

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,520

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,520 --> 00:00:06,360

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,360 --> 00:00:09,240

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,240 --> 00:00:11,960

What you are about to see is not a news broadcast.

5

00:00:16,960 --> 00:00:20,400

17-year-old Kurtz soldier disappeared after an impromptu

6

00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:21,200

party.

7

00:00:21,200 --> 00:00:24,160

Five days later, Kurtz's body was found.

8

00:00:24,160 --> 00:00:26,240

But no cause of death could be determined.

9

00:00:26,840 --> 00:00:30,760

No one knows how or why he died.

10

00:00:30,760 --> 00:00:34,920

Last May, two boys found a rock card with mysterious symbols.

11

00:00:34,920 --> 00:00:38,040

Suddenly, a phenomenal run of good luck began.

12

00:00:38,040 --> 00:00:41,640

They believed the rock has special powers.

13

00:00:41,640 --> 00:00:44,760

In New Mexico, a Catholic priest was lured to an isolated

14

00:00:44,760 --> 00:00:46,520

truck stop and abducted.

15

00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:49,720

In Montana, another priest mysteriously vanished.

16

00:00:49,720 --> 00:00:52,920

Authorities fear a priest killer may be on the loose.

17

00:00:52,960 --> 00:00:55,960

1949, chunking China.

18

00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:59,600

As a Communist revolution of Mao Zedong sweeps the country,

19

00:00:59,600 --> 00:01:01,760

an American GI named Melvin Nellis

20

00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:04,400

is shipped back to the States, forced to leave behind

21

00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:07,480

his girlfriend and their five-year-old son, John.

22

00:01:07,480 --> 00:01:09,680

More than two decades later, the boy

23

00:01:09,680 --> 00:01:13,640

is a grown man from thousands of refugees fleeing Vietnam

24

00:01:13,640 --> 00:01:17,240

during the fall of Saigon.

25

00:01:17,240 --> 00:01:20,080

Today, John Nellis is an American citizen.

26

00:01:20,840 --> 00:01:23,040

Today, John Nellis is an American citizen

27

00:01:23,040 --> 00:01:25,440

with a good job and a new family.

28

00:01:25,440 --> 00:01:29,040

But the painful memories of Vietnam are still fresh.

29

00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:30,920

Like his father before him, John Nellis

30

00:01:30,920 --> 00:01:34,560

left behind a young son when he came to the United States.

31

00:01:34,560 --> 00:01:35,400

Join me.

32

00:01:35,400 --> 00:01:38,800

Perhaps you can help reunite a family torn apart by war.

33

00:02:21,080 --> 00:02:32,760

On October the 28th, 1981, in Newburgh Heights, Ohio,

34

00:02:32,760 --> 00:02:36,040

a suburb of Cleveland, three young boys

35

00:02:36,040 --> 00:02:37,480

made a gruesome discovery.

36

00:02:41,480 --> 00:02:42,280

Wow.

37

00:02:42,280 --> 00:02:44,400

Is this a dummy?

38

00:02:44,400 --> 00:02:46,160

I don't know.

39

00:02:46,160 --> 00:02:47,480

I don't think so.

40

00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:48,440

Think it's real.

41

00:02:48,440 --> 00:02:49,360

Let's get out of here.

42

00:02:50,560 --> 00:02:58,080

The body the young boys found seemed to have been deliberately

43

00:02:58,080 --> 00:03:00,720

placed where it lay.

44

00:03:00,720 --> 00:03:03,160

Apart from some minor scratches and bruises,

45

00:03:03,160 --> 00:03:05,960

there was no sign of injury.

46

00:03:05,960 --> 00:03:09,640

One tennis shoe was in a pile of rocks 12 feet away.

47

00:03:09,640 --> 00:03:13,400

The other shoe was missing.

48

00:03:13,400 --> 00:03:16,240

Several hours later, the body was positively

49

00:03:16,240 --> 00:03:20,080

identified as 17-year-old Kurt Sova.

50

00:03:20,080 --> 00:03:23,680

An autopsy revealed that Kurt had died 24 to 36 hours

51

00:03:23,680 --> 00:03:26,720

before his body was found.

52

00:03:26,720 --> 00:03:28,840

But he had been missing for five days.

53

00:03:31,600 --> 00:03:37,920

I would like to know where Kurt was these five days.

54

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:43,400

I would like to know how he died, what caused his death.

55

00:03:43,400 --> 00:03:46,800

I'm sure somebody knows because somebody put him there.

56

00:03:46,800 --> 00:03:49,280

Somebody either was with him when he died,

57

00:03:49,280 --> 00:03:53,000

or somebody came upon him after he died

58

00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:55,160

and evidently panicked and put him down there.

59

00:03:55,160 --> 00:03:59,040

They didn't want to be caught with him.

60

00:03:59,040 --> 00:04:01,520

Ken and Dorothy Sova called unsolved mysteries

61

00:04:01,520 --> 00:04:03,120

in a final effort to find answers

62

00:04:03,120 --> 00:04:05,480

of the questions that plagued them.

63

00:04:05,480 --> 00:04:08,480

Where was Kurt during the five days he was missing?

64

00:04:08,480 --> 00:04:12,160

Did he die in the vacant lot, or was his body placed there?

65

00:04:12,160 --> 00:04:15,240

And is it really possible for a perfectly healthy 17-year-old

66

00:04:15,240 --> 00:04:18,680

boy to die without any apparent cause?

67

00:04:18,680 --> 00:04:22,720

The sudden unexpected death of a teenager is always tragic.

68

00:04:22,720 --> 00:04:25,360

But for Ken and Dorothy Sova, the tragedy

69

00:04:25,360 --> 00:04:28,280

is compounded by the mysterious circumstances surrounding

70

00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:30,680

Kurt's disappearance and death.

71

00:04:38,240 --> 00:04:41,040

Kurt Sova lived with his parents in this quiet blue collar

72

00:04:41,040 --> 00:04:44,360

neighborhood on the outskirts of Cleveland.

73

00:04:44,360 --> 00:04:47,520

He was the youngest of Ken and Dorothy Sova's four sons,

74

00:04:47,520 --> 00:04:49,000

and the closest to his parents.

75

00:04:51,720 --> 00:04:53,720

He never had any trouble with the neighbors.

76

00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:55,720

I never had any trouble with him in school.

77

00:04:55,720 --> 00:04:58,800

I never had any trouble with him with the police.

78

00:04:58,800 --> 00:05:01,480

That's why I can't understand what happened.

79

00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:10,760

Kurt left home for the last time on Friday, October

80

00:05:10,760 --> 00:05:12,680

23, late in the afternoon.

81

00:05:16,280 --> 00:05:20,720

One block from his house, Kurt met up with a friend of his.

82

00:05:20,720 --> 00:05:22,360

How you doing?

83

00:05:22,360 --> 00:05:23,720

Nothing much, how about you?

84

00:05:23,720 --> 00:05:24,640

Hey, party tonight.

85

00:05:24,640 --> 00:05:25,560

Yeah, where?

86

00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:26,880

Sus house.

87

00:05:26,880 --> 00:05:28,480

Tonight?

88

00:05:28,480 --> 00:05:32,800

I was planning on going to the haunted house.

89

00:05:32,800 --> 00:05:34,960

Kurt Sova never returned home.

90

00:05:35,400 --> 00:05:39,080

It was not like him to be gone overnight.

91

00:05:39,080 --> 00:05:41,400

It was not like him to stay out after 10, 10,

92

00:05:41,400 --> 00:05:44,000

10, 11 o'clock the latest, and that was only when

93

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:47,000

we knew where he was.

94

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:48,800

This night, he just never came home.

95

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:55,680

By Saturday morning, Kurt's parents were worried.

96

00:05:55,680 --> 00:05:57,920

Dorothy began calling Kurt's friends,

97

00:05:57,920 --> 00:06:01,440

while Ken scoured the area.

98

00:06:02,440 --> 00:06:05,600

We searched all the neighborhoods, all the places

99

00:06:05,600 --> 00:06:07,680

that we figured Kurt would be.

100

00:06:07,680 --> 00:06:11,840

And as that day went by, looking for him,

101

00:06:11,840 --> 00:06:14,200

nobody turned Kurt up.

102

00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:15,720

And I started getting really worried.

103

00:06:19,200 --> 00:06:20,000

Thank you.

104

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:22,160

On Sunday, the Sova's registered Kurt

105

00:06:22,160 --> 00:06:25,880

as a missing person with a Cleveland police.

106

00:06:25,880 --> 00:06:28,000

Meanwhile, Dorothy papered the neighborhood

107

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:29,720

with missing flyers.

108

00:06:30,640 --> 00:06:31,540

Excuse me.

109

00:06:31,540 --> 00:06:32,440

Hi.

110

00:06:32,440 --> 00:06:33,340

Can I help you?

111

00:06:33,340 --> 00:06:35,680

Oh, we searched the ravines.

112

00:06:35,680 --> 00:06:37,040

Searched the schoolyards.

113

00:06:37,040 --> 00:06:40,480

I even went so far as to search dumpsters looking for him.

114

00:06:43,640 --> 00:06:47,120

On Sunday afternoon, Dorothy turned up a lead.

115

00:06:47,120 --> 00:06:50,080

Kurt's friends told her that he had been at a party Friday

116

00:06:50,080 --> 00:06:52,840

night at Newburgh Heights, less than two miles

117

00:06:52,840 --> 00:06:54,920

from where the Sova's lived.

118

00:06:54,920 --> 00:06:57,160

Dorothy went to the duplex, where she had heard

119

00:06:57,160 --> 00:06:59,120

the party was held.

120

00:06:59,120 --> 00:06:59,760

Yeah?

121

00:06:59,760 --> 00:07:01,080

Are you Susan?

122

00:07:01,080 --> 00:07:02,880

No, Susan is in here right now.

123

00:07:02,880 --> 00:07:07,760

When I went there, the girl who had the party was not there.

124

00:07:07,760 --> 00:07:09,560

It was another girl.

125

00:07:09,560 --> 00:07:12,040

She claimed she was babysitting and that the other girl

126

00:07:12,040 --> 00:07:13,760

was working.

127

00:07:13,760 --> 00:07:17,240

Do you know anything about a party that was here last Friday?

128

00:07:17,240 --> 00:07:19,360

No.

129

00:07:19,360 --> 00:07:22,520

Could you possibly have Susan call me when she gets home

130

00:07:22,520 --> 00:07:23,640

to our true important?

131

00:07:23,640 --> 00:07:24,720

Sure, sure.

132

00:07:24,720 --> 00:07:26,880

Let me give you my name and phone number.

133

00:07:26,880 --> 00:07:27,880

All right.

134

00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:31,360

Please have her call me.

135

00:07:31,360 --> 00:07:32,260

Yeah, all right.

136

00:07:32,260 --> 00:07:33,160

Thank you.

137

00:07:33,160 --> 00:07:34,880

All right.

138

00:07:34,880 --> 00:07:38,080

When the girl returned home that had rented that apartment,

139

00:07:38,080 --> 00:07:39,400

she called me.

140

00:07:39,400 --> 00:07:42,720

And she said she never saw my son and she had no party.

141

00:07:48,640 --> 00:07:52,320

Despite what the woman named Susan told Dorothy Sova,

142

00:07:52,320 --> 00:07:55,160

a pizza delivery man stated that indeed there

143

00:07:55,160 --> 00:07:57,880

had been a party at the duplex on Friday night.

144

00:07:59,120 --> 00:08:01,880

Dorothy contacted Susan again, and this time

145

00:08:01,880 --> 00:08:05,080

she admitted Kurt had been there.

146

00:08:05,080 --> 00:08:07,320

More than a dozen people had dropped by,

147

00:08:07,320 --> 00:08:09,280

some of them older than Kurt.

148

00:08:09,280 --> 00:08:12,360

Most of them people he had never met before.

149

00:08:12,360 --> 00:08:17,120

Susan told Dorothy that Kurt had been drinking very heavily.

150

00:08:17,120 --> 00:08:20,760

Those who knew him say that Kurt was not much of a drinker,

151

00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:24,120

and his slight build added to his low tolerance for alcohol.

152

00:08:29,240 --> 00:08:30,920

I was shocked to hear Kurt was drinking.

153

00:08:30,920 --> 00:08:33,280

I never knew him to drink.

154

00:08:33,280 --> 00:08:35,000

I'm sure if everyone else was drinking,

155

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:37,960

he probably was drinking at that party.

156

00:08:37,960 --> 00:08:41,800

I never knew him or his normal friends to drink.

157

00:08:41,800 --> 00:08:45,840

But these were not his normal friends he was with this night.

158

00:08:45,840 --> 00:08:48,080

They were all a whole new group of people.

159

00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:54,440

The fellow that Kurt went to the party with

160

00:08:54,440 --> 00:08:57,000

told us that Kurt had become ill.

161

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:59,120

He took him outside for some air,

162

00:08:59,120 --> 00:09:00,600

and because it was a chilly night,

163

00:09:00,600 --> 00:09:03,400

he said he went upstairs to get Kurt's jacket,

164

00:09:03,400 --> 00:09:05,160

and he left him hanging on the fence.

165

00:09:12,560 --> 00:09:14,720

He said he went up to get his jacket and came back down,

166

00:09:14,720 --> 00:09:15,640

and Kurt was gone.

167

00:09:19,840 --> 00:09:21,720

That's when I think I became hysterical.

168

00:09:21,720 --> 00:09:24,240

I thought, my god, something had happened to him.

169

00:09:24,240 --> 00:09:27,920

I met that party or in between the party and home.

170

00:09:27,920 --> 00:09:32,560

Only I didn't in my wildest dreams expect him to turn up dead.

171

00:09:38,040 --> 00:09:43,000

On Wednesday, October the 28th, five days after he left home,

172

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,160

Kurt Sova's body was found in a ravine on Harvard Street.

173

00:09:47,160 --> 00:09:50,240

He was found just 500 yards from the duplex,

174

00:09:50,240 --> 00:09:53,720

or he had last been seen alive.

175

00:09:53,720 --> 00:09:56,760

We have a young male, probably about 16 or 17.

176

00:09:56,760 --> 00:10:01,480

It's our belief that his body was dumped out there,

177

00:10:01,480 --> 00:10:07,000

and whoever the person or persons were knew the area.

178

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:11,040

And they knew that people go back there and ride dirt bikes,

179

00:10:11,040 --> 00:10:12,680

and kids play back there.

180

00:10:12,680 --> 00:10:18,400

So they knew that eventually within a certain amount of time

181

00:10:18,400 --> 00:10:22,040

that he would be found.

182

00:10:22,040 --> 00:10:24,640

The police combed the area for clues.

183

00:10:24,640 --> 00:10:27,360

They found Kurt's left shoe wedged in some rocks less

184

00:10:27,360 --> 00:10:30,320

than 12 feet away from his body.

185

00:10:30,320 --> 00:10:33,000

They were never able to locate his right shoe.

186

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:35,920

Photo 29.

187

00:10:35,920 --> 00:10:38,440

Kurt's body was taken to the Cuyahoga County

188

00:10:38,440 --> 00:10:42,320

Coroner's office for an autopsy.

189

00:10:42,320 --> 00:10:45,840

The coroner determined that Kurt had died 24 to 36 hours

190

00:10:45,840 --> 00:10:49,000

before his body was found, which meant

191

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,440

that he had been alive for at least three days

192

00:10:51,480 --> 00:10:53,560

after he left the party.

193

00:10:53,560 --> 00:10:55,880

What the coroner could not determine, however,

194

00:10:55,880 --> 00:10:59,120

was the exact cause of death.

195

00:10:59,120 --> 00:11:02,560

On the basis of the things that we saw, and equally important,

196

00:11:02,560 --> 00:11:05,640

the things that we did not see, what was absent.

197

00:11:05,640 --> 00:11:07,120

We felt that Kurt's over had died

198

00:11:07,120 --> 00:11:09,400

from instantaneous physiologic death,

199

00:11:09,400 --> 00:11:11,880

and the manner of death, in this particular case,

200

00:11:11,880 --> 00:11:14,080

was signed out as probable accidental.

201

00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:16,200

Because we eliminated everything else.

202

00:11:16,200 --> 00:11:17,680

He hadn't been beaten in any way.

203

00:11:17,680 --> 00:11:19,720

He hadn't been traumatized in any way.

204

00:11:19,720 --> 00:11:22,760

He hadn't been, he didn't have enough alcohol to end his life.

205

00:11:22,760 --> 00:11:24,640

He had no pre-existing natural disease.

206

00:11:24,640 --> 00:11:26,920

And as Shulak Holm said, you eliminate

207

00:11:26,920 --> 00:11:30,080

all other possibilities, and that which remains is the truth.

208

00:11:30,080 --> 00:11:32,120

This was a diagnosis by exclusion.

209

00:11:34,880 --> 00:11:39,280

I didn't believe that they couldn't tell me how Kurt died,

210

00:11:39,280 --> 00:11:41,800

which is in material to me, what they put on that piece

211

00:11:41,800 --> 00:11:43,520

of paper for my peace of mind.

212

00:11:43,520 --> 00:11:48,000

I want to know what happened to my boy.

213

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,040

But I'm not really sure I want to know who put him in that ravine.

214

00:11:52,040 --> 00:11:54,400

I couldn't do that to somebody's animal,

215

00:11:54,400 --> 00:11:57,040

let alone a human being.

216

00:11:57,040 --> 00:11:59,240

I just want to know what happened to my boy.

217

00:12:03,480 --> 00:12:06,720

After the initial shock of Kurt's death had abated,

218

00:12:06,720 --> 00:12:08,840

Dorothy Silva began to piece together

219

00:12:08,840 --> 00:12:12,160

a series of strange events that had occurred during the five

220

00:12:12,160 --> 00:12:14,000

days when her son was missing.

221

00:12:14,440 --> 00:12:17,960

On Monday, three days after Kurt disappeared,

222

00:12:17,960 --> 00:12:19,880

one of his friends, David Trusnick,

223

00:12:19,880 --> 00:12:22,840

claims he saw Kurt and another boy walking

224

00:12:22,840 --> 00:12:27,040

along a busy street less than a mile from the Silva home.

225

00:12:27,040 --> 00:12:30,560

I was on my way to a job interview, was on a Monday morning.

226

00:12:30,560 --> 00:12:32,200

And I spotted Kurt.

227

00:12:35,200 --> 00:12:38,320

And he was with somebody I didn't recognize.

228

00:12:38,320 --> 00:12:41,680

And I pulled over to offer Kurt a ride.

229

00:12:41,720 --> 00:12:44,080

I pulled over to offer Kurt a ride.

230

00:12:44,080 --> 00:12:46,480

At this point, a van pulled up.

231

00:12:46,480 --> 00:12:50,640

And Kurt yelled out, Franco, they both ran over to the van

232

00:12:50,640 --> 00:12:51,720

and they got in the van.

233

00:12:54,200 --> 00:12:55,880

I didn't know Kurt was missing.

234

00:12:55,880 --> 00:12:57,520

If I knew he was missing, there would probably

235

00:12:57,520 --> 00:12:58,520

been something I could have done.

236

00:12:58,520 --> 00:12:59,560

I could have followed the van.

237

00:12:59,560 --> 00:13:02,240

I could have did something, you know, but I didn't know.

238

00:13:02,240 --> 00:13:06,320

And two days later, he was found dead.

239

00:13:06,320 --> 00:13:07,600

That was the last time I seen him.

240

00:13:12,400 --> 00:13:18,960

Also on Monday, a stranger who had been seen hanging around

241

00:13:18,960 --> 00:13:22,480

the Silva's neighborhood noticed Kurt's missing poster

242

00:13:22,480 --> 00:13:26,320

in the window of a local record store.

243

00:13:26,320 --> 00:13:27,120

There you go.

244

00:13:27,120 --> 00:13:28,020

Thank you.

245

00:13:28,020 --> 00:13:28,920

OK, see you later.

246

00:13:28,920 --> 00:13:29,920

All right, bye-bye.

247

00:13:32,440 --> 00:13:33,760

Can I help you with something?

248

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:36,080

See that picture of that boy over there?

249

00:13:36,080 --> 00:13:38,080

Yeah, what about it?

250

00:13:38,080 --> 00:13:40,240

You might as well take it down.

251

00:13:40,240 --> 00:13:42,480

Gonna find him dead in two days.

252

00:13:42,480 --> 00:13:43,880

Nobody's gonna know why he died.

253

00:13:46,440 --> 00:13:48,720

The manager was skeptical.

254

00:13:48,720 --> 00:13:53,840

However, she soon had a reason to take the stranger seriously.

255

00:13:53,840 --> 00:13:57,440

The next day, before the record shop had opened,

256

00:13:57,440 --> 00:14:00,480

he left flowers in a note.

257

00:14:00,480 --> 00:14:03,280

And the note said, roses are red.

258

00:14:03,280 --> 00:14:04,440

Sky is blue.

259

00:14:04,440 --> 00:14:05,600

They found him dead.

260

00:14:05,600 --> 00:14:08,280

And they'll find you too.

261

00:14:08,320 --> 00:14:10,120

Police questioned him.

262

00:14:10,120 --> 00:14:13,480

And they said he was a crazy from Detroit.

263

00:14:13,480 --> 00:14:17,360

And I didn't see him after that.

264

00:14:17,360 --> 00:14:19,920

Because Kurt was only missing at this point,

265

00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:22,720

the police released the young man from Detroit.

266

00:14:22,720 --> 00:14:28,840

Later, when Kurt was found dead, the man had disappeared.

267

00:14:28,840 --> 00:14:32,640

Then on Wednesday, the very day Kurt's body would be found.

268

00:14:32,640 --> 00:14:34,760

Dorothy Silva received an early morning phone

269

00:14:34,760 --> 00:14:37,280

call from Susan, the young woman who

270

00:14:37,280 --> 00:14:39,160

lived in the duplex where Kurt had been

271

00:14:39,160 --> 00:14:42,360

drinking on Friday night.

272

00:14:42,360 --> 00:14:45,280

I got a phone call at 3.30 in the morning.

273

00:14:45,280 --> 00:14:49,240

And she told me that someone was sleeping in her basement.

274

00:14:49,240 --> 00:14:52,280

And perhaps it was Kurt.

275

00:14:52,280 --> 00:14:54,360

And I thought, why are you calling me now

276

00:14:54,360 --> 00:14:56,440

after lying to me so many times?

277

00:14:56,440 --> 00:14:59,600

I didn't know whether to believe her or not believe her.

278

00:14:59,600 --> 00:15:04,800

My wife told me that the girl called about 3 o'clock

279

00:15:04,840 --> 00:15:08,960

in the morning and told her that she thinks that Kurt was

280

00:15:08,960 --> 00:15:10,120

sleeping in the basement.

281

00:15:15,760 --> 00:15:18,000

I proceeded to go over the house there.

282

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:20,080

And I went down to the basement.

283

00:15:20,080 --> 00:15:24,520

And I thought maybe he was sick or he was hurt.

284

00:15:24,520 --> 00:15:27,920

And I figured if I got down there and found him,

285

00:15:27,920 --> 00:15:29,440

then maybe I can do something for him.

286

00:15:34,800 --> 00:15:44,040

There I found a cot that it looked like somebody had slept

287

00:15:44,040 --> 00:15:45,000

in there.

288

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:47,040

But after searching the whole basement,

289

00:15:47,040 --> 00:15:49,560

I didn't find anybody in there.

290

00:15:49,560 --> 00:15:52,160

I have no idea if it was Kurt or not.

291

00:15:52,160 --> 00:15:55,280

All I know is somebody did sleep in that cot that night.

292

00:15:55,280 --> 00:15:56,680

And when I got there, they were gone.

293

00:15:57,200 --> 00:16:06,080

I think Kurt was there.

294

00:16:06,080 --> 00:16:10,200

I think he was already dead in that cot.

295

00:16:10,200 --> 00:16:13,960

But I think they panicked and got rid of his body

296

00:16:13,960 --> 00:16:14,760

in that ravine.

297

00:16:18,080 --> 00:16:20,440

Whether or not Kurt had died in the basement,

298

00:16:20,440 --> 00:16:23,800

Dorothy and Ken Silver are positive of one thing.

299

00:16:23,800 --> 00:16:26,600

24 hours before his body was found,

300

00:16:26,600 --> 00:16:28,760

Kurt was not in the ravine.

301

00:16:28,760 --> 00:16:31,680

Ken Silver had searched there and found nothing.

302

00:16:34,840 --> 00:16:37,840

I knew it wasn't there the day that I was searching.

303

00:16:37,840 --> 00:16:41,920

Well, he must have dumped it off that evening.

304

00:16:41,920 --> 00:16:44,920

I looked around and I'm sure that if Kurt was down there,

305

00:16:44,920 --> 00:16:47,000

I would have noticed that bright yellow t-shirt

306

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:49,120

that he had on against any of the terrine.

307

00:16:49,560 --> 00:16:51,760

Finally, three months after Kurt's death,

308

00:16:51,760 --> 00:16:55,000

Dorothy had reason to be suspicious again.

309

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:58,560

The death of a boy Kurt used to know, Eugene Kvett,

310

00:16:58,560 --> 00:17:02,200

seemed to have an eerie resemblance to Kurt's.

311

00:17:02,200 --> 00:17:05,200

Eugene was found in another ravine on Harvard Street,

312

00:17:05,200 --> 00:17:08,040

2 and 1 half miles from the place Kurt's body had been

313

00:17:08,040 --> 00:17:09,080

discovered.

314

00:17:09,080 --> 00:17:11,120

Both boys had been missing for some time

315

00:17:11,120 --> 00:17:12,920

preceding their deaths.

316

00:17:12,920 --> 00:17:16,720

And Eugene Kvett's right shoe was on the floor.

317

00:17:16,760 --> 00:17:20,320

And Eugene Kvett's right shoe was also never found.

318

00:17:23,200 --> 00:17:25,040

The mysterious death of Kurt's sova

319

00:17:25,040 --> 00:17:28,240

leaves a trail of disturbing questions in his wake.

320

00:17:28,240 --> 00:17:31,320

How exactly did Kurt die?

321

00:17:31,320 --> 00:17:35,040

Where had he been for the five days after he left home?

322

00:17:35,040 --> 00:17:39,080

Had Kurt slept in the basement of the duplex?

323

00:17:39,080 --> 00:17:41,480

Was there any connection between Kurt's death

324

00:17:41,480 --> 00:17:44,560

and the death of Eugene Kvett?

325

00:17:44,600 --> 00:17:47,240

Seven years later, Dorothy and Ken Sova

326

00:17:47,240 --> 00:17:50,400

are still searching for answers.

327

00:17:50,400 --> 00:17:52,200

We still don't know any more than the day

328

00:17:52,200 --> 00:17:53,600

we went out looking for him.

329

00:17:53,600 --> 00:17:56,680

But I believe that somebody out there

330

00:17:56,680 --> 00:17:59,200

knows exactly what happened to Kurt

331

00:17:59,200 --> 00:18:03,000

and they're just being quiet about it.

332

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:07,120

I don't think I will ever come to peace with myself

333

00:18:07,120 --> 00:18:08,640

until I find my answers.

334

00:18:11,440 --> 00:18:14,200

And if I don't find out through this program,

335

00:18:14,240 --> 00:18:15,720

I'll keep on searching.

336

00:18:15,720 --> 00:18:18,960

I'll search till the day I'm buried myself.

337

00:18:21,960 --> 00:18:23,920

I will never give up because I don't

338

00:18:23,920 --> 00:18:27,680

believe that a normal, healthy boy just walks away

339

00:18:27,680 --> 00:18:33,120

and disappears for five days and then ends up dead in a ravine.

340

00:18:33,120 --> 00:18:35,400

I know somebody knows what happened to him.

341

00:18:44,200 --> 00:18:46,200

The End

342

00:18:57,520 --> 00:19:00,520

April 1975, South Vietnam.

343

00:19:00,520 --> 00:19:02,720

As Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese,

344

00:19:02,720 --> 00:19:05,320

thousands of refugees fought to leave the country.

345

00:19:08,680 --> 00:19:11,320

To John Nellis, the son of a Vietnamese woman

346

00:19:11,320 --> 00:19:16,000

and an American soldier, this exodus was a nightmare.

347

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:19,120

Under the cloak of darkness, John and his wife, Tb Vivian,

348

00:19:19,120 --> 00:19:21,600

jumped into the back of a truck for the first step

349

00:19:21,600 --> 00:19:24,120

in a journey that was to take them to the United States.

350

00:19:28,680 --> 00:19:31,880

They narrowly avoided being shot by angry South Vietnamese

351

00:19:31,880 --> 00:19:32,380

troops.

352

00:19:35,280 --> 00:19:40,080

I was really terrified because I was thinking,

353

00:19:40,080 --> 00:19:43,160

will we make it?

354

00:19:43,160 --> 00:19:49,960

We thought we were, we got a chance to get out the country.

355

00:19:49,960 --> 00:19:51,720

But we don't know exactly where we're going.

356

00:19:55,840 --> 00:19:57,440

John and Vivian were lucky.

357

00:19:57,440 --> 00:19:59,160

They managed to escape.

358

00:19:59,160 --> 00:20:02,120

But today, the turmoil in John's life continues.

359

00:20:06,440 --> 00:20:08,440

The history of 20th century Asia has been marked

360

00:20:08,440 --> 00:20:10,880

by violent war and revolution.

361

00:20:10,880 --> 00:20:13,600

42-year-old John Nellis's life has been torn apart

362

00:20:13,600 --> 00:20:15,280

by these conflicts.

363

00:20:15,280 --> 00:20:17,600

For when John was still a child, his American father

364

00:20:17,600 --> 00:20:19,400

was swept from his life by the bloody rise

365

00:20:19,400 --> 00:20:21,760

of China's Mao Tse Tung.

366

00:20:21,760 --> 00:20:25,840

And in 1973, as the United States was withdrawing from Vietnam,

367

00:20:25,840 --> 00:20:28,120

John's infant son disappeared in the chaos

368

00:20:28,120 --> 00:20:30,680

that marked the ending of another war.

369

00:20:30,680 --> 00:20:33,000

Today, this new American citizen needs your help

370

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:35,400

to finally close this tragic circle.

371

00:20:35,400 --> 00:20:37,920

By reuniting with a son he wants to know

372

00:20:37,920 --> 00:20:39,400

and the father he never knew.

373

00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:44,600

John's father's name was Melvin Nellis.

374

00:20:44,600 --> 00:20:46,920

He was an American serviceman John's mother

375

00:20:46,920 --> 00:20:49,840

met during the mid 1940s in Chongqing, China.

376

00:20:54,240 --> 00:20:56,200

Chongqing was to become a focal point

377

00:20:56,200 --> 00:20:59,440

for the revolution sweeping China as a nationalist regime,

378

00:20:59,440 --> 00:21:01,480

a Chiang Kai-shek, was swept from power

379

00:21:01,480 --> 00:21:03,440

by the Communist army of Mao Tse Tung.

380

00:21:04,280 --> 00:21:06,680

Melvin Nellis was stationed in Chongqing.

381

00:21:06,680 --> 00:21:09,640

And there he met, lived with, and loved John's mother.

382

00:21:09,640 --> 00:21:11,840

OK, that's ready.

383

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:12,760

Here you go.

384

00:21:12,760 --> 00:21:13,640

It's dinner time.

385

00:21:13,640 --> 00:21:14,600

Are you hungry?

386

00:21:14,600 --> 00:21:15,520

Yeah.

387

00:21:15,520 --> 00:21:16,520

OK, great.

388

00:21:16,520 --> 00:21:18,320

When John was five years old, his father

389

00:21:18,320 --> 00:21:21,440

was shipped back to the States.

390

00:21:21,440 --> 00:21:23,240

Still wish he could come with me.

391

00:21:23,240 --> 00:21:25,520

As his father and mother were not legally married,

392

00:21:25,520 --> 00:21:27,040

she could not follow him to the United States.

393

00:21:30,040 --> 00:21:33,320

Melvin Nellis promised to be a part of the United States

394

00:21:33,360 --> 00:21:35,760

and promised to write, but eventually the letter stopped.

395

00:21:39,200 --> 00:21:41,200

John never heard from his father again.

396

00:21:46,200 --> 00:21:50,000

My mother did not let me go with my father

397

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:52,640

because I'm the only child she has.

398

00:21:52,640 --> 00:21:58,240

And also in the Asia culture, the boy

399

00:21:58,240 --> 00:22:01,440

is the foundation of the family.

400

00:22:01,440 --> 00:22:06,480

My mother also wanted me to be around with her just in case

401

00:22:06,480 --> 00:22:09,600

I can support her when she grew old.

402

00:22:13,520 --> 00:22:17,080

In 1952, John and his mother moved to her homeland,

403

00:22:17,080 --> 00:22:18,600

South Vietnam.

404

00:22:18,600 --> 00:22:23,320

At this time, the Vietnam War was gathering momentum.

405

00:22:23,320 --> 00:22:26,360

John's mother made a marginal living selling produce

406

00:22:26,360 --> 00:22:28,480

but was still able to save just enough money

407

00:22:28,480 --> 00:22:31,120

to send her son to private schools.

408

00:22:31,120 --> 00:22:33,200

There he was able to learn English and receive

409

00:22:33,200 --> 00:22:36,520

a Western education.

410

00:22:36,520 --> 00:22:40,920

My mother, she did make a lot of sacrifice for me.

411

00:22:40,920 --> 00:22:45,560

She has to spend at least 2-3 of her income

412

00:22:45,560 --> 00:22:46,800

to send me to that school.

413

00:22:49,640 --> 00:22:53,360

In 1957, John's mother took her son to the United States

414

00:22:53,360 --> 00:22:54,840

Embassy in Saigon.

415

00:22:54,840 --> 00:22:56,280

This is my son, John.

416

00:22:56,280 --> 00:22:57,280

Hello, John.

417

00:22:57,280 --> 00:22:58,000

Hello.

418

00:22:58,000 --> 00:22:59,280

I'm John Quinn.

419

00:22:59,280 --> 00:23:01,760

Won't you have a seat?

420

00:23:01,760 --> 00:23:03,360

What can I do for you?

421

00:23:03,360 --> 00:23:06,680

I would like to register my son for immigration

422

00:23:06,680 --> 00:23:09,440

to go to the United States.

423

00:23:09,440 --> 00:23:13,800

After my mother lost contact with my father,

424

00:23:13,800 --> 00:23:17,200

she has a financial hardship.

425

00:23:17,200 --> 00:23:21,880

So she was thinking of sending me to the United States

426

00:23:21,880 --> 00:23:28,200

because she was afraid that she could not take care of me.

427

00:23:28,240 --> 00:23:31,520

At the embassy, she was able to secure a registration document

428

00:23:31,520 --> 00:23:34,160

that proved that John's father was an American.

429

00:23:34,160 --> 00:23:37,160

This document was to be vital in his later immigration

430

00:23:37,160 --> 00:23:38,280

to the United States.

431

00:23:43,800 --> 00:23:46,640

As the war in Vietnam escalated, John's personal life

432

00:23:46,640 --> 00:23:49,960

also went through dramatic changes.

433

00:23:49,960 --> 00:23:53,880

He met a woman and fathered her child.

434

00:23:53,880 --> 00:23:57,880

Then in 1971, she left him and took John's son.

435

00:23:57,880 --> 00:24:01,040

In 1973, she married an American Marine

436

00:24:01,040 --> 00:24:04,080

and John believed that the couple had taken the boy with them

437

00:24:04,080 --> 00:24:06,080

to the United States.

438

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:12,560

First of all, I feel a little sad because I lost the son.

439

00:24:12,560 --> 00:24:16,640

But I feel happy because he can go to the United States,

440

00:24:16,640 --> 00:24:20,080

has a proper education, have a better life,

441

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:22,320

so he doesn't end up like myself.

442

00:24:23,320 --> 00:24:27,320

In April of 1975, John and his new girlfriend Vivian

443

00:24:27,320 --> 00:24:29,320

run one of the last planes leaving Saigon.

444

00:24:32,320 --> 00:24:37,320

I was taking a last look down through the door

445

00:24:37,320 --> 00:24:39,320

where the plane up high, you know,

446

00:24:39,320 --> 00:24:41,320

I see all the light of the city.

447

00:24:41,320 --> 00:24:45,320

And I know this is just a goodbye.

448

00:24:45,320 --> 00:24:50,320

And I say, well, I'm going to go to the United States

449

00:24:50,320 --> 00:24:55,320

and I say, well, finally, I make the trip to the United States.

450

00:24:57,320 --> 00:24:59,320

Later after John had settled in America,

451

00:24:59,320 --> 00:25:02,320

he was to learn that his boy had been left behind

452

00:25:02,320 --> 00:25:05,320

in the chaos and carnage that had overtaken Vietnam.

453

00:25:08,320 --> 00:25:11,320

After John and Vivian's daring escape, they were married.

454

00:25:11,320 --> 00:25:15,320

They currently live in an affluent suburb in Orange County, California

455

00:25:15,320 --> 00:25:18,320

where John works as an electronics technician.

456

00:25:18,320 --> 00:25:21,320

In 1986, the couple became citizens

457

00:25:21,320 --> 00:25:23,320

and they have a three-year-old daughter, Vianna.

458

00:25:26,320 --> 00:25:30,320

Despite John's newfound happiness, his life is full of loose ends.

459

00:25:30,320 --> 00:25:32,320

He has lost both his father and his son

460

00:25:32,320 --> 00:25:35,320

and longs to be reconciled with both.

461

00:25:35,320 --> 00:25:40,320

If my father and my son watching me right now,

462

00:25:40,320 --> 00:25:43,320

I would like to tell them how much I miss them

463

00:25:43,320 --> 00:25:45,320

and I love them.

464

00:25:46,320 --> 00:25:51,320

And I would like to reunite it and see them again.

465

00:25:55,320 --> 00:25:59,320

John's father, Melvin Nellis, served in China in the late 1940s.

466

00:25:59,320 --> 00:26:03,320

His last letters to his Asian family were mailed from Ohio.

467

00:26:03,320 --> 00:26:07,320

Melvin Nellis would today be between 60 and 70 years old.

468

00:26:09,320 --> 00:26:11,320

Thanks to our broadcast, John Nellis learned

469

00:26:11,320 --> 00:26:15,320

that his father's now retired and living in Tokyo, Japan.

470

00:26:15,320 --> 00:26:17,320

Incredibly, just three weeks later,

471

00:26:17,320 --> 00:26:20,320

John's search for his son Daniel also came to an end

472

00:26:20,320 --> 00:26:24,320

when they were reunited after more than 17 years.

473

00:26:27,320 --> 00:26:29,320

Oh, he's coming.

474

00:26:29,320 --> 00:26:32,320

That's him, that's him right there.

475

00:26:42,320 --> 00:26:46,320

For so many years, I miss him, I think of him all the time

476

00:26:46,320 --> 00:26:48,320

and I'm so happy to see him.

477

00:26:48,320 --> 00:26:51,320

This is a real dream come true.

478

00:26:51,320 --> 00:26:55,320

And it's a miracle.

479

00:26:57,320 --> 00:27:01,320

When I saw my dad, I was so excited and very happy.

480

00:27:03,320 --> 00:27:06,320

When I looked into his eyes and saw his family,

481

00:27:06,320 --> 00:27:08,320

I found happiness.

482

00:27:09,320 --> 00:27:12,320

Daniel's first day in America was overwhelming.

483

00:27:12,320 --> 00:27:14,320

Not only did he reunite with his father,

484

00:27:14,320 --> 00:27:18,320

he also met his stepmother and half-sister for the first time.

485

00:27:20,320 --> 00:27:24,320

Now he's with me, I want to do my best,

486

00:27:24,320 --> 00:27:28,320

give him a good chance in life and a better future for him.

487

00:27:28,320 --> 00:27:32,320

And make up for what he has lost.

488

00:27:32,320 --> 00:27:34,320

Come on, say cheese.

489

00:27:39,320 --> 00:27:41,320

In a moment, the story of two priests

490

00:27:41,320 --> 00:27:44,320

connected by a violent and unexplained fate.

491

00:27:44,320 --> 00:27:47,320

Someone may have a vendetta against clergy,

492

00:27:47,320 --> 00:27:50,320

and that someone will still at large.

493

00:28:05,320 --> 00:28:07,320

When they're ordained, Catholic priests

494

00:28:07,320 --> 00:28:09,320

vow to become servants of God

495

00:28:09,320 --> 00:28:11,320

and servants of their community.

496

00:28:11,320 --> 00:28:14,320

Their doors always open to those in need,

497

00:28:14,320 --> 00:28:17,320

but their faith can place them in jeopardy.

498

00:28:17,320 --> 00:28:20,320

A priest's willingness to help, no matter who,

499

00:28:20,320 --> 00:28:23,320

no matter when, no matter where,

500

00:28:23,320 --> 00:28:26,320

can even threaten his own life.

501

00:28:29,320 --> 00:28:32,320

Father Ronaldo Rivera of Santa Fe, New Mexico has been murdered,

502

00:28:32,320 --> 00:28:35,320

and Father John Kerrigan of Ronan, Montana

503

00:28:35,320 --> 00:28:38,320

has mysteriously disappeared.

504

00:28:38,320 --> 00:28:40,320

Authorities fear these two cases,

505

00:28:40,320 --> 00:28:44,320

1000 miles and two years apart, may be connected.

506

00:28:44,320 --> 00:28:48,320

It is even possible that there's a serial killer at large

507

00:28:48,320 --> 00:28:52,320

who is exclusively murdering Catholic priests.

508

00:28:54,320 --> 00:28:57,320

St. Francis Cathedral, Father Gerard speaking.

509

00:28:57,320 --> 00:29:00,320

On the evening of August 7th, 1982,

510

00:29:00,320 --> 00:29:03,320

a call for help was telephoned to the rectory

511

00:29:03,320 --> 00:29:06,320

of St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

512

00:29:06,320 --> 00:29:09,320

I have impaired vision. I cannot drive at night.

513

00:29:09,320 --> 00:29:11,320

But could you call back in a few minutes?

514

00:29:11,320 --> 00:29:13,320

I'm sure another father will...

515

00:29:13,320 --> 00:29:15,320

Father Patrick Gerard couldn't leave the rectory

516

00:29:15,320 --> 00:29:18,320

and asked the caller to telephone again in 15 minutes.

517

00:29:18,320 --> 00:29:21,320

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

518

00:29:26,320 --> 00:29:30,320

Exactly 15 minutes later, the telephone rang again.

519

00:29:30,320 --> 00:29:33,320

This time, Father Ronaldo Rivera took the call.

520

00:29:33,320 --> 00:29:35,320

This is Father Ronaldo.

521

00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:39,320

Hello, Father. I need the help of a priest.

522

00:29:39,320 --> 00:29:41,320

My grandfather is dying.

523

00:29:41,320 --> 00:29:43,320

The caller was insistent.

524

00:29:43,320 --> 00:29:45,320

He wanted a priest to come immediately

525

00:29:45,320 --> 00:29:47,320

to administer the last rites.

526

00:29:47,320 --> 00:29:50,320

Are you familiar with the rest stop just south of Santa Fe?

527

00:29:50,320 --> 00:29:52,320

Yes, yes, I am.

528

00:29:52,320 --> 00:29:54,320

Well, how long will it take you to get there?

529

00:29:54,320 --> 00:29:57,320

I can be there in 20 minutes.

530

00:29:57,320 --> 00:29:59,320

I'll see you there.

531

00:29:59,320 --> 00:30:01,320

The man said his name was Michael Carmelo,

532

00:30:01,320 --> 00:30:03,320

and that he was telephoning from a rest stop

533

00:30:03,320 --> 00:30:06,320

near Waldo, New Mexico, 20 miles away.

534

00:30:06,320 --> 00:30:08,320

Goodbye, Father.

535

00:30:13,320 --> 00:30:17,320

Father Rivera left that evening to meet someone

536

00:30:17,320 --> 00:30:19,320

at the rest area in Santa Fe.

537

00:30:19,320 --> 00:30:21,320

This was on a Thursday evening.

538

00:30:21,320 --> 00:30:23,320

He was reported missing Thursday night.

539

00:30:23,320 --> 00:30:25,320

Then show up Friday.

540

00:30:25,320 --> 00:30:28,320

It was on a broadcast made that Father Rivera was missing.

541

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

Obviously, we had a location.

542

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

At least we knew it was Waldo somewhere in that area,

543

00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:35,320

because the priest remembered Waldo, New Mexico.

544

00:30:35,320 --> 00:30:40,320

We had hundreds of volunteers, hundreds of citizens

545

00:30:40,320 --> 00:30:44,320

volunteer their time to come out to the Waldo area,

546

00:30:44,320 --> 00:30:47,320

and we searched on horseback.

547

00:30:47,320 --> 00:30:49,320

They had four-wheel drives.

548

00:30:49,320 --> 00:30:51,320

We had hundreds of people walking the area,

549

00:30:51,320 --> 00:30:54,320

combing all the hills in the desert for him.

550

00:30:55,320 --> 00:30:59,320

Probably 90% of the people in Santa Fe knew who he was,

551

00:30:59,320 --> 00:31:03,320

or he had some impact in their lives at one time or another.

552

00:31:08,320 --> 00:31:10,320

Two days after the search began,

553

00:31:10,320 --> 00:31:13,320

Father Rivera's body was found on a deserted road

554

00:31:13,320 --> 00:31:15,320

three miles from the rest stop.

555

00:31:25,320 --> 00:31:28,320

At Father Rivera's funeral, the entire city mourned,

556

00:31:28,320 --> 00:31:31,320

devastated by his brutal murder.

557

00:31:31,320 --> 00:31:34,320

From Saturday until his burial,

558

00:31:34,320 --> 00:31:37,320

the city was just awe-stricken.

559

00:31:37,320 --> 00:31:41,320

Whether you were Lutheran Catholic, Protestant, Jew,

560

00:31:41,320 --> 00:31:44,320

we were just all one at that time.

561

00:31:44,320 --> 00:31:47,320

The very fact that he went out there on this call

562

00:31:47,320 --> 00:31:50,320

was an act of charity and act of love.

563

00:31:50,320 --> 00:31:53,320

I think because he was a Christian,

564

00:31:53,320 --> 00:31:56,320

I think because he showed this love for people,

565

00:31:56,320 --> 00:31:58,320

the people just responded.

566

00:31:58,320 --> 00:32:01,320

And so when he died, I think there was that sadness

567

00:32:01,320 --> 00:32:04,320

in their heart for somebody that they loved.

568

00:32:04,320 --> 00:32:07,320

Everybody loved Father Rinaldo.

569

00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:11,320

I'm sure he's happy where he is now,

570

00:32:11,320 --> 00:32:14,320

and we miss him.

571

00:32:18,320 --> 00:32:21,320

The night of the murder, a man calling himself Carmelo

572

00:32:21,320 --> 00:32:23,320

was waiting for Father Rivera at the rest stop

573

00:32:23,320 --> 00:32:25,320

in a blue pickup truck.

574

00:32:25,320 --> 00:32:29,320

Lieutenant Ulybree has developed a theory of what happened next.

575

00:32:31,320 --> 00:32:34,320

The killers were probably there waiting for him.

576

00:32:34,320 --> 00:32:38,320

When he arrived at the rest area, they signaled him out.

577

00:32:38,320 --> 00:32:40,320

Father.

578

00:32:40,320 --> 00:32:41,320

Are you the priest they sent?

579

00:32:41,320 --> 00:32:42,320

Yes, I am.

580

00:32:42,320 --> 00:32:44,320

Father Rinaldo, why don't you come with us?

581

00:32:44,320 --> 00:32:47,320

There's no way one individual could have handled Father Rivera.

582

00:32:47,320 --> 00:32:50,320

He would have gave them a hard time.

583

00:32:50,320 --> 00:32:53,320

So there had to be at least two people involved.

584

00:32:53,320 --> 00:32:56,320

And we know they had a gun, obviously, because he was shot.

585

00:32:56,320 --> 00:32:59,320

So I'm sure they controlled him with that weapon.

586

00:32:59,320 --> 00:33:03,320

But there had to be two people involved to subdue him,

587

00:33:03,320 --> 00:33:06,320

because he was a very strong individual.

588

00:33:10,320 --> 00:33:13,320

Ulybree believes the killers took Father Rivera

589

00:33:13,320 --> 00:33:15,320

to a remote desert area.

590

00:33:16,320 --> 00:33:17,320

Let's go.

591

00:33:17,320 --> 00:33:18,320

Let's go outside.

592

00:33:18,320 --> 00:33:19,320

Perfect.

593

00:33:19,320 --> 00:33:20,320

Move!

594

00:33:20,320 --> 00:33:21,320

Get him out!

595

00:33:21,320 --> 00:33:22,320

Get him out!

596

00:33:22,320 --> 00:33:24,320

Come on, move!

597

00:33:24,320 --> 00:33:25,320

Move, move!

598

00:33:25,320 --> 00:33:27,320

Right there.

599

00:33:27,320 --> 00:33:30,320

He was not killed where he was found.

600

00:33:30,320 --> 00:33:34,320

They drove to a location three months ago, and they left.

601

00:33:37,320 --> 00:33:39,320

They could have hit him anywhere.

602

00:33:39,320 --> 00:33:41,320

They could have killed him.

603

00:33:42,320 --> 00:33:45,320

They could have hit him anywhere in that wall there,

604

00:33:45,320 --> 00:33:47,320

and there's several places in the wall

605

00:33:47,320 --> 00:33:51,320

where you can hide a body, and you'd never find it.

606

00:33:51,320 --> 00:33:54,320

So obviously, they wanted him to be found.

607

00:33:56,320 --> 00:33:59,320

After the crime, the killers returned to the rest stop

608

00:33:59,320 --> 00:34:01,320

to remove Father Rivera's car.

609

00:34:05,320 --> 00:34:08,320

His vehicle was found in a rest area just east of Grantson, New Mexico,

610

00:34:09,320 --> 00:34:12,320

which is about two hours from Santa Fe.

611

00:34:12,320 --> 00:34:15,320

There was no physical evidence found in the vehicle.

612

00:34:15,320 --> 00:34:17,320

We didn't find any fingerprints.

613

00:34:17,320 --> 00:34:20,320

There was no blood stains, nothing to indicate

614

00:34:20,320 --> 00:34:22,320

that someone had even driven the car.

615

00:34:22,320 --> 00:34:24,320

It had been wiped clean.

616

00:34:27,320 --> 00:34:29,320

The Santa Fe police had few clues,

617

00:34:29,320 --> 00:34:31,320

and after a nationwide check,

618

00:34:31,320 --> 00:34:34,320

they found no suspects named Michael Carmelo.

619

00:34:35,320 --> 00:34:39,320

As far as motive, Father Rivera was not the target.

620

00:34:39,320 --> 00:34:43,320

A Catholic priest was the target for whatever reason.

621

00:34:45,320 --> 00:34:47,320

Robbery was not a motive,

622

00:34:47,320 --> 00:34:49,320

because there's nothing taken from the priest

623

00:34:49,320 --> 00:34:51,320

other than his last rights kit,

624

00:34:51,320 --> 00:34:55,320

and that's a possibility for a souvenir.

625

00:34:56,320 --> 00:34:59,320

Apparently, the killer would like to relive the experience

626

00:34:59,320 --> 00:35:01,320

every time he looks at it.

627

00:35:02,320 --> 00:35:05,320

He remembers killing a priest.

628

00:35:07,320 --> 00:35:10,320

Two years later, on August 8, 1984, in Ronan, Montana,

629

00:35:10,320 --> 00:35:13,320

another priest mysteriously disappeared.

630

00:35:16,320 --> 00:35:20,320

Father John Kerrigan was new to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ronan.

631

00:35:20,320 --> 00:35:24,320

He had only been there four days before he, too, vanished.

632

00:35:31,320 --> 00:35:34,320

At 11 p.m. on the night he disappeared,

633

00:35:34,320 --> 00:35:36,320

Father Kerrigan went to a bakery across the street

634

00:35:36,320 --> 00:35:39,320

from the church to chat with his new parishioners.

635

00:35:39,320 --> 00:35:40,320

Welcome to Ronan.

636

00:35:40,320 --> 00:35:41,320

Thank you.

637

00:35:41,320 --> 00:35:42,320

Nice to have you here.

638

00:35:42,320 --> 00:35:43,320

Oh, it's my pleasure.

639

00:35:43,320 --> 00:35:44,320

Good.

640

00:35:44,320 --> 00:35:46,320

Expect to see everybody here at Church Sparrow.

641

00:35:46,320 --> 00:35:49,320

After a few minutes, he was returning home to go to bed.

642

00:35:51,320 --> 00:35:54,320

The next day, at a turnout along the highway

643

00:35:54,320 --> 00:35:56,320

that circles nearby Flathead Lake,

644

00:35:56,320 --> 00:36:00,320

a local fruit peddler discovered a pile of bloody clothes.

645

00:36:02,320 --> 00:36:05,320

After we realized that they were Father Kerrigan's,

646

00:36:05,320 --> 00:36:11,320

we did a search of that area around the cherry stand on the hill behind it.

647

00:36:11,320 --> 00:36:16,320

A bloody coat hanger was found close to the clothing.

648

00:36:16,320 --> 00:36:21,320

We concluded that the coat hanger could have been used either to tie someone up,

649

00:36:21,320 --> 00:36:27,320

could have been used to strangle someone, we believe Father Kerrigan,

650

00:36:27,320 --> 00:36:30,320

or also could have been used as a gag,

651

00:36:30,320 --> 00:36:34,320

just no real way of determining exactly what the use was,

652

00:36:34,320 --> 00:36:37,320

but it definitely is connected to the clothing.

653

00:36:37,320 --> 00:36:40,320

And it wasn't just a hanger laying there,

654

00:36:40,320 --> 00:36:44,320

it had been deformed and definitely used for some purpose.

655

00:36:45,320 --> 00:36:49,320

A week later, Father Kerrigan's car was found abandoned

656

00:36:49,320 --> 00:36:52,320

five miles from the area where his clothes had been discovered.

657

00:36:53,320 --> 00:36:57,320

We know that car sat there where we found it for approximately a week

658

00:36:57,320 --> 00:37:00,320

before it came to our attention.

659

00:37:00,320 --> 00:37:03,320

We did a thorough search of that area,

660

00:37:03,320 --> 00:37:07,320

and we found the keys lying in tall grass.

661

00:37:11,320 --> 00:37:14,320

There was blood on the front seat, in the right door panel,

662

00:37:14,320 --> 00:37:17,320

on the right floorboard.

663

00:37:17,320 --> 00:37:20,320

I wonder if we got a body in the trunk here, Joe?

664

00:37:23,320 --> 00:37:27,320

We found a shovel in the trunk with blood on it,

665

00:37:27,320 --> 00:37:30,320

we found a pillow in the trunk with blood on it.

666

00:37:30,320 --> 00:37:33,320

There was also blood splattered inside the trunk.

667

00:37:33,320 --> 00:37:38,320

The police were surprised to find \$1,200 in Father Kerrigan's wallet.

668

00:37:38,320 --> 00:37:41,320

The money was not hidden, it was just,

669

00:37:41,320 --> 00:37:44,320

normally as it would have been kept in a wallet.

670

00:37:44,320 --> 00:37:48,320

None of that was disturbed, so we don't feel that robbery

671

00:37:48,320 --> 00:37:51,320

was a motive for this particular crime.

672

00:37:54,320 --> 00:37:57,320

A Lieutenant Ullabre learned of Father Kerrigan's disappearance.

673

00:37:57,320 --> 00:38:01,320

He flew to Ronan to investigate the similarities between the two cases.

674

00:38:05,320 --> 00:38:09,320

In both cases, the killer wanted people to know I killed a priest,

675

00:38:09,320 --> 00:38:12,320

and here's the evidence to show I killed him.

676

00:38:12,320 --> 00:38:15,320

I still strongly believe that, um,

677

00:38:15,320 --> 00:38:19,320

whoever killed Father Rivera was involved with Father Kerrigan.

678

00:38:19,320 --> 00:38:23,320

There are other similarities between the two cases.

679

00:38:23,320 --> 00:38:26,320

Both victims' cars were driven away from the crime scene.

680

00:38:35,320 --> 00:38:39,320

A deformed metal coat hanger was found near Father Kerrigan's clothes,

681

00:38:39,320 --> 00:38:43,320

and there is evidence that coat hanger was used in Father Rivera's murder.

682

00:38:44,320 --> 00:38:47,320

In both cases, robbery was not a motive,

683

00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:53,320

and perhaps most significantly, both priests belong to the select order of Franciscans.

684

00:38:54,320 --> 00:38:58,320

If there's other law enforcement agencies that have had a Catholic priest killed,

685

00:38:58,320 --> 00:39:01,320

with some of the similarities we have just discussed here,

686

00:39:01,320 --> 00:39:03,320

we'd like to hear from them.

687

00:39:03,320 --> 00:39:07,320

And if possible, we have a serial killer going killing Catholic priests.

688

00:39:14,320 --> 00:39:18,320

Next, the story of a family transformed by incredible luck.

689

00:39:18,320 --> 00:39:21,320

It all began with a bold, card with mysterious symbols.

690

00:39:21,320 --> 00:39:25,320

Could a rock have the power to change people's fortunes?

691

00:39:33,320 --> 00:39:38,320

Our next story is part Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, and part Ferry Tail.

692

00:39:38,320 --> 00:39:41,320

What it all boils down to is this.

693

00:39:41,320 --> 00:39:47,320

Two boys in the state of Washington find a large rock covered with strange symbols deep in the forest.

694

00:39:47,320 --> 00:39:50,320

Then a phenomenal run of good luck begins.

695

00:39:50,320 --> 00:39:52,320

Is it coincidence or something more?

696

00:39:52,320 --> 00:39:54,320

You be the judge.

697

00:40:02,320 --> 00:40:05,320

On Saturday, May 14, 1988,

698

00:40:05,320 --> 00:40:09,320

deep in an isolated stretch of woods near the Canadian border,

699

00:40:11,320 --> 00:40:18,320

13-year-old Jamie Park slid his friend Trevor Johnson along the meandering path of Tumwater Creek.

700

00:40:18,320 --> 00:40:23,320

Jamie had found a special rock here and had decided to show it to his best friend.

701

00:40:28,320 --> 00:40:30,320

See, didn't I tell you?

702

00:40:30,320 --> 00:40:31,320

Wow.

703

00:40:31,320 --> 00:40:32,320

It's neat.

704

00:40:32,320 --> 00:40:35,320

Looks like people came and drew it with the stick.

705

00:40:35,320 --> 00:40:37,320

Eons of years of years.

706

00:40:37,320 --> 00:40:39,320

Yeah, I know.

707

00:40:40,320 --> 00:40:43,320

One that I'm kind of wondering about is that man in the corner.

708

00:40:43,320 --> 00:40:45,320

Could be a man or something like this.

709

00:40:45,320 --> 00:40:46,320

It's like a stamp on a horse.

710

00:40:46,320 --> 00:40:48,320

Maybe the merchants came and did it.

711

00:40:48,320 --> 00:40:49,320

It's really neat.

712

00:40:49,320 --> 00:40:52,320

It's got all the aspects of nature.

713

00:40:55,320 --> 00:40:58,320

The only way that somebody could ever do that is if it was clay

714

00:40:58,320 --> 00:41:01,320

or they had some space-age tool or something.

715

00:41:01,320 --> 00:41:03,320

Why don't we go tell my dad?

716

00:41:03,320 --> 00:41:04,320

Let's go.

717

00:41:09,320 --> 00:41:14,320

I felt just an immediate need to go down and see this rock.

718

00:41:14,320 --> 00:41:19,320

His excitement was contagious and really piqued my interest.

719

00:41:22,320 --> 00:41:26,320

And I turned and there was this beautiful rock with these markings on them.

720

00:41:26,320 --> 00:41:28,320

I'd never seen anything quite like it.

721

00:41:28,320 --> 00:41:33,320

I got a very immediate feeling that this rock had something to say.

722

00:41:33,320 --> 00:41:38,320

It really had something very positive to say about life to me.

723

00:41:38,320 --> 00:41:43,320

And being so challenged, I got a great boost out of it.

724

00:41:43,320 --> 00:41:48,320

When I first saw the rock, I had the most eerie feeling.

725

00:41:48,320 --> 00:41:51,320

It was a good feeling, a very positive one.

726

00:41:51,320 --> 00:41:56,320

But it just, you can't say the words that the rock makes you feel like.

727

00:41:57,320 --> 00:42:02,320

From that day on, Steve and Patty Johnson's lives would take a dramatic turn for the better.

728

00:42:02,320 --> 00:42:05,320

And they would attribute it to the rock.

729

00:42:06,320 --> 00:42:10,320

For years, the Johnson family had been struggling financially.

730

00:42:10,320 --> 00:42:14,320

To help pay the bills, Patty took a job as a receptionist.

731

00:42:14,320 --> 00:42:17,320

Even so, they found themselves in debt.

732

00:42:17,320 --> 00:42:20,320

Things were just looking really sad.

733

00:42:20,320 --> 00:42:24,320

We were in a small apartment, monies were not good.

734

00:42:24,320 --> 00:42:26,320

Patty and I were both working.

735

00:42:26,320 --> 00:42:29,320

I was working as a prison correctional officer.

736

00:42:29,320 --> 00:42:31,320

I wasn't happy with the position.

737

00:42:31,320 --> 00:42:39,320

The pay wasn't sufficient for us to be able to even meet some of our bills, to be quite honest about it.

738

00:42:41,320 --> 00:42:49,320

To improve their financial situation, the Johnson's plan to open a small 100 square foot shop in a newly constructed local mall.

739

00:42:49,320 --> 00:42:52,320

Patty quit her job so she could run the shop.

740

00:42:52,320 --> 00:42:56,320

But the plan backfired when construction ran behind schedule.

741

00:42:56,320 --> 00:43:00,320

Instead of improving, their financial situation worsened.

742

00:43:01,320 --> 00:43:09,320

On May the 16th, 48 hours after Steve Johnson saw the rock for the first time, his luck began to change dramatically.

743

00:43:09,320 --> 00:43:11,320

Sure, Dennis, we can be right down.

744

00:43:13,320 --> 00:43:17,320

Honey, I wish Dennis Loeb, you'd like to know if we could come down to the landing mall right away.

745

00:43:17,320 --> 00:43:24,320

Out of the blue, the ownership of the mall approaches us with, listen, we'd like you to open up a 1000 square foot shop.

746

00:43:24,320 --> 00:43:27,320

OK, this is the space I had in mind for you.

747

00:43:27,320 --> 00:43:30,320

I was very upfront with him that we had no money to do that.

748

00:43:30,320 --> 00:43:37,320

And it wasn't a blinking of an eye and the gentleman says, well, we'll take care of getting your inventory.

749

00:43:37,320 --> 00:43:40,320

I really didn't overcome the shock at that time.

750

00:43:40,320 --> 00:43:46,320

I couldn't even ask an intelligent question, as I remember to the guy as to how they were going to do this.

751

00:43:46,320 --> 00:43:51,320

We were both flabbergasted. We just couldn't believe that there are people out there that want to help.

752

00:43:52,320 --> 00:43:59,320

Three weeks later, in early June, Steve and Patty's dress shop opened and was a resounding success.

753

00:43:59,320 --> 00:44:03,320

Other business opportunities began to spring up unexpectedly.

754

00:44:03,320 --> 00:44:10,320

Three days after the dress shop opened, Steve was offered a job as manager of the mall's only movie theater.

755

00:44:10,320 --> 00:44:19,320

The mall ownership was so impressed with Steve that in less than a month, they let him buy the theater outright for a very low price.

756

00:44:20,320 --> 00:44:28,320

Three months and one day after he saw the rock, Steve opened a candy store, his third successful business venture in the mall.

757

00:44:30,320 --> 00:44:36,320

The Johnson's are convinced that their good fortune was related to the magical powers of the rock.

758

00:44:39,320 --> 00:44:48,320

Last September, archaeologist Rick McClure examined the rock and determined that the petroglyphs were not carved by American Indians.

759

00:44:48,320 --> 00:44:55,320

McClure feels that the symbols were made in this century and have no religious significance or

magical powers.

760

00:44:58,320 --> 00:45:01,320

The Johnson's run of good luck continues unabated.

761

00:45:01,320 --> 00:45:09,320

Three months ago, they were offered a five-bedroom house for four years rent-free in return for making minor home repairs.

762

00:45:09,320 --> 00:45:13,320

For the Johnson's, it was a dream come true.

763

00:45:14,320 --> 00:45:24,320

Looking back at all the wonderful things that have happened, we're spending more time with our family, good quality time.

764

00:45:24,320 --> 00:45:32,320

Our income has grown to a point that we're actually being able to start to pay back people that have helped us over the years,

765

00:45:32,320 --> 00:45:36,320

and those type of things bring a lot of pleasure to us.

766

00:45:37,320 --> 00:45:43,320

I don't know if it's superstition or not, or if it's good luck, but it just seems like since that's happened,

767

00:45:43,320 --> 00:45:47,320

things have changed and things have come about for us.

768

00:45:48,320 --> 00:45:53,320

Is the Johnson family's streak of good fortune related to the rock and the scripted symbols?

769

00:45:53,320 --> 00:45:57,320

Most of us would probably call it a coincidence, but who knows?

770

00:45:57,320 --> 00:46:04,320

Sometimes the line between coincidence and something more mystical is an unsolved mystery.

771

00:46:06,320 --> 00:46:15,320

Join me next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

