

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,640

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

2

00:00:09,640 --> 00:00:13,720

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

3

00:00:13,720 --> 00:00:20,280

to see is not a news broadcast.

4

00:00:20,280 --> 00:00:24,800

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries, the heartwarming story of a Vietnam veteran's battle wounds

5

00:00:24,800 --> 00:00:30,120

nearly cost him his life, and the Army nurse who healed him both physically and emotionally.

6

00:00:30,120 --> 00:00:35,720

You may be able to help reunite them after 20 years. By all appearances, Gertrude Prou,

7

00:00:35,720 --> 00:00:40,120

it seemed to be the kindly grandmother you would find in a normal, rock-roll painting.

8

00:00:40,120 --> 00:00:45,840

But in reality, this sweet little old lady was a con artist who stole \$3 million from

9

00:00:45,840 --> 00:00:50,840

investors. And in Missouri, we will investigate a baffling case of kidnapping, bank robbery,

10

00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:56,080

and murder. Did a bank president die as a victim in a simple holdup, or was his death

11

00:00:56,080 --> 00:00:59,280

a crew on a callous execution?

12

00:00:59,280 --> 00:01:04,440

Join me for these fascinating stories. Perhaps someone somewhere has that one vital clue

13

00:01:04,440 --> 00:01:09,960

that can help solve a mystery. Perhaps that someone is watching. Perhaps it's you.

14

00:01:50,840 --> 00:02:04,960

Jim Bacowski lives with his family in the small town of Grand Junction, Colorado. He and his

15

00:02:04,960 --> 00:02:12,000

wife Dolores have two sons. In 1968, Jim was wounded by enemy action during the Vietnam

16

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:20,680

War. For over 20 years, he and his family have had to cope with his injuries, both

17

00:02:20,720 --> 00:02:27,320

physical and emotional. During the war, Jim was one of thousands of troops manning the

18

00:02:27,320 --> 00:02:33,960

constantly changing front lines. What he went through turned his life inside out. But one

19

00:02:33,960 --> 00:02:40,960

memory of the war, Jim, still holds dear. That memory has a name and a face, Linda Sharp.

20

00:02:40,960 --> 00:02:50,400

Captain Sharp was the only good memory I had. She had something about her that made you

21

00:02:50,440 --> 00:03:00,440

feel comfortable, warm, want to live, and go back home when you were dying.

22

00:03:02,240 --> 00:03:06,520

The hushed fields of gravestones here at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia,

23

00:03:06,520 --> 00:03:12,280

are a mute testimony to the tragic toll of the Vietnam War. Thousands of surviving Vietnam

24

00:03:12,280 --> 00:03:18,000

veterans have tried to put the war behind them. Some have succeeded, many have not. For them,

25

00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:23,400

the war continues. But one of the few memories that can still inspire a smile among vets

26

00:03:23,400 --> 00:03:28,440

is a selfless devotion and kindness exhibited by the nearly 10,000 nurses, who in many cases

27

00:03:28,440 --> 00:03:33,440

literally breathed the life back into their patients. Jim Bacowski was one such survivor.

28

00:03:33,440 --> 00:03:38,080

20 years ago, an Army nurse named Linda Sharp gave Jim the strength he needed to return

29

00:03:38,080 --> 00:03:43,400

home to his wife. He feels that if he can reunite with Captain Sharp, his private war

30

00:03:43,400 --> 00:03:47,920

will be much closer to ending.

31

00:03:48,840 --> 00:03:52,760

Jim was drafted in December of 1967, and after boot camp was sent for advanced training to

32

00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:58,000

Fort Polk, Louisiana. When he learned he was to be shipped to Vietnam, he placed a late

33

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:03,000

night call to his high school sweetheart, Dolores, whom he'd been dating for five years.

34

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Dolores? Fine. Look, I've been giving this a lot of thoughts.

35

00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:12,960

I waited in line in the rain for over four hours, and I told her that I was going to

36

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Vietnam, and I said, will you marry me? What do you say? Give me a minute.

37

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:23,760

I was 19, she was 18. You will? Oh, that's great.

38

00:04:23,760 --> 00:04:29,400

She said yes. I turned him down the first two times, and then I decided after that it

39

00:04:29,400 --> 00:04:35,000

was time to say yes, because I knew he was going to leave. So we got married before he

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:40,280

left. I wasn't sure when he was coming back. I knew the time was the year. I just knew

41

00:04:40,360 --> 00:04:46,120

the year would have to hurry up and get by. Only a week after they were married, Jim was

42

00:04:46,120 --> 00:04:53,120

shipped off to Vietnam. We landed, and we're all scared. See, I know. Didn't know what

43

00:05:01,800 --> 00:05:08,800

I was going to get. Had no idea. But I found out.

44

00:05:11,280 --> 00:05:17,280

Within three months, Jim was wounded twice, once in the jaw and once in his leg. On August

45

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:23,520

29, 1968, it was two days before he was to be reunited with his new bride in Hawaii,

46

00:05:23,520 --> 00:05:30,520

Jim's platoon was attacked by a group of North Vietnamese.

47

00:05:30,720 --> 00:05:37,720

They blew us to smithereens. We didn't even have a chance. There were 60 of us, somewhere

48

00:05:37,960 --> 00:05:44,960

between 250 and 300 of them. And it wiped out my whole company.

49

00:05:54,720 --> 00:05:59,720

At the time, I was operating the radio for Lieutenant because we were two people side

50

00:05:59,720 --> 00:06:06,720

by side. He was dead.

51

00:06:07,720 --> 00:06:14,720

And then the next thing I knew, I was reaching for a weapon. I went flying through the air.

52

00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:33,000

I landed 30 feet down the hill. I picked up my leg that was blown off, and I crawled

53

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:40,000

back up the hill.

54

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Close the door, Dad.

55

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:44,000

I think you better read this, Jim.

56

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:48,000

A telegram was sent to Dolores's parents addressed to her.

57

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:49,000

It's going to be all right, honey.

58

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:55,000

It's stated, James P. Bacowski was wounded in Vietnam as a result of hostile action.

59

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:02,000

He received traumatic amputation of the right leg when engaged by hostile force in a firefight.

60

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:09,000

You will be kept informed of any significant changes in his condition.

61

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:12,000

I just cried.

62

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

It's okay.

63

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:18,000

I couldn't believe it really happened because you hear things happen to everyone else, but

64

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:27,000

not to your own family.

65

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

I just kept looking at it like it can go away, and it doesn't go away. It just stays there,

66

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:37,000

and you have to learn to live with it.

67

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:43,000

Come and throw! Come and throw! Come and throw! We got a patient now! Come and throw! Come and throw!

68

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:49,000

Jim had been rushed by helicopter to the 67th evacuation hospital in Quinyan. His prognosis

69

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:56,000

was grim. His fever hovered at 105 degrees, and his wound was badly infected. He had also

70

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,000

six pints of blood behind him in the jungle.

71

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:00,000

Come and throw! We got a patient!

72

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

I'll be right there!

73

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:02,000

Come and throw!

74

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Okay, I need some of your russet.

75

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:05,000

Come and throw!

76

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

We got a patient!

77

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

Has he been conscious at all?

78

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:12,000

I don't know. He's coming in and out. I don't know.

79

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:13,000

Be right there!

80

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:14,000

He looks back.

81

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

My first conscious memory was looking up and seeing this blonde lady in fatigues helping me.

82

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:28,000

It'll be fine, soldier. It'll be fine.

83

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Captain Lynn Sharp.

84

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:36,000

I just woke up in my eyes and she was looking over me.

85

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:38,000

We need a doctor back over here!

86

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:43,000

I heard people talking, and he ain't going to make it.

87

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:47,000

And all I saw was her looking down at me.

88

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:49,000

I don't care.

89

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:54,000

She gave me the encouragement to live.

90

00:08:55,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Because of the extreme infection, what was left of Jim's leg was amputated, the hip.

91

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:06,000

This was followed by frigid baths to lower his high body temperature.

92

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:12,000

At this time, Jim began to become more aware of Captain Sharp's constant attention.

93

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Hi, Jim. How you doing?

94

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Going for a little swim?

95

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:19,000

The lady was phenomenal.

96

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:21,000

Hey, you know, we need a hurry up and get your...

97

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:22,000

Every time I don't mind...

98

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

Couple of guys.

99

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Ladies blue eyes would be looking down at me.

100

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Looks like you're feeling better.

101

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

Hey, I promise if you get your temperature down, I can take you out and go get a couple beers.

102

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:40,000

She told me when your temperature drops and you get into bed, I'll hold you outside and I'll bring you cold beer.

103

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:44,000

I promise that's what I'm going to do if you weren't cold before.

104

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:54,000

Over a period of six days, Captain Sharp was always there.

105

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:57,000

And Jim slowly began to heal.

106

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:04,000

You'll be going home soon. Good night, guy.

107

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

With her help, Jim began his former spirit, his will to live.

108

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

Want to go dancing or leave your bag home?

109

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:16,000

You know it. I'm dancing right away.

110

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,000

Time to go, Jim.

111

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:27,000

Go where?

112

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:28,000

You'll see.

113

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:30,000

What are you talking?

114

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:32,000

You'll see me quiet.

115

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Late one night, two days before Jim was scheduled to leave, Captain Sharp kept her word.

116

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:45,000

Do I keep my promises?

117

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:46,000

Wow.

118

00:10:46,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Stars were out, beautiful night.

119

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

We're on stock.

120

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

And she brought two cans of beer, popped them both, sat on the edge of the bed and smiled.

121

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:02,000

So you're going to write your wife about your leg?

122

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:04,000

I don't know how.

123

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:08,000

You started with one word at a time.

124

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

I just don't know what to say to her.

125

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:20,000

You were not allowed to leave the Mass Unit until you wrote a letter to your wife.

126

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:25,000

I didn't have the courage to write it.

127

00:11:25,000 --> 00:11:27,000

She forced me to do it.

128

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:37,000

And then I didn't know she had sent a letter and a picture to my wife with it,

129

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,000

telling my wife what to expect.

130

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:51,000

Dear Mrs. Bacowski, I'm the head nurse on the ward where Jim is now.

131

00:11:51,000 --> 00:11:58,000

It truly is not possible for me, a poor letter writer, to tell you how very much Jim loves you.

132

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:04,000

When he talks about you, his lovely blue eyes sparkle and he gets a wide grin on his face.

133

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

In spite of his missing leg, he is probably the most cheerful and optimistic patient I have ever had the pleasure of caring for.

134

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

His spirit determination are marvelous.

135

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:21,000

And with your hard work and help, not pity, he'll make rapid progress.

136

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:26,000

However, both of you have a long, difficult road ahead.

137

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:32,000

There will be days when Jim will be discouraged, but don't you or any of your families ever feel sorry for him.

138

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:37,000

He needs understanding, love and help, not pity.

139

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:43,000

A missing limb doesn't make Jim less of a person and it certainly doesn't lessen his love for you.

140

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:47,000

Jim leaves tomorrow for Japan and then home.

141

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:49,000

We shall all miss him.

142

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:50,000

God bless you both.

143

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Sincerely, Captain Linda Sharp.

144

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:02,000

The letter helped me because nobody in my family's ever had anybody lose a leg or hurt in a war.

145

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,000

They didn't understand.

146

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:10,000

Her letter just let you know what to expect.

147

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

I've always wondered why she wrote.

148

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:19,000

I guess that's kind of a question I'll always be there.

149

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Finally on September 5th, 1968, Jim began his long journey home.

150

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:39,000

When I left, she pushed me out on my bed to the chopper.

151

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:41,000

She gave me a big hug.

152

00:13:41,000 --> 00:13:43,000

Take care, Jim.

153

00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Go on.

154

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:02,000

I've thought about her since the day I left Vietnam.

155

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:07,000

I just think about her.

156

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:18,000

The camaraderie when you make a friend in Vietnam is there until the person dies.

157

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:20,000

I lived.

158

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:29,000

I don't think that I would have come back to my wife without Captain Sharp.

159

00:14:30,000 --> 00:14:42,000

She just gave me all the encouragement and the strength and the motivation to live.

160

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

In 1969, Jim was awarded two Purple Hearts for wounds sustained in combat

161

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:55,000

and a Silver Star for his bravery under fire.

162

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:59,000

But Jim's war raged on silently.

163

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

Jim blocked out Vietnam for years and years.

164

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:08,000

He didn't want people to know he was a Vietnam veteran.

165

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

He would just assume people thought his leg was lost in a car accident or something.

166

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:16,000

He really did not want people to know that he had been to Vietnam.

167

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:24,000

By 20 years, Jim has suffered from what has become known as post-traumatic stress disorder.

168

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,000

Only recently, as he began to come to grips with his war experiences,

169

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Linda Sharp helped Jim to transcend his physical wounds.

170

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:38,000

He wants to find her today so he can say, thank you.

171

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:42,000

He's ready to look for her now.

172

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:47,000

Because now he's well enough mentally to look for her.

173

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:51,000

And I think if he could meet her, it might help him to heal.

174

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:57,000

Jim and Dolores have recently celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary.

175

00:15:57,000 --> 00:16:02,000

A life together they feel might have been impossible without Linda Sharp.

176

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:08,000

I would very much like to get in touch with Captain Linda Sharp,

177

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:15,000

if it's at all possible, and thank her for what she did for me.

178

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:22,000

And all the other guys.

179

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:33,000

Before the segment even aired,

180

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:38,000

Linda Sharp saw a promotional announcement for Jim's story on Unsolved Mysteries.

181

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:40,000

She immediately called our telecenter.

182

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Two weeks later, she and Jim were reunited.

183

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Hi, how are you?

184

00:16:50,000 --> 00:16:52,000

I can't believe it.

185

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:54,000

Looks so good.

186

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:55,000

You really do.

187

00:16:55,000 --> 00:17:01,000

When I opened the door, I was late and all I wanted to do was give her a great big hug,

188

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:09,000

and just hug her, and thank her, and kiss her on the cheek, and just try to show my appreciation.

189

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:14,000

I feel very blessed to be here, to actually see him, and talk with him,

190

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:19,000

and hear his versions of what went on.

191

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:26,000

Because sometimes what nurses don't realize that we have an impact on patients' lives.

192

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:30,000

And I certainly didn't realize the impact I had on his life at all.

193

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

Hello.

194

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:34,000

How are you?

195

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Over the years, I've thought about Jim and Dolores, and wondered how they were doing,

196

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

and if they were still together, and seeing the show on TV, and seeing them in the segment,

197

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:48,000

was just the best news that just made it all worthwhile.

198

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:55,000

It really pulled things together for me, and it reinforced that what I did over there was important.

199

00:17:56,000 --> 00:17:58,000

Linda's my son, Corey.

200

00:17:58,000 --> 00:17:59,000

Hi, Corey.

201

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:06,000

After arriving, Linda received an unexpected gift, a portrait of a Vietnam nurse, which Jim had framed for her.

202

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:12,000

There was so much I think of, I had this made up for you, and I thought she'd like to have this.

203

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:20,000

When he gave me the plaque, it was just such a special moment.

204

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:28,000

It's made this day very, very special, something that was like the culmination of a nursing career.

205

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Thank you.

206

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:36,000

To be thanked in such a special way is very memorable, something I'll never forget.

207

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:46,000

This meeting with Linda represents, in my healing, the final step,

208

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:54,000

knowing that I, in my own mind, mentally, physically, and the way I feel right now, am all right.

209

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:56,000

I've finally beat the battle.

210

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:59,000

We lost a few battles, but I've won the war.

211

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:02,000

Let me rephrase that. I have won the war.

212

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:15,000

When we return, we will meet a sweet and charming little old lady who, in reality, is a cunning and elusive crook.

213

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:20,000

Most of us consider ourselves decent judges of character.

214

00:19:20,000 --> 00:19:25,000

We'd think we'd know a crook if we saw one, but con artists come in all sorts of packages.

215

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Even a grandmother baking goodies could be out to take your money and run.

216

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:32,000

Meet Gertrude Pruitt.

217

00:19:32,000 --> 00:19:36,000

Morning, everybody. Come on out, Katie.

218

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:44,000

From 1979 to 1981, this grandmotherly 70-year-old con woman ran what appeared to be a flourishing investment business in Beverly Hills.

219

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:46,000

Don't you have some of my fruit cake?

220

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Thank you very much. Thanks a lot.

221

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:55,000

This crafty granny hid her seamy business activities behind a facade of southern hospitality and homemade fruit cake,

222

00:19:55,000 --> 00:20:01,000

while making off with the family of the woman who was the first to be found.

223

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:12,000

You couldn't help but like her, and when you looked at the woman, she was so smooth and trusting and very soft-sell that she...

224

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:16,000

you thought of as almost family.

225

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:19,000

She was a homey businesswoman.

226

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:25,000

Even though you knew she had the business skills, she was a very good woman.

227

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:28,000

She was a homey businesswoman.

228

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:34,000

Even though you knew she had the business skills, she also never lost her touch in the kitchen.

229

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:38,000

I mean, I'm not a big fruit cake lover, but they were delicious, to be honest with you.

230

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:43,000

As you see, this carpeting is so beautiful, isn't it? And all these lovely colors.

231

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:50,000

Gertrude claimed that her investment opportunities came from special connections with carpet factories and textile mills in the south.

232

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:54,000

And we have pre-sold a large order to hotel chains.

233

00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:00,000

What impressed me the most was that although the return seemed almost too good to be true,

234

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

Gertrude seemed like such a loving, sincere person that it was a legitimate investment and that she could do no harm to her investors.

235

00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:17,000

Well, of course you should give it some thought. I think it would be nice if you would talk to Cecil about it a little more.

236

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:22,000

Even when Gertrude didn't feed people her own home cooking, she insisted that they be fed.

237

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Here, why don't you take this and take my cup for lunch, the brown derby. It's just around the corner.

238

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:31,000

You've got awfully good food. Awfully nice meeting you and you'll be hearing from me soon.

239

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:41,000

Nothing was too good for Gertrude Pruitt's clients. She often hired limousines to pick up potential investors and bring them to her posh office building.

240

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:48,000

One of those investors was a woman who had soon discovered that she had a weakness for charm and fruit cake.

241

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:52,000

She has requested that her identity be kept secret. We will call her Myrna.

242

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:57,000

Hi. Hi. I'm Myrna Patterson. I have an appointment with Gertrude Pruitt.

243

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:58,000

Thank you.

244

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:07,000

Gertrude selected a really magnificent outlay for just selling carpets. I mean, this was two

stories high.

245

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Mrs. Patterson!

246

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:17,000

Well, my first impression of Gertrude was that she was standing there sizing me up.

247

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:33,000

And then because she was so cordial, she was southern and so sort of warm, that I forgot all about the fact that I was being sized up and just entered into her world of how bright she was and how able she was.

248

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:37,000

I have a wonderful business opportunity for you. Have you?

249

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:51,000

I originally invested about 20,000, but as I watched the operation from the sheets, the balance sheets that were coming out monthly and watched the fact that people were getting their interest, I invested more.

250

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:54,000

And this is my secretary, Jennifer.

251

00:22:54,000 --> 00:23:06,000

Well, Gertrude really was the office. She was out working every day early in the morning until very late at night, handling the customers, handling the money.

252

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:12,000

And Harold was in his office, but what he was doing, I never knew.

253

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:24,000

Gertrude's 40-year-old son, Harold, was her partner in the business, but he had very little contact with the clients. He was a glowering, unfriendly man, in sharp contrast to his sweet southern mother.

254

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

Oh, yes, I'd like to.

255

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:34,000

Even though I was Gertrude and Harold's banker for two and a half years, I never really met Harold for almost the first year and a half.

256

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:45,000

He was the kind of a person who you would not have trusted or bought a car from, you might say.

257

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:51,000

Mernon invested \$100,000 before she had her first inkling that something was wrong.

258

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:58,000

Gertrude, Gertrude, you know that check you gave me, it bounced. I just came from the bank, they said insufficient funds.

259

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Oh, I don't believe that.

260

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:01,000

Well, I do. I just came from the bank.

261

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:06,000

I don't know what happened. Harold just deposited a large check and it was not a clue yet.

262

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:14,000

Sick as I was inside, I was still playing it like a friend, which I thought she was.

263

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:25,000

It was impossible for Mernon to believe that this charming, adorable woman could be conning her, so instead of pressing the issue, she took home a fruitcake and accepted a lunch date.

264

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:30,000

Thank you. Aw, we put you to some trouble. So how about lunch next week?

265

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:40,000

Mernon's bad check was not the only one. The Pruitt switchboard was jammed with angry calls. Both Gertrude and Harold made themselves scarce.

266

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:47,000

Katie, have you heard from Gertrude? Here's more messages. Thank you very much for holding. No.

267

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:53,000

Finally, employee Cecil Trussell secretly contacted the Pruitt's accountant and received a rude shock.

268

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:00,000

The financial statements Gertrude had been showing investors were completely different from the accountant's records.

269

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

Well, Steve, that can only mean that statements are fraudulent.

270

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:11,000

It was at that particular period of time I knew that there were serious problems and I just didn't know where they had been stashing money.

271

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:13,000

OK, I'll get back to you. Bye.

272

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:20,000

So at night, sometimes between the weeby hours of one and three, I made midnight raids.

273

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:28,000

I found every cancel check, every statement that had been paid, everything that I could remove out of that office.

274

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:33,000

And by the end of the time, I had about four cardboard boxes full of stuff.

275

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

Because his friends and family had invested heavily with the Pruitt's, Cecil confronted Harold with his evidence.

276

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Harold, I've got enough evidence to prove that this whole company is a phony and you've got two days to come up with the money or I'm going to go to the authorities.

277

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:50,000

Are you threatening me?

278

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:52,000

I'm not threatening you, Harold. I'm telling you the truth.

279

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:58,000

He told me all of the people had done nothing but made investments and there was a risk to be made.

280

00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:08,000

And I looked at him and I said to him, I said, Harold, they made an investment on a pack of lies that you have presented to them and that's called fraud.

281

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

Cecil reported both Harold and Gertrude Pruitt to the authorities, but the two of them had disappeared, taking their investors' money with them.

282

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Three years later, the FBI tracked down Harold Pruitt and in 1986 brought him to trial.

283

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:26,000

None of the investors' money was recovered.

284

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

Sweet motherly Gertrude Pruitt was nowhere to be found.

285

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:36,000

It was really amazing that Gertrude would leave Harold behind to take the rap.

286

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:44,000

Everybody thought that Harold was a little bit of a hard character, but Gertrude still was the sweet loving mama.

287

00:26:44,000 --> 00:26:51,000

And when she failed to show up and became a fugitive, everybody was surprised.

288

00:26:53,000 --> 00:26:58,000

Based on the trial testimony of 10 victims, Harold was convicted on 20 counts of male fraud.

289

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:02,000

He is currently serving an eight-year sentence at a California state prison.

290

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:05,000

His mother was never apprehended.

291

00:27:07,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Update. Gertrude Pruitt has been captured.

292

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:19,000

Just minutes after this story originally aired, the Sacramento, California FBI office received several calls from viewers who recognized Pruitt.

293

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Five days later, she was arrested at a Bakersfield, California residence where she was working as a live-in housekeeper under the assumed name Martha Gray.

294

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:34,000

On May 29, 1990, Gertrude Pruitt pleaded guilty to seven counts of male fraud.

295

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:39,000

She was sentenced to eight years in prison and is currently serving her term at a federal penitentiary.

296

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Pruitt was also ordered to pay restitution to her former investors.

297

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Next, the baffling story of the murder of a popular bank president.

298

00:27:49,000 --> 00:28:04,000

Was robbery the motive or was it a brutal execution?

299

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:25,000

At 8.30 a.m. the morning of October 6, 1989, an employee of the North Missouri State Bank arrived

as usual to open the doors.

300

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:30,000

Strangely, one of them was unlocked.

301

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:33,000

Anybody here?

302

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

What she saw inside shocked her. The vault was wide open. During the night, the bank had been robbed.

303

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:46,000

The FBI, along with three different police forces, investigated.

304

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:50,000

They discovered two .45 caliber bullet casings.

305

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:54,000

\$70,000 was missing from the vault, some of it in coins.

306

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:57,000

Tried to end short again.

307

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:05,000

Repeated attempts were made to contact the bank president, Dan Short, but he was nowhere to be found.

308

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:07,000

It's just ringing.

309

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:13,000

In the middle of the scandal, Dan Short had robbed his own bank.

310

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:18,000

Dan Short was 51 years old and separated from his wife of 23 years.

311

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:27,000

He had been president of the state bank of Knowles since 1983 and was popular with people in town.

312

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

On October 11, 1989, five days after the robbery, Dan Short's body was finally found,

313

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:37,000

floating in a grand lake 20 miles from the bank.

314

00:29:37,000 --> 00:29:43,000

From a copper truce, Dan Short had been alive while he was thrown into the water.

315

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:55,000

He was tied to a chair which had a concrete block taped to it with duct tape with no apparent wounds to the extent it caused death.

316

00:29:55,000 --> 00:30:02,000

It appeared at that point that he had indeed been drowned by being thrown from the bridge.

317

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:15,000

It was appalling to think that any human being would do this to another, particularly with the obvious motive being just to conceal a robbery, the identities of the perpetrators.

318

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:24,000

If Dan Short's murder was simply part of a bank robbery, why would the robbers choose such a deliberately cruel way of killing their hostage?

319

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:31,000

People no longer wondered if Dan Short had robbed his own bank, but they did begin to wonder if he might have had enemies bent on revenge.

320

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:39,000

Could Dan Short's bizarre death have been an execution with a bank robbery used merely as a cover?

321

00:30:39,000 --> 00:30:45,000

Nole, Missouri, population 1200, is located just a few miles from the Oklahoma and Arkansas borders.

322

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:51,000

Its economy centers around chicken farming.

323

00:30:51,000 --> 00:30:57,000

When Dan Short took over the state bank presidency in 1983, the local economy was in bad shape.

324

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Dan had the tricky job of balancing the needs of the local people with the bank's need to turn a profit.

325

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

In the process, he naturally alienated some people.

326

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:08,000

Dan, could I talk to you about that appraisal?

327

00:31:08,000 --> 00:31:09,000

Sure.

328

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:14,000

He had some difficulties that he had to straighten out in order for the bank to function properly.

329

00:31:14,000 --> 00:31:24,000

There was repossessions, restructuring, denial of credit, but even though he had a difficult position, he was able to win the people over.

330

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:26,000

He became a friend of the people.

331

00:31:26,000 --> 00:31:29,000

He wasn't particularly outgoing.

332

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

He wasn't a back slapper, but people accepted him for what he was, and that was just a genuinely nice person.

333

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

Dan Short lived eight miles outside of Nole in an extremely isolated location.

334

00:31:44,000 --> 00:31:50,000

On the night of the robbery, he had a guest who left just before 11 p.m.

335

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:58,000

The FBI's attempted to reconstruct what happened once Dan Short was alone in his home.

336

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:04,000

They believe his abductor showed up sometime between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1.30 a.m.

337

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Now use your telephone please.

338

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:07,000

What?

339

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,000

My car broke down at the road.

340

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:10,000

May I use your telephone?

341

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:19,000

Probably the perpetrators went to his front door, harmed, and when Mr. Short answered the door, they immediately restrained him and later took him to the bank.

342

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:22,000

We want this money.

343

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:29,000

According to the FBI, Dan Short and his abductors arrived at the bank around 2 a.m.

344

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

Indications are that the perpetrators forced him to turn the alarm off to unlock the front doors.

345

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Then after gaining entry into the bank, dealt with the surveillance camera to some extent, spray-painting the lens and turning the camera around backwards.

346

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:53,000

Hey, where's the money?

347

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Open it up.

348

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:55,000

Right.

349

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:56,000

Come on.

350

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:08,000

The perpetrators took only what cash they saw in the vault, which was approximately \$70,000 including coins.

351

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:10,000

Where's the money?

352

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:26,000

Leaving behind approximately \$100,000 that Mr. Short was aware of led us to believe that he was not willingly involved and probably did not volunteer that the extra currency was there at the time of the robbery.

353

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:31,000

As the robbers left the bank, one of them fired at the surveillance camera, disconnecting it.

354

00:33:31,000 --> 00:33:34,000

People who lived nearby heard the shots.

355

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:36,000

The time was shortly before 3 a.m.

356

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:49,000

A few minutes later, in the outskirts of town, a caravan of three vehicles was sighted by a local trucker.

357

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:52,000

The first vehicle looked like Dan Short's pickup.

358

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:58,000

I was driving south through town.

359

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:03,000

I've seen a red pickup with two vehicles falling across the bridge.

360

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:07,000

I didn't pay that much attention to the ones behind it.

361

00:34:07,000 --> 00:34:13,000

I went on south and the little blue pickup passed me about a half a mile south.

362

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Cut me short and as he cut me short, he looked back out of the back glass and I seen his face.

363

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:26,000

He was a heavy-set guy with long hair and beard, brown hair.

364

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Only the killers know exactly what happened during the next three hours.

365

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:35,000

At some point, they ditched Dan Short's pickup and put him in the van.

366

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:39,000

There, they chained him to a kitchen chair with weights attached.

367

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:50,000

It's very possible that Mr. Short was even unconscious as they put him into the chair due to the fact that the chair was not a strong piece of furniture.

368

00:34:50,000 --> 00:35:01,000

And with the weight already on it, any kind of struggle would have likely broken the chair up prior to even arriving at the bridge.

369

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:08,000

We know that Mr. Short was alive when he was thrown into the lake.

370

00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:12,000

What we don't know is if he was conscious or unconscious.

371

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:22,000

But the fact that he was not gagged leads us to the belief that he was unconscious when he was thrown into the lake.

372

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:39,000

At 6 a.m., witnesses cited a dark van stopped on the bridge, but it sped away before they could get a license number.

373

00:35:42,000 --> 00:35:46,000

Why had Dan Short's subductors killed him in such a cruel manner?

374

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:52,000

It was a question no one could answer, but there were theories it seemed to lead back to the banking business.

375

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

I'm sorry, I'm going to have to turn you down.

376

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Well, I'm certain that there are some people out there that have some real animosity, some hatred towards the state bank of Nolan, Dan Short.

377

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:11,000

He had denied credit to people, and the denial of credit probably broke others.

378

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:16,000

Dan had worked in, I think, three other banks.

379

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Maybe something followed him here from someplace else.

380

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Maybe he stumbled across something in this area he shouldn't have.

381

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

Maybe a drug deal, maybe a money laundering.

382

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

There's any number of things that could have happened that none of us are aware of, and that's where the confusion comes from.

383

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

There just was no reason.

384

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:45,000

Police have few clues to go on, but they believe the medium blue Chevy Love may be vital to solving the case.

385

00:36:45,000 --> 00:36:50,000

One week before the robbery, the Love and its driver were sighted at a local gas station,

386

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:54,000

and the same trucker who saw them on the night Dan Short was murdered.

387

00:36:54,000 --> 00:37:02,000

Well, there's an older model, Blue Chevrolet Love, with a white toolbox in the back, and they had the Oklahoma tags.

388

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:06,000

I looked at the tag, and I looked back up at the guy, you know, as he turned around.

389

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:14,000

I had just a heavy-sit guy big through the chest, big neck, big face, and lots of hair, lots of beard.

390

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:21,000

The Love was seen again four days before the robbery near Dan Short's house.

391

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:28,000

Dan had told his brother that he felt he was being staked out, and that on one occasion his home had actually been broken into.

392

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Because of this, authorities believe that Dan's killers had planned everything in advance.

393

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:39,000

The bank robbery may have been only a cover-up for his execution.

394

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:42,000

Robber's amateur behavior supports this theory.

395

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:45,000

They left behind numerous fingerprints.

396

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:52,000

They stole heavy bags of coins, and they fired unnecessary shots.

397

00:37:52,000 --> 00:38:08,000

I want them to find the people that did this, and to explain to me why they had to kill my brother over 50 or 60 thousand dollars.

398

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:11,000

And I want to know why that happened.

399

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:27,000

The Love was seen again four days before the robbery near Dan Short's house.

400

00:38:27,000 --> 00:38:30,000

The money was stolen from Dan Short's house.

401

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:33,000

The money was stolen from Dan Short's house.

402

00:38:33,000 --> 00:38:35,000

The Love was seen again four days before the robbery near Dan Short's house.

403

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:41,000

When we return, the incredible tale of a Loch Ness-type monster that just might exist in British Columbia.

404

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:48,000

Film footage shown for the first time on television appears to reveal this creature that has eluded searchers for decades.

405

00:38:53,000 --> 00:39:03,000

Over the last century, renowned scientists and amateur investigators have grappled with the mystery of the Loch Ness monster.

406

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:13,000

That elusive lake creature in Scotland sighted more than 3,000 times over the last 50 years, but never so far adequately explained.

407

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Some zoologists now actually theorize that the monster's home, Loch Ness, may be connected by underwater channels to the sea,

408

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:29,000

and that the Loch Ness monster is in fact a sea serpent of some kind, traveling back and forth between the lake and the ocean.

409

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:36,000

The zoologists also theorize that hundreds of other lakes located in the same approximate latitude band as Loch Ness

410

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:43,000

could have similar connections to the sea and could today also be home to mysterious sea creatures.

411

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:52,000

There have been reported sightings of creatures like the Loch Ness monster and approximately 60 other lakes around the world.

412

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:59,000

For example, here in Lake Storzion, Sweden, Lake Labinkir in the Soviet Union, and Lake Kushar, Japan,

413

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:04,000

all these lakes fall into the same latitude band as Loch Ness in Scotland.

414

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:10,000

So far there's been no scientific verification for any of the sightings.

415

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:17,000

The recent photographic evidence from the Canadian lake in the same latitude band suggests the bizarre but somehow enchanting thought

416

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

that here in North America we may have a Loch Ness monster of our very own.

417

00:40:24,000 --> 00:40:31,000

Lake Okanagan, located in the Canadian province of British Columbia, has for more than 300 years been the reputed home of a water beast,

418

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:34,000

which seems to resemble a sea serpent.

419

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

The lake is 79 miles long and it places 800 feet deep, an ample home for a large creature.

420

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:47,000

In the 1700s, local Indians called the beast Naitaka, or lake demon.

421

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:51,000

They routinely sacrificed small animals in order to appease the demon.

422

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Today, 300 years later, the local population still fervently believes in the existence of the creature,

423

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:01,000

which they have dubbed Ogopogo.

424

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:04,000

I saw it back in 1937.

425

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:11,000

We were facing the lake at the time and there's this head of something or other swimming around out there.

426

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:17,000

And we were all convinced that it was the Ogopogo.

427

00:41:17,000 --> 00:41:19,000

Very big. It was very scary.

428

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

About two feet out of the water, the head part, and the head itself was brown.

429

00:41:27,000 --> 00:41:34,000

And then it, the kind of a neck part went down the water and it had a great big long tail.

430

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:42,000

Like all you could see though was just a little bit of a hump sort of, just coming out of the splashes and stuff.

431

00:41:42,000 --> 00:41:46,000

And it went on for a little bit and like we saw it and then we didn't know what to do.

432

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:47,000

And then it went under.

433

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:50,000

So we just got out of there because we were like scared and it can you.

434

00:41:51,000 --> 00:42:00,000

Hundreds of sightings of Ogopogo have been reported, but no film footage was ever captured until 1968.

435

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:09,000

That year, a sawmill worker named Art Folham was driving beside the lake with his wife when he noticed something odd.

436

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:18,000

We were on our way back from holidays and we seen something in the lake, near the shore.

437

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:23,000

And I said, hey look, just jokingly, there's Ogopogo.

438

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:26,000

And she saw it, it looks like a bunch of ducks.

439

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:29,000

Anyway, I said I'm going to stop and see if I can get a picture.

440

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:33,000

I stopped filming every time it dove under the water.

441

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:37,000

And as it reappeared, I began to film again.

442

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:39,000

Yeah, it's Ogopogo, I tell you.

443

00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:57,000

The film shows a dark object diving, reappearing in a sequence of moves that indicates that it's moving out from shallow water into deeper water for a large dive into deeper water and then did not reappear.

444

00:42:58,000 --> 00:43:10,000

Because the pine trees on shore are approximately 25 feet tall, the dark mass in Art Folham's film is estimated to be 40 feet long, about the same size as a creature in the Loch Ness sightings.

445

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:21,000

In 1980, 12 years after the Folham film was made, a group of vacationers thought they too had sighted Ogopogo.

446

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:25,000

One of them, Larry Thall, had a home movie camera.

447

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:32,000

I was taking pictures of the kids and the wife and bingoed all of a sudden in Ogopogo.

448

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:37,000

Supposedly, whatever it may have been, appeared on Lake Okanagan and I was right there with my camera.

449

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

It was a strange sight in the water.

450

00:43:46,000 --> 00:43:50,000

Played in slow motion, the Thall film reveals intriguing details.

451

00:43:51,000 --> 00:43:55,000

Larry's film shows how the animal swims.

452

00:43:55,000 --> 00:43:59,000

It shows the speed and the massive waves that it creates.

453

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:04,000

It actually shows that it has some form of appendage that seems to puff up every now and then.

454

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:13,000

But the interesting thing again is that the animal that Art Folham shot and the animal that Larry Thall shot, they're basically the same size.

455

00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:15,000

They're very large creatures.

456

00:44:15,000 --> 00:44:22,000

And in Larry's film, we're seeing a creature at least 40 to 60 feet from head to tail.

457

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:25,000

No doubt. No doubt.

458

00:44:25,000 --> 00:44:33,000

Nine years later, on July 18, 1989, 78-year-old Clem Chaplin showed his son, Cannon Inlet, where he thought he had seen Ogopogo.

459

00:44:34,000 --> 00:44:38,000

The creature was going to and from a boom of logs at the mouth of a nearby creek.

460

00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:42,000

Ken took his video camera and staked out the area.

461

00:44:43,000 --> 00:44:47,000

It paid off and this is the first time his videotape has ever been seen on television.

462

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:58,000

What Ken Chaplin tape was a creature that appeared to be hairless, greenish in color, spotted in about 15 feet long, less than half the size measured in the Folden and Thall films.

463

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:03,000

I was probably 75 to 100 feet away.

464

00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:15,000

I saw its features very clearly as being a snake or lizard like no fur hair and you can see the body thrashing behind it and then brought its tail section out of the water.

465

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:27,000

Dad and I were stunned into silence and then Dad turned to me and he said, you know, if that tail hit a man, it'd probably kill him.

466

00:45:27,000 --> 00:45:30,000

And I agreed. That was our impression as to size.

467

00:45:31,000 --> 00:45:36,000

Ken took his camera back to the Inlet a few days later along with his daughter, Corey and his father.

468

00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:39,000

Once again, Ken videotaped the creature.

469

00:45:43,000 --> 00:45:50,000

It appeared swimming parallel to the shore and swam right past us at maybe 60 to 75 feet away.

470

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:55,000

And I got that on video and Dad and Corey and I saw it very clearly.

471

00:46:00,000 --> 00:46:08,000

It has a long, long snake like body. I estimated about the size of a long car, maybe 15 feet. Definitely like a snake.

472

00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:12,000

Its head poking straight out and then its body swimming and it starts to underlay through the water.

473

00:46:18,000 --> 00:46:21,000

Ken Chaplin's video caused a media sensation.

474

00:46:21,000 --> 00:46:28,000

Time magazine as well as several newspapers in the United States carried the amazing story of what appeared to be a new Loch Ness monster.

475

00:46:29,000 --> 00:46:33,000

However, opinion was widely divided and experts were called in to analyze the video.

476

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:43,000

It was not a hoax. There was nothing in there that gave us the impression this was fabricated in any way. It was a live living animal.

477

00:46:43,000 --> 00:46:50,000

The discussion revolved around the two species most likely and that is a river otter and a beaver.

478

00:46:51,000 --> 00:46:58,000

Ogo Pogo could exist elsewhere in Okanagan Lake but in our view this particular video was of a beaver.

479

00:47:00,000 --> 00:47:08,000

You know the largest recorded beaver in the interior is 4.5 feet long. Now it's 75 to 100 feet away. I guess I can't see Dad and I've been very impressed.

480

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:15,000

A beaver when it slaps its tail, the head is either level to the water or else it's already starting to go down.

481

00:47:15,000 --> 00:47:22,000

Now in this sequence here the video that I did it's arch in its head up while the tail comes down.

482

00:47:25,000 --> 00:47:30,000

On this side we have a still photograph taken from the video recording by Mr. Chaplin.

483

00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:38,000

On this side we have a color photograph of a beaver with its tail held vertically in the air just prior to a tail slap.

484

00:47:39,000 --> 00:47:44,000

The two photographs seem for the most part to be mirror images of one another.

485

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

Closer comparison of the photographs however does appear to substantiate Ken Chaplin's point that the creature he saw raised its head prior to slapping its tail whereas a beaver's head is at water level.

486

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

Also Ken says the creature he and his family saw was 15 feet long not four like a beaver and had a long snake like body.

487

00:48:04,000 --> 00:48:08,000

He also said it did not have fur and was green in color.

488

00:48:09,000 --> 00:48:15,000

I've asked myself thousands of times is there a possibility I could be mistaken and I just can't see where I could be.

489

00:48:16,000 --> 00:48:20,000

For those who want to call it a beaver I'll say no way.

490

00:48:20,000 --> 00:48:22,000

At otter I can't buy it.

491

00:48:23,000 --> 00:48:26,000

A miniature obopogo in all probability.

492

00:48:27,000 --> 00:48:35,000

Is it possible that there are several creatures living in the lake each of varying size but all belonging to the same unknown zoological family?

493

00:48:36,000 --> 00:48:44,000

Experts may disagree on the Chaplin footage but there has still been no adequate explanation for the large creature seen surfacing in Art Folden's film.

494

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

Or clearly churning up awake in the Larry Thall footage.

495

00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:56,000

In addition hundreds of other sightings over the years attested the presence of something unusual in Lake Okanagan.

496

00:48:57,000 --> 00:49:11,000

I would be delighted to find that Ogopogo really existed in Okanagan Lake and I would encourage everybody to keep their not only their minds open but their eyes open when they're in the Okanagan.

497

00:49:12,000 --> 00:49:17,000

Who knows what really exciting wildlife encounter that they may enjoy.

498

00:49:19,000 --> 00:49:22,000

Is Ogopogo real?

499

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

Well the Canadian government has declared Ogopogo an endangered species and hunting it is against the law.

500

00:49:29,000 --> 00:49:33,000

Most of the people who live on the shores of Lake Okanagan need no further proof.

501

00:49:34,000 --> 00:49:37,000

For them Ogopogo is very real indeed.

502

00:49:37,000 --> 00:49:53,000

For every mystery there is someone somewhere who knows the truth. Perhaps that someone was watching. Perhaps it's you.

503

00:50:37,000 --> 00:50:40,000

you