

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,600

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,600 --> 00:00:06,300

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,300 --> 00:00:09,200

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,200 --> 00:00:11,900

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

5

00:00:16,400 --> 00:00:18,400

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries,

6

00:00:18,400 --> 00:00:20,800

Tim McClure and his mother were inseparable

7

00:00:20,800 --> 00:00:23,000

until Terry McClure was found shot to death

8

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:25,400

in a casino parking lot, and her son became

9

00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:27,600

the number one killer in the world.

10

00:00:28,400 --> 00:00:33,000

Tonight, Tim McClure wants to tell his side of the story.

11

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:36,200

In 1973, America was crippled by the gas shortage.

12

00:00:36,200 --> 00:00:38,200

Liz Carmichael raised \$3 million

13

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:40,200

for her revolutionary three-wheeled car,

14

00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:43,200

which she claimed would get 70 miles to the gallon.

15

00:00:43,200 --> 00:00:47,800

The government claimed fraud, and Liz has disappeared.

16

00:00:47,800 --> 00:00:50,800

In Georgia, a feud between two rival restaurant owners

17

00:00:50,800 --> 00:00:52,600

competing for the same customers

18

00:00:52,600 --> 00:00:54,200

ended in a contract killing.

19

00:00:54,200 --> 00:00:57,400

One of them was a man who was a victim of a car accident.

20

00:00:57,400 --> 00:01:00,600

One of the murderers is still at large.

21

00:01:00,600 --> 00:01:04,400

Four mysteries with no endings, but they can be solved.

22

00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:06,800

Last November, we presented the story of the kidnapping

23

00:01:06,800 --> 00:01:09,400

of a wealthy Mississippi woman whose husband was told

24

00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:11,700

to send \$1 million to 12 people named

25

00:01:11,700 --> 00:01:13,600

in a bizarre ransom note.

26

00:01:13,600 --> 00:01:16,200

He paid out, but his wife was not released.

27

00:01:16,200 --> 00:01:19,300

Tonight, an update on this extraordinary case.

28

00:01:19,300 --> 00:01:22,800

Join me. You may be able to help solve a mystery.

29

00:01:57,400 --> 00:02:05,400

MUSIC

30

00:02:14,200 --> 00:02:18,200

In 1977, T.K. Hardy's saloon was a popular bar and restaurant

31

00:02:18,200 --> 00:02:22,800

catering to the student crowd in the University town of Athens, Georgia.

32

00:02:22,800 --> 00:02:26,800

The saloon's owner was Ted K. Hardy, nicknamed T.K.

33

00:02:26,800 --> 00:02:28,800

He rented space from a group of businessmen

34

00:02:28,800 --> 00:02:31,500

who were converting an abandoned train depot into a complex

35

00:02:31,500 --> 00:02:35,400

of restaurants and trendy shops.

36

00:02:35,400 --> 00:02:38,800

T.K. Hardy was an obnoxious Yankee when you first met him.

37

00:02:38,800 --> 00:02:40,900

He came on really strong.

38

00:02:40,900 --> 00:02:44,000

And when he came to town, it took me a little while

39

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:45,920

to get used to him so that I would even

40

00:02:45,920 --> 00:02:49,400

want to have him as a tenant.

41

00:02:49,400 --> 00:02:52,800

When you got to know T.K., he was just a real teddy bear.

42

00:02:52,800 --> 00:02:54,400

Just a really nice guy.

43

00:02:54,400 --> 00:02:58,600

He was enthusiastic about the complex and doing it right.

44

00:02:58,600 --> 00:03:00,000

What's going on this week?

45

00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:02,900

Hardy's arch rival was a man named John Mooney,

46

00:03:02,900 --> 00:03:05,300

who also leased space in the remodeled train station

47

00:03:05,300 --> 00:03:09,200

for his restaurant called Somebody's Pizza.

48

00:03:09,200 --> 00:03:12,500

Mooney and T.K. Hardy had a long history of animosity

49

00:03:12,500 --> 00:03:14,160

because both their restaurants were going

50

00:03:14,160 --> 00:03:18,000

after the same student clientele.

51

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

When John Mooney came to town, he

52

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:25,100

was the preppy out of college cool guy,

53

00:03:25,100 --> 00:03:28,000

was full of vigor and enthusiasm about what he was going

54

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,100

to do down there and how he was going to make his millions

55

00:03:30,100 --> 00:03:32,560

of dollars and what all he had to offer.

56

00:03:32,560 --> 00:03:36,700

And that lasted until he got the lease signed and got the place.

57

00:03:36,700 --> 00:03:39,120

And then he started, well, I just need this.

58

00:03:39,120 --> 00:03:40,000

I just need that.

59

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:41,120

And I can't pay the rent.

60

00:03:41,120 --> 00:03:44,000

And then John kind of got greedy.

61

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:47,320

Hey, come see us next door, Nickel Beer, Somebody's Pizza.

62

00:03:47,320 --> 00:03:49,080

Come to Somebody's Pizza right next door.

63

00:03:49,080 --> 00:03:50,240

Good deal on beer.

64

00:03:50,240 --> 00:03:53,720

John started wanting to infringe on everybody else's

65

00:03:53,720 --> 00:03:54,680

business.

66

00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:57,920

His idea was to go up to T.K.'s pass out

67

00:03:57,920 --> 00:04:00,400

flyers on the deck for Nickel Beer

68

00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:04,360

and draw T.K.'s crowd down his place.

69

00:04:04,360 --> 00:04:05,680

John, what do you think you're doing here?

70

00:04:05,680 --> 00:04:07,400

Hey, what is it looking at?

71

00:04:07,400 --> 00:04:09,320

That just went all over T.K.

72

00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:10,400

I mean, he couldn't stand that.

73

00:04:10,400 --> 00:04:12,320

That was the last straw.

74

00:04:12,320 --> 00:04:13,720

I'll tell you what this is.

75

00:04:13,720 --> 00:04:15,520

This is private property.

76

00:04:15,520 --> 00:04:17,880

I want you out of here right now.

77

00:04:17,880 --> 00:04:21,080

John Mooney and T.K. Hardy despised each other.

78

00:04:21,080 --> 00:04:22,760

They really had gotten to the point

79

00:04:22,760 --> 00:04:27,720

that there was no reconciliation between the two people.

80

00:04:27,720 --> 00:04:30,120

The feud between T.K. Hardy and John Mooney

81

00:04:30,120 --> 00:04:32,720

started out as a dispute between restaurateurs going

82

00:04:32,720 --> 00:04:34,840

after the same customers.

83

00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:36,820

But after three years, on the original lease

84

00:04:36,820 --> 00:04:39,320

on the train station expired, T.K. Hardy

85

00:04:39,320 --> 00:04:41,520

took over the entire complex.

86

00:04:41,520 --> 00:04:43,320

It was then that his feud with John Mooney

87

00:04:43,320 --> 00:04:45,920

escalated into a full-scale war.

88

00:04:45,920 --> 00:04:48,520

The end result was murder.

89

00:04:48,520 --> 00:04:52,520

When we decided to not pick up the lease,

90

00:04:52,520 --> 00:04:54,320

we had to sell the place.

91

00:04:54,320 --> 00:04:56,440

Ted came up with the money, and Ted

92

00:04:56,440 --> 00:04:59,840

bought the station complex, the shops, everything,

93

00:04:59,840 --> 00:05:01,600

which included John Mooney's place.

94

00:05:04,680 --> 00:05:07,200

He said he was going to evict John as soon as we signed

95

00:05:07,200 --> 00:05:08,080

the paper.

96

00:05:08,080 --> 00:05:11,360

And he did that on a Friday afternoon.

97

00:05:11,360 --> 00:05:13,920

This is your eviction notice.

98

00:05:13,920 --> 00:05:14,720

Eviction notice?

99

00:05:14,720 --> 00:05:16,120

This is your eviction notice.

100

00:05:16,120 --> 00:05:17,600

You're out of here.

101

00:05:17,600 --> 00:05:18,400

Wait a minute.

102

00:05:18,400 --> 00:05:21,560

T.K. Hardy had made mention to several members of his family,

103

00:05:21,560 --> 00:05:25,080

to his girlfriend, that he was concerned, not to the extent

104

00:05:25,080 --> 00:05:27,520

that he would harm him physically, perhaps,

105

00:05:27,520 --> 00:05:30,040

but that he was really concerned about the attitude

106

00:05:30,040 --> 00:05:33,040

of John and Mooney against him concerning the eviction.

107

00:05:38,240 --> 00:05:40,760

10 days later, in the early morning hours of August

108

00:05:40,800 --> 00:05:45,360

the 30th, 1977, T.K. Hardy arrived home as usual

109

00:05:45,360 --> 00:05:47,360

after closing up his saloon for the night.

110

00:05:51,120 --> 00:05:57,160

A man lurked in the shadows of T.K.'s kitchen, watching him.

111

00:05:57,160 --> 00:06:01,000

When Hardy left to walk into his study, the man followed him.

112

00:06:11,400 --> 00:06:14,200

T.K. Hardy was shot one time in the head.

113

00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:15,160

He died instantly.

114

00:06:18,480 --> 00:06:20,720

Four hours after Hardy's body was found,

115

00:06:20,720 --> 00:06:24,320

police picked up John Mooney for interrogation.

116

00:06:24,320 --> 00:06:27,040

At first, Mooney was very cooperative.

117

00:06:27,040 --> 00:06:30,680

John, do you know why you're here tonight?

118

00:06:30,680 --> 00:06:35,200

Well, I guess it's about the shooting of T.K. Hardy.

119

00:06:35,200 --> 00:06:36,400

Yeah?

120

00:06:36,400 --> 00:06:37,400

How did you know?

121

00:06:37,960 --> 00:06:40,640

News of Hardy's murder had not been released to anyone,

122

00:06:40,640 --> 00:06:43,840

yet Mooney seemed to know exactly why he was being questioned.

123

00:06:46,840 --> 00:06:49,640

When John Mooney told me that he was aware

124

00:06:49,640 --> 00:06:52,680

that T.K. Hardy had been shot, I told him

125

00:06:52,680 --> 00:06:56,360

that we had not released that information

126

00:06:56,360 --> 00:06:59,560

and that nobody knew that except the police department

127

00:06:59,560 --> 00:07:02,160

and the people that were investigating this murder.

128

00:07:02,160 --> 00:07:05,360

I told him that we had not released that information

129

00:07:05,360 --> 00:07:08,200

and the people that were investigating this murder,

130

00:07:08,200 --> 00:07:12,240

that he had been killed or how he had been killed.

131

00:07:12,240 --> 00:07:14,800

At that time, he did become nervous.

132

00:07:14,800 --> 00:07:17,960

He said, I think I need to talk to my lawyer.

133

00:07:17,960 --> 00:07:19,280

All right, thanks.

134

00:07:19,280 --> 00:07:21,240

Bye.

135

00:07:21,240 --> 00:07:23,960

Hold on just a second. Sit down.

136

00:07:23,960 --> 00:07:25,800

When he hung up the phone, he said,

137

00:07:25,800 --> 00:07:27,840

my lawyer said for me to get up and walk out

138

00:07:27,840 --> 00:07:29,560

if I wasn't under arrest.

139

00:07:29,560 --> 00:07:31,240

I'm going to allow you to leave.

140

00:07:31,240 --> 00:07:34,640

I want to tell you something before you go, though.

141

00:07:35,080 --> 00:07:39,080

Police did not have sufficient evidence to arrest Mooney.

142

00:07:39,080 --> 00:07:40,480

Go ahead.

143

00:07:40,480 --> 00:07:41,880

No other leads surfaced.

144

00:07:41,880 --> 00:07:43,320

And three weeks after the murder,

145

00:07:43,320 --> 00:07:45,320

the authorities were still at a dead end.

146

00:07:48,320 --> 00:07:51,160

On the fourth week, another local restaurant manager

147

00:07:51,160 --> 00:07:53,600

who had known both T.K. Hardy and John Mooney

148

00:07:53,600 --> 00:07:57,000

called the police with a bizarre story.

149

00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:59,800

He said he was cleaning up behind the bar one night

150

00:07:59,800 --> 00:08:02,400

when an Atlanta electrician named Elmo Florence

151

00:08:02,440 --> 00:08:06,440

began to drop hints that he was willing to kill people for money.

152

00:08:06,440 --> 00:08:07,440

You're a what?

153

00:08:07,440 --> 00:08:08,840

I'm a hit man.

154

00:08:08,840 --> 00:08:11,840

You don't need to call New Jersey if you want somebody good.

155

00:08:11,840 --> 00:08:12,840

Give me a call.

156

00:08:12,840 --> 00:08:13,840

Yeah?

157

00:08:13,840 --> 00:08:17,840

Elmo was bragging to me about the fact that he was a hit man

158

00:08:17,840 --> 00:08:19,840

and his services were for hire.

159

00:08:19,840 --> 00:08:21,840

At first, I thought he was kidding me.

160

00:08:21,840 --> 00:08:22,840

T.K. Hardy.

161

00:08:22,840 --> 00:08:23,840

He murdered T.K. Hardy.

162

00:08:23,840 --> 00:08:25,240

You're a baddie.

163

00:08:25,240 --> 00:08:28,240

You have to understand, Elmo, I just thought he was kidding around

164

00:08:28,240 --> 00:08:31,240

with me some sort of warp sense of humor.

165

00:08:31,800 --> 00:08:36,880

And then we started to go on and, you know, I just said to him,

166

00:08:36,880 --> 00:08:39,040

I said, all right, how'd you get in the house?

167

00:08:39,040 --> 00:08:40,400

Piece of cake.

168

00:08:40,400 --> 00:08:41,640

Busted out the glass.

169

00:08:45,980 --> 00:08:48,280

Winnie, swept the glass up in the pile.

170

00:08:51,160 --> 00:08:52,080

Waited around for it.

171

00:08:57,080 --> 00:08:58,880

Telephone signal.

172

00:08:58,880 --> 00:08:59,680

Two rings.

173

00:09:02,200 --> 00:09:03,680

I knew he was on his way.

174

00:09:07,080 --> 00:09:07,880

I waited.

175

00:09:11,320 --> 00:09:13,280

Saw the car lights.

176

00:09:13,280 --> 00:09:16,080

Heard the car.

177

00:09:16,080 --> 00:09:17,080

I waited for him.

178

00:09:20,080 --> 00:09:24,880

Elmo Flarks began to describe the inside of the house

179

00:09:24,880 --> 00:09:26,080

where the murder took place.

180

00:09:26,080 --> 00:09:30,080

He began to tell the point of entry.

181

00:09:30,640 --> 00:09:35,480

He told what type of weapon was used to kill Ted Hardy.

182

00:09:35,480 --> 00:09:40,400

He told where the bullet entered the head and where it exited.

183

00:09:40,400 --> 00:09:42,360

There was basically in the statement

184

00:09:42,360 --> 00:09:46,800

that we received from the manager of the restaurant,

185

00:09:46,800 --> 00:09:50,400

there were 21 different points that we had not

186

00:09:50,400 --> 00:09:52,160

released to the public.

187

00:09:52,520 --> 00:09:59,400

We knew at that time that we had a very hot suspect here.

188

00:09:59,400 --> 00:10:00,320

Mr. Flarks.

189

00:10:00,320 --> 00:10:01,240

Yeah.

190

00:10:01,240 --> 00:10:02,120

Elmo Flarks.

191

00:10:02,120 --> 00:10:03,000

That's right.

192

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:05,040

If you're under arrest for murder, don't move.

193

00:10:05,040 --> 00:10:06,040

Don't move.

194

00:10:06,040 --> 00:10:08,240

All right, get out of here.

195

00:10:08,240 --> 00:10:10,360

OK, get him on, sir.

196

00:10:10,360 --> 00:10:11,240

Yeah.

197

00:10:11,240 --> 00:10:13,240

Elmo Flarks had told the restaurant manager

198

00:10:13,240 --> 00:10:17,000

that John Mooney hired him to kill T.K. Hardy.

199

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:19,040

But when the police tried to arrest Mooney,

200

00:10:19,480 --> 00:10:21,160

they found that he had left the country.

201

00:10:21,160 --> 00:10:24,920

The Elmo Flarks had not walked into the bar

202

00:10:24,920 --> 00:10:26,720

and started telling the different things

203

00:10:26,720 --> 00:10:29,200

that we later determined to be true.

204

00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:31,760

Possibly the investigation into this murder

205

00:10:31,760 --> 00:10:34,120

would have never been solved.

206

00:10:34,120 --> 00:10:37,120

John Mooney had already been established as a suspect,

207

00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:38,760

but there was no connection at that time

208

00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:40,440

between Mooney and Florence.

209

00:10:40,440 --> 00:10:42,120

I don't know how long that would have taken

210

00:10:42,120 --> 00:10:45,880

if it were ever uncovered.

211

00:10:46,600 --> 00:10:48,120

This was a terrific break.

212

00:10:48,120 --> 00:10:50,280

It was lucky.

213

00:10:50,280 --> 00:10:52,640

And we took advantage of it.

214

00:10:52,640 --> 00:10:55,320

So are there going to be flags?

215

00:10:55,320 --> 00:10:57,600

Two weeks later, police were tipped off

216

00:10:57,600 --> 00:10:59,320

that Mooney had returned to the United States

217

00:10:59,320 --> 00:11:01,880

and was staying at a friend's apartment.

218

00:11:01,880 --> 00:11:04,120

Cobb County police Lieutenant Lee Moss

219

00:11:04,120 --> 00:11:06,600

went to the apartment building and approached two men who

220

00:11:06,600 --> 00:11:07,640

were drinking in the parking lot.

221

00:11:10,640 --> 00:11:14,240

By the time I arrested John Mooney, all I knew was that he

222

00:11:14,240 --> 00:11:20,680

was named and a general description.

223

00:11:20,680 --> 00:11:23,560

And I knew that the one was from murder.

224

00:11:23,560 --> 00:11:27,120

So I saw the two individuals drinking beer.

225

00:11:27,120 --> 00:11:29,440

This gave me a perfect out.

226

00:11:29,440 --> 00:11:33,080

I figured to approach them from this angle,

227

00:11:33,080 --> 00:11:35,640

because I knew if he knew he was one,

228

00:11:35,640 --> 00:11:41,920

he would probably flee from us or else they'd pull a gun on us.

229

00:11:41,920 --> 00:11:43,440

I tell you, all these cans here, it kind of

230

00:11:43,600 --> 00:11:44,080

upsets me.

231

00:11:44,080 --> 00:11:45,920

I was littering, y'all sitting out here drinking.

232

00:11:45,920 --> 00:11:48,000

Officer Moss ascertained that one of the men

233

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:49,400

was indeed John Mooney.

234

00:11:49,400 --> 00:11:53,240

I tell you what, put your hand on the car.

235

00:11:53,240 --> 00:11:57,040

He arrested Mooney and charged him with murder.

236

00:11:57,040 --> 00:11:59,720

When the police inventoried Mooney's belongings,

237

00:11:59,720 --> 00:12:01,520

they found several incriminating notes

238

00:12:01,520 --> 00:12:03,840

he had jotted to himself.

239

00:12:03,840 --> 00:12:06,960

Incredibly, Mooney had written, see Elmo,

240

00:12:06,960 --> 00:12:08,760

offer to him if worse comes to worse

241

00:12:08,760 --> 00:12:12,000

to take the whole rap and say robbery was the motive.

242

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,880

We have agreement for me to take care of his wife and family.

243

00:12:16,880 --> 00:12:20,120

Elmo Florence's trial lasted only one week.

244

00:12:20,120 --> 00:12:22,640

He was sentenced to life at a maximum security prison

245

00:12:22,640 --> 00:12:24,920

in Georgia.

246

00:12:24,920 --> 00:12:26,800

John Mooney was also sentenced to life

247

00:12:26,800 --> 00:12:28,640

in a maximum security prison.

248

00:12:28,640 --> 00:12:30,720

But three months later, he was moved

249

00:12:30,720 --> 00:12:33,920

to a minimum security facility.

250

00:12:33,920 --> 00:12:35,920

After six months of observation there,

251

00:12:35,920 --> 00:12:39,720

prison officials gave Mooney the job of kitchen clerk.

252

00:12:39,760 --> 00:12:42,880

Now he had access to areas that were not available to most

253

00:12:42,880 --> 00:12:43,880

prisoners.

254

00:12:43,880 --> 00:12:45,320

How's the count today?

255

00:12:45,320 --> 00:12:46,320

Pretty good.

256

00:12:46,320 --> 00:12:47,440

245, 245.

257

00:12:47,440 --> 00:12:51,640

John Mooney was a what you call an ideal inmate.

258

00:12:51,640 --> 00:12:55,400

He fit in well with the inmate and staff.

259

00:12:55,400 --> 00:12:57,680

He didn't complain about the rules and regulations.

260

00:12:57,680 --> 00:13:00,200

He just worked hard.

261

00:13:00,200 --> 00:13:05,120

And he gained a confidence of the staff and myself.

262

00:13:05,120 --> 00:13:07,880

So he had proven himself.

263

00:13:07,880 --> 00:13:11,360

But now we see he was a con artist.

264

00:13:11,360 --> 00:13:12,440

And he was con in the saw.

265

00:13:16,040 --> 00:13:19,600

On March the 16th, 1980, after serving only 19 months

266

00:13:19,600 --> 00:13:23,080

of his life sentence, John Mooney engineered his escape.

267

00:13:28,920 --> 00:13:31,120

When the prisoners went back inside and the guard

268

00:13:31,120 --> 00:13:34,920

locked the gate and walked away, Mooney made his break.

269

00:13:38,400 --> 00:13:44,080

An accomplice was waiting in a car park nearby.

270

00:13:44,080 --> 00:13:46,720

As Mooney ran toward the car, he discarded his prison

271

00:13:46,720 --> 00:13:50,520

wardrobes piece by piece.

272

00:13:50,520 --> 00:13:52,720

Two hours went by before prison officials

273

00:13:52,720 --> 00:13:54,920

noticed Mooney was missing.

274

00:13:54,920 --> 00:13:57,000

By then, it was too late.

275

00:13:57,000 --> 00:13:58,760

John Mooney had made his getaway.

276

00:14:02,440 --> 00:14:04,520

He has not been seen for over nine years.

277

00:14:08,880 --> 00:14:12,800

Without the actions of Mooney and actually hiring somebody

278

00:14:12,800 --> 00:14:17,360

to take another person's life, T.K. Hartley would be here today.

279

00:14:17,360 --> 00:14:19,880

Unless John Henry Mooney is captured,

280

00:14:19,880 --> 00:14:23,120

he got away with murder.

281

00:14:23,120 --> 00:14:26,240

These photographs were taken in 1979.

282

00:14:26,240 --> 00:14:28,720

Today, John Mooney would be 40 years old.

283

00:14:28,720 --> 00:14:32,800

He is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs about 170 pounds.

284

00:14:32,800 --> 00:14:36,520

Mooney has a fair complexion, green eyes, and sandy blonde hair.

285

00:14:36,520 --> 00:14:38,440

He may be living in the Dayton, Ohio area.

286

00:14:42,360 --> 00:14:44,560

Update, Scottsdale, Arizona.

287

00:14:44,560 --> 00:14:46,920

Within minutes of our broadcast, two viewers

288

00:14:46,920 --> 00:14:49,920

called our telecenter to report that John Mooney was

289

00:14:49,920 --> 00:14:53,200

living in this house under the assumed name Robert J. Kelly.

290

00:14:55,920 --> 00:14:58,720

On August 8, John Mooney, alias Robert Kelly,

291

00:14:58,720 --> 00:15:01,520

was arrested at his home by the Mesa police.

292

00:15:01,520 --> 00:15:04,800

Mooney had been living in Arizona since 1982.

293

00:15:04,800 --> 00:15:07,480

He was enrolled at Arizona State University.

294

00:15:07,480 --> 00:15:09,360

For the past several years, he'd been working

295

00:15:09,360 --> 00:15:11,080

as an accountant for various companies

296

00:15:11,080 --> 00:15:12,920

in the Scottsdale area.

297

00:15:12,920 --> 00:15:15,760

Mooney married six years ago and has a one-year-old child.

298

00:15:19,080 --> 00:15:23,160

On September 16, 1989, over nine years after he escaped,

299

00:15:23,160 --> 00:15:24,920

John Mooney was returned to Georgia.

300

00:15:24,920 --> 00:15:35,160

In a moment, the story of Liz Carmichael,

301

00:15:35,160 --> 00:15:38,240

visionary, automotive genius, and wanted fugitive.

302

00:15:48,480 --> 00:15:51,800

In 1973, America was faced with an oil crisis

303

00:15:51,800 --> 00:15:54,440

that nearly crippled the country.

304

00:15:54,440 --> 00:15:56,440

It created a gas shortage, and motorists

305

00:15:56,440 --> 00:15:59,600

had to wait hours to fill up their tanks.

306

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:02,280

Consumers wanted a solution, cheaper gas

307

00:16:02,280 --> 00:16:05,080

or more economical cars.

308

00:16:05,080 --> 00:16:08,240

One visionary claimed she had just such a car,

309

00:16:08,240 --> 00:16:12,520

a startling new three-wheeled vehicle called the Dale.

310

00:16:12,520 --> 00:16:14,680

It was claimed that this revolutionary car would

311

00:16:14,680 --> 00:16:19,120

get 70 miles to the gallon and cost less than \$2,000.

312

00:16:19,120 --> 00:16:21,240

Made of a special aerospace plastic,

313

00:16:21,240 --> 00:16:23,680

its creator claimed it could withstand an impact

314

00:16:23,680 --> 00:16:26,200

against a brick wall at 50 miles an hour

315

00:16:26,200 --> 00:16:29,240

and was impossible to tip over.

316

00:16:29,240 --> 00:16:32,160

It seemed the perfect answer to the gas crunch.

317

00:16:32,160 --> 00:16:34,840

It was a new idea, something we all

318

00:16:34,840 --> 00:16:37,800

heard of the gas guzzlers coming from Detroit.

319

00:16:37,800 --> 00:16:39,840

And here's somebody could put out an automobile that

320

00:16:39,840 --> 00:16:42,920

could get 60 miles to a gallon of gas

321

00:16:42,920 --> 00:16:45,680

and travel all over the city without a problem.

322

00:16:45,680 --> 00:16:48,800

Would have been the ideal automobile.

323

00:16:48,800 --> 00:16:50,720

The entrepreneur who unveiled the Dale

324

00:16:50,720 --> 00:16:54,240

was a remarkable and forceful woman named Liz Carmichael, who

325

00:16:54,240 --> 00:16:58,440

saw herself as a cross between Howard Hughes and Henry Ford.

326

00:16:58,440 --> 00:17:03,040

We have pledges from private individuals for private stock.

327

00:17:03,040 --> 00:17:06,840

Elizabeth Carmichael was very positive,

328

00:17:06,840 --> 00:17:11,840

a very command presence, a very powerful appearing person.

329

00:17:11,840 --> 00:17:15,560

A big woman, a massive woman, but that was part of her appeal.

330

00:17:15,560 --> 00:17:16,920

She wanted to be a man.

331

00:17:16,920 --> 00:17:18,640

She wanted to wear a man's pants.

332

00:17:18,640 --> 00:17:19,680

She acted like a man.

333

00:17:19,680 --> 00:17:20,440

She was strong.

334

00:17:20,480 --> 00:17:21,840

She was determined.

335

00:17:21,840 --> 00:17:25,920

She had the ability to incite this fire in you,

336

00:17:25,920 --> 00:17:27,760

not wimpish in any way.

337

00:17:27,760 --> 00:17:30,400

She's a very dynamic, strong person.

338

00:17:30,400 --> 00:17:34,840

And she did things that impressed us.

339

00:17:34,840 --> 00:17:37,840

Liz achieved celebrity status while raising over \$3 million

340

00:17:37,840 --> 00:17:40,800

through advanced purchases of her car.

341

00:17:40,800 --> 00:17:44,680

Then on May 29, 1975, Geraldine Elizabeth Carmichael

342

00:17:44,680 --> 00:17:46,480

was indicted by the Los Angeles County

343

00:17:46,480 --> 00:17:49,320

grand jury for grand theft and fraud.

344

00:17:49,320 --> 00:17:52,200

She was later found guilty on 34 counts.

345

00:17:52,200 --> 00:17:56,360

Liz Carmichael's car, the Dale, turned out to be a sham.

346

00:17:56,360 --> 00:17:57,880

Was this a case of someone simply

347

00:17:57,880 --> 00:18:00,000

feeling to live up to their dreams?

348

00:18:00,000 --> 00:18:01,440

Or did Liz Carmichael deliberately

349

00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:06,280

set out to swindle millions from naive investors?

350

00:18:06,280 --> 00:18:09,920

In 1973, Liz was a housewife living in Los Angeles

351

00:18:09,920 --> 00:18:12,160

with her five children.

352

00:18:12,160 --> 00:18:14,920

She claimed she had a degree in mechanical engineering.

353

00:18:14,920 --> 00:18:18,640

And in 1974, formed 20th century motor car corporation

354

00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:23,040

to produce her three-wheeled car, the Dale.

355

00:18:23,040 --> 00:18:25,160

I've called you all together to try and give you

356

00:18:25,160 --> 00:18:27,560

some update information on what we're doing here

357

00:18:27,560 --> 00:18:30,480

at 20th century motors and with the Dale.

358

00:18:30,480 --> 00:18:33,120

Liz Carmichael told investors in the press

359

00:18:33,120 --> 00:18:35,840

that her company was running three large aircraft hangers,

360

00:18:35,840 --> 00:18:37,560

where they would soon start production.

361

00:18:37,560 --> 00:18:38,920

In our first year.

362

00:18:38,920 --> 00:18:40,120

What about the cost?

363

00:18:40,120 --> 00:18:41,120

Cost factor.

364

00:18:41,120 --> 00:18:42,920

Any American can afford our car.

365

00:18:42,920 --> 00:18:45,240

And the questions that were asked were not,

366

00:18:45,240 --> 00:18:47,760

well, if you've got a manufacturing facility,

367

00:18:47,760 --> 00:18:49,040

where is it?

368

00:18:49,040 --> 00:18:50,440

And how long have you been making cars?

369

00:18:50,440 --> 00:18:51,560

And who are your engineers?

370

00:18:51,560 --> 00:18:52,800

And we're not the tough questions.

371

00:18:52,800 --> 00:18:56,000

The questions were basically, well, Liz, we're behind you.

372

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:58,000

And where can I send my money?

373

00:18:58,000 --> 00:18:59,240

It was just so exciting.

374

00:18:59,240 --> 00:19:00,320

And it was unbelievable.

375

00:19:00,320 --> 00:19:03,440

We used to get male sacks full of mail dragged

376

00:19:03,440 --> 00:19:06,440

into that office almost every day.

377

00:19:06,440 --> 00:19:09,760

News of Liz and her infamous car spread across the country.

378

00:19:09,760 --> 00:19:12,080

And soon she was being interviewed by Newsweek

379

00:19:12,080 --> 00:19:14,800

and People Magazine.

380

00:19:14,800 --> 00:19:17,600

Back at Liz's headquarters in Encino, California,

381

00:19:17,600 --> 00:19:20,960

the authorities began to question her claims.

382

00:19:20,960 --> 00:19:24,320

I'd like to see Liz Carmichael.

383

00:19:24,320 --> 00:19:26,520

The California Department of Corporations

384

00:19:26,520 --> 00:19:29,920

accused Liz of illegally selling both dealer franchises

385

00:19:29,920 --> 00:19:32,080

and cars that did not yet exist.

386

00:19:32,080 --> 00:19:32,980

Corporations?

387

00:19:32,980 --> 00:19:34,280

How do you do it?

388

00:19:34,280 --> 00:19:36,440

I have a desist and refrain order issued

389

00:19:36,440 --> 00:19:39,560

against 20th century motor car corporation.

390

00:19:39,560 --> 00:19:41,800

It orders 20th century to desist and refrain

391

00:19:41,800 --> 00:19:45,520

from the further offer and sale of securities.

392

00:19:45,520 --> 00:19:46,420

Thank you.

393

00:19:48,480 --> 00:19:50,920

The Department of Motor Vehicles discovered the company

394

00:19:50,920 --> 00:19:53,600

had no state permit to manufacture cars

395

00:19:53,600 --> 00:19:55,240

and even questioned whether the lab was

396

00:19:55,240 --> 00:19:57,400

developing a vehicle at all.

397

00:19:57,400 --> 00:19:59,320

We went to the Research and Development Lab

398

00:19:59,320 --> 00:20:02,280

and observed what appeared to be people appearing to be busy.

399

00:20:02,280 --> 00:20:05,120

But in wandering through the lab,

400

00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:07,440

I saw no evidence that they were designing a vehicle

401

00:20:07,440 --> 00:20:09,760

or in the process of making a vehicle.

402

00:20:09,760 --> 00:20:12,280

Everyone in the Research and Development Lab,

403

00:20:12,280 --> 00:20:15,160

without a doubt, was sincere, believed in the car,

404

00:20:15,160 --> 00:20:19,120

and there was even talk if the company should fold.

405

00:20:19,120 --> 00:20:20,920

There was a group of us that wanted to get together

406

00:20:20,920 --> 00:20:22,240

and continue with the car.

407

00:20:22,240 --> 00:20:23,720

We believed that much in the car.

408

00:20:28,600 --> 00:20:30,920

Bill Hall went to check out the three hangers where

409

00:20:30,920 --> 00:20:33,480

Liz claimed she was gearing up to make the cars.

410

00:20:38,280 --> 00:20:40,160

I went to this airport.

411

00:20:40,160 --> 00:20:42,880

Upon entering, I discovered the factory were nothing.

412

00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:44,920

The hangers were absolutely empty.

413

00:20:44,920 --> 00:20:49,480

No tools, no machinery, nothing but a little dirt on the floor.

414

00:20:49,480 --> 00:20:51,960

They had rented this for only one month,

415

00:20:51,960 --> 00:20:54,160

and the rent had now expired.

416

00:20:54,160 --> 00:20:56,000

So they actually did not have a factory

417

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:57,280

if they were representing the ad.

418

00:21:00,640 --> 00:21:03,720

With the authorities closing in, Liz decided it was time

419

00:21:03,720 --> 00:21:05,440

to move her headquarters to Dallas.

420

00:21:09,600 --> 00:21:12,400

But there, two and a half weeks later,

421

00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:14,600

the district attorney filed criminal charges

422

00:21:14,600 --> 00:21:18,400

against Elizabeth Carmichael for grand theft.

423

00:21:18,400 --> 00:21:21,320

One week later, Bill Hall went to the Research and Development

424

00:21:21,320 --> 00:21:23,880

Lab with a search warrant.

425

00:21:23,880 --> 00:21:25,960

Upon inspection of this vehicle,

426

00:21:25,960 --> 00:21:28,360

it was not a viable vehicle at all.

427

00:21:28,360 --> 00:21:30,320

It had no engine.

428

00:21:30,320 --> 00:21:33,520

Two by fours were holding up the rear wheel.

429

00:21:33,520 --> 00:21:35,800

The accelerator was just sitting on the floor.

430

00:21:35,800 --> 00:21:38,120

It wasn't even attached.

431

00:21:38,120 --> 00:21:40,320

The windows were not safety glass.

432

00:21:40,320 --> 00:21:42,480

They were bent back and forth.

433

00:21:42,480 --> 00:21:46,080

The doors were put on by regular door hinges

434

00:21:46,080 --> 00:21:48,760

like one might find on a house door.

435

00:21:48,760 --> 00:21:51,160

The vehicle just absolutely did not exist.

436

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:57,200

Under the search warrant, the Dallas police

437

00:21:57,200 --> 00:21:58,920

arrived at Liz's home.

438

00:21:58,920 --> 00:22:02,840

This is Carmichael, police officers.

439

00:22:02,840 --> 00:22:03,520

We have a warrant.

440

00:22:07,280 --> 00:22:08,760

Police officers, ma'am.

441

00:22:08,760 --> 00:22:09,640

This is Carmichael.

442

00:22:13,440 --> 00:22:14,440

Police officers.

443

00:22:19,400 --> 00:22:21,320

What are you making this?

444

00:22:21,320 --> 00:22:23,040

It's a cold one.

445

00:22:23,040 --> 00:22:24,960

This is Carmichael.

446

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:26,240

We have a warrant.

447

00:22:26,240 --> 00:22:28,360

The police searched the house.

448

00:22:28,360 --> 00:22:31,080

It appeared Liz and her five children had left in a hurry.

449

00:22:34,240 --> 00:22:36,800

Can you look at this stuff?

450

00:22:36,800 --> 00:22:38,560

Looking through Liz's belongings,

451

00:22:38,560 --> 00:22:41,800

the police found evidence that Liz Carmichael was not

452

00:22:41,800 --> 00:22:43,240

what she seemed.

453

00:22:43,240 --> 00:22:45,320

What do you got there?

454

00:22:45,320 --> 00:22:47,160

Looks like some kind of padded girdle.

455

00:22:47,160 --> 00:22:48,560

It is incredible.

456

00:22:48,560 --> 00:22:51,320

This is Carmichael?

457

00:22:51,320 --> 00:22:53,960

I don't know.

458

00:22:53,960 --> 00:22:56,600

You know, we better call this stuff in.

459

00:22:56,600 --> 00:22:58,000

Out here, honey.

460

00:22:58,000 --> 00:22:58,900

No.

461

00:22:58,900 --> 00:22:59,800

Liz, away.

462

00:22:59,800 --> 00:23:00,480

Let's go.

463

00:23:00,480 --> 00:23:02,360

Nine weeks later, Liz Carmichael

464

00:23:02,360 --> 00:23:06,200

was discovered living in Miami with her five children,

465

00:23:06,200 --> 00:23:08,280

a neighbor recognized her from a news photo

466

00:23:08,280 --> 00:23:09,480

and called the authorities.

467

00:23:12,160 --> 00:23:13,800

She was working for a dating service

468

00:23:13,800 --> 00:23:17,440

and going by the name of Susan Reigns.

469

00:23:17,440 --> 00:23:20,280

They also learned that Liz Carmichael had another identity.

470

00:23:24,360 --> 00:23:29,520

She was really a man, Jerry Dean Michael.

471

00:23:29,520 --> 00:23:32,560

Michael claimed he had begun hormone treatments and preparation

472

00:23:32,560 --> 00:23:34,760

for a sex change operation.

473

00:23:34,760 --> 00:23:36,000

It was later learned that Michael

474

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:38,520

was wanted by the federal authorities for counterfeiting

475

00:23:38,520 --> 00:23:43,320

in 1961 and jumping bail in 1962.

476

00:23:43,320 --> 00:23:47,880

We had no doubt that this was a woman.

477

00:23:47,880 --> 00:23:49,680

You just didn't question it.

478

00:23:49,680 --> 00:23:51,560

You just didn't question it.

479

00:23:51,560 --> 00:23:53,800

I never thought that Liz was a man.

480

00:23:53,800 --> 00:23:56,080

I always thought that, and she is today,

481

00:23:56,080 --> 00:23:57,880

she still lives to me.

482

00:23:57,880 --> 00:23:58,680

Still a female.

483

00:24:02,160 --> 00:24:07,040

Miss Carmichael, we have a warrant for your arrest.

484

00:24:07,040 --> 00:24:10,600

On April 12, 1975, Jerry Dean Michael,

485

00:24:10,600 --> 00:24:14,760

alias Geraldine Elizabeth Carmichael, was arrested.

486

00:24:14,760 --> 00:24:19,640

She was extradited to Los Angeles, where she went on trial.

487

00:24:19,640 --> 00:24:25,240

Liz arrived in court every day in the miniskirts.

488

00:24:25,240 --> 00:24:28,120

Now, here is somebody who's over 200 pounds and over six

489

00:24:28,120 --> 00:24:36,120

feet tall and has a demeanor of, I am a new Henry Ford.

490

00:24:36,120 --> 00:24:39,640

It was rather bizarre.

491

00:24:39,640 --> 00:24:42,840

You can see that Liz did not give one quarter

492

00:24:42,840 --> 00:24:44,320

in the course of the trial.

493

00:24:44,320 --> 00:24:49,440

There was never once when Liz gave up her position

494

00:24:49,440 --> 00:24:54,200

that the people who supported her would vindicate her.

495

00:24:54,200 --> 00:24:57,720

Why did you tell the public that that car could go 70 miles

496

00:24:57,720 --> 00:25:01,000

an hour and still get 70 miles per gallon?

497

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:03,240

Because it can, sir.

498

00:25:03,280 --> 00:25:06,400

This car is the car of the future, sir.

499

00:25:06,400 --> 00:25:09,520

Without all these trial proceedings,

500

00:25:09,520 --> 00:25:12,520

this car would now be in production.

501

00:25:12,520 --> 00:25:16,200

Well, then why did you collect 1995 from over 5,000 people

502

00:25:16,200 --> 00:25:18,240

when there was no car existing?

503

00:25:18,240 --> 00:25:20,880

The car has yet to roll off the line.

504

00:25:20,880 --> 00:25:22,400

As soon as the car rolls off the line,

505

00:25:22,400 --> 00:25:24,240

the cars will be delivered.

506

00:25:24,240 --> 00:25:27,320

As soon as this thing is over, we will be rolling.

507

00:25:27,320 --> 00:25:28,440

The idea was valid.

508

00:25:28,440 --> 00:25:29,360

It was sound.

509

00:25:29,360 --> 00:25:30,680

It could be done today.

510

00:25:30,680 --> 00:25:32,160

It could still go back in production.

511

00:25:32,160 --> 00:25:34,040

And still, it would be a great car.

512

00:25:34,040 --> 00:25:35,520

There's no doubt about it.

513

00:25:35,520 --> 00:25:37,720

If you were to walk in this room and say, let's go again,

514

00:25:37,720 --> 00:25:40,600

I'd go right with her.

515

00:25:40,600 --> 00:25:43,720

Has the jury reached its verdict?

516

00:25:43,720 --> 00:25:45,720

Yes, we have, Your Honor.

517

00:25:45,720 --> 00:25:48,360

What is your verdict?

518

00:25:48,360 --> 00:25:51,680

We find a defendant guilty.

519

00:25:51,680 --> 00:25:54,720

On January 24, 1977, Carmichael

520

00:25:54,720 --> 00:25:58,120

was convicted of conspiracy, grand theft, and fraud.

521

00:25:58,120 --> 00:26:00,360

She was released on \$50,000 bail,

522

00:26:00,360 --> 00:26:03,120

which was paid by a prominent television production company

523

00:26:03,120 --> 00:26:05,480

in exchange for the rights to her story.

524

00:26:05,480 --> 00:26:08,600

For four years, Liz appealed her conviction.

525

00:26:08,600 --> 00:26:11,080

Finally, in 1980, she failed to show up

526

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:13,000

in court for sentencing.

527

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:16,320

And Liz Carmichael and her five children vanished again.

528

00:26:16,320 --> 00:26:19,960

They have not been seen for over eight years.

529

00:26:19,960 --> 00:26:22,840

If I were Liz, I would be living as a man.

530

00:26:22,840 --> 00:26:26,540

Because all of this publicity and all of these victims

531

00:26:26,540 --> 00:26:28,600

know Liz as a woman.

532

00:26:28,640 --> 00:26:31,160

So I can't see how anybody could now

533

00:26:31,160 --> 00:26:33,480

imagine, with the passage of the years,

534

00:26:33,480 --> 00:26:35,440

what Liz would look like.

535

00:26:35,440 --> 00:26:39,840

And if I were Liz, I think I'd be a man.

536

00:26:39,840 --> 00:26:44,440

This is what Liz Carmichael looked like as a man in 1960.

537

00:26:44,440 --> 00:26:47,120

And using the FBI computers to age his appearance,

538

00:26:47,120 --> 00:26:49,880

how he may look today.

539

00:26:49,880 --> 00:26:54,600

This is Liz Carmichael dressed as a woman in 1975,

540

00:26:54,600 --> 00:26:56,320

and how she may look today.

541

00:26:59,280 --> 00:27:00,360

Update.

542

00:27:00,360 --> 00:27:02,880

Within minutes of our broadcast, our telecenter

543

00:27:02,880 --> 00:27:06,040

received a tip from a viewer who recognized Liz Carmichael

544

00:27:06,040 --> 00:27:09,320

as a flower vendor named Catherine Johnson.

545

00:27:09,320 --> 00:27:12,400

Curiously, she had chosen the small community of Dale, Texas

546

00:27:12,400 --> 00:27:14,040

as her new home.

547

00:27:14,040 --> 00:27:16,760

Shortly thereafter, Elizabeth Carmichael,

548

00:27:16,760 --> 00:27:21,040

AKA Jerry Dean Michael, was arrested at her home.

549

00:27:21,040 --> 00:27:22,760

Eight years after she jumped bail,

550

00:27:22,760 --> 00:27:24,600

Carmichael was returned to California

551

00:27:24,600 --> 00:27:27,640

to face sentencing for her prior conviction.

552

00:27:27,680 --> 00:27:31,040

A judge reimposed a sentence of one to 10 years.

553

00:27:31,040 --> 00:27:32,800

Carmichael served two and a half years

554

00:27:32,800 --> 00:27:34,600

and was released from prison.

555

00:27:34,600 --> 00:27:36,680

She is currently living as a private citizen

556

00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:38,080

in an undisclosed location.

557

00:27:38,080 --> 00:27:59,300

On a previous broadcast, we examined the case of 72-year-old

558

00:27:59,300 --> 00:28:02,280

Annie Laurie Heron, wife of Robert Heron Sr., one

559

00:28:02,280 --> 00:28:04,680

of the wealthiest men in Mississippi.

560

00:28:04,680 --> 00:28:07,880

On the afternoon of July the 26th, 1988,

561

00:28:07,880 --> 00:28:11,680

Mrs. Heron was abducted from her home in Jackson, Mississippi.

562

00:28:11,680 --> 00:28:14,680

The kidnapper left behind a bizarre ransom note,

563

00:28:14,680 --> 00:28:16,600

demanding that Robert Heron pay money

564

00:28:16,600 --> 00:28:20,160

to 12 people who had all been sued by a company he controlled.

565

00:28:23,680 --> 00:28:26,240

Neighbors reported seeing a suspicious white van

566

00:28:26,240 --> 00:28:29,760

with Florida license plates, driving by the Heron home

567

00:28:29,760 --> 00:28:34,000

just before Annie Laurie was kidnapped.

568

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:35,760

Robert Heron held a press conference

569

00:28:35,760 --> 00:28:39,120

on the steps of his home to make a personal plea to the kidnapper

570

00:28:39,120 --> 00:28:41,720

for his wife's safety.

571

00:28:41,720 --> 00:28:46,560

My children, I appeal, to whom I have my wife,

572

00:28:46,560 --> 00:28:49,880

that they may say that she may be safe to return to us.

573

00:28:49,880 --> 00:28:50,880

Thank you.

574

00:28:53,440 --> 00:28:55,280

Eight days after the press conference,

575

00:28:55,280 --> 00:28:58,520

Robert Heron received a letter postmarked at Lata, Georgia.

576

00:28:58,520 --> 00:29:01,640

He recognized the handwriting as his wife's.

577

00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:05,040

Bob, if you don't do what these people want you to do,

578

00:29:05,040 --> 00:29:07,720

they are going to seal me up in the cellar of this house

579

00:29:07,720 --> 00:29:10,080

with only a few jugs of water.

580

00:29:10,080 --> 00:29:11,120

Please save me.

581

00:29:14,320 --> 00:29:17,480

Robert Heron sent out checks totaling nearly \$1 million

582

00:29:17,480 --> 00:29:20,080

to the people named on the kidnapper's list.

583

00:29:20,080 --> 00:29:23,440

He never again heard from the kidnapper or from Annie Laurie.

584

00:29:26,600 --> 00:29:27,680

Update.

585

00:29:27,680 --> 00:29:31,080

Last month, Luton Alfred Wynn, a 65-year-old lawyer,

586

00:29:31,080 --> 00:29:34,200

was arrested by the FBI in Florida on charges relating

587

00:29:34,200 --> 00:29:36,800

to the abduction of Annie Laurie Heron.

588

00:29:36,800 --> 00:29:39,120

Wynn was one of the 12 men named in the ransom

589

00:29:39,120 --> 00:29:41,280

note left at the Heron home.

590

00:29:41,280 --> 00:29:43,840

Also less than one month before the kidnapping,

591

00:29:43,840 --> 00:29:46,800

he allegedly purchased a van which matched the description

592

00:29:46,800 --> 00:29:50,520

of the vehicle seen in the Heron neighborhood.

593

00:29:50,520 --> 00:29:53,800

A woman told the FBI that Wynn had promised her \$500

594

00:29:53,800 --> 00:29:55,760

of travel from Florida to Atlanta, Georgia,

595

00:29:55,760 --> 00:29:58,360

and mail a letter for him, just 16 days

596

00:29:58,360 --> 00:30:00,880

after Annie Laurie Heron was kidnapped.

597

00:30:00,880 --> 00:30:02,920

He handed her a Manila envelope.

598

00:30:02,920 --> 00:30:06,360

Inside was the letter wrapped in a gray linen napkin.

599

00:30:06,360 --> 00:30:09,360

Wynn instructed her not to look at or touch the letter,

600

00:30:09,360 --> 00:30:11,120

but to deposit the letter in a mail slot

601

00:30:11,120 --> 00:30:13,040

she had to ease the napkin off, and she

602

00:30:13,040 --> 00:30:16,000

was able to observe the writing on the envelope.

603

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:18,400

Later, she identified a photograph of the envelope

604

00:30:18,400 --> 00:30:21,760

Robert Heron had received from his wife as a one she

605

00:30:21,760 --> 00:30:24,000

had mailed in Atlanta.

606

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:50,600

I think about my mom all the time,

607

00:30:50,600 --> 00:30:53,680

and I'm sure my daddy does too.

608

00:30:53,680 --> 00:30:57,960

There's no real way to quantify how enormous

609

00:30:57,960 --> 00:31:00,240

a tragedy and ordeal this has been to him

610

00:31:00,240 --> 00:31:01,720

and to the rest of the family.

611

00:31:10,520 --> 00:31:13,760

In 1983, Terri McClure was discovered murdered.

612

00:31:13,760 --> 00:31:15,920

Her son Tim was a key suspect when

613

00:31:15,920 --> 00:31:18,720

he took a polygraph test and flaunt.

614

00:31:18,720 --> 00:31:20,320

Tonight, he tells why.

615

00:31:24,480 --> 00:31:31,680

This is the Unsolved Mysteries Telephone Center, where

616

00:31:31,680 --> 00:31:33,920

our viewers call with information.

617

00:31:33,920 --> 00:31:36,840

They also call with suggestions for stories.

618

00:31:36,840 --> 00:31:40,160

Six months ago, we received a highly unusual call.

619

00:31:40,160 --> 00:31:42,520

It came from a man who was a leading suspect

620

00:31:42,520 --> 00:31:43,960

in the murder of his own mother.

621

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:51,000

38-year-old Tim McClure lived with his mother Terri off

622

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:53,560

and on throughout his 20s.

623

00:31:53,560 --> 00:31:56,040

Tim and his mother were often seen together around town

624

00:31:56,040 --> 00:31:58,720

gambling at the slot machines or dining out.

625

00:31:58,720 --> 00:32:00,720

Even after Tim moved away from Reno,

626

00:32:00,720 --> 00:32:03,280

he remained close to Terri.

627

00:32:03,280 --> 00:32:06,160

She'd do anything for anybody.

628

00:32:06,160 --> 00:32:10,000

She'd give the shirt off her back or last nickel to anybody.

629

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:15,600

She was just a real kind-hearted woman, very gentle.

630

00:32:15,600 --> 00:32:18,960

She was just a very calm person.

631

00:32:18,960 --> 00:32:23,160

In 1983, Terri McClure was 62 years old and living alone.

632

00:32:23,160 --> 00:32:25,560

She was thrilled when Tim called to tell her he was getting

633

00:32:25,560 --> 00:32:26,560

married.

634

00:32:26,560 --> 00:32:30,400

His wedding took place on Friday, January the 14, 1983

635

00:32:30,400 --> 00:32:34,080

at Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

636

00:32:34,080 --> 00:32:36,600

I was totally ecstatic.

637

00:32:36,600 --> 00:32:38,840

And I mean, the person we'd saw their life to get married.

638

00:32:38,840 --> 00:32:41,600

And it's the big moment in their life.

639

00:32:41,600 --> 00:32:45,800

It wasn't an elaborate wedding, but to me,

640

00:32:45,800 --> 00:32:47,680

it was the big moment.

641

00:32:47,680 --> 00:32:52,520

And it was great.

642

00:32:52,560 --> 00:32:54,320

The newlyweds and their parents celebrated

643

00:32:54,320 --> 00:32:56,880

by doing a little gambling.

644

00:32:56,880 --> 00:32:58,640

Then around 10 o'clock in the evening,

645

00:32:58,640 --> 00:33:02,640

Tim left to walk his mother to her car.

646

00:33:02,640 --> 00:33:04,720

Terri planned to drive straight home to Reno,

647

00:33:04,720 --> 00:33:07,960

about an hour's drive from Lake Tahoe.

648

00:33:07,960 --> 00:33:09,360

Tim told her that he and his wife

649

00:33:09,360 --> 00:33:11,120

was stopped by to visit the next day.

650

00:33:16,120 --> 00:33:18,480

When the newlyweds went to visit Terri at 6 PM

651

00:33:18,480 --> 00:33:20,440

the next evening, they noticed signs

652

00:33:20,520 --> 00:33:21,560

that she was not at home.

653

00:33:29,960 --> 00:33:31,360

Oh, it's strange.

654

00:33:31,360 --> 00:33:33,400

I wonder why she didn't take the paper in this morning.

655

00:33:33,400 --> 00:33:37,280

It just appeared as though she hadn't been home.

656

00:33:37,280 --> 00:33:40,120

And it was at that point I just had the strangest feeling

657

00:33:40,120 --> 00:33:41,600

that something was wrong.

658

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:45,480

I didn't know, but I knew she hadn't been home.

659

00:33:45,480 --> 00:33:48,760

And to me, that was just real odd strange,

660

00:33:48,760 --> 00:33:53,840

because there I was on my honeymoon up there to get married.

661

00:33:53,840 --> 00:33:56,880

And she'd taken time off of work.

662

00:33:56,880 --> 00:34:01,240

And to not find her at home, I couldn't understand it.

663

00:34:03,840 --> 00:34:07,080

Tim called various family members and friends of his mother.

664

00:34:07,080 --> 00:34:11,960

No one had seen or heard from Terri, so he called the police.

665

00:34:11,960 --> 00:34:16,480

Yes, I'd like to report a missing person.

666

00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:19,720

Three days later, on Monday, January the 17th,

667

00:34:19,720 --> 00:34:22,560

Terri McClure's car was found in the parking lot of a Carson

668

00:34:22,560 --> 00:34:24,560

City, Nevada, casino.

669

00:34:24,560 --> 00:34:28,040

Only a half hours drive outside Lake Tahoe.

670

00:34:28,040 --> 00:34:29,840

The keys were in the ignition.

671

00:34:29,840 --> 00:34:31,240

The doors were locked.

672

00:34:31,240 --> 00:34:34,920

And Terri McClure was sitting in the front seat, dead.

673

00:34:34,920 --> 00:34:38,760

She had been shot twice in the head.

674

00:34:38,760 --> 00:34:40,240

The day after they found the body,

675

00:34:40,240 --> 00:34:43,360

Carson City detectives questioned Tim.

676

00:34:43,360 --> 00:34:44,680

He was shocked when they asked him

677

00:34:44,680 --> 00:34:46,840

if he wanted to have an attorney present.

678

00:34:46,840 --> 00:34:51,880

But slowly it dawned on Tim that he was considered a suspect.

679

00:34:51,880 --> 00:34:53,160

I started to feel like a victim.

680

00:34:53,160 --> 00:34:55,240

And I thought, why should I have an attorney?

681

00:34:55,240 --> 00:34:57,000

And I mean, this is my mother's death.

682

00:34:57,000 --> 00:34:59,840

You should be investigating it on another level,

683

00:34:59,840 --> 00:35:02,840

rather than thinking of me as doing it, which I found out

684

00:35:02,840 --> 00:35:04,880

they were looking towards me.

685

00:35:04,880 --> 00:35:05,720

I couldn't understand why.

686

00:35:05,720 --> 00:35:08,880

I started to feel like the victim.

687

00:35:08,880 --> 00:35:12,680

And it just didn't make sense.

688

00:35:12,680 --> 00:35:14,240

Tim told the police that after he'd

689

00:35:14,240 --> 00:35:16,360

walked his mother to her car at 10 PM

690

00:35:16,360 --> 00:35:17,960

on the night of his wedding, he'd

691

00:35:17,960 --> 00:35:19,400

return immediately to the casino.

692

00:35:24,600 --> 00:35:27,000

Tim said his wife was still gambling with her parents,

693

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:31,200

so he gambled alone for two hours, then rejoined his wife.

694

00:35:31,200 --> 00:35:34,920

They went out dancing till dawn.

695

00:35:34,920 --> 00:35:37,960

Police have not been able to substantiate Tim's or his wife's

696

00:35:37,960 --> 00:35:41,120

whereabouts that night.

697

00:35:41,120 --> 00:35:44,000

Although they couldn't provide specific locations

698

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:46,320

where they went, we made every attempt

699

00:35:46,320 --> 00:35:50,480

to determine which bar or which dance hall they had gone to

700

00:35:50,480 --> 00:35:52,560

that night, and we were unsuccessful.

701

00:35:52,560 --> 00:35:55,960

They indicated that they partied from approximately midnight

702

00:35:55,960 --> 00:36:00,360

until 6 AM the following morning, none of which

703

00:36:00,360 --> 00:36:03,640

we were able to substantiate one way or another.

704

00:36:03,640 --> 00:36:05,480

So we kind of went on what he said.

705

00:36:06,400 --> 00:36:11,520

Tim also told the police that two days before his mother's

706

00:36:11,520 --> 00:36:14,000

body was discovered, he'd searched the main highway

707

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,200

between Lake Tahoe and Reno.

708

00:36:16,200 --> 00:36:19,160

The police became suspicious when Tim said he was looking

709

00:36:19,160 --> 00:36:20,400

for his mother's purse.

710

00:36:22,920 --> 00:36:24,440

You know, we again found this odd

711

00:36:24,440 --> 00:36:28,600

that he would attempt to retrace his mother's steps

712

00:36:28,600 --> 00:36:30,240

for the purpose of finding something

713

00:36:30,240 --> 00:36:32,640

that nobody knew was missing.

714

00:36:32,640 --> 00:36:37,120

On the 16th, nobody had any idea her purse was missing.

715

00:36:37,120 --> 00:36:41,240

But he felt a specific need to go out and look for that purse.

716

00:36:41,240 --> 00:36:45,280

Yeah, oddly enough, she was found with only her purse missing.

717

00:36:45,280 --> 00:36:48,240

She was fully clothed, had all her jewelry.

718

00:36:48,240 --> 00:36:50,600

The only thing missing was her purse.

719

00:36:50,600 --> 00:36:52,680

They put together the fact that I said

720

00:36:52,680 --> 00:36:54,840

I was looking for some evidence of her purse

721

00:36:54,840 --> 00:36:56,640

along the side of the highway.

722

00:36:56,640 --> 00:37:00,760

And the only reason I said that was because my older sister

723

00:37:00,760 --> 00:37:03,080

had put the idea that maybe somebody had commandeered her

724

00:37:03,080 --> 00:37:06,920

vehicle and stolen her purse.

725

00:37:06,920 --> 00:37:09,520

Tim also drove through the parking lots of the casinos

726

00:37:09,520 --> 00:37:11,400

along his mother's route.

727

00:37:11,400 --> 00:37:15,440

He proceeded at a slow crawl through the lots of every casino,

728

00:37:15,440 --> 00:37:16,320

except one.

729

00:37:18,960 --> 00:37:21,640

Sometimes you get a gut feeling.

730

00:37:21,640 --> 00:37:25,280

You could maybe think of the Holy Spirit, if you will.

731

00:37:25,280 --> 00:37:27,480

Just kind of guiding you.

732

00:37:27,480 --> 00:37:31,600

There was perhaps a feeling of keeping me away from there,

733

00:37:31,600 --> 00:37:33,760

to save me from finding her.

734

00:37:33,760 --> 00:37:35,600

I thank God I didn't find her.

735

00:37:35,600 --> 00:37:41,320

That destroyed me to find her.

736

00:37:41,320 --> 00:37:43,760

That casino parking lot was a very spot

737

00:37:43,760 --> 00:37:46,720

where Terry McClure's body would be found two days later,

738

00:37:46,720 --> 00:37:49,760

on Monday, January the 17th.

739

00:37:49,760 --> 00:37:53,160

Police estimated that Terry had been dead since Friday,

740

00:37:53,160 --> 00:37:56,640

the night of Tim's wedding.

741

00:37:56,680 --> 00:37:59,440

Police are also puzzled by a call Tim made to cancel

742

00:37:59,440 --> 00:38:02,280

one of his mother's credit cards.

743

00:38:02,280 --> 00:38:05,480

Tim claimed he made the call on Monday, January the 17th,

744

00:38:05,480 --> 00:38:08,240

the day his mother's body was found.

745

00:38:08,240 --> 00:38:11,560

But the credit card company says he called on Friday

746

00:38:11,560 --> 00:38:14,520

before his mother had disappeared.

747

00:38:14,520 --> 00:38:17,600

I had reported her credit cards missing,

748

00:38:17,600 --> 00:38:20,240

thinking maybe that somebody had commandeered the vehicle

749

00:38:20,240 --> 00:38:22,960

and that her purse might have possibly been missing.

750

00:38:22,960 --> 00:38:24,360

I called on Monday.

751

00:38:24,360 --> 00:38:27,960

The woman had written down that I called on Friday,

752

00:38:27,960 --> 00:38:28,960

which I couldn't understand.

753

00:38:28,960 --> 00:38:31,200

It just didn't make any sense to me why she would mix up

754

00:38:31,200 --> 00:38:33,560

from a Monday to a Friday.

755

00:38:33,560 --> 00:38:35,640

The credit memo for that particular company

756

00:38:35,640 --> 00:38:38,240

is now in the possession of the sheriff's office.

757

00:38:38,240 --> 00:38:41,840

And it clearly shows, according to their file,

758

00:38:41,840 --> 00:38:47,320

that Tim called, indicated to the recipient

759

00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:49,280

that his mother was dead.

760

00:38:49,280 --> 00:38:52,120

And the fact that his father was dead,

761

00:38:52,160 --> 00:38:54,720

and to please cancel the account.

762

00:38:54,720 --> 00:38:56,720

It's just, it's one of the strangest things

763

00:38:56,720 --> 00:38:59,040

I've ever heard of, because I called on Monday

764

00:38:59,040 --> 00:39:01,840

and how she could have mistaken that for a Friday

765

00:39:01,840 --> 00:39:04,280

and then mixed up my words like that,

766

00:39:04,280 --> 00:39:05,240

saying she had been murdered.

767

00:39:05,240 --> 00:39:06,520

I had no idea she'd been murdered.

768

00:39:06,520 --> 00:39:09,600

All I knew she was missing, and that's what I told them.

769

00:39:09,600 --> 00:39:13,600

We have a credit memo dated January 14th.

770

00:39:13,600 --> 00:39:18,360

The lady that wrote that credit memo, in her own mind,

771

00:39:18,360 --> 00:39:20,840

is absolutely sure that's the date

772

00:39:20,880 --> 00:39:24,480

she received the phone call from a person identifying himself

773

00:39:24,480 --> 00:39:27,080

as Tim McClure.

774

00:39:27,080 --> 00:39:29,520

Six months before Terry McClure was murdered,

775

00:39:29,520 --> 00:39:34,200

she'd taken out a \$10,000 insurance policy on her life.

776

00:39:34,200 --> 00:39:38,240

Tim and one of his sisters were named as co-beneficiaries.

777

00:39:38,240 --> 00:39:42,560

I didn't think my mother would take out an insurance policy.

778

00:39:42,560 --> 00:39:43,840

It just wasn't like her.

779

00:39:43,840 --> 00:39:47,120

I mean, they're thinking that I did this for a reason.

780

00:39:47,120 --> 00:39:50,040

I mean, which my share is only \$5,000.

781

00:39:50,040 --> 00:39:51,400

I mean, that's ridiculous.

782

00:39:52,600 --> 00:39:55,880

Well, I can't say that that is the absolute motive in this case,

783

00:39:55,880 --> 00:39:59,200

but I'm here to tell you that people

784

00:39:59,200 --> 00:40:00,680

have been killed for a lot less.

785

00:40:02,480 --> 00:40:06,120

On February the 14th, 1983, the Carson City police

786

00:40:06,120 --> 00:40:08,800

asked Tim and his wife to take a polygraph test.

787

00:40:11,320 --> 00:40:12,600

I was completely cooperative.

788

00:40:12,600 --> 00:40:14,160

I had nothing to hide.

789

00:40:14,160 --> 00:40:15,400

No reason not to take one.

790

00:40:15,400 --> 00:40:17,720

So naturally I said, sure, I'll take a polygraph.

791

00:40:17,720 --> 00:40:19,680

My wife agreed, too.

792

00:40:19,720 --> 00:40:25,840

So it was a strange situation when they were asking the questions.

793

00:40:25,840 --> 00:40:30,080

They made me close my eyes, being all wired up.

794

00:40:30,080 --> 00:40:31,640

It felt like I was in an electric chair,

795

00:40:31,640 --> 00:40:34,640

very hardwood-armed chair sitting there.

796

00:40:34,640 --> 00:40:37,640

And as they asked the question, there was, oh,

797

00:40:37,640 --> 00:40:40,080

it seemed like maybe a minute between each question

798

00:40:40,080 --> 00:40:42,600

with my eyes closed.

799

00:40:42,600 --> 00:40:44,520

Just a number of things are just going around

800

00:40:44,520 --> 00:40:45,800

through my mind at that point.

801

00:40:45,800 --> 00:40:48,160

That's when I started thinking, well, geez,

802

00:40:48,160 --> 00:40:51,120

what if they think I did it?

803

00:40:51,120 --> 00:40:52,920

I'd never taken a polygraph before.

804

00:40:52,920 --> 00:40:54,840

I didn't know how to react.

805

00:40:54,840 --> 00:40:58,760

And it was just a very awkward and uncomfortable situation

806

00:40:58,760 --> 00:40:59,240

for me.

807

00:41:02,280 --> 00:41:05,560

The results of those polygraph examinations

808

00:41:05,560 --> 00:41:08,400

would strongly suggest deception on both the part

809

00:41:08,400 --> 00:41:11,640

of Timothy McClure and his wife.

810

00:41:11,640 --> 00:41:16,600

They were both adamantly confronted about those deceptions.

811

00:41:16,600 --> 00:41:21,360

And in the interviews, they had no response.

812

00:41:21,360 --> 00:41:25,080

They could not respond to why the machine was telling them

813

00:41:25,080 --> 00:41:26,120

they were being deceptive.

814

00:41:26,120 --> 00:41:27,680

They had no answers.

815

00:41:27,680 --> 00:41:30,640

I don't know why, but I flunked the test.

816

00:41:30,640 --> 00:41:34,560

And my wife had flunked only one question, which

817

00:41:34,560 --> 00:41:35,760

didn't make any sense.

818

00:41:35,760 --> 00:41:38,280

Do you know who murdered Terry McClure was a question?

819

00:41:38,280 --> 00:41:42,680

She was asked, and it appeared to be a lie when she said no.

820

00:41:42,680 --> 00:41:46,000

So it looked like she was trying to cover up.

821

00:41:46,040 --> 00:41:49,720

It is unexplainable to me.

822

00:41:49,720 --> 00:41:52,960

All the circumstantial evidence was submitted to the Nevada DA,

823

00:41:52,960 --> 00:41:56,920

but he deemed it insufficient to arrest Tim McClure.

824

00:41:56,920 --> 00:41:58,680

Police questioned friends, family,

825

00:41:58,680 --> 00:42:01,240

and acquaintances of Tim and Terry.

826

00:42:01,240 --> 00:42:03,800

Their testimony indicated that Tim had been genuinely

827

00:42:03,800 --> 00:42:06,520

devoted to his mother, and they believed he would never

828

00:42:06,520 --> 00:42:09,520

have done anything to harm her.

829

00:42:09,520 --> 00:42:11,720

My mother was my best friend.

830

00:42:11,720 --> 00:42:14,880

I mean, all I could think of was taking care of my mother

831

00:42:14,960 --> 00:42:18,120

for the rest of her life after she'd taken care of me all my life.

832

00:42:18,120 --> 00:42:20,920

That's the one thing I wanted to do was take care of my mother.

833

00:42:20,920 --> 00:42:21,840

And I can't.

834

00:42:24,480 --> 00:42:26,160

This picture of Tim and his mother

835

00:42:26,160 --> 00:42:29,680

was taken at his wedding on January the 14th, 1983,

836

00:42:29,680 --> 00:42:31,360

the night she disappeared.

837

00:42:31,360 --> 00:42:34,240

Tim is hoping that someone who was in the casino or the dance

838

00:42:34,240 --> 00:42:36,920

hall in Lake Tahoe that night will remember him

839

00:42:36,920 --> 00:42:39,200

because of his long hair and his unusual height

840

00:42:39,200 --> 00:42:41,280

of 6 feet 5 inches.

841

00:42:41,280 --> 00:42:44,280

He wants his alibi for the night of his mother's murder

842

00:42:44,320 --> 00:42:46,560

to be substantiated.

843

00:42:46,560 --> 00:42:48,960

Perhaps somebody will come forward.

844

00:42:48,960 --> 00:42:50,360

Maybe they were afraid in the past.

845

00:42:50,360 --> 00:42:52,160

Maybe somebody saw something.

846

00:42:52,160 --> 00:42:54,000

There has to be somebody out there

847

00:42:54,000 --> 00:42:57,440

that had seen something that happened to my mother.

848

00:42:57,440 --> 00:43:01,600

Now would be a good time to come out with it.

849

00:43:01,600 --> 00:43:17,160

MUSIC

850

00:43:17,160 --> 00:43:21,600

Join me next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.