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

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

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

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police officials have participated in recreating the events.

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

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

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

Alcatraz, the Rock.

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

For over 29 years, the nation's most notorious prison, a home for such master criminals as Al Capone,

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

Machine Gun Kelly, and its birdman, Robert Stroud.

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

Alcatraz stands in the middle of San Francisco's icy cold bay, a treacherous moat that was a best guarantee that nobody would successfully escape,

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

and nobody did until June 11, 1962.

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On that night, three men broke out of their cell house and vanished into the waves in a homemade raft.

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John Angle, his brother Clarence and Frank Morris, a brilliant mastermind of the escape, were never seen again.

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00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Ten days later, authorities discovered pieces of the raft. It had broken up at sea.

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00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:17,000

The three convicts appeared to have swum for it. Did they make it? Then the bait continues.

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:24,000

If they went into the water with the primitive flotation equipment that they had,

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00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:29,000

they were drowned within 30 minutes. They succumbed to hypothermia and drowned.

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:36,000

I'd stick my life on it. That there out there in that bay right now, or their bones are out there.

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00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:43,000

I felt that they didn't make it, but I thought we'd find a body. And we didn't find a body.

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00:01:43,000 --> 00:01:52,000

I think they made it. If you call the Bureau of Prisons today, they will tell you no one escaped from Alcatraz. They made it.

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In the 25 years that have passed since that June night, no trace of Frank Morris, John Angle and Clarence Angle has ever been found.

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

They may still be at large, and perhaps are still in hiding.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:14,000

Tonight, in a special 90-minute edition of Unsolved Mysteries, we will see exactly how the inmates conceived and executed their ingenious escape.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:18,000

We'll follow the exact route they took as they broke through the walls of Alcatraz.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:28,000

And just as they faced the icy waters of the San Francisco Bay, we have asked triathlon swimmer Dave Horning to attempt to duplicate their dangerous swim to freedom.

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We've also built a replica of the convict's makeshift raft to see if it could possibly survive the one-and-a-half-mile trip across the bay.

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00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Renowned endurance swimmer Diana Nyad will closely track Dave and the raft's progress from our camera boat just a few feet away.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:52,000

We'll also take you inside the walls of Alcatraz, where society's most incorrigible criminals, including Al Capone, were finally tamed.

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:58,000

So join me for this 90-minute special edition of the Unsolved Mysteries from Alcatraz.

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In August of 1934, Alcatraz opened its doors. Its inmates, the most troublesome escape-prone cons in the system, were gathered from prisons around the country.

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Alcatraz's first convicts were loaded on special armored trains. Shackled to their benches, they made the slow journey to Tiburon on San Francisco Bay.

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The guards were so concerned about an escape that once there, the railroad cars themselves were loaded onto barges and taken across to the rock.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:25,000

The men were not allowed out of these train cars until they stepped on the dock of Alcatraz.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:32,000

An Alcatraz inmates who behaved themselves were given the privilege of working a few hours a day in the industry's building.

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:45,000

Here in the laundry, Al Capone had once made \$100,000 a week ruling Chicago's underworld, earned seven cents an hour, pressing and folding the clothes of military personnel and the inmates.

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00:04:45,000 --> 00:04:54,000

It was possibly the first honest job he ever held, and Alcatraz was the first institution to truly tame the cunning, ganglin boss.

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Capone was convicted of income tax evasion in 1931. Initially he was jailed in Chicago and then Atlanta, but was able to bribe authorities for special privileges.

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

He had a carpeted cell, a smoking jacket, and was even offered a ticker-tape machine to keep track of his investments.

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00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:18,000

At Alcatraz, however, he endured the same spartan conditions as everyone else.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:29,000

Al Capone was a very good inmate on Alcatraz. Unfortunately some of the inmates were very jealous of him because of his millions of dollars, and he was treated very badly by the inmates.

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00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:33,000

One inmate stabbed him one time in the barber shop.

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00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:40,000

During Capone's first two years at Alcatraz, the warden established a policy forbidding the inmates to speak to one another.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

This strict rule of silence was impossible for the boisterous Capone.

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

At least three occasions he was caught talking to other inmates, and it was here that he paid the penalty, confinement on isolation row.

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

His 200-pound doors of steel blocked out all the lights.

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:04,000

They forced the inmate to sit in a tiny cell and pitch black dark with no human contact for 24 hours a day.

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00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:12,000

If a convict was particularly troublesome, his bed blankets and clothes would be confiscated, and he had to endure the ordeal naked.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:21,000

When Capone entered Alcatraz, he was diagnosed with syphilis. Capone wouldn't believe it and paid other convicts to take his medicine.

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After a few years, the guards noticed that the syphilis was affecting his brain, his speech deteriorated, and from time to time he would put his clothes on backwards.

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Eventually, Capone was completely disabled by the disease. He died on January 25, 1947, eight years after his release from Alcatraz.

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One of the rock's most famous residents was Robert Stroud, who served a life sentence for two murder convictions.

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Stroud initially was incarcerated at Leavenworth, where he spent his time in solitary confinement studying birds and wrote two books on their diseases.

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His life was chronicled in a movie called The Birdman of Alcatraz, starring Bert Lancaster.

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It painted a heroic picture of Stroud as an oppressed convict tormented by prison officials who wanted to confiscate the 300 birds he had collected.

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Robert Stroud was a surly, quiet, and morose individual. He did very little talking. Very few of the inmates talked to him, and most of them disliked him.

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

Stroud was a very intelligent man, with only a third grade education, getting to read and write in about three or four languages.

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But he was a psychotic, very demented man, and at most times very difficult to get along with.

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00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:50,000

At Leavenworth, Stroud was caught hiding three and a half gallons of grain alcohol, which he had distilled from bird seed, and from contraband smuggled to him in the bottoms of bird cages.

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For this and other offenses, he was transferred to Alcatraz in 1942.

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00:07:55,000 --> 00:08:09,000

He had a lot of funny habits. A lot of times he'd walk around in a cell quite naked. He'd also shave every hair off his body, and those were some of the things that were different than most inmates.

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00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:21,000

On the rock, Stroud was not allowed to keep a single bird in his cell, but apparently his biographers felt the title Birdman of Alcatraz had a catchier ring than Birdman of Leavenworth.

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00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:35,000

For thirty years, Alcatraz was the most dreaded prison in America. Tough, cold, and virtually escape proof. Fourteen escapes were attempted, ten men died, and all the rest were captured.

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Except three. Many former inmates believed those three made it. One of these inmates was a suspected collaborator, Clarence Carnes.

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A confidential close friend of the escapees, Clarence Carnes, spent thirteen years on Alcatraz and was the youngest person in confinement, arriving in 1946 when he was just eighteen years old.

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That same year, Clarence became embroiled in the bloodiest escape attempt on Alcatraz's history, a desperate bid that resulted in the deaths of two guards and three inmates.

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

Two other inmates were executed for their role in the murders, but Carnes was spared and instead received a life sentence.

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Don Denevy, a professor at Merritt College in Oakland, co-wrote a manuscript with Clarence Carnes. This was the first insider's account of the escape.

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00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:33,000

Clarence passed away last year, but Denevy shares his collaborator's opinion.

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00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:45,000

These guys made it. They made it because Clarence said they did, and I trust that. If you call the

Bureau of Prisons today, they will tell you no one escaped from Alcatraz.

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00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:51,000

They made it. This is an embarrassment. Who's going to admit to that?

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00:09:52,000 --> 00:10:06,000

In Clarence's manuscript, he wrote, cowardice in Alcatraz was a thing you didn't run into very often. Most had proven long before they got there that they weren't cowards.

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

The daring escape of Frank Morris and the Anglican brothers against the longest odds it could possibly exist is telling proof that Clarence knew what he was talking about.

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00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Alcatraz had a deservedly formidable reputation. The ratio of guard to inmate was the highest of any prison in the country, one guard to every three convicts.

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00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:34,000

Alcatraz was the last stop in the federal prison system, and only the worst troublemakers were sent there.

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00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:45,000

There were a few privileges, and for the first two years of operation, prisoners were not even allowed to talk to one another. Out of a 24-hour day, 23 were spent in a solitary cell.

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00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:56,000

The inmates were counted at least 14 times a day, but no man-made security precautions could begin to match Alcatraz's most distinguished feature, the bay that surrounds it.

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00:10:57,000 --> 00:11:05,000

Alcatraz was open because it was hoped to be, and we believe it has been, the inescapable prison.

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00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Alcatraz was never considered escape proof. It was considered to be a very difficult place to escape from, for one reason and one reason only.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:26,000

And that was the water that lay between the island and the mainland, or in the other direction from the island and Angel Island.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:36,000

That was the only thing that made it difficult to escape from Alcatraz was that water. The water was there. That was the barrier.

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00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Alcatraz's state of the art security included a master control room that oversaw the three-tiered cell blocks. There, each prisoner was assigned to his own cell, guards prowled restlessly looking for signs of trouble.

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00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:58,000

25, 23, 27, 24.

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00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:07,000

You got so many counts you make a day, and you got to count bodies. And we had a lot of official counts, and then we had a lot of unofficial counts, which the officer of work was supposed to take.

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

So, in my opinion, if you can beat the count, you can escape from any place. If you can't beat the count, you're going to get caught.

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

One of the hallmarks of Alcatraz's rigid security was the sporadic shake-downs of the prisoner's cells.

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00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:22,000

Want to open up 143?

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:29,000

Clarence Carnes was often targeted as he worked in the prison library and distributed reading material to the board prisoners.

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:41,000

Authorities suspected that he used this job as a cover to circulate contraband materials. They were correct.

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:57,000

Carnes was the most important inmate on Alcatraz. He had gained the respect of virtually all the other inmates because he knew how to keep his mouth shut.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:10,000

But he was, in a sense, the godfather of Alcatraz. Those who needed information, those who wanted advice sought Carnes out.

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

Clarence was invited to participate in the escape, but as he was under such close scrutiny, he declined.

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00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:26,000

He did remain close to the plot, a plot that began with a robber named Alan West.

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00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:34,000

West was a close friend of Carnes and was assigned to paint the top tier and ceiling of the cell block at the prison.

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00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:41,000

One day, while working there, he discovered a way to access the prisoner's roof through a ventilation shaft.

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00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:49,000

West noticed that the ventilation ducted through the cellhouse roof.

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00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:59,000

It was constructed in such a way that there were crossbars in between. You couldn't cut the bar.

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

But West discovered that all you had to do was cut the entire duct from its surrounding support and just shove the whole thing out.

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00:14:13,000 --> 00:14:23,000

By October of 1961, West had begun planning his escape. He enlisted the help of the Anglin brothers.

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00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:29,000

They had been at the prison for one and a half years and had a history of escapes from other institutions.

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00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:38,000

The Anglins were expert raftsmen because they'd grown up in the floor of the swamps. They knew how to construct rafts.

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00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:44,000

They knew how to negotiate currents. They were expert swimmers as well.

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

Perhaps the most pivotal figure in the plot was another bank robber named Frank Morris.

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00:14:53,000 --> 00:15:04,000

According to prison records, he had an IQ of 133 approaching the genius range. His cell was next to West, and once he was brought into the plan, he put his intellect to good use.

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00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:11,000

Morris also had a record of other escape attempts. He had been at Alcatraz for one and a half years.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Morris, if you could use the term, was the intellectual type. He was the thinker. Anything connected with this escape that had any real brains behind it can be credited to Morris.

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00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Though they found a way to break through the roof, the prisoners still had no way to get to the top of the cell block from their first floor cells.

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00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:46,000

But Clarence Carnes knew a way. During his few hours of freedom, during the 1946 escape, Carnes had discovered this utility corner that ran the length and the height of the cell block.

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00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:56,000

Inside the corridor were heating and water pipes that formed a makeshift ladder. It was a dangerous climb, but it was the only way the convicts could reach the roof.

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00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Word began to circulate through the prison grapevine that an escape was on. It seemed everyone but the guards knew that something was up. Carnes' job made it possible for him to pass information to the four ring leaders.

107

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

It was not what might be called general knowledge, but I think that there was quite a few of the other inmates that were aware that an escape attempt was being made.

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00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:34,000

And it's surprising to me that this could be the case without some information getting to the authorities.

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00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:49,000

The convicts on Alcatraz, you know, even if the whole population knew about it, you can almost be guaranteed that the guards would never hear about it. That's just the way the cons on the rock were.

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00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:56,000

In preparing for their escape, the convicts took advantage of one of Alcatraz's few luxuries.

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00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:06,000

In the early part of the evening, there was what they call a music hour, and anybody who had a string instrument could play.

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

When that music is playing, it kind of has an effect of deafening the officer who was making his inspections.

113

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:24,000

And the inmates that were digging were just digging away.

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00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:39,000

You think that somebody's going to escape? They're going to escape out through the front. It never entered my mind that somebody would go back through the corridor. I don't know why. It's like, I guess you don't use the back door.

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00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:49,000

In between headcounts, the Anglans West and Morris dug out the rear of their respective cells.

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00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:00,000

West also used the time to craft false ventilation fronts to hide their escape materials.

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00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:08,000

In order to evade the incessant headcounts while they prepared their escape, the convicts devised a brilliant ploy.

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

They decided that they would have to make dummy heads to be in their bunks in case one of them was not in there when the guard would go by.

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00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:26,000

And this was at a time when the lights were turned low, and it would be difficult to recognize other than see that a face was in the bed.

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00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:40,000

Morris asked me about how you mix flesh tone. You see, I'm an artist. I did a lot of oil painting on Alcatraz.

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00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:53,000

He asked me a number of times, and I began to wonder why is he so interested in flesh tone, and then I began to put it all together because they needed a flesh tone color for the dummy heads.

122

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:05,000

The construction of these dummies took place after the lights had been extinguished. The dummies themselves were made from soap, concrete powder, and stolen paint.

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00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:13,000

One of the Anglans worked in the barber shop and provided the hair that gave them an extra touch of realism.

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00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:27,000

This is one of the actual dummies the men created, still preserved by the National Maritime Museum across the bay in San Francisco.

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00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Now these are two drills used by the convicts. They're constructed from barber shears and parasma vacuum cleaner.

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00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:39,000

They are thought to have been used to drill through the huge duct leading to the roof.

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00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:46,000

These are the actual spoon handles, which authorities believe are used to dig through the convict's cell walls.

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00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:55,000

By the time the convicts had crafted these items, they'd managed to surmount many of the obstacles standing between them and freedom, but huge ones remained.

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

They still had to find a place to hide while they used the drills that cut through to the roof.

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00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:07,000

Additionally, in the midst of the prison's tight security and close scrutiny, they had to find some private space where they could build their raft.

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00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:11,000

Alan West came up with a solution.

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00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:18,000

What's going on up there?

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00:20:18,000 --> 00:20:23,000

When West was painting, some material would get down and get scattered around.

134

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:34,000

And so I don't know who gave the orders that he would be allowed to hang some blankets up alongside of there so that this material would not get thrown over the side.

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

In retrospect, it gave those people a place to work.

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00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:54,000

For eight months, the cellhouse roof was blanketed off, giving the inmates complete privacy to drill out the ventilation shaft and collect the items they needed for their escape.

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00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Morris and the Anglans would take turns climbing to this workspace.

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00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:04,000

The dummies left on their pillars enabled them to evade the nightly headcount.

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00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Each night, with a lookout in place, they would make the hazardous climb to the roof.

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00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:19,000

In his manuscript, Carnes writes,

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00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:29,000

Many times through the years, I had met men who had tried to escape, but their flaw had been too little planning and being too hasty to try to get away.

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00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:35,000

They had not been thorough in their thinking, and that's what defeated them on Alcatraz.

143

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:46,000

The four men who painstakingly prepared their daring escape that winter in 1962 made no such mistakes.

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00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,000

I can hear you all the way up here. You gotta be quiet.

145

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Shut up and keep filing.

146

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:53,000

Making any progress.

147

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,000

Some.

148

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:55,000

Some.

149

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:16,000

Back in 1962, the Anglans, Frank Morris and Allen West spent nine months preparing for their impending swim, and as winter passed into spring, they made their final plans.

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00:22:17,000 --> 00:22:30,000

To the patrolling guards, the spring of 1962 was like any other, but the inmates knew differently, and right under the gaze of their keepers, they helped the four escapees in their preparations.

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00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:38,000

One by one, other convicts surreptitiously passed the escapees the raincoats they needed to build their raft and life jackets.

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00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:49,000

At night, the men made their life preservers in their cells and hid them in the partially dugout escape tunnels.

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00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:59,000

In this secret workspace hidden by the blankets, the Anglans and Morris took turns assembling their raft.

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

They were getting close, very close to the time when they would be ready.

155

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:13,000

The lights had been extinguished. The time to escape had finally arrived.

156

00:23:39,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Allen. Allen.

157

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:47,000

Yeah. Time to go.

158

00:23:53,000 --> 00:24:02,000

Quietly, the Anglans made the by now routine trip to their workspace, and for the first time, West tried to slip through the hole in his cell wall.

159

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Frank, what the hell's the matter with you?

160

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:07,000

I can't get through the holes too small.

161

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:10,000

Everybody's upstairs ready to go.

162

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:18,000

West had his exit carved out to the point where all he needed was to punch his way through.

163

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Suddenly, there's an iron bar that had been used as part of the reinforced masonry when the cell house had originally been built and that no one knew was there.

164

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:34,000

Where's West?

165

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

This hole's not big enough. He needs more help.

166

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:39,000

No way. Relief ring.

167

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:51,000

Leaving the instigator of the plan behind, the Anglans and Morris finally, in the words of Clarence Carnes, saw the moon for the first time in decades. They were almost free.

168

00:24:52,000 --> 00:25:04,000

The convicts descended from a corner of the roof by way of an exhaust pipe adjoining the kitchen.

169

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Ironically, though prepared for every security breach inside the prison, security outside was weak.

170

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:22,000

Nobody noticed the men as they carried their raft and light preservers closer to the beach, the last step before the most grueling part of the journey.

171

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:29,000

Only one fence stood between them and the 54 degree waters of San Francisco Bay.

172

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:42,000

It was so carefully planned, utilizing dummy faces, the making of the life jackets and making of the rafts.

173

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:51,000

I don't know of any escape from a prison which had more ingenuity utilized.

174

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:59,000

The escapees were confronted by one final hurdle, how to quietly inflate their huge raft.

175

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

Their solution was perhaps the most ingenious yet. Frank Morris had received a small accordion called a concertina for use during the Daily Music Hour.

176

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:21,000

They had taken the keys out of the concertina and therefore you could put your hand on one strap of the concertina and push it up and down and it would operate just like a bellows.

177

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Very remarkable exercise of patience and stick-to-itiveness. The only weak point in this escape was the failure to really take serious consideration of that water out there.

178

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:50,000

The record of previous escape should have been sufficient to deter them from tackling that water. It's impossible to beat that water. That was the mistake.

179

00:26:54,000 --> 00:27:03,000

Frank Morris, John Anglin and Clarence Anglin had made it off the rock. What happened to them next remains a mystery.

180

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:13,000

The following day it was business as usual on Alcatraz beginning with a morning head count.

181

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:21,000

It's a dummy! It's a dummy in 152!

182

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:26,000

Clarence Anglin, John Anglin and Frank Morris had escaped.

183

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

Immediately an extensive search began. One of the largest manhunts in the country since a Lindbergh kidnapping 25 years earlier.

184

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:47,000

We were ordered to go out on the bay and of course start looking around the island and then over an angle on it.

185

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:52,000

Scanning the beaches to see if anything that pertained to them might have washed up.

186

00:27:52,000 --> 00:28:03,000

And then it became evident that we weren't going to find them. Whether they had made it or not, no one knew for sure.

187

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:11,000

Authorities believed that the men were headed for nearby Angel Island but for 24 hours nothing was found.

188

00:28:12,000 --> 00:28:19,000

Then remnants of the escapee's rap began to surface and so too did a controversy on whether or not the men survived.

189

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:26,000

The day after the escape a homemade ore was discovered floating between Alcatraz and Angel Island.

190

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:31,000

This paddle matched one that the convicts had left behind in the cell block.

191

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

On June 14th, two days after the break out, a rubber-wrapped packet was also discovered floating near Angel Island.

192

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:46,000

It contained in a dress book 80 family photographs and a money order that belonged to one of the escapees.

193

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:55,000

My conclusion would be that it was items that these people needed. These were keepsakes of these men. This is all they had in this world.

194

00:28:56,000 --> 00:29:04,000

When I seen that, I said, well, I think they didn't make it because I think it's something that they would even possibly risk their life to save.

195

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:12,000

On the 15th of June, a prison raincoat was found floating near the North Shore of San Francisco.

196

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:21,000

On the 22nd, 10 days after the escape, pieces of the convict's raft were found, only 50 yards off the East Shore of Alcatraz.

197

00:29:21,000 --> 00:29:31,000

I feel sincerely that the flotation equipment that they had came apart on them.

198

00:29:31,000 --> 00:29:39,000

And that instead of being able to ride above the water, they were submerged in the water.

199

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:49,000

Don Eberle was the FBI agent in charge of the investigation.

200

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:54,000

Probably the earliest they could have gotten into the water would be 10.30.

201

00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:03,000

The outgoing tide started that night at 10 o'clock, and that outgoing tide is very strong.

202

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:12,000

And I firmly believe that they were taken by the currents into the Pacific Ocean.

203

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:18,000

The day of the escape, an Norwegian ship spotted a body floating 20 miles past the Golden Gate Bridge.

204

00:30:18,000 --> 00:30:24,000

The one able to retrieve it, their description matched that of Frank Morris.

205

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:35,000

They sighted what he had on, and it coincided with the apparel of the escapees.

206

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:40,000

There is some evidence to suggest that at least one of the men survived.

207

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:48,000

The day after the escape, a man claiming to be John Anglin called a San Francisco lawyer known to represent Alcatraz inmates.

208

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:55,000

The attorney in question was out of the office, so the call was transferred to another attorney, Eugenia McGowan.

209

00:30:55,000 --> 00:31:02,000

The person called and the receptionist put him through to me, and he said, I'm John Anglin,

210

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:09,000

and I want you to contact the U.S. Marshals Office to set up a meeting, and I said, for what purpose?

211

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:16,000

And he said, in effect, don't ask questions, just do as I tell you, call the U.S. Marshals Office to set up a meeting.

212

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:19,000

And I said, well, I'm not going to do that unless I know why.

213

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:21,000

And he said, do you know who I am?

214

00:31:21,000 --> 00:31:22,000

And I said, no.

215

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,000

He said, read the newspaper, and he hung up.

216

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:30,000

The FBI set up a phone tap in Eugenia McGowan's office, hoping the man would call back.

217

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:37,000

He never did, and they eventually ended the surveillance, dismissing the call as a prank.

218

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:44,000

A few weeks after the break, Clarence Carnes claimed he received a postcard from the escapees.

219

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:48,000

In it, they gave the prearranged code words that confirmed their success.

220

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:52,000

The card read, gone fishing.

221

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

If they had made it to shore, the first thing they would have had to do was take something off of somebody.

222

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:06,000

They would have had to get a car, they would have had to get money, they would have had to do something that would have certainly been noticed.

223

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:11,000

There were no reports of robberies or car thefts attributable to the escapees.

224

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:15,000

However, the men may have been helped by someone on the outside.

225

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Clarence believed the convict secured the aid of an Alcatraz inmate named Bumpy Johnson.

226

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

Clarence shared with me that Ellsworth Bumpy Johnson, black capone of Harlem, under world king of Harlem,

227

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

had arranged for a boat to be out there to pick the Anglans and Morris up.

228

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:52,000

Now it would have been pitch black out there, but my guess is that they did get to that boat that was waiting for them.

229

00:32:52,000 --> 00:33:01,000

According to Clarence Carnes, the boat then took the convicts to Pier 13 in San Francisco's Hudders Point District.

230

00:33:02,000 --> 00:33:12,000

My feeling is that that's just something that Carnes has dreamed up and that there is not the slightest possibility there's any truth in it.

231

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:25,000

My opinion of Clarence Carnes is that he's an inmate of Alcatraz and any information he received from him would have to be taken with a grain of salt because of his background

232

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:32,000

and that you would have to seducesly verify everything that he said so far.

233

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:40,000

There's never been any indication of what he has said has any truth concerning the fact that they have escaped.

234

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:43,000

Come on, Wes.

235

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:50,000

Co-conspirator Alan West was questioned about these outside contacts. He denied that it existed.

236

00:33:51,000 --> 00:34:06,000

Wes wouldn't have copped out. He wouldn't cop out. You know, Wes was people. He was solid people. I don't believe he ever, to this day, I don't believe he ever told them nothing.

237

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:14,000

Today the FBI and prison authorities have not changed their opinion.

238

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:19,000

They believe the men drowned within minutes of hitting the water.

239

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:27,000

The escape was just another dismal failure in our opinion.

240

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

Of course, we never are cock-sure enough to say, well, we know they're dead, but we were pretty sure that they were dead because there was no trace of them whatsoever.

241

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:45,000

However, they're still on the missing list and not the dead list.

242

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:53,000

Six months after the escape of Morris and the Anglin brothers, another attempt proved that they could have survived the swim.

243

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

It began in the storeroom located underneath the kitchen.

244

00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Over a period of time that must have been years, a succession of convicts sought away at the bars on a window.

245

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Some believe they used a spatula stolen from the kitchen.

246

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:15,000

Another theory is that the inmates used pieces of string, covered them in wax, and then dipped them into ordinary kitchen cleansers, making a crude and fragile file.

247

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:19,000

Imagine the frustration of trying to saw through steel with a piece of string.

248

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:25,000

But by December of 1962, two men were ready to make the final cut.

249

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

John P. Scott and Lee Parker, two convicted bank robbers, made the last cuts on the bars on December 14, 1962.

250

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

The cold waters quickly convinced Parker to give up the swim, but Scott was undaunted.

251

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:49,000

He was carried by the current over three miles to the south base of the Golden Gate Bridge, where he washed ashore half frozen and nearly dead onto a rocky beach.

252

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

Some children thinking he had fallen off a boat alerted authorities.

253

00:35:53,000 --> 00:35:56,000

Scott was immediately taken into custody.

254

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:01,000

His escape attempt is the only known case of an inmate surviving the frigid waters,

255

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:06,000

which that December would have been the same temperature as the water in the Bay today.

256

00:36:09,000 --> 00:36:13,000

On Alcatraz, one of the few privileges granted to inmates was a prison library,

257

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:21,000

and it was here, according to authorities, that the Anglin brothers and Morris had access to two magazines that may have aided their escape.

258

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

The March 1962 issue of popular mechanics contained an article on watertight sailing jackets,

259

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:35,000

and the May 1962 edition of Sports Illustrated featured an article on makeshift rubberized boats.

260

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

Police authorities believe that the men modeled their life jackets and raft on these articles.

261

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:48,000

Was this crudely made raft sturdy enough to survive the forceful currents of the Bay?

262

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:54,000

And if the raft did fail, could the escapees have made it to shore by swimming?

263

00:36:55,000 --> 00:37:00,000

To test the likelihood of the raft's survival, we've constructed a similar raft out of raincoats.

264

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

Three experienced kayakers will attempt to paddle this raft to shore.

265

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:10,000

To test the theory that the convicts had to abandon the raft and swim to shore,

266

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:17,000

we've asked endurance swimmer Dave Horning to brave the frigid waters surrounding Alcatraz and swim

to a San Francisco beach.

267

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

Diane and I are standing by with our team of raptors who are just about ready to begin their journey.

268

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:28,000

The only thing that we're not duplicating accurately from the day of the escape is the time of day.

269

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:31,000

They left at night. Would that have made a tremendous difference?

270

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

I don't think a tremendous difference, but I think it is to our advantage that we can see and make a plan for the first two obstacles that they had to overcome.

271

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:44,000

First of which is this eight foot sea wall which has these very sharp and slippery leg breaking rocks below.

272

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:50,000

The second is that we can see these swirling eddies and currents that are around Alcatraz and we can make a plan as to how to get out of here.

273

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:53,000

I think the convicts really didn't know where the current was going to take them.

274

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:59,000

Well, I thank you all very much for your adventures and spirits and we'll be checking in with you all the way along.

275

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:05,000

We've switched now to our swimmer Dave Horning and Dave has swum some of the coldest bodies of water in the world, including in the Soviet Union.

276

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:10,000

Tell people at home who have never been immersed in dangerously cold water what happens to the body?

277

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:17,000

As I go into the water here this morning, it will be like an embracing shock which will go through my body initially when I hit the water.

278

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

And there will be some question in my mind in regards to how long I'll be able to last in this 47 degree water.

279

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:25,000

Okay, now that's you. You're very experienced in cold water.

280

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

Now, what about these three convicts?

281

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:35,000

I understand that they were not even allowed to take cold showers on Alcatraz for fear that they might acclimate themselves to the bay.

282

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

So what do you think their chances might have been?

283

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Well, I think they had a chance to stay in the water for a certain amount of time because of the fact that they had a certain thing going for them known as motivation.

284

00:38:43,000 --> 00:38:46,000

The motivation to get off of Alcatraz and escape from the rock.

285

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

Once they hit that water, that a motivation would concentrate them into being able to generate some adrenaline to keep them growing.

286

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:57,000

And once that adrenaline sunk in, that would help keep them insulated for a certain period of time.

287

00:38:57,000 --> 00:39:02,000

But once they started to really succumb to the effects of the cold water, who knows what would happen?

288

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:05,000

Okay, well, we thank you very much and good luck to you.

289

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:08,000

The swimmer and rafter will be off in just a few minutes.

290

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:13,000

And Bob, all I can really say is that I'm just so very happy it's not going to be me in the water today.

291

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:14,000

Back to you.

292

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:16,000

Thank you, Diana.

293

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:21,000

The route these men will be taking will be the same route it is believed the 1962 escapees followed.

294

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:26,000

The escapees left from the eastern shore of the island, approximately here.

295

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:31,000

If they were attempting to swim to Angel Island about one and a half miles away, as the authorities believe,

296

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:35,000

the currents would have carried them away from the island out toward the Pacific Ocean.

297

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

If they were lucky, they made it ashore at the Golden Gate Bridge.

298

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:46,000

Dave is facing the same conditions, but his plan is to cut across the strong currents here and swim ashore at Chrissy Field.

299

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:53,000

Our swimmer and rafters are now in position. Diana will give them the signal to start. Diana, is everyone ready?

300

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:57,000

Well, Bob, I'd say we're just less than a minute away from getting underway here.

301

00:39:57,000 --> 00:40:03,000

Let me quickly set the scene for you. We have a number of camera crews out here, including one up in a blimp to get the aerial view.

302

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:06,000

We also have a couple of paramedic teams, and this is why.

303

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:12,000

The water temperature at 47 degrees is colder than the ice water you keep in your refrigerator.

304

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:17,000

And that means that upon entry, the body dramatically and immediately loses heat.

305

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:25,000

And if you're in there for too long, you go into a state of hypothermia, meaning that the bloodstream and the core organs cannot function properly anymore.

306

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

And literally, you can go into a state of cardiac arrest. So I don't care how expert a swimmer you are, you take this situation very seriously.

307

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:39,000

Let me check on shore now to see if Dave and our three rafters are just about ready to embark.

308

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Dave, are you ready? Rafters all set? Good luck. Be safe, everybody. And we'll count from three,

two, one, go.

309

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:04,000

We have asked Dave to wear an underwater microphone so that we can communicate with him if any problems should arise.

310

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:16,000

You'll notice from the very beginning that Dave will keep up a very, very rapid stroke pace, and that's because he is going to be chilled, almost shocked when he first enters the water, and he wants to generate a great deal of heat.

311

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:24,000

The rafters are going to have even more problems staying warm because they've got to just kind of float and kick behind them with that cumbersome raft.

312

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:35,000

Dave had told me before that he's probably going to get to shore in about 45 minutes, but let's be accurate about the convicts.

313

00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:46,000

We look at Dave over here stroking very powerfully, and even though a couple of the convicts, the Anglin brothers, were from Florida, and I understand very good swimmers, still they weren't in this kind of condition.

314

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:53,000

Obviously they hadn't swum in years, they weren't used to cold water, so they were not going to be stroking as powerfully as this.

315

00:41:54,000 --> 00:42:05,000

Now if you look back at the rafters and see just how slowly they are progressing, this is probably more realistic to what went on that night in 1962.

316

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:19,000

You might have had three powerful people, but still they weren't used to the cold. It was night time, they didn't know precisely where they were going, so I think that this progress that the rafters are doing is probably very similar to what we could expect,

317

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:25,000

and they're probably, if they make it, going to take more like two hours, and that would be just at the edge of hypothermia.

318

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:36,000

Later on we'll be able to see if we talk to him that his face will be quite stiff, his mouth will look as if it's somewhat frozen,

319

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:44,000

and the signs of hypothermia that a trainer would look for as he's swimming, is if he becomes

confused, if he swims around in circles,

320

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:52,000

if he hallucinates and is telling you that he's seeing things that aren't really there, that's your sign to take your swimmer out and get him warm.

321

00:42:53,000 --> 00:43:12,000

We are now 20 minutes into Dave Horning's attempt to swim from Alcatraz to San Francisco.

322

00:43:13,000 --> 00:43:19,000

For years the guards on Alcatraz told inmates that the bay was infested with man-eating sharks.

323

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:23,000

Marine biologist Layton Taylor says that that is a myth.

324

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:31,000

There are not man-eating sharks here in San Francisco Bay. There certainly are just outside the Golden Gate on the outer coastal beaches,

325

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:38,000

and I'd really guess that the guards probably told the prisoners about the attacks in the 1950s and

so forth,

326

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:45,000

and probably really put the fear of God in the prisoners about sharks, but it's not true that San Francisco is a shark infested bay.

327

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:47,000

Has there ever been a shark attack inside the bay?

328

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:56,000

No, there are sharks in San Francisco Bay, but they're mud dwellers and they're on the bottom, and by the time a prisoner got to the bottom, he was out of the picture by then anyway.

329

00:43:56,000 --> 00:43:58,000

I see, well thank you.

330

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:05,000

The men in the Bay of San Francisco inmates believed there were sharks in the bay. This didn't stop some convicts from trying to make a break for freedom.

331

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:10,000

The first escape attempt was in 1936, just two years after the prison opened.

332

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:22,000

Joseph Bowers received a 25-year sentence restuting \$16.63, because he robbed a store in the same building as a post office, a federal offense.

333

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:27,000

He was given the maximum sentence with little likelihood of parole.

334

00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:32,000

From the island of Alcatraz, a city of San Francisco seems just an arms reach away.

335

00:44:32,000 --> 00:44:41,000

On April 27, 1936, Bowers was working at this incinerator. This must have been one of the most tempting spots to try and escape.

336

00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:48,000

Suddenly Bowers appeared to go berserk and began to scale the fence, and alert guards spotted Bowers from a catwalk close by.

337

00:44:48,000 --> 00:44:52,000

He yelled at him to stop and fired two warning shots over his head.

338

00:44:52,000 --> 00:44:56,000

Bowers made it over the top of the fence and began to clamor down the other side.

339

00:44:56,000 --> 00:45:07,000

The guard now aiming to stop him fired again. Bowers was hit. Wounded, he relaxed his grip on the fence and fell 60 feet to his death.

340

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:19,000

In December of 1937, another escape was tried. This was no impulse, rather a carefully planned scheme that might have been successful.

341

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:32,000

Theodore Cole was 25, with a 50-year sentence for kidnapping. His partner was Ralph Rowe, a 37-year-old bank robber with a long criminal record and a 99-year sentence.

342

00:45:32,000 --> 00:45:39,000

On December 16, 1937, the two men were making mats in the industrial building north of the cell block.

343

00:45:39,000 --> 00:45:47,000

Even for San Francisco, it was a foggy, cold day. At approximately one o'clock in the afternoon, they saw not a shop window and broke through a fence.

344

00:45:47,000 --> 00:45:55,000

The current was swift that day, running at eight miles per hour. Grabbing hold of a five-gallon can, they attempted to swim to freedom.

345

00:45:55,000 --> 00:46:04,000

The Rowan Coe escape, 1937, was one that I think was impossible to make. The tide was running very swiftly out towards the Golden Gate.

346

00:46:04,000 --> 00:46:16,000

The water is 55 degrees. Alvin Karpus, an inmate, told me that he watched Rowan Coe escape, and as he looked out, you could see the bodies slipping into the bay, and he believed they drowned.

347

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:25,000

Just recently, John Stanley, a San Francisco reporter, discovered this 1941 article in the files of the San Francisco Chronicle.

348

00:46:25,000 --> 00:46:34,000

It claims that Rowan Coe survived, fled to South America, and then using a secret code contacted their confidants back at Alcatraz.

349

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

Federal officials still maintained that Rowan Coe had perished. Perhaps the story was a hoax, concocted by inmates,

350

00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:47,000

but to this day Rowan Coe are officially listed as missing.

351

00:46:52,000 --> 00:47:00,000

This newsreel documents the bloodiest of all the escape attempts on Alcatraz. It began on May 2nd, 1946.

352

00:47:00,000 --> 00:47:07,000

San Francisco Bay. Here, for nearly 40 hours of murderous mutiny, armed convicts shut it out with guards.

353

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:18,000

Ring-leaders were Bernard Coe, Louisville Bank robber, Joe Kretzett. In cold blood, he shot down unarmed guards in an orgy of murder.

354

00:47:18,000 --> 00:47:25,000

Marv Hubbard, Tennessee kidnap her. With one rifle and one automatic, they waged a desperate but futile fight.

355

00:47:25,000 --> 00:47:34,000

You can see the smoke from rifle fire and tear gas bombs. As guards fought to rescue prison officials, held as hostages in cell block C.

356

00:47:35,000 --> 00:47:46,000

It all began here, in the north end of the cell block. Convicts Coe and Hubbard jumped unarmed guard William Miller, taking his keys and locking him in an empty cell.

357

00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:57,000

Coe greased his body and climbed to the top of the cell block where the bars were weakest. Using a homemade tool, he managed to spread the bars and squeeze through into the gun gallery.

358

00:47:57,000 --> 00:48:04,000

Over the next few hours, the convicts captured nine guards and held them hostage here in these two cells.

359

00:48:04,000 --> 00:48:12,000

Hour after hour, guards and convicts exchanged guns as crowds gathered to watch from the hills of San Francisco.

360

00:48:12,000 --> 00:48:19,000

The detachment of Marines scaled the walls and dropped concussion grenades into the cell block from the roof.

361

00:48:20,000 --> 00:48:28,000

On the second day, two teams of guards entered the cell block. In a furious shootout, the hostages were rescued and the ringleaders killed.

362

00:48:32,000 --> 00:48:41,000

To the guards, all credits. Two of their number were killed, 15 wounded. Assistant Warden Miller shot by Coe, scarred perhaps for life.

363

00:48:42,000 --> 00:48:50,000

For the criminal ringleaders, this gruesome end. Coe, Cressa and Hubbard, finger printed as they lie on slabs in the morgue.

364

00:48:50,000 --> 00:48:53,000

There's is the final reward for a life of crime.

365

00:48:59,000 --> 00:49:09,000

Here's a quick update on both the swimmer and rafters. Dave Horning just off my shoulder here is about 35 minutes into the swim and I would say he's made it two thirds of the way.

366

00:49:09,000 --> 00:49:13,000

Just taking a quick look back there to see just how far he had gone.

367

00:49:15,000 --> 00:49:23,000

Quickly to let you know how the rafters are doing at the moment, now that they have broken free from the shore of Alcatraz, they're actually making much better progress.

368

00:49:23,000 --> 00:49:28,000

I keep going back and forth with the potential scenario of those convicts that night.

369

00:49:28,000 --> 00:49:33,000

Just a few minutes ago, I thought, boy, they're barely moving, they're never going to make it to land anywhere.

370

00:49:33,000 --> 00:49:41,000

Now they've actually been able to catch the current somewhat. They're going maybe a mile and a half to maybe even close to two miles an hour.

371

00:49:41,000 --> 00:49:46,000

So I'm switching back the other way again and thinking maybe they could have made it.

372

00:49:47,000 --> 00:49:52,000

I understand that the rafters are getting very cold and frustrated, that they aren't making much progress.

373

00:49:52,000 --> 00:49:57,000

Now they're only still a quarter of a mile away from Alcatraz. Let's go to Diana.

374

00:49:57,000 --> 00:50:08,000

We have three men here who have kayaked all over the world. They're young, they're strong in excellent shape, and they're having a great deal of difficulty making any progress.

375

00:50:08,000 --> 00:50:11,000

And you can see they're being thrown around by the tide left and right.

376

00:50:11,000 --> 00:50:21,000

Probably what was happening that night to the convicts out here was just some desperation, not a goal of getting somewhere, but just to get anywhere.

377

00:50:22,000 --> 00:50:30,000

I'm sure the convicts didn't have much traffic out of here on the bay, but our swimmer and rafters today are having a great deal of traffic.

378

00:50:30,000 --> 00:50:36,000

We've got barges, tugboats, tourist boats, etc., not to mention a number of seals.

379

00:50:36,000 --> 00:50:40,000

So it's somewhat entertaining, although they're casting quite a bit of weight.

380

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:56,000

Just to check on Dave's medical condition, we've asked him a few simple questions, like his name, the same way that referees in boxing ask the fighters if they're coherent.

381

00:50:56,000 --> 00:51:06,000

He's responded very well, but evidently he is cramping in one leg. Cramps can be very, very serious in the water, but we still assume that he's going to be okay.

382

00:51:11,000 --> 00:51:18,000

Dave is only a few yards away from completing his swim. Diana, how's he doing?

383

00:51:18,000 --> 00:51:26,000

The one thing I'm concerned about is not the cold, but the cramp in his leg. We still assume that since he's closing in on the beach that he's going to be okay.

384

00:51:26,000 --> 00:51:35,000

We should mention here we've talked so much about hypothermia. Your core temperature actually goes down even further once you get out from a spell in cold water.

385

00:51:35,000 --> 00:51:42,000

So when he gets out of here, we're going to be able to talk to him very briefly, but three or four minutes after that he's going to have to get warm.

386

00:51:42,000 --> 00:51:48,000

And the way he does it is put on a pair of running shoes and go for a jog and generate his own heat. It's actually the best way to do it.

387

00:51:50,000 --> 00:51:55,000

Well, it looks conclusive. Dave is literally 20 yards from the shore.

388

00:51:55,000 --> 00:52:03,000

Lifeguards have now entered the water with him for the last few feet, especially having reported a cramp just to make sure that he's able to walk out.

389

00:52:05,000 --> 00:52:10,000

And he seems to be just fine. We'll have a word with him in just 30 seconds or so.

390

00:52:23,000 --> 00:52:25,000

That was really cool.

391

00:52:25,000 --> 00:52:33,000

Alright Dave, I know we don't have much time before you get your running shoes on. Tell me your experience first of all. You came in in just a little bit over an hour. How was it out there?

392

00:52:34,000 --> 00:52:43,000

It was great. When I first hit the cold shock of the water, it definitely was embracing. Halfway through the swim, my feet and legs went numb.

393

00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:50,000

And in the final 10 to 15 minutes, both legs totally cramped up. And I really had to wonder whether I'd be able to make it in.

394

00:52:50,000 --> 00:52:57,000

I can hear just the way you're talking and a slightly bit of slurred speech as your mouth quite frozen in place.

395

00:52:57,000 --> 00:53:05,000

Slurred definitely due to the cold chin. I'm glad I didn't have to stay in more than at least another hour.

396

00:53:07,000 --> 00:53:12,000

Well listen, this brings us to your opinion now that you've done it. Do you believe they could have made it?

397

00:53:12,000 --> 00:53:21,000

There's no question in my mind that they could have made it. The question is how they would have felt. It's the coffee that probably would have been their motivation.

398

00:53:22,000 --> 00:53:32,000

Okay, well listen, we thank you so much for your brave effort today. And I'm going to reserve my opinion later because Dave Horning is one thing, the rafters are another thing.

399

00:53:32,000 --> 00:53:36,000

So we're going to go back out and check and see how they actually do.

400

00:53:36,000 --> 00:53:38,000

What a beautiful day.

401

00:53:38,000 --> 00:53:47,000

Dave has succeeded in a swim to Chrissy Field. However, the rafters have only reached this point a quarter mile off Alcatraz.

402

00:53:47,000 --> 00:53:51,000

Let's go back to Diana for an update on the rafters.

403

00:53:52,000 --> 00:54:03,000

They are not doing well. They just haven't made much progress. They came around Alcatraz very quickly, but now they're kind of stuck in the front of the island, maybe kept in by that incoming flood tide.

404

00:54:03,000 --> 00:54:05,000

Come on over Bill.

405

00:54:05,000 --> 00:54:17,000

So, I know you're strong. It must not be you guys. What's happening out there?

406

00:54:17,000 --> 00:54:23,000

We're actually fairly comfortable, but we're not getting anywhere and the boat is starting to fall apart.

407

00:54:23,000 --> 00:54:28,000

And we think even with the, we have certain advantages with the type of rig we have.

408

00:54:28,000 --> 00:54:34,000

And if we're trying to really assess how the Convicts did, we don't think they did very well.

409

00:54:34,000 --> 00:54:48,000

We have a little more modern clothing on and I think that given the situation when they left at night and know where they're going, they're in pretty weak condition from not having much exercise at the prison.

410

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

They probably at least were very uncomfortable, more likely got hypothermia and just didn't get anywhere.

411

00:54:54,000 --> 00:54:58,000

We were actually very confident when we were leaving Alcatraz and the boat was in good condition.

412

00:54:58,000 --> 00:55:12,000

But the more time we had to think about it, the more unlikely the whole possibility of them surviving seems, these guys were career Convicts and they haven't shown up since.

413

00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:17,000

And you would think over 20 some odd years they would have probably committed another crime and gotten caught.

414

00:55:17,000 --> 00:55:21,000

So I have feeling they're fish food.

415

00:55:30,000 --> 00:55:33,000

Did the Anglin brothers and Frank Morris survive their daring escape?

416

00:55:33,000 --> 00:55:36,000

Based on what we've seen today it certainly is possible.

417

00:55:36,000 --> 00:55:42,000

Yet it seems odd that in the last 27 years so few clues have surfaced to prove that they made it.

418

00:55:42,000 --> 00:55:50,000

Whether or not the men survived, their escape compromised the reputation of Alcatraz and less than a year later the prison closed.

419

00:55:50,000 --> 00:55:54,000

For that reason alone it can be said the men did beat the rock.

420

00:55:54,000 --> 00:55:58,000

Thanks to Diane and lad, congratulations Dave.

421

00:55:58,000 --> 00:56:01,000

Thank you very much for you brave men on the raft.

422

00:56:01,000 --> 00:56:05,000

Join us again next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.