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

Ah!

2

00:00:03,720 --> 00:00:06,320

Thank you. Have a nice day.

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

Welcome to Sightings. I'm Tim White.

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

According to legend, Halloween is the one night of the year when the dead are allowed to come out to play.

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

To keep the evil spirits away from the living, we're supposed to wear scary masks and costumes

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

and place a grinning jack-o'-lantern on the doorstep.

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

These are the traditional talismans of Halloween.

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

But in one small town in the Pacific Northwest, it's going to take more than a car pumpkin

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

to keep away the ghosts who ride an old steam train called the Spirit of Oregon.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:13,000

For passengers, a ride through Oregon's coastal mountains on this great old train

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:16,000

is a trip through history where the rails have a story to tell.

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

But one chapter in the story is disturbing.

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:25,000

The story of a great train wreck and its victims seem to have come aboard the Spirit of Oregon,

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:29,000

perhaps because she is one of the very last of a dying breed.

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00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:34,000

The Spirit of Oregon is very much alive.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:41,000

Five years ago, this was the Spirit of Oregon, a great hulking piece of Americana rusting on the scrap heap.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:44,000

Vicki Steele took this picture before the restoration began.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:48,000

My husband has refurbished railcars for the last 12 years.

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00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:54,000

And one day he decided that we should have our own dinner train, so he built it, and now it's here.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,000

All aboard!

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

The Spirit of Oregon carries its passengers along a scenic 50-mile route,

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

then stops just short of an old bridge before returning home.

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:16,000

And some people have come to believe that it is this route that has caused apparitions to appear in the coaches and on this photograph.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:21,000

We were showing the before pictures that we took of the train, and one of the gentlemen said,

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:26,000

hey, you've got a ghost in your picture, and we kind of scuffed at it because all you could see was a blue haze.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:33,000

But from its maiden voyage on, there were also personal encounters with strange forces that seemed to be targeting the train.

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:40,000

There was a bartender on the train that would have glasses blow up in his hand, or dishes will fly off,

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

or chairs will get jerked out from underneath you.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:50,000

We had a lot of really strange things happen, beating on the walls, on our offices when there's nobody out here.

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

And we'll see people walking through the trains when we know the train's locked up and it has a security system on it.

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:00,000

When you catch something in the corner of your eye, you always look back.

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

When I looked back, it was like somebody had taken ice water and shot it through from my head to my toes.

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

It was just a real cold, cold feeling.

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00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:14,000

And some people have reported feeling an overwhelming sense of dread,

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00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:18,000

despite the train's smooth ride and hospitable interior.

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00:03:18,000 --> 00:03:20,000

Back to Long Beach.

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00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:26,000

I can honestly say that that's probably the most depressed I have ever been in my life.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Michael and Sharon Palmer had been invited on the train for a special anniversary dinner.

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

It was August 6, 1995, but they, Michael, will never forget.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

I was overcome by this overwhelming depression.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,000

It was like a despair, an emptiness.

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:49,000

Suddenly a realization came to me that the feeling of being in the train was so much more than just a dream.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:56,000

The feelings I'd been having must be very similar to the feelings that someone has just before they're going to die.

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

Naturally, I broke down. I started to cry at that time.

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

Michael Palmer did not understand why he was experiencing those unnatural emotions,

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00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:10,000

but somehow he felt it was connected to the railroads past and the photograph.

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00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:16,000

We could see it was changing. We couldn't understand it at first, and then as it kept getting clearer and clearer,

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:20,000

we happened to mention it to a gentleman by the name of Edmund Stone.

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00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:27,000

I started to wonder, I know it sounds strange, if perhaps there was a reason it was happening at that time.

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00:04:27,000 --> 00:04:31,000

Stone is a producer for a Portland television station.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:38,000

He and director-camera operator Wade Evans produced a TV special about the strange happenings on the Spirit of Oregon.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:45,000

Their first trip on the train occurred on August 6, 1994, one year to the day before Michael Palmer's emotional ride.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:51,000

I felt something was inside of me trying to get out, actually. Then I started feeling emotional.

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Tears were rolling down my eyes. I felt very sad.

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:05:00,000

The towel or the lavatory, you get a cold towel.

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

In fact, I actually threw up and got weak. I couldn't stand for a moment.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Take some deep breaths.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Like Palmer, Evans felt that he was being targeted by an unseen force with an important message.

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Since I was trying to record the images that were happening in the train at that time,

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:24,000

I was more sort of a conduit for anything else that wanted to be recorded, perhaps.

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00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:31,000

But what was the message? Why had these two men been transformed by an inexplicable sense of dread,

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00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:35,000

and why did both incidents happen on August the 6th?

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:43,000

And the more I looked into it, the more I thought, if there's a reason that things are happening,

maybe it's connected with a train crash.

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00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:53,000

In fact, on August 6th, 1935, on the same rails where the spirit of Oregon rides today, there was a devastating accident.

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:58,000

A bridge collapsed and five men died, including the father of Mary Jane Walker.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:04,000

Unbeknownst to them that all the support had been taken away from the trussel.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:09,000

The train stopped before the bridge, but railroad workers waved the freight train on.

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

And they didn't even get all the way over, and it went down like a decade.

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00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:27,000

They had 112 feet to fall. They probably had something in the region of about 10 to 15 seconds of realization that they were going to die a horrible death.

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:32,000

The rails simply fell away below the wheels of the train.

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

Five men, including Mary Jane's father, died in slow motion.

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00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:45,000

The breakman was found clutching the brake in his hand, but the death grip so strong, he had to be buried with the brake in his hand.

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:58,000

Is it possible that perhaps in that last moment they understood that sadness of death, and is it possible that that feeling is being transmitted 60 years later through my government and my friend?

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00:06:58,000 --> 00:07:05,000

I don't know. That sounds far-fetched, but it might also be an explanation.

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00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:13,000

An accident report absolved the railroad of responsibility, and the families of the victims were quietly given cash settlements.

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00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:19,000

And that's been the way it's been for 60 years, and we start to look, we're like, hey, maybe this wasn't such an accident after all.

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00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Maybe there was negligence. Maybe if these presence is on the train, I'm trying to tell us something, then what if they were trying to tell us, hey, look at this because we shouldn't have died?

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

When Stone first began discussing these conclusions, the ghost image in the photo was, again, becoming more pronounced.

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00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:46,000

And not only was the original photo changing, all the copies of the photo were changing too.

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

You could see where they had the old-fashioned blue railroad shirt and the old-fashioned vest, and then you could actually start seeing a lantern hanging down.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:08:03,000

As the images continued to develop, we showed the photo to Mary Jane Walker, who had ridden that very train with her father so many years ago.

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

She saw three clear images.

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00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:19,000

Oh, yes, I immediately recognized Ted Johnson, the engineer, and then there was the man holding the lantern, and I could see, well, that's got to be Adolf Boeuf, the breakman.

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00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:23,000

And the other would be my dad.

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00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:30,000

I'm a believer. I think that it had to come. Somehow they had to get it out, the men.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:38,000

Their spirit would not rest until the truth was known about that damn wreck.

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00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:45,000

And now, in part because of the hauntings aboard the spirit of Oregon, the message is getting out.

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

Mary Jane recently dedicated a plaque near the scene of the accident.

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00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:58,000

It's a tribute she hopes will outlast wreckage from the accident, rusting nearby.

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00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:10,000

I do hope that the spirit of Ted Johnson, Adolf Boeuf, and my father know that we know now that it was negligence.

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00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Perhaps now that their story has been told, the five men who lost their lives on this line will be at rest.

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Yes, it's haunted. It's haunted by something that wants to find peace. That's all it wants.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:33,000

And I think it's heading in that direction.

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00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Although there have been a number of terrifying events on the spirit of Oregon, it seems that the ghosts on the train are selective about whom they target for vengeance.

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00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:46,000

So far, not a single paying customer has had a haunting experience.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Next.

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

He was one of the half dozen most famous men in the world.

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00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:59,000

If Nikola Tesla was so successful, why did he destroy a large part of Siberia?

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00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:02,000

Okay ladies, meet the pride.

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

Go together. And if you've ever read it, an old black and white horror movie, you've seen the wild eyed, wild haired, mad scientist hunched over a weird contraption spewing electricity.

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00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:17,000

But did you know that that character is based on a real life American scientist?

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00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:21,000

His name was Nikola Tesla, and there are those who believe that he was mad.

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00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:25,000

The night he inadvertently blew up part of Siberia.

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:46,000

On June 30, 1908, a remote area of Siberia known as Tunguska is devastated by a mysterious force, 2,000 times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

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00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:51,000

It left no crater or residue, the usual calling card of a meteor.

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00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Russian investigators who found metal fragments of the site suggested the blast had been caused by an alien spacecraft colliding with Earth.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:09,000

But a new compelling theory about the Tunguska incident suggests that a highly concentrated beam of electrical energy caused the total devastation in this region.

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00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:14,000

And that only one man had the scientific knowledge to pull it off.

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00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Nikola Tesla, I feel he's the greatest inventor of the past 500 years.

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00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:24,000

He is a Michelangelo. He is a Leonardo da Vinci of science.

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00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:28,000

He gave us AC Power, the fluorescent light, radio, robotics.

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00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:38,000

By 1900, he was the emperor of invention. He had eclipsed Edison. He was one of the half-dozen most

famous men in the world.

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00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

And he prays for a man we seem to know so little about.

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:50,000

When Tesla emigrated to the United States from Croatia in 1884, his dream of working for his hero Thomas Edison became a reality.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:56,000

But Tesla's development of a more efficient form of electricity called AC, alternating current,

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00:11:56,000 --> 00:12:02,000

didn't sit well with his new boss who had already developed the more cumbersome direct current, or DC.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Edison just shut him down. He said, it's DC here.

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00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:15,000

America, Washington, DC. Forget this AC stuff. You're working for me. I don't want to hear another

word of it.

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00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:20,000

But AC was superior as Tesla's biographer Ted Wise points out.

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

DC is like a fine wine that doesn't travel well.

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00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:29,000

It's a power that cannot be stepped up to extremely high frequencies,

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00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:42,000

whereas AC can be transported in these extremely high voltages and then stepped down very safely to be used in a home or school or a factory.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Tesla's brilliant discovery so impressed industrialist George Westinghouse that he enlisted Tesla in his bid to harness the hydroelectric power of Niagara Falls.

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00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:57,000

Finally, the movers and shakers of the day were noticing Tesla.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:05,000

He met Kipling, became a good friend of Mark Twain's, and he met all the millionaires. He made a point of meeting all the millionaires.

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

One of those millionaires was J.P. Morgan.

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00:13:08,000 --> 00:13:18,000

And J.P. Morgan was the fellow that gave him \$150,000, probably the equivalent of \$10 million or better today, to build Wharton Cliff.

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Wharton Cliff was the name Tesla chose for what he believed would be his greatest contribution, a huge transmitter that would provide electrical power to the world without the use of wires.

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00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:41,000

What he didn't tell, Mort, was that he wanted to send power to the world for free.

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00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:46,000

Journalist Ellen Sherman believes this was the beginning of the end for Wharton Cliff.

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00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:57,000

J.P. Morgan did not want to back something that was going to give free energy to people who he could put no meter on. He could not get any money from it whatsoever.

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00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:14,000

When Morgan pulled his support, he not only ended Tesla's career as the major scientist of his day, but he made laughing stock of it in the eyes of his scientific peers.

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

When that was all pulled away from him, he was a desperate man on any number of fronts.

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00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:30,000

And that desperation may have led him to use the partially constructed tower to conduct a fateful experiment in the summer of 1908.

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:36,000

Tesla was something of a showman. He had lost the backing of his principal financial supporters.

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00:14:36,000 --> 00:14:45,000

And he was the kind of person who might try a large public event that would bring attention to his work.

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00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Oliver Nicholson has found evidence that Nicola Tesla may have been planning to aim his electrical beam at the North Pole in order to put on a dramatic light show for Admiral Perry, who is in the midst of his historic expedition.

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00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:04,000

A small miscalculation in distance could have had devastating results.

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00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:11,000

There was Tesla's research station in Long Island, and I drew the line to Tunguska in Russia.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Then interestingly enough, that line crossed right near the North Pole and came very close to Ellesmere Island, where Perry would be camping over for the winter.

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

Nicholson and others theorized that Tesla's aim was true, but he grossly underestimated the effect gravity would have on his electrical energy beam.

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00:15:32,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Instead of this operating as he thought it was going to, there is a tremendous explosion in the

Siberian region.

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00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:47,000

Four star-laid flat, reindeer herds disappeared, small towns completely gone.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:55,000

J.W. McGinnis of the International Tesla Society is convinced that the Tunguska tragedy is linked to Tesla.

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00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:03,000

He disagrees with those who believe Tesla was purposely building a weapon of mass destruction on a global scale.

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00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:12,000

Of all of the great scientists of this country that went to work for the Manhattan Project, there was one scientist that refused to do that, and that was Nicola Tesla.

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00:16:12,000 --> 00:16:24,000

He did not believe in a general destructive weapon and wanted to introduce something that was a lot more incisive and certainly indefensible, and that was his death ray.

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00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:33,000

This thing was so powerful, it would deliver 50 million volts into an area that was one-tenth of a millionth of an inch in diameter.

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00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:40,000

If you put that much pressure in that smallest space, there is nothing that can stand up to it. You could cut a ship in half.

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00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:51,000

While the U.S. government went ahead with its atomic bomb strategy, a secretive interest in Tesla's work seemed to be at work shortly after his death in 1943.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:17:06,000

The day following his death, the FBI under the auspices of the OAP, which is the Office of Alien Protection, broke into his apartment, broke into his safe, and stole, or confiscated, all of his papers and effects.

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00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:17,000

Now, the OAP had no business being there. He had been a citizen of the United States since the previous century. So this was a ruse. They needed to get in there sometime.

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

Recently, declassified documents only hinted at the great discoveries that may have been hidden in Tesla's safe.

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00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:37,000

He had developed a sophisticated particle beam death ray, and he had the know-how to successfully transmit an enormously powerful wave of electrical current through the atmosphere at halfway across the world.

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00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:47,000

Could it be that through his perloined papers, our government gained knowledge that should, by rights, make Nikola Tesla the father of Star Wars technology?

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00:17:47,000 --> 00:17:52,000

They realized that Tesla was always ahead of his time.

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

What amazing discoveries did the FBI find inside Tesla's safe at the Hotel New Yorker? We may never know.

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00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:07,000

Shortly after their retrieval, the files disappeared, and have not been seen, at least not publicly, since then.

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00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:17,000

Next, dramatic new evidence that our government is covering up the truth about Roswell. And what Americans really believe about UFOs, you might be surprised.

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

Here are some of the stories that Sightings is following in the news. After more than 45 years, the federal government's general accounting office has finally started auditing government records to determine what really happened in Roswell, New Mexico.

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00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:45,000

In Washington, D.C., America's auditor, the general accounting office, has finally released the results of their full-scale Roswell investigation.

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The investigation was prompted by citizen protest, and by demands by New Mexico Congressman Stephen Schiff, who insisted that all documents relating to Roswell be released.

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00:18:55,000 --> 00:19:02,000

I have confidence the GAO will bring forward anything they find with respect to the Roswell incident.

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00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:08,000

The result is a terse report nearly as inconclusive as the famous saucer crash itself.

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00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:16,000

15 government agencies complied, including the FBI, CIA, Army, Air Force and Navy. However, few documents were turned over.

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The GAO report states that nearly every relevant record from Roswell Army airfield has been destroyed, and that it is not known who destroyed the records or under what authority.

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00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:41,000

While the U.S. Air Force has explained the Roswell incident as the crash of a classified balloon project aimed at the Soviet Union, the National Security Council, the CIA and the Office of Science and Technology have no record of such an operation.

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00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:49,000

The report concludes that the GAO's findings are inconclusive, fueling, rather than dispelling, the Roswell mystery.

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00:19:50,000 --> 00:20:04,000

In a related news story from Ohio, a statewide survey by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University has found that a majority of Americans believe in UFOs.

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00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:17,000

We interviewed 1,006 people. We had people in every area code in terms of age, education, income. So it does represent the entire country.

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00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:23,000

UFOs were a new topic for this biannual poll, which is designed to survey our attitudes about government.

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

We put the question about flying saucers in as another kind of dimension of how people feel about what government does and says.

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00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:40,000

The question posed was this. Do you believe that UFOs are real and that the government is hiding what it knows?

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00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:49,000

50% of the people said it was very likely or likely that flying saucers are real and the government was hiding the truth from us.

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:56,000

43% said that it was not likely that saucers are real and the government was hiding the truth.

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00:20:56,000 --> 00:21:05,000

That means that half of all Americans not only believe in UFOs, they also believe that the government is covering up the truth of their existence.

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00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:11,000

And it's an opinion that crosses all age, gender, ethnic and socioeconomic lines.

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

There is some evidence after all of the government hides things from us. You can dismiss a lot of these, but there are some of them you can't explain.

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

In Tibet, China's inner kingdom is considered one of the most spiritual places on earth.

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00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:39,000

The leaders for life in this autonomous region are called Lamas, the holiest of all Buddhist monks.

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00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Although the exiled Dalai Lama is perhaps more famous to Westerners, since 1959 the people of Tibet have been led by the Pung Chin Lama.

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

But recently the 10th Pung Chin Lama passed on and the search for his successor began.

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00:21:53,000 --> 00:22:02,000

Because Tibetan Buddhists believe in rebirth and reincarnation, the new Pung Chin Lama had to be the reincarnated spirit of the old Pung Chin Lama.

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00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:09,000

What happens is the Tibetan government sends out word that they're looking for reincarnation.

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00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:23,000

And they're asking whether there are any unusual children who have been born recently, ones having unusual knowledge, or ones who are born in the midst of miraculous activities.

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

Dr. Jeffrey Hopkins is a professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia. He has written over 20 books on Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism.

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00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Once they've narrowed down the candidates somewhat, they'll test those candidates by asking the child to choose, for instance, a rosary used by the Lama in the last lifetime as opposed to another one.

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00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:57,000

Monks from the Pung Chin Lama's monastery believe they have recognized the spirit of their former leader and spiritual teacher reincarnated in the body of a young boy.

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00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:04,000

But Tibet is part of China and the secular Chinese government is demanding a role in choosing and educating the new Lama.

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00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:13,000

The decision has outraged Tibetans because the care of its most spiritual leader is a task that has been left mostly to Tibetan monks since the 18th century.

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00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Dr. Hopkins believes the government's motivation is obvious.

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00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:27,000

As British spies used to say, there's no way of controlling Tibet without controlling or having a Lama on your side.

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00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:34,000

We'll have more stories from the news next time.

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00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Now, here's what's coming up on Sightings.

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00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:42,000

Why Mercy Brown's final resting place was anything but restful.

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

There was a vague power of spirit that was in the grave that was draining the life of the living.

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00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:52,000

And the man behind the alien autopsy film speaks out.

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00:23:54,000 --> 00:24:02,000

On Halloween, tens of thousands of make-believe counter-acculars roamed the countryside, blood dripping from their plastic fangs,

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00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:06,000

impersonating the fictional vampires a popular and harmless tradition.

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

But 100 years ago, there was a real cult of vampires who roamed the New England countryside.

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

They performed grizzly acts, digging up gravesites, and defiling the remains.

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00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:28,000

One biographer of Count Dracula referred to Rhode Island as the Transylvania of America,

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00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:36,000

meaning that more vampire incidents have happened here than anywhere else in the country, which is probably true.

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00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:42,000

In an old cemetery just outside of extra Rhode Island is the grave of Mercy Brown.

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00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:48,000

You would never know by looking at it, but this is perhaps the most famous site in the history of American vampirism.

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00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Mercy Brown was just the farmer's daughter.

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00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:57,000

Nothing remarkable about her apart from the fact that her body was exhumed and her heart was cut out.

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00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:01,000

What do you think of when someone mentions the term vampire?

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00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Michael Bell is a folklorist who specializes in the study of New England's vampires.

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00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:13,000

He's lecturing on the life story of Mercy Brown and how her own brother came to consume her blood-drenched heart.

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00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:20,000

Mercy Brown probably is in the forefront of importance in terms of the vampire practice in America

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

because she's the most well-known and as far as I can determine the very last case.

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

Mercy Brown was born in Exeter in 1873, a town some of her descendants including Louis Peck still called home.

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00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Exeter was a farming, log-cutting, wood-cutting town, timber. Timber and farming. That's what extra people were.

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00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:54,000

Mercy attended a one-room schoolhouse and led a typical New England farm wife.

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00:25:54,000 --> 00:26:01,000

But as she grew up, her family grew ill. She watched helplessly as her mother and sister died from consumption.

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00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:04,000

What we know today is tuberculosis.

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

In the meantime, Mercy Brown became ill with consumption and it was a kind called galloping consumption.

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00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:13,000

And so it progressed very rapidly.

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00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:18,000

In January of 1892, at the age of 19, Mercy died.

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00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:22,000

Her surviving family feared Mercy's brother would be the next to go.

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

The general belief was there was a vague force or power or spirit that was in the grave that was draining the life of the living.

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00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:39,000

In an effort to stop the inexorable march of the disease, the bodies of the Brown family were unearthed

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00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:43,000

to determine which corpse was draining the life from the living.

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00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:49,000

If you knew nothing else to do, what would you do? Try anything.

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00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:55,000

Well, the mother and the first daughter were basically decomposed the way they thought they should be.

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00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:00,000

But when they came to Mercy, she looked too fresh.

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

They come back here, dug her up, found her turn on her side.

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00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:11,000

Which, how do you turn on your side if you bear it?

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00:27:11,000 --> 00:27:15,000

The 19th century grave diggers knew nothing of forensic science.

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00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:21,000

They saw what they believed to be unnatural hair growth, nail growth, and a heart still full of blood.

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00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:24,000

Mercy was considered to be one of the undead.

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

Well, she'd only been dead a few months before they exhumed the body and these were winter months.

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00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:33,000

So the rate of decomposition would have been quite slow to begin with.

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00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Paul Sledzik is a forensic anthropologist with the National Museum of Health and Medicine,

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00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:41,000

who has also studied the Mercy Brown case.

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00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:45,000

They would be looking for things like lengthening of the fingernails, which is actually not lengthening the fingernails,

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00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:49,000

but just receding of the tissues underneath so it appears as though the fingernails have grown.

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00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:56,000

They also look for evidence of new skin, like a whitish skin appearing over the reddish old skin.

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00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:00,000

That's also just a byproduct of decomposition, it's called skin slippage.

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

On a bitter cold night, Mercy's heart was torn from her body, burned,

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00:28:04,000 --> 00:28:07,000

and the ashes mixed with water for her sick brother to drink.

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00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:12,000

Although he died soon after, he was the last member of the family to succumb to the disease.

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00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:21,000

So they thought for sure that they had got the vampire, and all the time it was tuberculosis.

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00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:25,000

Mercy was not alone.

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00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:31,000

Researchers have uncovered more than 15 incidents in which corpses were exhumed and then consumed.

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00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:39,000

In 1990, Paul Sledzik discovered this defiled burial site in rural Connecticut.

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00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Upon starting to excavate the graves, they found one particular burial that intrigued them

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00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:47,000

because the bones had been rearranged after death.

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00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:50,000

The skeleton had been tampered with years after his death.

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00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:55,000

The bones had been separated and rearranged in a skull and crossbones configuration,

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00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:59,000

a ritual designed to keep the undead in their graves.

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00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:03,000

You look generally at the New England folklore about how to kill a vampire,

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00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:05,000

they're essentially causing disruption to the corpse,

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00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:08,000

in the Mercy Brown case they're removing the heart and burning it.

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00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:13,000

They're just trying to cause some disruption to the normal appearance of a body within the grave.

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00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:17,000

But did the ritual performed on Mercy Brown work?

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00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:20,000

This is where we were told not to play.

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00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:24,000

According to Peck, Paul is still not quiet at the Brown family plot.

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00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:31,000

He recalls a night many years ago when he saw an unnatural force rise up from the grave of Mercy Brown.

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

I'm in my 20s and it's in the wintertime.

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00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:43,000

So we pull in here and in this same direction to where I'm sitting now,

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00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:51,000

about three feet off the ground was a ball of bright light, so bright it was blue.

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00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:56,000

I don't know where it come from and I don't know where it went to.

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00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:03,000

And we went to the corner to where another relative of mine lived.

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00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:08,000

We told him what we just seen and he laughed and he said,

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00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:10,000

what's been seen before what?

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

The gruesome acts performed by the vampire cult of the last century

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00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:19,000

were the natural result of ignorance, fear and superstition.

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00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:26,000

But they were also based on a belief in supernatural forces that continue to be cited in this century.

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00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:32,000

In that field, I guess she's made quite a history without a heart.

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00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:42,000

Bram Stoker, the creator of the original Dracula, is believed to have based his character on a 15th century barbarian called Vlad the Impaler.

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00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:48,000

But among Bram Stoker's original notes for his novel, researchers recently found a newspaper clipping from 1892.

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00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:53,000

It was a report on the bizarre case of Mercy Brown.

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00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Next, an elaborate hoax or the real thing, sightings goes to the source.

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00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:03,000

Once the film is deemed to be real or not, we can then decide how we're going to move forward.

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00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:13,000

Sawed after Man in Ufology today, Santilli claims that he has found film footage of a government autopsy of an extraterrestrial.

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00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:20,000

His supporters believe Santilli has uncovered the conspiracy of the century. His critics cry foul.

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00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:23,000

Now, in a rare interview with sightings correspondent Carla Wall,

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

Ray Santilli answers charges that he is closer to P.T. Barnum than to Woodward and Bernstoke.

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

Ray Santilli claims he's just a businessman with absolutely no interest in UFOs.

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00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:44,000

Yet we have only this man's word for the UFO story of the decade.

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00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:49,000

Santilli claims he's blown the lid off the Roswell saucer crash mystery.

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00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:56,000

In 1993, Santilli says he was researching a music documentary, searching for footage of Elvis Presley,

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00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:02,000

when a former U.S. military cameraman sold him some footage that is out of this world.

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00:32:02,000 --> 00:32:08,000

This, according to Santilli, is film of an autopsy being performed on an extraterrestrial life form

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00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:12,000

which died following the impact at the Roswell crash site.

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00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:18,000

Santilli bought it, marketed it, and sold the rights to television producers around the world.

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00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:21,000

It's already aired twice here in the United States.

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

Stills taken from the film can be found on nearly 200 websites on the Internet,

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00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:30,000

usually accompanied by a lively debate about their authenticity.

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00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:37,000

Is the film proof that aliens have in fact landed on planet Earth, or is it an elaborate hoax?

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00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:41,000

As we sit here talking, I don't mean there's a shred of evidence that suggests that the film is a hoax.

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

In a rare interview, Ray Santilli agreed to talk to sightings about his motives, the film,

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00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:49,000

and what some critics are saying about it.

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00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:52,000

First, let's talk about what some special effects people are saying.

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00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:57,000

We've talked to two highly respected people, one here in England, one in the United States,

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00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:03,000

and both say that's a fake body, not a bad fake body, but nevertheless a fake body.

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00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Well, that's the opinion of the special effects company that you visited and saw.

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00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:15,000

However, a special effects company can have you and I sitting in the car with John F. Kennedy driving Dan Deely Plaza.

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00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:22,000

That's the job they're in. They can recreate anything, I mean, recreating something, and the event itself are two separate issues.

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00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:31,000

Amid the hype and promotion surrounding the release of this film were claims that then-President Harry Truman was among the witnesses at the autopsy.

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

No one has yet seen that footage.

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

And in fact, President Truman Library says that there's no record of him being in that area during that time.

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00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:45,000

Firstly, President Truman is listed on one of the canisters as being there at the autopsy.

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00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:48,000

Cameron Moon confirms quite categorically that he was there.

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00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:53,000

The Truman Library states that he couldn't have been there if he was somewhere else.

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

Now, I don't know, you know, if-

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00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:57,000

Have you seen him on the film?

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:02,000

No. But if the event occurred, as we believe it did, then, you know, quite a few people have kept quiet.

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00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Would the Truman Library actually have information that we could rely upon if it was such a secret operation?

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00:34:09,000 --> 00:34:12,000

I don't know. But it is a discrepancy.

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00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:21,000

If this was such a top-secret thing, how could a cameraman get 22 reels of film and it never be

investigated and then not track it down?

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00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:22,000

How is that possible?

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

That's an incredible story itself. He shot hundreds of canisters of film during the event itself.

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00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:37,000

Each of the canisters or reels of film were three minutes in duration, and he separated during the filming reels that he felt were problem reels.

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00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:45,000

He'd sent the remainder straight on to Washington, and he spent more time on the 22 reels of film, which he'd processed or whatever.

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00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:53,000

And once he'd got to the stage where he felt he could send them on, he called Washington and asked them to pick up the film, collect the film,

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00:34:53,000 --> 00:34:56,000

and he tried on numerous occasions, but he just failed to do so.

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00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:01,000

Who is this mysterious cameraman and why did he wait 45 years to sell his film?

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00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:04,000

Santilli says we may never know the answer.

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00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:13,000

Whether he decides to talk and give his story to the public is something that's in his control.

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00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Why not? I mean, wouldn't it clear everything up if he came...

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00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:24,000

In your mind and in the mind of the world and people that are interested in the subject, but this guy is in his mid-80s, he's not interested in the subject.

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00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:30,000

That's the first point. Secondly, he's got his family to consider, and his family are his only consideration.

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00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

He doesn't want to lose his pension, he doesn't want to lose his...

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

Why would he lose his position in society?

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

Why would he? Why would he...

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00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Because...

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00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:38,000

What's at risk by coming out?

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00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:44,000

Because your media, I'm media, and as far as the media is concerned, this is a great story, and wouldn't it be wonderful if he came out,

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00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:47,000

because it would really then be a really fantastic story.

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00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:56,000

I have a letter right here from Congressman Steve Schiff, and he says that he offered to take the film to the U.S. government to see if they could authenticate it,

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00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:00,000

and that I'm quoting now, the Santilli group has not accepted my offer.

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

I've never seen an offer, I've never seen that letter before.

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00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Will you give it to Congressman Schiff though?

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00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Directly, why not? I mean, why not try and authenticate it at this point?

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00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Because we have a contractual relationship with Kivgette Green and Fox, and it's up to them what they do with it.

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00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,000

Does that contractual relationship...

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00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Let me just make one point very clear. I have no interest in the subject of UFOs or the paranormal.

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00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:29,000

I do not have the ability to research or investigate the footage.

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

Therefore, we appointed broadcasters in various territories, and the responsibility is with them.

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00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Well, you have made no bones about the fact that you are a businessman, and that your business is marketing,

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00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:44,000

and you've done a heck of a job marketing this film. I think you've probably made a bundle from it.

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00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Haven't made, in terms of profit, we haven't made our money back by any stretch of the imagination.

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00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:53,000

The ultimate aim is commerciality, but we still have to get past that first hurdle.

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00:36:53,000 --> 00:36:58,000

We have to satisfy broadcasters, we have to satisfy the world of ufology, and the general public.

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00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:05,000

But they haven't been satisfied in terms of the authenticity, so don't you have some obligation to try and do that?

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

You're at the very start of it. It will go on, and once the film is deemed to be real or not,

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00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:17,000

we can then decide how we're going to move forward, but we're still at those very early stages.

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00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:23,000

Despite Ray Santilli's claim that he has exposed the UFO scandal of the century,

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00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:27,000

most Roswell researchers are distancing themselves from the film.

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00:37:27,000 --> 00:37:31,000

They believe that if, and when, the footage is proven to be a hoax,

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

the serious strides that they have made in unraveling the Roswell mystery may also be called into question.

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

Next, does this man have the final word about the Loch Ness monster?

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00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:48,000

But a lot of people don't realize that the familiar Nessie image is only cropped close up.

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00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:57,000

That Christian Sperling had gone to his grave claiming that he had faked the world's most famous photograph of the Loch Ness monster.

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00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:02,000

But now, New Jersey researcher Richard Smith believes that he has found evidence

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00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:06,000

that Sperling's deathbed confession may have been the biggest hopes of all.

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00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:12,000

On the morning of April the 19th, 1934, Lieutenant Colonel R. Kenneth Wilson,

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00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:17,000

who was also a practicing physician in London, was on a vacation in the Highlands of Scotland.

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

And he claimed to have stopped his car along one of the shores of this immense lake, Loch Ness,

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00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:28,000

and seen the disturbance in the water and seen the head and neck of a large animal emerge,

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00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:33,000

made some exposures of plates, went up to the city of Inverness and had them developed.

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

And one of the results was, of course, the most famous of all Nessie images.

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00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

You could say it's the face that launched a thousand ships.

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00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:45,000

This is the most enduring image we have of the elusive Loch Ness monster.

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00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:48,000

The photo was judged authentic until last year.

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00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:51,000

The newspapers reported it was a hoax.

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00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:56,000

But Richard Smith believes he has new evidence that proves this photo is real.

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00:38:57,000 --> 00:39:05,000

Recently there have been widely publicized allegations that Colonel Wilson was actually part of a conspiracy

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00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:12,000

and that the object in the photograph is a modified toy submarine which has a plastic neck on it.

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00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:17,000

And these sensational claims were made by a man by the name of Christian Sperling.

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00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:23,000

Frankly, Christian Sperling's story is full of holes that are big enough for a Nessie to swim through.

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00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:29,000

Christian Sperling was a confidant of M.A. Weatherall, who first gained fame in 1934

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00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:34,000

during his highly publicized but futile attempt to capture the Loch Ness monster.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:41,000

After this failure, according to Sperling, he and Weatherall concocted a plan to take fake photos of Nessie

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00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:47,000

and then switch them with photos their unsuspecting friend, Colonel Wilson, was about to develop.

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00:39:47,000 --> 00:39:54,000

The major claim is made that this alleged toy submarine with the neck on it was floated in a small bay.

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00:39:54,000 --> 00:40:02,000

What a lot of people don't realize is that the familiar Nessie image is only a cropped close-up taken from the original picture.

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00:40:02,000 --> 00:40:10,000

The original picture clearly shows a wide central expanse of this immense lake with the opposite shoreline clearly visible.

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00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:13,000

It's not a small bay.

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00:40:13,000 --> 00:40:17,000

There's also something which is extremely interesting and the public is not generally aware of,

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00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:22,000

which is that Colonel Wilson was able to get two exposures of this object.

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00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:27,000

This second photo has rarely been seen by anyone except a handful of Nessie experts.

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00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:33,000

It's very important because the head and neck in this picture are now rather straightened out

387

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,000

unlike the first photo where they're at a right angle.

388

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And this shows that this object, whatever it is, is not made of unbending plastic wood, as Christian Sperling claimed.

389

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:48,000

But what's even more significant is the fact that Christian Sperling apparently did not know about this photograph.

390

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:56,000

Is this photo real? It's an interesting puzzle, but according to Nessie investigator Adrian Schein, in the end the photo is immaterial.

391

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:01,000

The Loch Ness Monster lives in people's minds and cannot be dislodged from there.

392

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:06,000

It doesn't matter how many photographs are disproved, it doesn't matter what the scientific implications are.

393

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:13,000

The Loch Ness Monster is something which does exist and will always exist because people want it to exist.

394

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:21,000

In recent months the only sightings of the Loch Ness Monster have been on t-shirts and coffee mugs.

395

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:28,000

Scientific research on the existence of real-life lake monsters has now moved west to the freshwater lakes of North America.

396

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Unlike Loch Ness, sightings on this side of the Atlantic are up.

397

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Join runners from all over the country at the Marathon of...

398

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:44,000

Let's lock down to something big and then tapes reveal air traffic controllers knew something was there. But what was it?

399

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:47,000

A pilot spotting an unidentified flying object.

400

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:51,000

A sighting special investigation, a close encounter in the clouds.

401

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:53,000

I really feel this place should be served.

402

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

A renowned psychic detective joins in the search for three girls gone without a trace, the missing link.

403

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:04,000

What started a new close have been found next time on sightings.

404

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:14,000

Discover a whole new world online with America Online, the easy fun way to explore to get your free 15-hour trial with no obligation.

405

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:18,000

Call 1-800-313-2222. Give it a try.

406

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:25,000

Denteen gum. In less than 60 seconds, Denteen's tingly taste will make your breath feel fresh and

clean.

407

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:28,000

Brush your breath with Denteen.

408

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:33,000

I'm mad at Night Hall. People who worried about sleep aids used to count me.

409

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:34,000

Now they feel...

410

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:38,000

Be contacted at America Online at keyword, sightings.

411

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

At the sightings forum, download images, sounds and quick time clips.

412

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

Also, join us daily in our chat room, live on AOL.

413

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:53,000

Until next time, remember, no mystery is closed to an open mind.

414

00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:56,000

For sightings, I'm Tim White.

415

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:05,000

It's not your typical morning show. It's live, it's wild and it's totally a ritual.

416

00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:10,000

Watch Fox After Breakfast, weekday mornings at 10 on Fox 43.

417

00:43:28,000 --> 00:43:31,000

On this show, that can only mean one thing.