50,260

The two phenomena seemed unrelated until recently, when videotape was shot showing what appears

24

00:01:50,260 --> 00:01:58,020

to be a glowing ball of light actually creating a crop circle.

25

00:01:58,020 --> 00:02:04,260

This is a military helicopter circling a field in Avery, England, as captured on home video.

26

00:02:04,260 --> 00:02:08,700

The researchers who shot this tape believe it is evidence that the British government

27

00:02:08,700 --> 00:02:12,100

is involved in secret crop circle research.

28

00:02:12,100 --> 00:02:16,900

Watch carefully as the helicopter hovers near a mysterious ball of light in the middle

29

00:02:16,900 --> 00:02:18,820

of your screen.

30

00:02:18,820 --> 00:02:24,660

In the field below, a crop circle.

31

00:02:24,660 --> 00:02:29,620

The crop circle activity in this area this year has been quite considerable.

32

00:02:29,620 --> 00:02:35,380

We have something in the region of 100 major patterns in Great Britain currently.

33

00:02:35,380 --> 00:02:39,500

Over 90% of them are in this area once again.

34

00:02:39,500 --> 00:02:42,820

Some of the crop circles are made by my few exoterrestrials.

35

00:02:42,820 --> 00:02:50,500

When you study the material over the last 40 years from many countries, you have solid

36

00:02:50,500 --> 00:02:56,220

metallic looking objects landing, taking off, leaving a characteristic ground feature like

37

00:02:56,220 --> 00:02:58,260

an ordinary crop circle.

38

00:02:58,260 --> 00:03:03,540

It was like a clear sphere, oranging inside with like thousands of lights spinning and

39

00:03:03,540 --> 00:03:06,740

rotating and the whole thing was spinning.

40

00:03:06,740 --> 00:03:11,340

Most of the lights that are seen above the crop formations and some of them are actually

41

00:03:11,340 --> 00:03:14,020

seen in the fields.

42

00:03:14,020 --> 00:03:19,940

There must be some connection although at the present we haven't got that little thing

43

00:03:19,940 --> 00:03:22,180

that clicks the two together.

44

00:03:22,180 --> 00:03:27,700

Every night sky watchers ring the hills around Avery waiting for a glimpse of the mysterious

45

00:03:27,700 --> 00:03:28,700

lights.

46

00:03:28,700 --> 00:03:33,980

The following amateur videotapes of unexplained lights in the night sky have all been taken

47

00:03:33,980 --> 00:03:35,620

within the last three years.

48

00:03:35,620 --> 00:03:40,460

It was only very short lived but for the five seconds it was there, it was tremendous.

49

00:03:40,460 --> 00:03:45,380

It was like looking at something half the size of the moon just sat on the ridge top,

50

00:03:45,380 --> 00:03:47,500

brilliantly glowing orange.

51

00:03:47,500 --> 00:03:49,980

They looked like orange balls of light.

52

00:03:49,980 --> 00:03:55,500

You could see that they were mushroom shaped, revolving and emitting orange lights out from

53

00:03:55,500 --> 00:03:59,060

the bottom so we were quite fascinated by it.

54

00:03:59,060 --> 00:04:07,580

I'd describe it as being spherical oval shaped, silvery white, slight orange tinge.

55

00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:13,020

It came over from the left to the right of the trees and it went back and it came back

56

00:04:13,020 --> 00:04:14,020

again.

57

00:04:14,020 --> 00:04:19,620

Then all of a sudden it looked like it tripled in size and changed colour to orange.

58

00:04:19,620 --> 00:04:24,780

But then after that we see the white ball came out from the side of it and that went

59

00:04:24,780 --> 00:04:28,620

off to the left and we never see that no more.

60

00:04:28,620 --> 00:04:35,260

The lights are there and they're not aircraft, planets or radio towers but are they extraterrestrial

61

00:04:35,260 --> 00:04:36,580

craft?

62

00:04:36,580 --> 00:04:40,700

The astronomers believe the Avery mystery lights are a natural phenomenon but so far

63

00:04:40,700 --> 00:04:42,380

they don't know much more than that.

64

00:04:42,380 --> 00:04:50,080

At the heart of a lot of genuine sightings of UFOs are these balls of light cavorting

65

00:04:50,080 --> 00:04:55,820

around in the night sky perhaps coming down very close perhaps changing shape.

66

00:04:55,820 --> 00:05:00,900

It's quite possible that those balls of light are a glowing plasma which is the same type

67

00:05:00,900 --> 00:05:05,260

mechanism that we do think is involved in crop circle formation.

68

00:05:05,260 --> 00:05:10,340

Plasma being very simply electrically charged air particles and they start high in the

69

00:05:10,340 --> 00:05:14,980

Earth's atmosphere and come down and towards the ground.

70

00:05:14,980 --> 00:05:19,460

So if you have plasma coming from high in the Earth's atmosphere you should expect

71

00:05:19,460 --> 00:05:23,500

that it's likely to be swirling by the time it gets anywhere near the ground and that's

72

00:05:23,500 --> 00:05:27,380

completely consistent with what we find in crop circles.

73

00:05:27,380 --> 00:05:35,100

It is just conceivable that some of the circles may result from balls of light that just touched

74

00:05:35,460 --> 00:05:40,180

down and touched this very responsive surface of a corn field.

75

00:05:40,180 --> 00:05:45,060

The ground here is chalk and limestone crisscrossed with underground springs.

76

00:05:45,060 --> 00:05:49,260

Some scientists hypothesize that the interaction between the water and the rock creates an

77

00:05:49,260 --> 00:05:53,460

electrical charge that either attracts or helps create the lights.

78

00:05:53,460 --> 00:05:59,660

But what is so strange is that these lights appear to be moving purposefully and that's

79

00:05:59,740 --> 00:06:05,460

for me what sets it aside from the natural phenomenon to one which may well be controlled

80

00:06:05,460 --> 00:06:11,540

by an intelligence of some sort or indeed in itself may well be intelligent.

81

00:06:11,540 --> 00:06:17,580

I turned and I saw this glint and I thought what's that?

82

00:06:17,580 --> 00:06:20,700

And automatically almost I picked my video camera up.

83

00:06:20,700 --> 00:06:27,140

On July 26th 1990 crop circle researcher Stephen Alexander captured this remarkable footage

84

00:06:27,140 --> 00:06:30,900

of one of the mysterious earth lights in a field near Avery.

85

00:06:30,900 --> 00:06:34,180

The earth light was maneuvering next to a newly formed crop circle.

86

00:06:34,180 --> 00:06:39,900

This object just actually curved round and dropped into the crop and disappeared for

87

00:06:39,900 --> 00:06:44,740

a while and then it started maneuvering through the crop and it was glinting and flashing.

88

00:06:44,740 --> 00:06:48,220

It was a very intense sort of energy source it seemed to me.

89

00:06:48,220 --> 00:06:53,620

Then you can see that object actually take off and in the distance was a tractor driver

90

00:06:53,620 --> 00:06:57,740

and you can actually see the tractor driver stop as the actual object went over the top

91

00:06:57,740 --> 00:06:58,740

there.

92

00:06:58,740 --> 00:07:00,940

Where is that piece of paper?

93

00:07:00,940 --> 00:07:05,060

I couldn't explain it and in the back of my mind I knew it wasn't a bird or a balloon

94

00:07:05,060 --> 00:07:07,860

or just something blowing in the wind.

95

00:07:07,860 --> 00:07:11,380

I knew that it was something important there.

96

00:07:11,380 --> 00:07:16,740

This videotape of another earth light above Avery was taken from a hang glider by Dutch

97

00:07:16,740 --> 00:07:22,820

UFO researcher Foka Kooja but scientists and ufoticists may not be the only ones interested

98

00:07:22,820 --> 00:07:24,020

in these lights.

99

00:07:24,020 --> 00:07:27,780

It appears that the British military is also studying the phenomenon.

100

00:07:27,780 --> 00:07:30,780

That is what you look at.

101

00:07:30,780 --> 00:07:32,780

Look at these bristles with equipment.

102

00:07:32,780 --> 00:07:35,300

Right, we get this here.

103

00:07:35,300 --> 00:07:40,780

We get a picture of him in front of us.

104

00:07:40,780 --> 00:07:41,780

Oh yeah.

105

00:07:41,780 --> 00:07:42,780

There you go.

106

00:07:42,780 --> 00:07:43,780

The crop circle is right there.

107

00:07:43,780 --> 00:07:44,780

Hop out.

108

00:07:44,780 --> 00:07:45,780

Hop out.

109

00:07:45,780 --> 00:07:46,780

Hop up.

110

00:07:46,780 --> 00:07:51,340

What appeared to be happening was that we had moved, walked into a situation which was

111

00:07:51,340 --> 00:07:57,580

undesirable because what happened was that the two army helicopters approached us and

112

00:07:57,580 --> 00:07:58,900

appeared to be harassing us.

113

00:07:58,900 --> 00:08:00,300

I mean he was so close.

114

00:08:00,300 --> 00:08:01,940

It was unbelievable.

115

00:08:01,940 --> 00:08:08,100

One helicopter broke away across this field to the far side of the field to my left and

116

00:08:08,100 --> 00:08:15,100

what you can see on the film is a small white object pulsating identical to Stephen Alexander's

117

00:08:15,100 --> 00:08:19,380

very similar to the Dutch people's footage and others.

118

00:08:19,380 --> 00:08:24,540

And this helicopter went directly to the light which we could see on the footage.

119

00:08:24,540 --> 00:08:27,460

Some flashing thing on the ground.

120

00:08:27,460 --> 00:08:30,460

He's not moving right or right now.

121

00:08:30,460 --> 00:08:31,460

Oh yeah.

122

00:08:31,460 --> 00:08:32,460

Oh yeah.

123

00:08:32,460 --> 00:08:34,260

Did that move?

124

00:08:34,260 --> 00:08:35,540

It overshot it.

125

00:08:35,540 --> 00:08:40,340

The helicopter you can see backing up to get this back into full view as this white light

126

00:08:40,340 --> 00:08:47,940

is pulsating underneath it and on film this light just disappears.

127

00:08:48,060 --> 00:08:52,340

Once again on film we have something we cannot explain.

128

00:08:52,340 --> 00:08:57,780

If the lights are simply a natural phenomenon why would the British military be involved?

129

00:08:57,780 --> 00:09:02,700

If the lights are nothing more than concentrations of superheated energy how could they create

130

00:09:02,700 --> 00:09:05,820

these intricate designs?

131

00:09:05,820 --> 00:09:10,020

These things are seen to move from one pattern to another.

132

00:09:10,020 --> 00:09:15,860

They appear to have total awareness of their surroundings and on occasions we have many

133

00:09:15,900 --> 00:09:21,700

reports of an interactiveness between the people who are observing them.

134

00:09:21,700 --> 00:09:25,300

And so therefore for me that puts it into a slightly different slot.

135

00:09:25,300 --> 00:09:29,300

We're looking at what might be intelligence.

136

00:09:29,300 --> 00:09:33,220

He's moving right or right now.

137

00:09:33,220 --> 00:09:38,260

The British Ministry of Defense has stated that the helicopters in Colin Andrews' videotape

138

00:09:38,260 --> 00:09:42,700

were on a training exercise and that no one involved with the exercise saw anything unusual

139

00:09:42,700 --> 00:09:44,020

that day.

140

00:09:44,180 --> 00:09:48,700

According to the Defense Ministry the pulsing white object is simply a reflection from the

141

00:09:48,700 --> 00:09:51,420

helicopter's strobe light.

142

00:09:51,420 --> 00:09:56,420

Coming up, startling new theories suggest that there is a missing link in the story of human evolution.

143

00:09:56,420 --> 00:10:01,420

Don't call them aliens because we look like them, they look like us.

144

00:10:04,820 --> 00:10:11,020

When Charles Darwin published Origin of the Species in 1859 it ignited a worldwide controversy

145

00:10:11,020 --> 00:10:14,380

that continues to divide science and religion.

146

00:10:14,380 --> 00:10:18,860

But the controversy doesn't end there because within the scientific community itself there

147

00:10:18,860 --> 00:10:20,780

is bitter division.

148

00:10:20,780 --> 00:10:26,620

And now new evidence that a conspiracy of silence among mainstream anthropologists is

149

00:10:26,620 --> 00:10:32,620

covering up evidence of what some believe are our true extraterrestrial origins.

150

00:10:33,180 --> 00:10:39,680

The Bible answers the riddle of our origin in four simple words, and God created man.

151

00:10:39,680 --> 00:10:42,640

Darwin looked at monkeys and saw Michelangelo.

152

00:10:42,640 --> 00:10:47,600

But for modern anthropologists who try to put a name and a date to the dawn of humankind,

153

00:10:47,600 --> 00:10:50,080

the answer is constantly changing.

154

00:10:50,080 --> 00:10:55,200

Fossils discovered recently in Ethiopia put our earliest ancestors at around 4.4 million

155

00:10:55,200 --> 00:11:01,040

years, but some scientists believe that there is evidence that we are much older than that.

156

00:11:01,040 --> 00:11:06,120

On an archaeological dig in Weatlico, Mexico, Dr. Virginia's steam magentire discovered

157

00:11:06,120 --> 00:11:08,880

tools that predated the earliest known humans.

158

00:11:08,880 --> 00:11:10,960

Her find created a storm of controversy.

159

00:11:10,960 --> 00:11:13,280

I don't really want to be in the center of a controversy.

160

00:11:13,280 --> 00:11:16,800

I never asked to be in the center of a controversy, but I'm here.

161

00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:20,200

And dog on it, I want to get the information out.

162

00:11:20,200 --> 00:11:21,200

I want to get at the truth.

163

00:11:21,200 --> 00:11:23,720

I guess that's what it is.

164

00:11:23,720 --> 00:11:29,400

Why does Dr. Steen Magentire feel the need to protect her artifacts from her more mainstream

165

00:11:29,400 --> 00:11:30,760

colleagues?

166

00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:35,560

Why are contradictory findings being met with contempt instead of excitement?

167

00:11:35,560 --> 00:11:39,920

Some researchers charge it's because these new findings would turn modern anthropology

168

00:11:39,920 --> 00:11:47,640

on its head.

169

00:11:47,640 --> 00:11:53,320

I believe that we came from outer space.

170

00:11:53,320 --> 00:12:01,800

All the evidence suggests that human beings, as we know them, did not originate on this

171

00:12:01,800 --> 00:12:08,560

planet, but have come to this earth from other dimensions.

172

00:12:08,560 --> 00:12:15,360

I believe that we came from outer space, that we are the direct descendants of the intelligent

173

00:12:15,360 --> 00:12:18,760

people who landed here a long time ago.

174

00:12:18,760 --> 00:12:23,200

Gene Phillips is the founder and president of the Ancient Astronaut Society.

175

00:12:23,200 --> 00:12:27,440

He claims that museums are hiding thousands of artifacts that do not conform to their

176

00:12:27,440 --> 00:12:30,160

narrow view of anthropology.

177

00:12:30,160 --> 00:12:37,240

This is an exact replica of an object that is in the Smithsonian Museum, and they call

178

00:12:37,240 --> 00:12:39,240

it a stylized insect.

179

00:12:39,240 --> 00:12:45,360

The Smithsonian had it on display, and they used to sell replicas in their shop.

180

00:12:45,360 --> 00:12:50,280

Phillips claims that after the Ancient Astronaut Society interpreted the object as a prehistoric

181

00:12:50,280 --> 00:12:57,000

space shuttle, the Smithsonian removed the original from public display.

182

00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:02,960

Phillips and his group have studied more than 150 ancient sites in 30 countries.

183

00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:06,840

These 5,000-year-old masks were unearthed in Eastern Europe.

184

00:13:06,840 --> 00:13:12,880

They bear a striking resemblance to modern-day depictions of supposed aliens, known as greys.

185

00:13:12,880 --> 00:13:18,280

There's a site in Bolivia, South America, called El Fuerte.

186

00:13:18,280 --> 00:13:23,280

What it looks like is a catapult type launch site for space vehicles.

187

00:13:23,280 --> 00:13:28,280

The Ancient Astronaut Society is not the only group supporting the theory of interplanetary

188

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:29,280

contact.

189

00:13:29,280 --> 00:13:33,840

Author Zachariah Sitchin concurs in his book The 12th Planet.

190

00:13:33,840 --> 00:13:41,960

There is one more planet in our own solar system, not light years away, that comes near Earth

191

00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:48,840

between Mars and Jupiter every 3600 years, at which time people, intelligent people,

192

00:13:48,840 --> 00:13:55,280

beings like us, come and go between their planet and our planet, and brought us homo sapiens

193

00:13:55,280 --> 00:13:59,760

about sooner than we might have appeared otherwise.

194

00:13:59,760 --> 00:14:04,640

Don't call them aliens, because we look like them, they look like us.

195

00:14:04,640 --> 00:14:07,600

All we ask is that people have an open mind.

196

00:14:07,600 --> 00:14:12,280

Look at something with an open mind with today's space age eyes.

197

00:14:12,280 --> 00:14:16,760

Scientists on the fringe of modern anthropology believe that their theories are not taken

198

00:14:16,760 --> 00:14:21,920

seriously because mainstream scientists are afraid to admit that they've been wrong.

199

00:14:21,920 --> 00:14:28,320

All the textbooks would have to be rewritten, all the exhibits in the museums would have

200

00:14:28,320 --> 00:14:30,400

to be changed.

201

00:14:30,400 --> 00:14:37,720

This would be very embarrassing, and people who have positions to defend like that don't

202

00:14:37,720 --> 00:14:41,480

like to be embarrassed.

203

00:14:41,480 --> 00:14:46,440

The idea of alien evolution does sound far-fetched, and its proponents are well aware of the

204

00:14:46,440 --> 00:14:49,880

fact that they're looked at as eccentric outsiders.

205

00:14:49,880 --> 00:14:55,040

They may not have all the answers, but it's often the so-called eccentrics who ask the

206

00:14:55,040 --> 00:14:56,840

most interesting questions.

207

00:14:56,840 --> 00:15:02,280

Next, they call him the recomposer of the decomposed, and he solved another case.

208

00:15:02,280 --> 00:15:10,760

The payoff emotionally is helping to put somebody's cases to rest.

209

00:15:10,760 --> 00:15:15,960

Recently, Siding's profile forensic sculptor Frank Bender, his uncanny gift for sculpting

210

00:15:15,960 --> 00:15:21,240

a human face on the bare bones of an unidentified skull, has brought closure to many unsolved

211

00:15:21,240 --> 00:15:22,920

murder cases.

212

00:15:22,920 --> 00:15:29,080

And now, because of our original broadcast, another family can put a long-lost loved one

213

00:15:29,080 --> 00:15:31,080

to rest.

214

00:15:31,080 --> 00:15:39,840

In 1980, police made a grisly discovery in a row house on North Lithgow Street in Philadelphia.

215

00:15:39,840 --> 00:15:45,440

The body they found was badly decomposed and bore no resemblance to the young woman she

216

00:15:45,440 --> 00:15:47,120

once was.

217

00:15:47,120 --> 00:15:51,240

That's where forensic sculptor Frank Bender comes in.

218

00:15:51,240 --> 00:15:57,800

He has an uncanny gift for creating a face on a bare skull, for giving life, if only

219

00:15:57,800 --> 00:16:01,680

in clay, to the victims of unsolved crimes.

220

00:16:01,680 --> 00:16:07,520

His studio is the final resting place for men, women and children who have no names.

221

00:16:07,520 --> 00:16:13,440

Bender's technique combines forensic science with an emotional, some call it psychic, attachment,

222

00:16:13,440 --> 00:16:14,680

and it works.

223

00:16:14,680 --> 00:16:19,840

On a previous Siding's, we profiled Bender and his amazing success rate.

224

00:16:19,840 --> 00:16:24,320

After the first segment of Siding's aired, I received numerous phone calls from people

225

00:16:24,320 --> 00:16:31,960

all around the country, basically saying that they were thanking Siding's and also thanking

226

00:16:31,960 --> 00:16:37,600

me and the team involved for the work that we're doing.

227

00:16:37,600 --> 00:16:43,040

And now, the woman who Frank Bender resurrected from a skull found on North Lithgow Street

228

00:16:43,040 --> 00:16:44,760

has a name.

229

00:16:44,760 --> 00:16:49,360

The one brain and waiting are over for one Philadelphia family.

230

00:16:49,360 --> 00:16:53,480

After 15 years, they know what happened to Jackie.

231

00:16:53,480 --> 00:16:57,240

All these years I've never moved because I thought maybe she would come home.

232

00:16:57,240 --> 00:16:59,200

Never changed my phone number.

233

00:16:59,200 --> 00:17:00,960

Everything's been the same.

234

00:17:00,960 --> 00:17:07,160

Just in case she would reach out as they say in phone home.

235

00:17:07,160 --> 00:17:11,960

Because of our broadcast, Frank Bender met police officer Virginia Hill, who works in

236

00:17:11,960 --> 00:17:16,000

the missing persons unit of the Philadelphia Police Department.

237

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:20,800

Officer Hill inherited the Jackie Goff case three years ago.

238

00:17:20,800 --> 00:17:27,000

The search for Jacqueline Goff started with me in 1991.

239

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:31,980

The first time Officer Hill visited Frank Bender's studio, she was struck by the resemblance

240

00:17:31,980 --> 00:17:36,560

between Jackie Goff and one of the busts Bender had sculpted.

241

00:17:36,560 --> 00:17:44,080

I came over to his studio and we talked about it on a show that he was doing.

242

00:17:44,080 --> 00:17:48,960

And we put two and two together and we both believed the same that it was Jacqueline.

243

00:17:48,960 --> 00:17:51,280

Forensic evidence supported the matchup.

244

00:17:51,280 --> 00:17:54,880

Jackie's dental records indicated she had an extra tooth.

245

00:17:54,880 --> 00:17:57,280

So did the skull that Bender had worked from.

246

00:17:57,280 --> 00:18:00,200

A photo of the bust was given to the Goff family.

247

00:18:00,200 --> 00:18:02,200

They made positive ID.

248

00:18:02,200 --> 00:18:07,240

When I came here up, I would almost have to say how deadly that it was.

249

00:18:07,240 --> 00:18:14,760

Frank has never met Jackie, but when he made this, it seemed like he knew her when he made

250

00:18:14,760 --> 00:18:15,760

it.

251

00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:21,920

Because that looks like her through her eyes, top part of her face.

252

00:18:21,920 --> 00:18:27,760

DNA results are still pending, but Frank Bender is confident he has made another match.

253

00:18:27,760 --> 00:18:35,360

The payoff emotionally is satisfaction, the satisfaction of helping, helping to put some

254

00:18:35,360 --> 00:18:37,520

of these cases to rest.

255

00:18:37,520 --> 00:18:41,800

Officer Hill is continuing to work with Frank Bender on other missing persons cases.

256

00:18:41,800 --> 00:18:43,160

The future is promising.

257

00:18:43,160 --> 00:18:46,640

I work with families that are in great distress.

258

00:18:46,640 --> 00:18:52,880

A lot of families haven't heard from their children in 10, 15, even 20 years.

259

00:18:52,880 --> 00:18:58,480

I get a lot of relief when the family has put it to rest, when we can positively identify

260

00:18:58,480 --> 00:19:03,280

someone and then they can go on with their lives.

261

00:19:03,280 --> 00:19:10,480

Sadly, the bust that Frank Bender was sculpting during our original broadcast has still not

262

00:19:10,480 --> 00:19:12,040

been identified.

263

00:19:12,040 --> 00:19:19,120

Here again is the face of an unnamed child found murdered in Philadelphia in 1994.

264

00:19:19,120 --> 00:19:23,120

If you have any information about the identity of this little boy, believed to be 5 years

265

00:19:23,120 --> 00:19:27,800

old at the time of his death, please contact the Homicide Division of the Philadelphia Police

266

00:19:27,800 --> 00:19:45,800

Department.

267

00:19:49,640 --> 00:19:52,800

1849, the gold rush is on.

268

00:19:52,800 --> 00:19:58,240

More than 85,000 people flock to California in search of the mother load.

269

00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:02,840

A few become millionaires, but most barely scratch out a living.

270

00:20:02,840 --> 00:20:10,080

And many of the legendary 49ers die, laboring with hand tools inside unstable mines.

271

00:20:10,080 --> 00:20:15,880

It is the ghosts of those who died trying that many believe are still here today, haunting

272

00:20:15,880 --> 00:20:21,360

a small town in the Sierra foothills of California.

273

00:20:21,360 --> 00:20:28,440

You can hear explosions, you can hear fire crackling, you can hear people screaming.

274

00:20:28,440 --> 00:20:31,880

In California's gold country, the mines are idle now.

275

00:20:31,880 --> 00:20:34,040

The streams and creeks played out.

276

00:20:34,040 --> 00:20:41,640

But in Jamestown, the spirit of the 49ers is still alive inside this hotel.

277

00:20:41,640 --> 00:20:46,600

You can still find a hot meal and friendly conversation at the Willow Hotel.

278

00:20:46,600 --> 00:20:50,560

And some people believe you can still hear strange echoes from the past.

279

00:20:50,560 --> 00:20:54,320

I went into the bathroom, went to turn the light on and something touched me on the back

280

00:20:54,320 --> 00:20:55,320

of my hand.

281

00:20:55,320 --> 00:21:01,040

I've seen spices fly off the shelves, laughter in the kitchen when no one's there.

282

00:21:01,040 --> 00:21:08,000

Ceiling fans coming on by themselves, lights in here constantly going on and off.

283

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:12,680

Why does the Willow Hotel seem to be the focus of so much haunting activity?

284

00:21:12,680 --> 00:21:17,360

Many people believe it's because of a great mine disaster that killed 23 miners here in

285

00:21:17,360 --> 00:21:20,560

1862.

286

00:21:20,560 --> 00:21:24,480

Before the dust had settled, construction began on the Willow Hotel.

287

00:21:24,480 --> 00:21:30,320

It was built directly on top of the mine where so many had lost their lives.

288

00:21:30,320 --> 00:21:32,440

Jamestown tried to put the past behind it.

289

00:21:32,440 --> 00:21:36,320

The hotel thrived, hosting presidents and gun slingers.

290

00:21:36,320 --> 00:21:38,240

But the past did not go away.

291

00:21:38,240 --> 00:21:41,440

There's a lot of good here, but there's a lot of evil also.

292

00:21:41,440 --> 00:21:46,080

The Willow Saloon has been in constant operation since 1862.

293

00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:49,160

But for the past ten years, no one has slept here.

294

00:21:49,160 --> 00:21:53,640

A series of mysterious fires have engulfed the sleeping quarters three separate times

295

00:21:53,640 --> 00:22:02,240

and always on the same date in years ending in 5, July 21st, 1955, July 21st, 1975, when

296

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:07,440

the hotel burned on July 21st, 1985, no one wanted to rebuild.

297

00:22:07,440 --> 00:22:09,560

We smelled smoke all day.

298

00:22:09,560 --> 00:22:14,560

And then later that evening, we spotted flames in the wanes coating over in the dining room.

299

00:22:14,560 --> 00:22:18,880

When the fire department came, they chopped the wall up and went through it and everything.

300

00:22:18,880 --> 00:22:20,320

Inside the wall, there was no electrical.

301

00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:22,040

There was nothing there to make that fire start.

302

00:22:22,040 --> 00:22:25,400

It just had started from nothing.

303

00:22:25,400 --> 00:22:30,200

Then after we got the fire put out, then Kevin, the owner, asked us to stick around just in

304

00:22:30,200 --> 00:22:31,200

case it re-ignited.

305

00:22:32,160 --> 00:22:38,480

And at that time, we started hearing two scratches from underneath the bar floor by the waitress

306

00:22:38,480 --> 00:22:39,480

station.

307

00:22:39,480 --> 00:22:45,640

I took a fast exit out the door and then shortly after that, out of this wall that I'm leaning

308

00:22:45,640 --> 00:22:49,880

against came like two massive exhales.

309

00:22:49,880 --> 00:22:53,320

Word spread about the strange fires at the Willow.

310

00:22:53,320 --> 00:22:57,720

A local news crew came in to conduct an overnight surveillance.

311

00:22:57,720 --> 00:23:00,560

We set the camera back on the tripod and we left it just sitting there.

312

00:23:00,560 --> 00:23:02,080

Nobody touched it.

313

00:23:02,080 --> 00:23:05,680

And the camera went to black and white.

314

00:23:05,680 --> 00:23:11,040

And we had the electrical was blinking in and out.

315

00:23:11,040 --> 00:23:18,960

And the walls of the booth in the front there started rolling as if like an earthquake was

316

00:23:18,960 --> 00:23:20,880

making the walls roll out.

317

00:23:20,880 --> 00:23:21,880

We did play it back.

318

00:23:21,880 --> 00:23:25,080

Yeah, we had lines going across it and then started rolling.

319

00:23:25,080 --> 00:23:27,600

And then ever since then, I haven't been able to really view it.

320

00:23:27,640 --> 00:23:33,440

We kept shutting the VCR off, ejecting the tape and there was a brand new tape.

321

00:23:33,440 --> 00:23:39,120

That same television crew took these photographs and claimed they saw transparent entities

322

00:23:39,120 --> 00:23:40,760

hiding in the shadows.

323

00:23:40,760 --> 00:23:45,760

I just looked across the room and I just saw somebody standing at the booth.

324

00:23:45,760 --> 00:23:47,800

And as soon as I got up, he just disappeared.

325

00:23:47,800 --> 00:23:48,920

He was gone.

326

00:23:48,920 --> 00:23:54,280

That was the reason why I took a picture of the booth to see what would happen.

327

00:23:54,280 --> 00:23:59,800

And then it appears that there are two faces in the booth, one on each side.

328

00:23:59,800 --> 00:24:03,480

And one of the faces looks like he has like a miner's hat.

329

00:24:03,480 --> 00:24:06,960

Are these entities somehow responsible for the fires?

330

00:24:06,960 --> 00:24:12,320

Do they have a connection to the Great Jamestown Fire of 1896 that destroyed almost everything

331

00:24:12,320 --> 00:24:13,320

but the willow?

332

00:24:13,320 --> 00:24:18,160

In the late 1800s, when the town was burning and they've dynamited some of the other buildings

333

00:24:18,160 --> 00:24:22,640

to save this one, they said while they were dynamiting, a man was killed.

334

00:24:22,640 --> 00:24:27,000

And they said one of the kinfolk from the man that was killed is who keeps lighting

335

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:29,480

this place on fire.

336

00:24:29,480 --> 00:24:35,240

Or is the haunting here related to the turbulent times the willow experienced during prohibition?

337

00:24:35,240 --> 00:24:40,680

In 1925, Gus Rado, who was leasing the bar at the time, went upstairs to his wife's room

338

00:24:40,680 --> 00:24:41,680

and called to her.

339

00:24:41,680 --> 00:24:47,280

And when she opened the door, he fired one shot into her head and turned around and shot

340

00:24:47,280 --> 00:24:51,120

another into his own head.

341

00:24:51,120 --> 00:24:55,080

Since 1972, the places belonged to the Mooney family.

342

00:24:55,080 --> 00:24:59,640

When Kevin Mooney took over four years ago, he was a confirmed skeptic until he had his

343

00:24:59,640 --> 00:25:00,640

own sighting.

344

00:25:00,640 --> 00:25:02,200

I'm getting ready to walk through the back door.

345

00:25:02,200 --> 00:25:08,200

When I look up at the window and there's eyes like red like this, two red eyes looking

346

00:25:08,200 --> 00:25:09,200

through the window.

347

00:25:09,200 --> 00:25:10,920

I just, my heart started going, oh God.

348

00:25:10,920 --> 00:25:12,240

I get outside my heart's going to go boom.

349

00:25:12,240 --> 00:25:14,680

I look around, there's nothing there.

350

00:25:14,680 --> 00:25:19,880

The Mooneys had earlier contacted parapsychologists Nick Nosarino and Chuck Pelton to conduct

351

00:25:19,880 --> 00:25:20,880

a thorough investigation.

352

00:25:20,880 --> 00:25:25,200

You got something here that's very hot.

353

00:25:25,200 --> 00:25:26,200

Very hot.

354

00:25:26,200 --> 00:25:30,080

This is where the apparition should be.

355

00:25:30,080 --> 00:25:34,160

If there's going to be an apparition, it should be in this area.

356

00:25:34,160 --> 00:25:37,040

When you walk through this building, you still feel heat.

357

00:25:37,040 --> 00:25:38,320

You feel fire.

358

00:25:38,320 --> 00:25:40,160

You smell smoke.

359

00:25:40,160 --> 00:25:45,240

Pelton and Nosarino believe that there are three layers of hauntings here caused by what

360

00:25:45,240 --> 00:25:48,600

they have termed residual thought forms.

361

00:25:48,600 --> 00:25:56,360

Well thought form is probably an event that took place that these people are reliving.

362

00:25:56,360 --> 00:26:06,000

And if you tie that into a quick death, had it been from a fire explosion, a mine cave,

363

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:09,160

it's even possible these people don't know that they're dead.

364

00:26:09,160 --> 00:26:13,400

No one can predict if the haunting forms of the past will appear again.

365

00:26:14,040 --> 00:26:19,440

You can bet everyone in Jamestown will be keeping an eye on the willow every July 21st,

366

00:26:19,440 --> 00:26:22,040

ending in five.

367

00:26:22,040 --> 00:26:27,840

The pattern of fires occurring on the same date nearly every decade since 1955 has all

368

00:26:27,840 --> 00:26:30,400

the earmarks of a classic arson pattern.

369

00:26:30,400 --> 00:26:33,840

That's what the Toilomy County Fire Department originally thought.

370

00:26:33,840 --> 00:26:40,200

But their extensive investigation has ruled out arson as a possible cause.

371

00:26:40,200 --> 00:26:46,040

When sightings continues, a child's premonition turns tragedy into hope.

372

00:26:46,040 --> 00:26:53,960

Katie was given a glimpse from the other side.

373

00:26:53,960 --> 00:26:58,600

Most psychical researchers believe that we are born with extraordinary powers of ESP.

374

00:26:58,600 --> 00:27:03,520

But as we grow older, our psychic ability is weakened by a world that teaches us to

375

00:27:03,520 --> 00:27:06,640

rely on empirical thinking.

376

00:27:06,640 --> 00:27:10,520

If this is true, it might help explain why young Katie Thronson had a premonition of

377

00:27:10,520 --> 00:27:16,020

death that tragically came true.

378

00:27:16,020 --> 00:27:20,400

This is the last picture Katie Thronson ever drew.

379

00:27:20,400 --> 00:27:23,920

It was her vision of another life beyond this one.

380

00:27:23,920 --> 00:27:26,720

It seemed to spring from an active imagination.

381

00:27:26,720 --> 00:27:31,520

But less than a week after Katie showed the drawing to her mother, the little girl who

382

00:27:31,520 --> 00:27:33,920

seemed heaven sent was gone.

383

00:27:34,800 --> 00:27:43,440

Katie was a beautiful little girl who was really happy and was always kissing people.

384

00:27:43,440 --> 00:27:46,160

Just really loving.

385

00:27:46,160 --> 00:27:49,920

She would always have her arms around other children.

386

00:27:49,920 --> 00:27:54,460

She seemed to be the one that always brought children together.

387

00:27:54,460 --> 00:27:59,200

Over the course of almost seven years, she had hundreds of drawings.

388

00:27:59,200 --> 00:28:06,440

She expressed herself by drawing hearts all the time because she was filled with love.

389

00:28:06,440 --> 00:28:12,920

Julie Thronson vividly recalls one day in October of 1991 when Katie came to her out

390

00:28:12,920 --> 00:28:15,640

of the blue with an unsettling question.

391

00:28:15,640 --> 00:28:21,560

She came into the room where I was sitting, holding a tablet that she had been drawing

392

00:28:21,560 --> 00:28:22,560

on.

393

00:28:22,560 --> 00:28:32,400

And in a real innocent way came up to me and asked me, mommy, am I going to die?

394

00:28:32,400 --> 00:28:36,600

And I said, no honey, of course not, you're not going to die.

395

00:28:36,600 --> 00:28:41,280

And she said, never.

396

00:28:41,280 --> 00:28:46,720

And I said, Katie, no, you're not going to die.

397

00:28:46,720 --> 00:28:51,680

Then she just danced off, happy that she wasn't going to die.

398

00:28:53,320 --> 00:28:57,920

But two days later, Katie developed what appeared to be a severe flu.

399

00:28:57,920 --> 00:29:01,840

The next day her condition worsened and she was rushed to the hospital.

400

00:29:01,840 --> 00:29:05,120

Doctors suspected that Katie had a ruptured appendix.

401

00:29:05,120 --> 00:29:15,840

In the hours after that time, in prior to her going to surgery, her prognosis had become

402

00:29:15,840 --> 00:29:17,560

extremely grave.

403

00:29:17,560 --> 00:29:20,260

Julie never left her daughter's side.

404

00:29:20,260 --> 00:29:24,620

Just before three o'clock, while Katie was waiting surgery, there was a change in her

405

00:29:24,620 --> 00:29:25,620

breathing.

406

00:29:25,620 --> 00:29:28,860

She lapsed into unconsciousness and Julie could not wake her.

407

00:29:28,860 --> 00:29:42,820

I said, Katie, Katie just talked to mama and she wasn't responding to me at all.

408

00:29:43,780 --> 00:29:50,860

I looked at the clock and it was right at three o'clock.

409

00:29:50,860 --> 00:29:59,740

I looked at the clock, I looked at her and suddenly she just sat up in the hospital bed,

410

00:29:59,740 --> 00:30:04,860

raised her arms out towards the window, opened her eyes.

411

00:30:04,860 --> 00:30:11,180

It was like she wanted me to pick her up, yet she wasn't in my direction.

412

00:30:11,180 --> 00:30:16,140

There was this stillness in the room that is indescribable.

413

00:30:16,140 --> 00:30:19,620

It was just completely still.

414

00:30:19,620 --> 00:30:24,820

It was like an infinite moment.

415

00:30:24,820 --> 00:30:30,900

And in my spirit, I just knew that my little girl had been taken.

416

00:30:30,900 --> 00:30:39,740

And I ran out into the hall and I just yelled, my little girl just died.

417

00:30:41,420 --> 00:30:45,060

I just saw her die.

418

00:30:45,060 --> 00:30:48,740

A medical team rushed in to try to revive Katie.

419

00:30:48,740 --> 00:30:54,300

Julie waited in the hallway, just outside the room where her daughter was dying.

420

00:30:54,300 --> 00:31:02,500

And then I noticed a pregnant woman walking towards me and I could tell by the look in

421

00:31:02,500 --> 00:31:06,180

her eyes that she was going to say something to me.

422

00:31:06,620 --> 00:31:10,820

She came right up to me.

423

00:31:10,820 --> 00:31:16,940

She touched me on the shoulder and she said, the Lord has spoken to me.

424

00:31:16,940 --> 00:31:19,140

You're to be like a lioness.

425

00:31:19,140 --> 00:31:22,500

Your little girl is okay.

426

00:31:22,500 --> 00:31:31,500

And I just felt this shiver go through my body and I thought, if the Lord has spoken

427

00:31:31,500 --> 00:31:36,340

to her, then Katie is okay.

428

00:31:36,340 --> 00:31:43,460

Whether she's going to live or whether she's gone to God, Katie's going to be okay.

429

00:31:43,460 --> 00:31:48,620

The woman disappeared as if into thin air and Julie never saw her again.

430

00:31:48,620 --> 00:31:51,100

Katie was being kept alive with machines.

431

00:31:51,100 --> 00:31:54,140

After three days, doctors pronounced her legally brain dead.

432

00:31:54,140 --> 00:31:58,100

The thronsons made the agonizing decision to remove life support.

433

00:31:58,100 --> 00:32:03,460

The autopsy indicated that there was indeed appendicitis and that there had been extension

434

00:32:03,460 --> 00:32:08,900

of this infection locally to other organs that were nearby.

435

00:32:08,900 --> 00:32:14,700

Officially, Katie died October 10th, but both Julie and her doctor believed Katie was gone

436

00:32:14,700 --> 00:32:16,980

much sooner.

437

00:32:16,980 --> 00:32:24,860

When I told the doctor that at that time she had raised her arms out towards the window,

438

00:32:24,860 --> 00:32:31,380

he said, I believe that that was the time that Katie left her body.

439

00:32:31,380 --> 00:32:41,820

And that although they artificially kept her alive, she had died at three o'clock.

440

00:32:41,820 --> 00:32:47,180

It was six-year-old Katie who was the first to be laid to rest in the family plot.

441

00:32:47,180 --> 00:32:52,660

It was an unspeakable tragedy from which the thronsons never thought they would recover.

442

00:32:52,660 --> 00:32:57,860

A few months later, there was a ray of hope stuffed inside a cardboard box.

443

00:32:57,860 --> 00:33:03,580

Julie found the tablet that Katie had been drawing on just days before her death.

444

00:33:03,580 --> 00:33:16,020

She had drawn a picture of these angels surrounding a light and the cloud and the moon had sad

445

00:33:16,020 --> 00:33:21,060

faces and all the angels had sad faces and some of them even had tears coming down their

446

00:33:21,060 --> 00:33:23,060

face.

447

00:33:23,060 --> 00:33:25,820

The picture said everything.

448

00:33:25,820 --> 00:33:33,820

When I saw it, I knew without a doubt that Katie had a premonition.

449

00:33:33,820 --> 00:33:36,780

Julie drew strength from that cherished drawing.

450

00:33:36,780 --> 00:33:42,060

Then five months after Katie's death, a picture appeared in Life magazine that seemed to confirm

451

00:33:42,060 --> 00:33:45,580

Julie's belief that her daughter's drawing was a premonition.

452

00:33:45,580 --> 00:33:50,100

This 19th century engraving was part of an article about life after death.

453

00:33:50,100 --> 00:33:55,940

The depiction of a welcoming vortex of light was strikingly similar to Katie's own vision.

454

00:33:55,940 --> 00:34:00,500

Both pictures have a circular pattern that resembles the tunnel of light, commonly reported

455

00:34:00,500 --> 00:34:02,620

in near-death experiences.

456

00:34:02,620 --> 00:34:03,620

Coincidence?

457

00:34:03,620 --> 00:34:06,100

Or did Katie receive a divine message?

458

00:34:06,100 --> 00:34:08,460

She knew she was going to die.

459

00:34:08,460 --> 00:34:10,020

She drew that picture.

460

00:34:10,020 --> 00:34:12,740

She asked me, mommy, am I going to die?

461

00:34:12,740 --> 00:34:21,420

Whether or not she knew the meaning of it, I believe her spirit did.

462

00:34:21,420 --> 00:34:27,680

Author, Dr. Gerald Jampulski is a child psychiatrist who counsels bereaved families.

463

00:34:27,680 --> 00:34:32,300

After Julie Tronson saw the Life magazine article, she wrote to Dr. Jampulski and asked

464

00:34:32,300 --> 00:34:34,980

him to look at Katie's drawing.

465

00:34:34,980 --> 00:34:40,100

I pointed out that at three o'clock it looked like one of the angels was going toward the

466

00:34:40,100 --> 00:34:42,340

center and going toward the light.

467

00:34:42,340 --> 00:34:49,700

I was like amazed for a minute and he continued it, but I'm thinking he doesn't know that

468

00:34:49,700 --> 00:34:51,660

Katie died at three o'clock.

469

00:34:51,660 --> 00:34:53,940

There's no way he could know that.

470

00:34:53,940 --> 00:34:57,660

Julie also tried to find the pregnant woman who had comforted her.

471

00:34:57,660 --> 00:35:01,260

The hospital gave her the names and phone numbers of all the women in the maternity

472

00:35:01,260 --> 00:35:05,540

ward that day, but none of them remembered speaking to Julie.

473

00:35:05,540 --> 00:35:08,200

She was obviously an angel.

474

00:35:08,200 --> 00:35:14,280

There was some kind of a message there of life and death and birth.

475

00:35:14,280 --> 00:35:17,760

The cycle of death and birth continues.

476

00:35:17,760 --> 00:35:20,440

There is a new life in the Tronson family.

477

00:35:20,440 --> 00:35:26,720

Little Cody was born on October 7th, 1992, one year to the day after Katie died.

478

00:35:26,720 --> 00:35:29,280

It was an uncanny coincidence.

479

00:35:29,280 --> 00:35:31,120

I was once told the definition of coincidence.

480

00:35:31,120 --> 00:35:33,320

I've always found it very helpful.

481

00:35:33,320 --> 00:35:36,320

A coincidence is a miracle in which God wishes to remain anonymous.

482

00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:39,840

It makes a lot of sense to me.

483

00:35:39,840 --> 00:35:44,960

When the Tronsons take Katie's brothers and sisters to her grave, the family remembers

484

00:35:44,960 --> 00:35:48,280

and talks about what they believe is God's plan.

485

00:35:48,280 --> 00:35:49,800

There was a gift from beyond.

486

00:35:49,800 --> 00:35:52,560

Maybe a gift from God.

487

00:35:52,560 --> 00:35:57,320

The impact that drawing has had on our life is just beyond words.

488

00:35:57,320 --> 00:35:59,440

We have this to share with people.

489

00:35:59,440 --> 00:36:07,320

We have the hope to share with people that there is a beautiful side to all of this.

490

00:36:07,320 --> 00:36:11,960

It helped us in the healing because it gave us both peace.

491

00:36:11,960 --> 00:36:17,440

I felt honored that Katie was given a glimpse from the other side.

492

00:36:17,440 --> 00:36:23,400

There's just the fact that there's life after death.

493

00:36:23,400 --> 00:36:27,040

And even though we can't see it, it exists.

494

00:36:30,440 --> 00:36:33,960

Just a few weeks ago, the Tronsons were in a serious car accident.

495

00:36:33,960 --> 00:36:35,960

Unfortunately, everyone's all right.

496

00:36:35,960 --> 00:36:37,520

They're recovering at home.

497

00:36:37,520 --> 00:36:40,520

But something strange happened during that crash.

498

00:36:40,520 --> 00:36:44,480

Three-year-old Christopher told his mother and father that right after the moment of

499

00:36:44,480 --> 00:36:47,360

impact, he saw Katie.

500

00:36:47,360 --> 00:36:49,360

Up next.

501

00:36:49,360 --> 00:36:52,960

It was five to six times stronger than any signal in the past.

502

00:36:52,960 --> 00:36:57,560

After receiving what could be an extraterrestrial message, this facility could be shut down.

503

00:37:00,440 --> 00:37:08,280

The radio telescope at Ohio State University in Columbus is nicknamed the Big Ear.

504

00:37:08,280 --> 00:37:13,720

Its job is to listen for anomalous sounds in the cosmos that might be evidence of intergalactic

505

00:37:13,720 --> 00:37:15,560

communication.

506

00:37:15,560 --> 00:37:20,320

If someone out there is trying to get our attention, the Big Ear is probably the telescope

507

00:37:20,320 --> 00:37:24,040

that will bring the message to us.

508

00:37:24,040 --> 00:37:27,600

Man has always wondered, are we alone in the universe?

509

00:37:27,760 --> 00:37:32,840

Are there other intelligent beings somewhere that we might perhaps converse with at some

510

00:37:32,840 --> 00:37:35,720

point or at least learn of the existence of?

511

00:37:35,720 --> 00:37:40,560

The universe has no beginning, no middle, and no end.

512

00:37:40,560 --> 00:37:45,960

In such a limitless ocean of planets, moons, and stars, are we really the only lifeforms

513

00:37:45,960 --> 00:37:48,000

searching outer space?

514

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:51,560

Is another civilization trying to make contact?

515

00:37:51,560 --> 00:37:55,240

Astronomers operating this telescope believe contact has been made.

516

00:37:55,240 --> 00:37:57,640

It was exactly the kind of signal that we were looking for.

517

00:37:57,640 --> 00:38:01,800

It's a narrowband signal that clearly have intelligent origin, clearly not interference,

518

00:38:01,800 --> 00:38:03,160

not any of those things.

519

00:38:03,160 --> 00:38:08,480

In the late 1950s, Ohio State University began construction on what would become the world's

520

00:38:08,480 --> 00:38:10,640

largest radio telescope.

521

00:38:10,640 --> 00:38:14,600

It was designed to pick up and record the noises of space.

522

00:38:14,600 --> 00:38:19,960

And for over 15 years, it cataloged a symphony of static pops and hisses that were emanating

523

00:38:19,960 --> 00:38:24,600

naturally from satellites, stars, and explainable sources.

524

00:38:24,760 --> 00:38:31,160

In the mid-1970s, the radio telescope known as the Big Ear received NASA sponsorship and

525

00:38:31,160 --> 00:38:34,760

began listening for evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence.

526

00:38:34,760 --> 00:38:37,680

In 1977, they got their first hit.

527

00:38:37,680 --> 00:38:43,760

I had the task to look at the computer printouts to see if there was anything interesting.

528

00:38:43,760 --> 00:38:47,440

Anything four or above was definitely unusual.

529

00:38:47,440 --> 00:38:51,120

Well, this was the equivalent of 30.

530

00:38:51,160 --> 00:38:57,760

So it was so strong, five to six times stronger than I had seen any signal in the past, that

531

00:38:57,760 --> 00:39:02,480

I was astonished and immediately wrote the word, wow, exclamation point in the margin

532

00:39:02,480 --> 00:39:04,480

of the computer printout.

533

00:39:04,480 --> 00:39:07,440

The very strange thing is we have these two beams in the sky.

534

00:39:07,440 --> 00:39:10,000

We saw it in only one of those beams.

535

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:17,080

So that means that it turned off or on one or the other as we were watching it, which

536

00:39:17,080 --> 00:39:20,360

is even further indication of intelligent origin.

537

00:39:20,360 --> 00:39:23,680

The tantalizing thing is we went back and look hundreds of times later and it was never

538

00:39:23,680 --> 00:39:25,520

there again.

539

00:39:25,520 --> 00:39:27,440

So we will never know exactly what that was.

540

00:39:27,440 --> 00:39:30,520

It could have been from some other civilization.

541

00:39:30,520 --> 00:39:34,760

The spontaneous signal became known as the Big Wow.

542

00:39:34,760 --> 00:39:38,080

It immediately sparked serious debate among astronomers.

543

00:39:38,080 --> 00:39:42,680

No one could explain the origin of the signal, but many scientists would not accept it as

544

00:39:42,680 --> 00:39:45,640

proof of intergalactic communication.

545

00:39:45,640 --> 00:39:51,360

Researchers insisted the Big Wow was Earth's first contact with an extraterrestrial intelligence.

546

00:39:51,360 --> 00:39:53,840

The debate continues to this day.

547

00:39:53,840 --> 00:39:59,480

The fundamental problem in a scientific experiment is if you can't repeat it, you can't say it

548

00:39:59,480 --> 00:40:00,480

exists.

549

00:40:00,480 --> 00:40:05,440

Dr. Louis Friedman does not believe that the Big Wow is definitive proof of interstellar

550

00:40:05,440 --> 00:40:10,680

communication, but he does believe it is an important piece of a larger puzzle that the

551

00:40:10,680 --> 00:40:13,080

Big Ear will someday solve.

552

00:40:13,080 --> 00:40:18,520

Nonetheless, it has over the time made very useful observations in the whole search for

553

00:40:18,520 --> 00:40:20,480

extraterrestrial intelligence.

554

00:40:20,480 --> 00:40:26,640

But despite the Big Ear's scientific contributions, the radio telescope's future is on shaky ground.

555

00:40:26,640 --> 00:40:32,440

Congress did cut out the funding last year and that has made the SETI program really

556

00:40:32,440 --> 00:40:36,000

disappear from all government activities.

557

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:40,140

Because the subject deals with extraterrestrial life, it's a subject that is obviously capable

558

00:40:40,140 --> 00:40:41,160

of ridicule.

559

00:40:41,160 --> 00:40:47,520

And Congress didn't continue the funding because they were susceptible to those kinds of jokes.

560

00:40:47,520 --> 00:40:52,400

Unfortunately, the land the Big Ear sits on is becoming more valuable than the radio

561

00:40:52,400 --> 00:40:54,960

telescope itself.

562

00:40:54,960 --> 00:40:59,920

Without federal funding, it's up to private organizations like the Planetary Society to

563

00:40:59,920 --> 00:41:03,360

stave off destruction of the project.

564

00:41:03,360 --> 00:41:08,600

The idea that someone out there may be transmitting and we're not listening is not one that we

565

00:41:08,600 --> 00:41:11,120

in the Planetary Society are comfortable with.

566

00:41:11,120 --> 00:41:14,560

Currently, everyone who works on the project works for free.

567

00:41:14,560 --> 00:41:19,040

The Big Ear is supported by volunteers who don't want to see the project die.

568

00:41:19,040 --> 00:41:20,640

We have people from all walks of life.

569

00:41:20,640 --> 00:41:27,840

We have an attorney, we have physicists, astronomers, a chemist, school teachers, a jukebox repairman,

570

00:41:27,840 --> 00:41:32,600

people who just do anything that you can imagine to volunteer here.

571

00:41:32,600 --> 00:41:38,120

The Planetary Society encourages anyone with an interest in the heavens to join them.

572

00:41:38,120 --> 00:41:42,720

Scientists who aren't physicists or astronomers learn from those who are.

573

00:41:42,720 --> 00:41:47,280

If it weren't for someone like me coming up and moving, repointing the telescope a couple

574

00:41:47,280 --> 00:41:52,360

of times a week, then no such survey would be done.

575

00:41:52,360 --> 00:41:56,720

Their equipment is sadly outdated, but the Big Ear volunteers are undaunted.

576

00:41:56,720 --> 00:42:02,240

Who knows when one of them will be able to write, wow, on a computer printout.

577

00:42:02,240 --> 00:42:06,760

There's no telling what extraterrestrial civilization's power is.

578

00:42:06,760 --> 00:42:09,920

So even the weakest equipment might be able to pick something up.

579

00:42:09,920 --> 00:42:12,960

Eventually they will transmit, and I think we'll hear it.

580

00:42:12,960 --> 00:42:15,160

If not, my life is done then the next one.

581

00:42:15,160 --> 00:42:20,080

Seems unlikely that only here in this very typical place that life would have formed.

582

00:42:20,080 --> 00:42:24,280

In fact, if we go on searching for a long period of time and never find anything, that

583

00:42:24,280 --> 00:42:28,120

will be an even stranger situation, that we will have to then understand why did life

584

00:42:28,120 --> 00:42:30,960

form only here and nowhere else.

585

00:42:30,960 --> 00:42:32,920

We want the Earth to be listening.

586

00:42:32,920 --> 00:42:34,600

We have a lot to learn in this area.

587

00:42:34,600 --> 00:42:40,120

Who knows where we'll strike a little gold in those hills.

588

00:42:40,120 --> 00:42:46,360

The land underneath the Big Ear is leased to Ohio State by a land development corporation.

589

00:42:46,360 --> 00:42:51,720

The university's 10-year lease expires next year, and there are rumors that when it does,

590

00:42:51,720 --> 00:43:02,080

one of the world's tallest radio telescopes will be dismantled to make way for a golf course.

591

00:43:02,080 --> 00:43:04,440

This has expanded its America Online area.

592

00:43:04,440 --> 00:43:08,880

Key word, sightings, when you log on for access to sightings stories, images and events.

593

00:43:08,880 --> 00:43:13,680

To subscribe to America Online, call 1-800-591-3344.

594

00:43:13,680 --> 00:43:20,160

And you can still reach sightings 24 hours a day at 1-900-933-7444.

595

00:43:20,160 --> 00:43:25,040

Until next time, remember, no mystery is closed to an open mind.

596

00:43:25,040 --> 00:43:28,000

For Sightings, I'm Tim White.

597

00:43:28,000 --> 00:43:35,000

Next on Sci-Fi, The Sentinel.