

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,600

This program is about unsolved mysteries. Whenever possible, the actual family members

2

00:00:09,600 --> 00:00:13,680

and police officials have participated in recreating the events. What you are about

3

00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:20,840

to see is not a news broadcast.

4

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

In 1986, a bank vault in Hollywood, California was emptied by a cunning group of burglars.

5

00:00:26,120 --> 00:00:30,840

The bandits tumbled hundreds of feet underground and escaped for \$2 million. The police call

6

00:00:30,840 --> 00:00:33,720

it the crime of the century.

7

00:00:33,720 --> 00:00:39,080

In 1982, a 46-year-old appliance repairman was brutally murdered. Three theories have

8

00:00:39,080 --> 00:00:44,400

surfaced. Was this seemingly ordinary father of four killed by angry drug runners? Or

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00:00:44,400 --> 00:00:48,840

by vengeful crime bosses against whom his brother was called to testify? Or was it

10

00:00:48,840 --> 00:00:53,240

a crime of passion committed by a jealous husband?

11

00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:59,160

In 1982, seven-year-old Crystal Merslock drowned in a swimming pool accident. Crystal was clinically

12

00:00:59,160 --> 00:01:04,960

dead, but after 15 minutes, doctors brought her back to life.

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00:01:04,960 --> 00:01:08,720

Crystal is one of millions of Americans who have undergone what psychologists call a near-death

14

00:01:08,720 --> 00:01:13,540

experience, an intriguing mystifying phenomenon in which they describe a peaceful journey

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00:01:13,540 --> 00:01:18,480

after death in which old friends lead them towards a white light. Proof of life after

16

00:01:18,480 --> 00:01:21,000

life is simply a mass hallucination.

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00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:25,480

8 p.m. Friday, June 6, 1986, an alarm sounded at the first interstate bank in Hollywood,

18

00:02:25,480 --> 00:02:38,560

California. A police patrol was dispatched to investigate. When they arrived, they found

19

00:02:38,560 --> 00:02:41,560

no evidence of a break-in.

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00:02:49,240 --> 00:03:05,560

On Monday morning, bank employees arrived for work. It is business as usual. A few minutes

21

00:03:05,560 --> 00:03:12,960

later, when a bank officer opened up the vault, she made a shocking discovery. Incredibly,

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00:03:13,040 --> 00:03:17,280

someone had tunneled 30 yards from under a nearby street, ending up precisely underneath

23

00:03:17,280 --> 00:03:23,920

the vault. Using hand tools, they patiently sliced through the 18-inch thick steel reinforced

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00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:31,400

concrete floor. Once inside, they made off with over \$2 million in cash, jewelry and

25

00:03:31,400 --> 00:03:37,920

rare coins.

26

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:42,800

Detective Dennis Pagan Cop was assigned to the case.

27

00:03:42,800 --> 00:03:51,480

My initial feelings that morning when we first arrived at the scene was one of awe. I realized

28

00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:57,800

the fact that these suspects were excellent burglars. They would be extremely difficult

29

00:03:57,800 --> 00:04:06,040

to catch. They'd gone to a lot of work and it was awesome. We view this burglary in the

30

00:04:06,040 --> 00:04:12,240

city as the crime of the century as far as burglars go. The method of attack and the

31

00:04:12,600 --> 00:04:20,600

fact they got \$2 million plus their ingenuity. I had never seen a burglary like this in 27

32

00:04:20,600 --> 00:04:29,080

years. Underneath the streets of Los Angeles, a subterranean highway of storm drains exists.

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00:04:29,080 --> 00:04:33,680

Detective Pagan Cop discovered that the burglars had used these drains to secretly travel to

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00:04:33,680 --> 00:04:41,680

the bank, or they then could tunnel undetected to the vaults. They dug 95 feet from a drain

35

00:04:42,120 --> 00:04:49,120

to the bank. The extraordinary tunnels were approximately 3.5 feet wide by 4.5 feet high,

36

00:04:50,200 --> 00:04:57,440

all dug by hand but finished with electric tools, a remarkable feat of precision engineering.

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00:04:57,440 --> 00:05:02,480

The experts tell us that the type of tunnels they dug were very safe tunnels. The size

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00:05:02,480 --> 00:05:07,600

of the tunnels, the shapes of the tunnels were extremely expertly done and the contour

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00:05:07,640 --> 00:05:14,880

of the tunnels were done as such to add extra strength and protection to those digging.

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00:05:14,880 --> 00:05:21,120

Police searched underground in a 3 mile radius of the bank, looking for signs of the robbers.

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00:05:21,120 --> 00:05:25,200

When we conclude our investigation at First Interstate Bank, basically we were left with

42

00:05:25,200 --> 00:05:31,200

no clues at all. There was no physical evidence left. The suspects left us nothing to work

43

00:05:31,200 --> 00:05:38,200

with and we were basically handcuffed. Police had run out of clues. It seems as if the perfect

44

00:05:40,400 --> 00:05:45,960

crime had been committed. Fourteen months later the daring bandits struck again. They must

45

00:05:45,960 --> 00:05:49,360

have known that their extraordinary tactics were known to the authorities but that didn't

46

00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:58,360

deter them. What is more surprising, the tunneling burglars came within minutes of succeeding.

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00:05:58,360 --> 00:06:03,960

On Saturday morning August 22, 1987, the alarm system went off at a Bank of America in West

48

00:06:03,960 --> 00:06:10,960

Los Angeles. Police were called in to investigate. The assistant bank manager opened the vault.

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00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:21,760

They discovered the vault had been broken into. Apparently the burglars had fled while

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00:06:21,840 --> 00:06:28,840

the robbery was in progress. On the floor, an 18 inch hole was cut through the concrete.

51

00:06:29,520 --> 00:06:33,360

When I got the phone call from the officer at the bank and he explained to me a hole

52

00:06:33,360 --> 00:06:39,800

in the floor, all I could think of was their back, they've done it again. And how much

53

00:06:39,800 --> 00:06:44,840

money did they get this time? Because they were interrupted, the thieves are only able

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00:06:44,840 --> 00:06:51,840

to steal \$90,000. They left behind their tools and some work clothes. The robbers also

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00:06:56,080 --> 00:07:01,440

left an 18 inch core bit, a cutting tool used in construction to bore large holes through

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00:07:01,440 --> 00:07:08,440

cement. This was purchased in the San Francisco Bay Area by a construction company using a

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00:07:09,240 --> 00:07:14,880

fictitious name and address in San Diego and they paid cash. So basically we knew that

58

00:07:14,880 --> 00:07:21,880

it was probably a white male that purchased it but no other information. Again, detectives

59

00:07:23,720 --> 00:07:30,720

searched miles of storm drains for some clues to the identity of the bandits. Approximately

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00:07:30,800 --> 00:07:35,640

three miles from the bank, they found a four wheel vehicle called a quad runner just inside

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00:07:35,640 --> 00:07:42,640

a storm drain entrance. Detective Pagancock believes the tunnels were dug by just two

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00:07:42,640 --> 00:07:47,160

men. Apparently they used their vehicles to carry their heavy equipment underground.

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00:07:47,160 --> 00:07:52,040

Their core bit and drill alone required a drilled press that weighed an excess of 100

64

00:07:52,040 --> 00:07:59,040

pounds. We came to the conclusion that the suspects were very close friends, possibly

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00:07:59,840 --> 00:08:06,840

army buddies, able to work together for long periods of time in very confined areas, picking

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00:08:07,400 --> 00:08:14,400

up three to six weeks probably to dig that one tunnel. Detective Pagancock also believes

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00:08:16,840 --> 00:08:20,840

the third man was embalmed since clearly the burglars must have been worn by someone

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00:08:20,840 --> 00:08:27,840

outside the bank. Time to move. Tops? I don't know. I'm going to go. In their escape,

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00:08:29,160 --> 00:08:33,840

footprints indicated that the burglars ran through the tunnel one barefoot, one in stocking

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00:08:33,840 --> 00:08:40,840

feet. They abandoned one of their vehicles and apparently escaped on foot. For all of

71

00:08:41,680 --> 00:08:48,680

their labors, \$90,000 must have been a disappointing reward. Of all the evidence we recovered,

72

00:08:48,920 --> 00:08:55,920

tools, ladders, clothing, we had developed no fingerprints whatsoever. The only fingerprint

73

00:08:56,280 --> 00:09:03,280

we developed was on the quadrunner itself. We got one latent print from that vehicle.

74

00:09:03,760 --> 00:09:09,920

That print has been run through and compared with all arrestees and it's our opinion that

75

00:09:09,920 --> 00:09:16,920

this individual has never been arrested. Police again went underground looking for

76

00:09:18,440 --> 00:09:25,440

more evidence. That's hollow, isn't it? Yeah, it's hollow. About a mile and a half from

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00:09:25,840 --> 00:09:32,160

the Bank of America, they found another tunnel completely finished. This 102-foot tunnel ended

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00:09:32,160 --> 00:09:36,720

beneath the Beverly Hills Bank and the mounting boats for the drill were already in place

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00:09:36,720 --> 00:09:43,720

under the vault. If they'd have been able to accomplish both burglars that weekend,

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00:09:44,080 --> 00:09:49,320

it's told to me by the people in the banks, in the banking industry, that they probably

81

00:09:49,320 --> 00:09:56,320

would have gotten away with between \$10 and \$20 million. Police learned that the quadrunner

82

00:09:56,640 --> 00:10:00,920

was purchased by a man using the name David Spaulding, his only known address of post

83

00:10:00,920 --> 00:10:06,640

office box in Hollywood. One or two people using this name apparently purchased five

84

00:10:06,640 --> 00:10:13,640

of these distinctive vehicles. Salespeople created two composites of the same man. He

85

00:10:13,760 --> 00:10:19,480

is a male Caucasian around 35 years of age. He's about six feet in height and rugged looking

86

00:10:19,480 --> 00:10:26,680

as if used to outdoor labor. Next, the story of two people who then pronounced clinically

87

00:10:26,680 --> 00:10:32,120

dead and brought back to life. The experiences profoundly changed their lives. The stories

88

00:10:32,120 --> 00:10:35,120

they tell may suggest what lies ahead after death.

89

00:10:44,440 --> 00:10:51,440

Seven years ago on March the 13th, 1982, a seven-year-old girl named Crystal Merslock

90

00:10:53,600 --> 00:11:00,600

was attending a children's birthday party held at a local swimming pool. Though she

91

00:11:01,600 --> 00:11:07,100

had just recently learned to swim, Crystal felt comfortable in the water.

92

00:11:07,100 --> 00:11:13,600

We went into the pool and we were just playing down at the shallow end for a while and then

93

00:11:13,880 --> 00:11:20,880

I don't know why but for some reason I went up to the deep end where a group of boys pushed

94

00:11:21,040 --> 00:11:27,840

me in but they didn't know it. And I just started swallowing water, gasping for air,

95

00:11:27,840 --> 00:11:34,840

trying to grab up to the top of the water. I couldn't get in the air and so I just fell

96

00:11:35,680 --> 00:11:36,680

unconscious.

97

00:11:36,680 --> 00:11:43,680

And then I was just in darkness.

98

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:52,040

Can we get some breast sounds here please?

99

00:11:52,040 --> 00:11:55,480

Hi the breast sounds!

100

00:11:55,480 --> 00:12:00,200

Paramedics rushed Crystal to a local hospital where a team led by Dr. Melvin Morris feverishly

101

00:12:00,200 --> 00:12:04,280

worked to save her life.

102

00:12:04,280 --> 00:12:09,800

When she came in her pupils were fixed and dilated meaning that she probably had no brain

103

00:12:09,800 --> 00:12:16,800

activity. She had none of the normal reflexes that we associate with surviving. She had

104

00:12:18,640 --> 00:12:24,840

what's called a Glasgow coma score of three which very few people survive if they have

105

00:12:24,840 --> 00:12:26,120

such a profound coma.

106

00:12:26,120 --> 00:12:28,120

She's not coming around!

107

00:12:28,120 --> 00:12:31,280

I did not think that she would survive.

108

00:12:32,280 --> 00:12:39,280

Dr. Morris said that she was so close to death that to prepare yourself for her demise

109

00:12:39,480 --> 00:12:46,480

that she could expire at any time. There wasn't much chance given to her for her long life

110

00:12:47,600 --> 00:12:50,600

after that event.

111

00:12:55,600 --> 00:12:59,520

At 3.30pm Crystal Merzloch was clinically dead.

112

00:12:59,640 --> 00:13:04,000

Twenty minutes later she was brought back to life. During the period of time she was being

113

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:08,800

revived Crystal shared a common experience with thousands of other Americans. A near

114

00:13:08,800 --> 00:13:14,480

death experience or NDE. Almost without exception these people describe a journey to the land

115

00:13:14,480 --> 00:13:19,760

of beautiful light. A trip accompanied by an overwhelming sense of well-being. Is this

116

00:13:19,760 --> 00:13:26,760

experience an hallucination or evidence of a life after death?

117

00:13:27,640 --> 00:13:34,640

As Crystal lay near death she felt herself moving into darkness. Then her eyes opened

118

00:13:35,640 --> 00:13:40,520

when she beheld a wondrous sight.

119

00:13:40,520 --> 00:13:47,520

I didn't really know where I was. I looked up and I saw this bright light at the end of

120

00:13:48,080 --> 00:13:55,080

a tunnel and there were colored bricks on the walls of the tunnel.

121

00:13:56,760 --> 00:14:03,760

The light kind of pulled me toward it. It was just the most loving light I've ever seen.

122

00:14:07,280 --> 00:14:13,780

And then I saw this lady. She came toward me really soft and really slow. She took my

123

00:14:13,780 --> 00:14:20,780

hand and she said, I'm Elizabeth and I will help you. She just led me into the light and

124

00:14:21,140 --> 00:14:28,140

through the light and into heaven. I just felt that this was the place I wanted to be.

125

00:14:37,220 --> 00:14:41,460

Crystal sensed that she was floating over her body observing the medical team as they

126

00:14:41,460 --> 00:14:43,380

attempted to save her life.

127

00:14:43,380 --> 00:14:50,380

When I was up there I saw the doctors they were working on me. They were sticking up

128

00:14:50,780 --> 00:14:57,780

my arm and at my nose to help me breathe and I didn't like it. That was one of the reasons

129

00:14:57,780 --> 00:15:04,780

I wanted to stay up there.

130

00:15:05,060 --> 00:15:12,060

But when I got thinking about how I wouldn't be able to really hug my mom again or anybody

131

00:15:12,980 --> 00:15:19,980

I really loved then I said no I want to go back and then I was back.

132

00:15:20,940 --> 00:15:26,340

In my body.

133

00:15:26,340 --> 00:15:33,340

I wasn't dead. I was still alive. There was still a part of me like my soul, my spirit,

134

00:15:33,340 --> 00:15:38,340

was still alive. I wasn't dead at all.

135

00:15:38,340 --> 00:15:44,340

For at least 20 minutes Crystal was for all intents and purposes dead. Even after she was

136

00:15:44,420 --> 00:15:50,920

revived the child was in a coma for three days. Fortunately once she returned home Crystal

137

00:15:50,920 --> 00:15:55,260

completely regained her health.

138

00:15:55,260 --> 00:15:59,580

Crystal had never met Dr. Morse the man who saved her life but when they were introduced

139

00:15:59,580 --> 00:16:02,620

he seemed familiar.

140

00:16:02,620 --> 00:16:08,060

The last time I had seen her she was profoundly comatose. She could not have been in a deeper

141

00:16:08,060 --> 00:16:11,060

coma and still be alive.

142

00:16:11,060 --> 00:16:16,740

And then I saw her in follow up two weeks later. I said you know I am Dr. Morse you

143

00:16:16,740 --> 00:16:22,300

probably don't remember me but I sure know you Crystal because I spent you know a grueling

144

00:16:22,300 --> 00:16:27,500

four hours trying to bring you back to life and then she turned to her mother and said

145

00:16:27,500 --> 00:16:31,860

well no I have seen him before.

146

00:16:31,860 --> 00:16:37,500

She stated that she remembered seeing me from the emergency room.

147

00:16:37,500 --> 00:16:44,020

She said oh yes I have met you I saw you you were putting something in my throat you were

148

00:16:44,020 --> 00:16:47,220

working with my neck and she scowled at him.

149

00:16:47,220 --> 00:16:54,220

I saw his face and I knew him. It was just like I had never seen him before and I knew

150

00:16:54,480 --> 00:16:55,540

him.

151

00:16:55,540 --> 00:17:02,140

She also described other elements of her resuscitation. She described us pushing on her chest and

152

00:17:02,140 --> 00:17:09,140

putting various lines in her. She described that she told me first you worked on me in

153

00:17:10,140 --> 00:17:17,140

the emergency room and then you took me to another room you know which was in fact true.

154

00:17:17,380 --> 00:17:22,060

And when you see a seven year old talk like that and say things like that there is no

155

00:17:22,060 --> 00:17:27,700

reason for you not to believe it you know it comes straight from the heart.

156

00:17:27,700 --> 00:17:33,100

Dr. Gabbard has studied these near death experiences and believes they may be physical not

metaphysical

157

00:17:33,100 --> 00:17:35,540

phenomena.

158

00:17:35,540 --> 00:17:41,340

The near death experience can be understood as deriving from a fundamental psychological

159

00:17:41,340 --> 00:17:48,340

need to deny the reality of death because it's too horrible to face the prospect that

160

00:17:49,180 --> 00:17:51,900

when the body goes that's it.

161

00:17:51,900 --> 00:17:57,060

It's very tempting of course to suppose that these experiences are explainable by some

162

00:17:57,100 --> 00:18:01,420

sort of physiological events or biochemical events going on in the brain at the point

163

00:18:01,420 --> 00:18:06,700

of death or perhaps by psychological principles that this is just wish fulfillment that the

164

00:18:06,700 --> 00:18:12,180

mind is unable to accept final death so it makes up this beautiful fantasy.

165

00:18:12,180 --> 00:18:17,180

But in fact when you carefully look at the reports I think we've all concluded that something

166

00:18:17,180 --> 00:18:19,300

very different is going on.

167

00:18:19,300 --> 00:18:23,700

One reason for this is that the patients are able to tell us things about the resuscitation

168

00:18:23,740 --> 00:18:27,580

attempt that they wouldn't have any way of knowing.

169

00:18:27,580 --> 00:18:32,620

My own subjective feeling after 23 years of working with these patients is that I have

170

00:18:32,620 --> 00:18:39,620

no doubt whatsoever that they had a glimpse of the life hereafter.

171

00:18:42,060 --> 00:18:45,660

Crystal has been to a place where her friends and family have never gone.

172

00:18:45,660 --> 00:18:51,740

She is certain that this experience will stay with her the rest of her life.

173

00:18:51,780 --> 00:18:55,660

I have remembered this for seven years.

174

00:18:55,660 --> 00:18:57,260

I cannot forget it.

175

00:18:57,260 --> 00:18:58,900

It's always there.

176

00:18:58,900 --> 00:19:05,900

It's always been very real to me and it's always very clear to me.

177

00:19:09,500 --> 00:19:13,780

When we return the story of a man who may have passed through death to the other side

178

00:19:13,780 --> 00:19:15,660

today his life has been transformed.

179

00:19:15,660 --> 00:19:19,300

He believes that life after death is a very real possibility.

180

00:19:22,740 --> 00:19:27,740

Many thousands of people have died and lived to tell the tale.

181

00:19:27,740 --> 00:19:30,620

An overwhelming number describe the same phenomenon.

182

00:19:30,620 --> 00:19:34,420

A tunnel of light and a sense of floating over their body.

183

00:19:34,420 --> 00:19:37,940

One of the strangest stories connected with a near-death experience is told by a New York

184

00:19:37,940 --> 00:19:40,220

man named Thomas Sawyer.

185

00:19:40,220 --> 00:19:44,620

Ten years ago his life was transformed by an accident that occurred in his garage.

186

00:19:44,620 --> 00:19:47,120

Today Tom Sawyer is literally a new man.

187

00:19:52,740 --> 00:19:58,740

Tom Sawyer lives in upstate New York and works as a snow plow operator.

188

00:19:58,740 --> 00:20:02,740

For 33 years he lived a normal, uneventful life.

189

00:20:02,740 --> 00:20:07,740

I'd have to describe myself as a pretty much an all-American boy.

190

00:20:07,740 --> 00:20:10,740

You know, with a name like Tom Sawyer you have one of two choices.

191

00:20:10,740 --> 00:20:16,740

You can become a comedian or an outgoing or end up being an introvert.

192

00:20:16,740 --> 00:20:20,740

Tom turned to athletics during high school and that propelled him to popularity.

193

00:20:20,740 --> 00:20:24,740

However, his academic record was lackluster for good reason.

194

00:20:24,740 --> 00:20:30,740

From seventh grade in grammar school, right through age 33, I never read a book cover to cover.

195

00:20:30,740 --> 00:20:34,740

I just disliked reading immensely and I read nothing.

196

00:20:34,740 --> 00:20:40,740

In his late teens Tom raced bicycles and in 1968 qualified for the Olympic team.

197

00:20:40,740 --> 00:20:46,740

In 1967 he married Elaine and they had two sons, Tim and Todd.

198

00:20:47,740 --> 00:20:52,740

Tom was a family man, a blue collar worker who prided himself on his practicality.

199

00:20:52,740 --> 00:20:57,740

Prior to this experience I had thought about such things as religion and so on

200

00:20:57,740 --> 00:21:00,740

and I thought that it was just a bunch of foolishness.

201

00:21:00,740 --> 00:21:03,740

I would describe myself as an agnostic.

202

00:21:03,740 --> 00:21:09,740

What I had figured out was that when you die, you die, the show is over, everything goes black and that's it.

203

00:21:09,740 --> 00:21:12,740

Bring the whole blacks and sorts of the food out.

204

00:21:12,740 --> 00:21:14,740

Hand me the needle nose pliers.

205

00:21:14,740 --> 00:21:17,740

When I had this experience I was repairing my pickup truck.

206

00:21:17,740 --> 00:21:23,740

I had the front wheels off it and was lying on my back and the truck suddenly started to move.

207

00:21:23,740 --> 00:21:24,740

My God!

208

00:21:24,740 --> 00:21:25,740

Shit!

209

00:21:32,740 --> 00:21:37,740

When Todd ran in and made the phone call, I heard it very clearly and vividly.

210

00:21:37,740 --> 00:21:38,740

Hello?

211

00:21:38,740 --> 00:21:39,740

My name is Tom.

212

00:21:39,740 --> 00:21:44,740

There were other things that I was able to hear that were impossible for me to hear with my ears

213

00:21:44,740 --> 00:21:49,740

and others with my normal hearing such as the conversation of the paramedics

214

00:21:49,740 --> 00:21:52,740

getting into the ambulance three and a half miles away.

215

00:21:54,740 --> 00:21:59,740

His wife screams brought the neighbors and they worked desperately to free him.

216

00:21:59,740 --> 00:22:00,740

Left, left, left.

217

00:22:00,740 --> 00:22:03,740

One, two, three.

218

00:22:04,740 --> 00:22:11,740

As I went unconscious, I then experienced a sensation or a feeling of absolutely waking up.

219

00:22:11,740 --> 00:22:15,740

It wasn't anything at all like waking up from a sleep state.

220

00:22:15,740 --> 00:22:22,740

It was like being unconscious or absolutely asleep and then like a click of the fingernail, absolutely awake.

221

00:22:22,740 --> 00:22:28,740

The only problem with this feeling of waking up was that all I saw was darkness.

222

00:22:28,740 --> 00:22:36,740

That darkness gradually took the shape of a tunnel and way off absolutely positively to infinity

223

00:22:36,740 --> 00:22:39,740

appeared this little speck of white light.

224

00:22:39,740 --> 00:22:43,740

This was the most beautiful thing that I'd ever experienced in my life.

225

00:22:43,740 --> 00:22:45,740

It was just extraordinary.

226

00:22:48,740 --> 00:22:54,740

All the pressure of the truck being on me and the horrendous pain, that was gone and I felt very comfortable.

227

00:22:55,740 --> 00:23:01,740

The next thing that I realized was that I was motionless at the end of the tunnel

228

00:23:01,740 --> 00:23:04,740

confronted by the light of God.

229

00:23:04,740 --> 00:23:06,740

I was confronted by heaven.

230

00:23:06,740 --> 00:23:10,740

That light included absolutely everything.

231

00:23:10,740 --> 00:23:12,740

It was the entire universe.

232

00:23:12,740 --> 00:23:14,740

It was absolute total knowledge.

233

00:23:15,740 --> 00:23:19,740

I had the opportunity to ask any question at all

234

00:23:19,740 --> 00:23:24,740

and the absolute unequivocal correct answer would be emanated to me.

235

00:23:27,740 --> 00:23:30,740

I then experienced a complete total life review.

236

00:23:30,740 --> 00:23:34,740

It was every day, every event, every minute and second.

237

00:23:34,740 --> 00:23:39,740

In other words, I relived the Olympic trials, my marriage, all of these things at the same time.

238

00:23:39,740 --> 00:23:46,740

I was then given a choice to return to normal life or stay and become part of this light.

239

00:23:46,740 --> 00:23:49,740

I chose to stay and become part of that light.

240

00:23:52,740 --> 00:23:58,740

But I then had a feeling of going exactly reversal through the tunnel and slamming back into my body.

241

00:23:58,740 --> 00:24:05,740

Finally as paramedics arrived, the truck was lifted off and Sawyer was taken to the hospital.

242

00:24:05,740 --> 00:24:07,740

You'll be alright, Tom.

243

00:24:07,740 --> 00:24:09,740

One, two, three.

244

00:24:09,740 --> 00:24:13,740

Well, I'm probably the only one you'll ever meet that's been kicked out of heaven

245

00:24:13,740 --> 00:24:16,740

because since I chose to stay and become part of that light

246

00:24:16,740 --> 00:24:20,740

and I am back here without any explanation of what I'm going to do,

247

00:24:20,740 --> 00:24:25,740

I'm going to be able to get out of this place and I'm going to be able to get out of this place.

248

00:24:25,740 --> 00:24:28,740

I'm not going to stay and become part of that light.

249

00:24:28,740 --> 00:24:31,740

And I am back here without any explanation at all.

250

00:24:31,740 --> 00:24:37,740

One of the logical deductive things that you could assume was that I got kicked out for some reason or another.

251

00:24:40,740 --> 00:24:44,740

Surprisingly Sawyer left the hospital the same day of his accident.

252

00:24:44,740 --> 00:24:48,740

He had no broken bones, though he suffered from some internal bleeding.

253

00:24:48,740 --> 00:24:54,740

According to medical reports, Tom had been deprived of oxygen for 15 minutes.

254

00:24:55,740 --> 00:25:02,740

I was in extreme pain, of course, and I was just sitting in the back seat by myself, moaning and groaning from the pain.

255

00:25:02,740 --> 00:25:07,740

But apparently when I was riding home all of a sudden, I blurted out and said,

256

00:25:07,740 --> 00:25:09,740

Oh, it was so beautiful.

257

00:25:09,740 --> 00:25:13,740

And Elaine turned on and said, What was so beautiful? What are you talking about?

258

00:25:13,740 --> 00:25:15,740

Well, I didn't answer her at all.

259

00:25:15,740 --> 00:25:19,740

And I just continued to moan and groan for the rest of the ride home.

260

00:25:19,740 --> 00:25:24,740

Elaine said to me, Don't you know what's happened? Don't you know what you've had?

261

00:25:24,740 --> 00:25:28,740

That's called a near death experience, where upon my response was,

262

00:25:28,740 --> 00:25:32,740

Well, I don't believe in any of that hocus pocus bologna.

263

00:25:32,740 --> 00:25:37,740

But shortly after I recuperated from the injuries from this accident,

264

00:25:37,740 --> 00:25:43,740

I started saying things that I didn't understand and my wife Elaine didn't understand.

265

00:25:43,740 --> 00:25:51,740

And one particular day I was watching television and I kind of blurted out Max Plank and I said it just like that.

266

00:25:51,740 --> 00:25:53,740

Who? Who's that?

267

00:25:53,740 --> 00:25:56,740

So of course I asked my family if they knew who that was.

268

00:25:56,740 --> 00:25:59,740

And Elaine said, No, I don't know who it is.

269

00:25:59,740 --> 00:26:02,740

And then she asked me, Do you know who it is?

270

00:26:02,740 --> 00:26:07,740

And my answer was, Well, no, but you'll be hearing more about them in the near future.

271

00:26:07,740 --> 00:26:09,740

I don't understand that.

272

00:26:11,740 --> 00:26:14,740

Elaine encouraged him to write down his thoughts.

273

00:26:14,740 --> 00:26:17,740

Tom began to jot down complex equations,

274

00:26:17,740 --> 00:26:22,740

equations that could only have been understood by a master of quantum physics.

275

00:26:22,740 --> 00:26:26,740

Tom also drew symbols like the Greek letter Psi.

276

00:26:26,740 --> 00:26:31,740

Sometimes I would write something down and know that it was correct but have no idea what it was.

277

00:26:31,740 --> 00:26:38,740

In other words, I would write down a mathematical equation while I had geometry in some algebra in high school.

278

00:26:38,740 --> 00:26:42,740

But this had symbols like triangles and things like that in.

279

00:26:44,740 --> 00:26:50,740

In an attempt to find out the meaning of these arcane symbols, Sawyer went to the Rochester library.

280

00:26:53,740 --> 00:26:59,740

He was directed to the physics section and asked for guidance from a man he met at the stacks.

281

00:26:59,740 --> 00:27:06,740

The man suggested a textbook that contained information on quantum physics and biographies of its pioneering founders.

282

00:27:06,740 --> 00:27:12,740

Well, yeah, I think possibly you might find this one interesting.

283

00:27:12,740 --> 00:27:14,740

Thank you. You're welcome.

284

00:27:16,740 --> 00:27:21,740

When I opened it, there were two things that stood out on that page.

285

00:27:21,740 --> 00:27:24,740

There was the symbol Psi in the middle of the paragraph,

286

00:27:24,740 --> 00:27:29,740

and there was a title just underneath a picture of a man, and it said, Max Planck.

287

00:27:34,740 --> 00:27:38,740

The most common things we hear from people who have had near-death experiences are that

288

00:27:38,740 --> 00:27:42,740

they have a much greater sense now of being part of something larger than themselves.

289

00:27:42,740 --> 00:27:47,740

They become interested in what can be called the spiritual aspects of their lives.

290

00:27:47,740 --> 00:27:56,740

They are no longer invested in things like individual fame, fortune, material rewards,

competitiveness.

291

00:27:56,740 --> 00:28:01,740

They're much more involved in cooperation and helping others than they were before.

292

00:28:01,740 --> 00:28:08,740

He started being a more loving person. He started caring about myself and a lot of strangers,

293

00:28:08,740 --> 00:28:11,740

a lot of people he helped, anybody that needed help, he would help.

294

00:28:11,740 --> 00:28:18,740

These people have undergone profound and dramatic changes in their personality, in their lifestyle, in their values.

295

00:28:18,740 --> 00:28:24,740

All of them talk about the importance of interpersonal relationships, learning how to love others,

296

00:28:24,740 --> 00:28:31,740

a great sense of the importance of wisdom and understanding, and certainly a renewed appreciation of life.

297

00:28:31,740 --> 00:28:39,740

This is a genuine spiritual experience which profoundly and dramatically changes the way they are from then on out.

298

00:28:41,740 --> 00:28:48,740

One of the real dangers of all the attention the near-death experience is getting in the media

299

00:28:48,740 --> 00:28:59,740

is that it might romanticize death. It might lead people who are contemplating suicide to think that death is a wonderful experience.

300

00:28:59,740 --> 00:29:06,740

I suppose the near-death experience does romanticize death in that regard, but if you listen to what near-death experiences are saying,

301

00:29:06,740 --> 00:29:13,740

they're saying it also romanticizes life. It makes life so much more meaningful, more purposeful, more beautiful than it was before

302

00:29:13,740 --> 00:29:17,740

that suicide just becomes not an option anymore.

303

00:29:17,740 --> 00:29:25,740

People have asked me, if death is so wonderful and so sensational and you want to be part of that light, why don't you kill yourself?

304

00:29:25,740 --> 00:29:31,740

That's very important to me to state to everybody that suicide is an absolute impossibility for me.

305

00:29:31,740 --> 00:29:43,740

It's not only a social and legal no-no. It's a moral and spiritual no-no also to even think of or consider suicide.

306

00:29:43,740 --> 00:29:51,740

I think the way these people respond to the experience and the degree of change that they experience after it

307

00:29:51,740 --> 00:29:57,740

points to a tremendously powerful force. The types of changes they experience afterwards, the unusual abilities they have afterwards

308

00:29:57,740 --> 00:30:04,740

point to something far greater than we're aware of now. Our usual explanations of the way the

brain, the way the mind works in terms of physiology

309

00:30:04,740 --> 00:30:09,740

just don't explain what's going on. Something larger at work here than we're aware of yet.

310

00:30:15,740 --> 00:30:21,740

Are these strange journeys only a prelude to a life after death? Or are they hallucinations?

311

00:30:21,740 --> 00:30:28,740

Religions around the world have grappled with the metaphysical aspects of these questions and scientists have tried to explain it in physical terms.

312

00:30:28,740 --> 00:30:34,740

Clearly death and what comes after is the most profound, unsolved mystery of them all.

313

00:30:42,740 --> 00:30:50,740

On a previous broadcast, we examined the story of Dan Willens, a mysterious prospector who spent his life searching for gold in the Canadian wilderness.

314

00:30:50,740 --> 00:30:54,740

We asked our audience to help locate his unknown heirs.

315

00:30:57,740 --> 00:31:09,740

In 1926, Willens was panning at Red Lake in the province of Ontario when he found gold. He and his partner staked their claim and established one of the most profitable small gold mines in Canadian history.

316

00:31:10,740 --> 00:31:17,740

In 1936, Dan Willens set out into the wilderness to do some solitary prospecting. He was never seen again.

317

00:31:17,740 --> 00:31:28,740

Willens left behind in a state of almost \$100,000, which today may be worth as much as \$3.5 million. It has remained unclaimed for more than 50 years.

318

00:31:29,740 --> 00:31:40,740

Update. Within days of our broadcast, Davey Willens, a New York businessman, called our 800 number, claiming he might be one of the heirs to Dan Willens' fortune.

319

00:31:43,740 --> 00:31:52,740

My grandfather, we have determined, came from the UK to Ontario in 1895. At that time he was 11 years of age.

320

00:31:52,740 --> 00:32:01,740

We believe he traveled with another family member, and we also have been told that there was a cousin some place up in the outback of Ontario.

321

00:32:01,740 --> 00:32:17,740

But there was never any contact with that individual through the years. So when this Unsolved Mysteries program aired and this Dan Willens, a Bushman from Ontario, was disclosed, it certainly was an exciting possible link for our family tree searching.

322

00:32:18,740 --> 00:32:30,740

Davey Willens flew to Toronto to meet Joe Perkins, one of Dan Willens' last surviving friends. He brought along photographs of his grandfather Harold Willens and his great grandfather John Willens to see if there was a family resemblance.

323

00:32:31,740 --> 00:32:50,740

It's uncanny. I couldn't believe it. The similarity of the face, nose, spacing of the eyes, forehead. And I think if you took the beard off the old man, they'd look like twins.

324

00:32:51,740 --> 00:33:03,740

Indeed, there does seem to be a strong resemblance. Our great grandfather John, grandfather Harold and prospector Dan Willens, all blood relatives, is Davey an heir to Dan Willens' fortune?

325

00:33:04,740 --> 00:33:14,740

Certainly money is important to everybody. And if the Ontario government is holding considerable assets that could rightfully be claimed by a Willens, then I'd like to see that happen.

326

00:33:14,740 --> 00:33:23,740

I don't know if it'll be me and my cousins or not, but maybe now we can get some Willens's to come forward and maybe we do have a strong case to be made.

327

00:33:23,740 --> 00:33:28,740

And certainly we are going to take the next steps to pursue that possibility.

328

00:33:28,740 --> 00:33:47,740

In a moment, the story of a 46-year-old repairman who was brutally murdered in a quiet town in rural Ohio. Police have three bizarre theories, but no suspects.

329

00:33:58,740 --> 00:34:09,740

May the 23rd, 1982, in the small town of Hamersville, Ohio, a 15-year-old boy riding his parents' lawnmower back home after a mowing job made a terrible discovery.

330

00:34:12,740 --> 00:34:25,740

It was a man's body, nude and beaten. That night, the man would be identified as 46-year-old Perman Gilbert, an appliance repairman who lived just seven miles from the place his body was found.

331

00:34:26,740 --> 00:34:33,740

The most puzzling thing about Perman Gilbert's murder is that he appeared to those who knew him to lead such a normal, non-controversial life.

332

00:34:33,740 --> 00:34:49,740

Yet some believe that just beneath a comforting small town facade, dark forces swirled. As the citizens of Claremont County, Ohio, discussed Perman Gilbert's murder, phrases like organized crime, drug trafficking, and jealous husband began to surface.

333

00:34:50,740 --> 00:35:01,740

Gilbert was a beloved husband and father of four. He and his family belonged to the Church of Christ and participated in the civic life of the rural Ohio County where they had lived their whole lives.

334

00:35:02,740 --> 00:35:08,740

Perman Gilbert remained close to his siblings, especially his youngest brother, who was always in and out of trouble with the law.

335

00:35:09,740 --> 00:35:24,740

Perman's hobby was flying, but he was employed as an appliance repairman, assigned by a nationally known company as their troubleshooter. He worked for the large firm during the week, but on Saturdays, Perman made independent service calls, answering only to himself.

336

00:35:25,740 --> 00:35:38,740

When he left that Saturday morning, it was probably 8.30, and he said he didn't want to go. And it just now it bothers me. That's what I remember about him leaving that morning.

337

00:35:41,740 --> 00:35:49,740

Perman Gilbert's service appointments that Saturday morning took him to Mount Orab, Ohio, and also further south to Georgetown and Aberdeen, Ohio.

338

00:35:50,740 --> 00:35:52,740

Hi, Mr. Gilbert, how are you?

339

00:35:52,740 --> 00:35:53,740

Fine, just call me Perman.

340

00:35:53,740 --> 00:35:57,740

Perman, I keep smelling gas in my kitchen. I think it's my pilot light.

341

00:35:57,740 --> 00:36:08,740

Gilbert's service calls had put him at the southernmost tip of Ohio. When the calls were completed, he crossed the Simon Kenton Bridge into Maysville, Kentucky, and stopped in at a large market and variety store.

342

00:36:10,740 --> 00:36:15,740

Anne Breeze, who works at the Market Checkout Counter, remembers his visit that Saturday.

343

00:36:16,740 --> 00:36:29,740

He was tall, a nice looking man. He was always very neat. Greeted you, you know, very friendly every time you saw him. I never saw the man down, or I thought he had a care in the world.

344

00:36:30,740 --> 00:36:32,740

You gonna have lunch with me today?

345

00:36:32,740 --> 00:36:33,740

No, I can't have it.

346

00:36:34,740 --> 00:36:37,740

I guess I have to eat that brilliant cheese by myself.

347

00:36:37,740 --> 00:36:43,740

He would usually say that to me, and he knew that I wouldn't go to lunch with him. You know, just usual chit chatter.

348

00:36:45,740 --> 00:36:50,740

When Perman left the Market Checkout Counter, he walked into the flower shop next door.

349

00:36:52,740 --> 00:37:03,740

He pushed the buzzer, and I came in the back, and I asked if I could help him. He said he'd like to know if another employee was here, and I said no, she doesn't come in until four.

350

00:37:03,740 --> 00:37:13,740

And if I could help him anyway, and he said no, he wanted to order some flowers, and they knew what he wanted and everything, and he said he would come back later.

351

00:37:13,740 --> 00:37:14,740

She knows what I wanted.

352

00:37:14,740 --> 00:37:15,740

OK.

353

00:37:15,740 --> 00:37:16,740

Thank you.

354

00:37:16,740 --> 00:37:23,740

There was nothing unusual about him. He was just a normal customer. He wasn't nervous or anything when I met him.

355

00:37:24,740 --> 00:37:34,740

No one can account for Perman Gilbert's movements after he left the flower shop. He had told his wife he would be back home around 3 p.m., but he did not arrive.

356

00:37:35,740 --> 00:37:45,740

Then it got to be dark, and he wasn't here. It got to be midnight, and I was scared, and I was afraid to go out even.

357

00:37:47,740 --> 00:37:50,740

I had a small child, and I was afraid to put her in the car and go out looking.

358

00:37:51,740 --> 00:37:58,740

And then I think about three o'clock in the morning, I called one of our friends, and you know, have you seen Perman?

359

00:37:59,740 --> 00:38:02,740

Do you know where he's at? Anything like that. And they didn't.

360

00:38:05,740 --> 00:38:15,740

Joanne Gilbert called the police. They were unable to turn up any leads until late the next afternoon when her husband's body was found. He was completely nude.

361

00:38:16,740 --> 00:38:21,740

He didn't have any clothes on. That bothered me. I would like to know why that was done.

362

00:38:22,740 --> 00:38:33,740

I've heard it's to humiliate the family. I don't know that that's why it was done. Maybe it was done to make it longer to identify him.

363

00:38:35,740 --> 00:38:44,740

Because no cloth fibers were found in the two bullet wounds, Claremont County police believe that Perman had been naked above the waist at the time he was shot.

364

00:38:45,740 --> 00:38:55,740

Perman's billfold carrying the symbol of the masons was missing along with his clothes. So was the masonic belt buckle he always wore.

365

00:38:58,740 --> 00:39:06,740

Although Perman's clothes were never found, his van was located the next day, 22 miles away from the spot where his body had been discovered.

366

00:39:07,740 --> 00:39:18,740

Perman Gilbert's watch was still hanging on the gear shift lever. His tool box was in there. Parts and supplies was in place in the van.

367

00:39:19,740 --> 00:39:33,740

We did do an inspection of the van and recover fingerprints and hair samples. And at this time we've not been able to match the fingerprints and hair samples to anyone.

368

00:39:36,740 --> 00:39:41,740

In the investigation that followed Perman Gilbert's death, three theories evolved.

369

00:39:42,740 --> 00:39:46,740

I think that whatever happened to him had something to do with drugs.

370

00:39:47,740 --> 00:39:53,740

Perman was a licensed pilot. He owned a small plane which he flew out of a makeshift landing strip on his farm.

371

00:39:58,740 --> 00:40:04,740

Perman told me that he had been approached to fly drugs.

372

00:40:05,740 --> 00:40:06,740

How's it going?

373

00:40:07,740 --> 00:40:08,740

Okay. What's happening?

374

00:40:09,740 --> 00:40:12,740

Well, we had a little favor we'd like to do for us if you don't mind. Just a little trip.

375

00:40:13,740 --> 00:40:24,740

And all we had to do was to take the airplane and fly it to a certain airport, go and have a cup of coffee, come back out and there would be money laying on the seat or under the seat.

376

00:40:25,740 --> 00:40:26,740

What you're going to do with it, just forget it.

377

00:40:27,740 --> 00:40:28,740

It's good money?

378

00:40:29,740 --> 00:40:30,740

Yeah, I'd start out.

379

00:40:30,740 --> 00:40:31,740

I'd start out of quality of sororities.

380

00:40:32,740 --> 00:40:38,740

And it would have been to eat some money, but that's against the law and it was against everything that we believed in.

381

00:40:39,740 --> 00:40:50,740

I believe that he knew too much about what was going on as far as who was involved with drugs and who wasn't because he would not go along with their plan that he was beaten and killed because of it.

382

00:40:51,740 --> 00:40:55,740

The second theory revolves around Perman Gilbert's youngest brother, Vernon.

383

00:40:56,740 --> 00:41:00,740

Vernon was 12 years younger than Perman and they were devoted to one another.

384

00:41:01,740 --> 00:41:02,740

Be sure you can't stay the night, then?

385

00:41:03,740 --> 00:41:04,740

No, I want to be getting back.

386

00:41:05,740 --> 00:41:09,740

In February of 1982, when Vernon was called to testify in an organized crime case, Perman stood by him.

387

00:41:10,740 --> 00:41:11,740

From there, take a little while.

388

00:41:12,740 --> 00:41:13,740

It should be about an hour or so, okay?

389

00:41:14,740 --> 00:41:16,740

Okay, I'll be around. See you in an hour. Good luck to you.

390

00:41:17,740 --> 00:41:18,740

Thanks.

391

00:41:18,740 --> 00:41:24,740

The actual hearings were closed to the public and Perman had to kill time while his brother was testifying.

392

00:41:25,740 --> 00:41:28,740

He began to suspect that he was being followed.

393

00:41:31,740 --> 00:41:41,740

Perman Gilbert had told acquaintances that he felt at the day at the federal court building that a man was following him around.

394

00:41:42,740 --> 00:41:48,740

I don't know of any person that might have been following Perman Gilbert and it was not any of our personnel.

395

00:41:50,740 --> 00:41:53,740

Perhaps Perman Gilbert had become a target of organized crime.

396

00:41:54,740 --> 00:41:56,740

Maybe my husband knew too much.

397

00:41:57,740 --> 00:42:03,740

Maybe Perman was killed to lure his brother back to the funeral and because they were after him, really.

398

00:42:05,740 --> 00:42:07,740

But then his brother didn't come to the funeral.

399

00:42:07,740 --> 00:42:13,740

The third theory is that Perman Gilbert may have been involved in a crime of passion.

400

00:42:14,740 --> 00:42:16,740

Hi, Perman. Thanks for coming over right away.

401

00:42:17,740 --> 00:42:18,740

What's your problem?

402

00:42:19,740 --> 00:42:20,740

The washing machine's making this grimey.

403

00:42:21,740 --> 00:42:30,740

The very nature of Perman Gilbert's home appliance repair business placed him into many, many households alone with a family member.

404

00:42:31,740 --> 00:42:37,740

Yes, I thought he was very attractive and I know other women were very attracted to him too.

405

00:42:38,740 --> 00:42:40,740

He was tall, about 6'2".

406

00:42:41,740 --> 00:42:48,740

Well-built, had nice hair, pretty eyes and a nice looking man.

407

00:42:51,740 --> 00:42:58,740

I really didn't know about his death until someone from in his home area came through.

408

00:42:58,740 --> 00:43:07,740

He said there was one or two theories, but one was that they thought a jealous boyfriend or husband had killed him.

409

00:43:08,740 --> 00:43:22,740

I feel that the crime of passion theory doesn't hold up because that's supposed to be something that's very swift and they beat around on him like someone was trying to get information out of him or something.

410

00:43:23,740 --> 00:43:45,740

What we need now is for someone to come forward and help us trace Perman Gilbert from that flower shop, anyone that has seen him around the flower shop or in the parking lot with his cream and brown van at that time or later in the day we'd like to hear from.

411

00:43:45,740 --> 00:43:54,740

And I feel like there are people out there in the community that know what happened to my father and for fear of their own lives or other people they're afraid to speak up.

412

00:43:55,740 --> 00:43:58,740

I wish that they would come forward and fill in those bits and pieces for us.

413

00:43:58,740 --> 00:44:08,740

Next week on Unsolved Mysteries, an examination of the legend of Billy the Kid that suggests history may have to be rewritten.

414

00:44:09,740 --> 00:44:18,740

Most historians in the Hollywood screen versions claim that Billy was dramatically gunned down by his friend Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881.

415

00:44:18,740 --> 00:44:21,740

But the people of tiny Hyco-Texas say that's all bunk.

416

00:44:22,740 --> 00:44:38,740

That one of their own citizens, a man named Brushy Bill Roberts, was a real Billy the Kid and that he died in 1950, 69 years after the famous gunfight.

417

00:44:39,740 --> 00:44:43,740

We'll examine the evidence next week on Unsolved Mysteries.