

1

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

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

2

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

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

3

00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:17,080

to see is not a news broadcast.

4

00:00:17,080 --> 00:00:26,600

May 9, 1986, Arizona State Prison. Patrick, Michael Mitchell and two cohorts staged a

5

00:00:26,600 --> 00:00:31,680

daring escape and broad daylight. Since then, Mitchell is suspected of robbing five banks

6

00:00:31,680 --> 00:00:37,760

at nearly one million dollars and has earned a spot on the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

7

00:00:37,760 --> 00:00:42,240

Sixty years ago in Ohio, an eight-year-old farm boy was disowned by his step-parents and

8

00:00:42,240 --> 00:00:47,120

left a fend for himself during the Depression. Today, Victor Scheinman is still looking for

9

00:00:47,120 --> 00:00:50,960

his real family and needs your help.

10

00:00:50,960 --> 00:00:56,040

From Nevada, an eerie tale of two families and one haunted house. One of the family's

11

00:00:56,080 --> 00:01:01,200

claims they took this picture of a benevolent ghost. The other family claims of their spirits

12

00:01:01,200 --> 00:01:03,840

tormented them.

13

00:01:03,840 --> 00:01:08,320

Also the FBI is asking for your help to track down a master con man who was suspected of

14

00:01:08,320 --> 00:01:14,320

brutally murdering his wife and two step-daughters. Join me. Perhaps you can help solve a mystery.

15

00:01:26,040 --> 00:01:33,040

The FBI is looking for a man who is suspected of robbing five banks at nearly one million

16

00:01:33,040 --> 00:01:39,040

dollars and has earned a spot on the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

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00:01:39,040 --> 00:01:44,040

The FBI is asking for your help to track down a master con man who was suspected of robbing

18

00:01:44,040 --> 00:01:49,040

five banks at nearly one million dollars and has earned a spot on the FBI's 10 most wanted

19

00:01:49,040 --> 00:01:50,040

list.

20

00:01:50,040 --> 00:01:57,040

December 14th, 1987, 8.30 am.

21

00:01:57,040 --> 00:02:04,040

Nobody move! Just put your hands up. There's no one who can hurt you.

22

00:02:04,040 --> 00:02:11,040

Two men wearing Ronald Reagan masks held up a bank in Gainesville, Florida. The bank

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00:02:11,040 --> 00:02:18,040

had not yet opened for visitors. The employees are marking in the weekend deposits. In less

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00:02:18,040 --> 00:02:25,040

than five minutes, the two robbers made off of nearly half a million dollars. Working with

25

00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:32,040

similar MOs, the FBI targeted Richard Joseph Landry, alias Michael Garrison, and the FBI

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00:02:34,040 --> 00:02:40,040

is asking for your help to track down a master con man who was suspected of robbing five

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00:02:40,040 --> 00:02:47,040

banks at nearly one million dollars and has earned a spot on the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

28

00:02:47,040 --> 00:02:53,040

Alias Michael Garrison, alias Roger Lanthorn, they all turned out to be the same man, Patrick

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00:02:53,040 --> 00:02:58,040

Michael Mitchell, one of the most skilled bank robbers in the country. During the last

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00:02:58,040 --> 00:03:04,040

15 years, his heists have netted close to three million dollars.

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00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:10,040

Patrick Michael Mitchell is an escape artist, a master of disguise. He changes identities

32

00:03:10,040 --> 00:03:16,040

like most men change shirts. Each time he robs a bank, he wears a different comic mask,

33

00:03:16,040 --> 00:03:22,040

Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, even Bozo the Clown. The FBI believes a master Mitchell's

34

00:03:22,040 --> 00:03:27,040

way of thumbing his nose at authority. Today, after 14 bank robberies in the United States

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00:03:27,040 --> 00:03:33,040

and Canada and two prison escapes, Mitchell is a newest addition to the FBI's 10 most

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00:03:33,040 --> 00:03:40,040

wanted list. I guess you could best describe him as being confident. He's even vain to

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00:03:41,040 --> 00:03:47,040

a certain extent and that we believe him to have taken the prescription drug of Retin A,

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00:03:47,040 --> 00:03:54,040

which supposedly helps your, keeps your youthful appearance. He's been described as having

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00:03:54,040 --> 00:04:01,040

an athletic build. He likes the ladies. He fancies himself as a gourmet cook. Matter

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00:04:01,040 --> 00:04:06,040

of fact, we've even recovered some cookbooks from the trunk of one of his cars. So far,

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00:04:06,040 --> 00:04:13,040

we've developed at least 25 different aliases he's used in the past 11 years.

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00:04:13,040 --> 00:04:19,040

In 1983, Patrick Mitchell was given a 20-year sentence at Arizona State Prison for bank robbery.

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00:04:22,040 --> 00:04:28,040

On May 9th, 1986, he and two other prisoners assigned to janitorial duties staged a bold

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00:04:28,040 --> 00:04:34,040

escape. It had been meticulously planned and precisely timed by Mitchell himself.

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00:04:35,040 --> 00:04:37,040

Yeah, yeah, we're out.

46

00:04:51,040 --> 00:04:56,040

None of the guards noticed that the three men were missing. No alarms had been set off.

47

00:04:57,040 --> 00:05:02,040

Wearing street clothes, he had hidden in a utility room. The three convicts simply walked

48

00:05:02,040 --> 00:05:09,040

outside. A girlfriend of one of the prisoners was waiting for them. She had been duped into

49

00:05:13,040 --> 00:05:19,040

believing that the men were on a weekend furlough. He escaped but off without a hitch. One of

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00:05:19,040 --> 00:05:24,040

the men would eventually be arrested in Atlanta, Georgia. Patrick Michael Mitchell, with a third

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00:05:24,040 --> 00:05:28,040

escapee, Johnny Salazar Stewart, headed for Gainesville, Florida.

52

00:05:29,040 --> 00:05:35,040

They come into a town a month or two in advance. They come in on several occasions, stay at local

53

00:05:35,040 --> 00:05:42,040

hotels and motels. We believe either by staking out department stores or armored car services,

54

00:05:43,040 --> 00:05:47,040

they then determine when and where they will make their hit.

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00:05:47,040 --> 00:05:54,040

The way I see it, armored car gets there between 8.15 and 8.20. We'll watch them go.

56

00:05:55,040 --> 00:06:02,040

In the fall of 1987, Patrick Mitchell and Johnny Stewart began planning a robbery in Gainesville.

57

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

Mitchell read it a self-story unit with a good view of both the bank they intended to rob and the

58

00:06:10,040 --> 00:06:16,040

armored car company that served the bank. Mitchell pretended to load and unload boxes from the

59

00:06:16,040 --> 00:06:23,040

story unit while he observed the routine operating movements of the armored car company.

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00:06:25,040 --> 00:06:35,040

Patrick Mitchell never went inside the bank himself. Instead, he sent Johnny Stewart to scout the interior.

61

00:06:38,040 --> 00:06:44,040

Actually, it's a pretty good idea. This individual, after they open account, has a legitimate reason for being in the bank.

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00:06:44,040 --> 00:06:49,040

So there will be no questions for an individual who has an account there, walking around, looking around and

63

00:06:49,040 --> 00:06:57,040

conversing with different customers and employees. He can also be there when deliveries are made by the armored car services

64

00:06:57,040 --> 00:07:03,040

possibly, where he can see actually what they're doing and how they're doing it after deliveries are made.

65

00:07:04,040 --> 00:07:10,040

7.30 a.m. the day of the robbery, Mitchell and Stewart meet at the self-storage facility.

66

00:07:11,040 --> 00:07:23,040

7.50 a.m. the bank employees begin filing in to prepare for business hours. The bank will open in one hour and ten minutes.

67

00:07:27,040 --> 00:07:32,040

8.00 a.m. the armored car leaves to pick up deposits from several nearby stores.

68

00:07:33,040 --> 00:07:38,040

8.10 a.m. the Gainesville police officer receives a bomb.

69

00:07:38,040 --> 00:07:40,040

Are you telling me what time it's going to go off?

70

00:07:40,040 --> 00:07:44,040

It's target, a junior high school in northeast Gainesville. It's going to go off in ten minutes.

71

00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:46,040

The same police district as the bank.

72

00:07:46,040 --> 00:07:48,040

Hello.

73

00:07:48,040 --> 00:07:56,040

8.22 a.m. the armored car guards arrive at the bank, swelling its total deposits on hand to \$300,000.

74

00:07:57,040 --> 00:08:07,040

7.00 a.m. the patrol cars are dispatched to the site of the bomb threat 32 blocks from the bank.

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00:08:07,040 --> 00:08:13,040

Police now believe that Patrick Mitchell phoned in the false alarm as a diversionary tactic.

76

00:08:16,040 --> 00:08:20,040

8.25 a.m. Mitchell and Stewart make their move.

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00:08:27,040 --> 00:08:32,040

Go on, anybody move. Put your hands up, no one will get hurt.

78

00:08:37,040 --> 00:08:41,040

Where are the money bags that the armored truck just dropped off?

79

00:08:41,040 --> 00:08:48,040

I was thinking he's either going to shoot some batteries, going to take someone hostage. I was very frightened.

80

00:08:48,040 --> 00:08:56,040

I remembered laying on the floor in the back. I kept thinking I'll never see my husband or my children again.

81

00:08:56,040 --> 00:09:01,040

I started to cry. I remember thinking that he was going to shoot me in the back.

82

00:09:03,040 --> 00:09:06,040

Keep your hands up, no one will get hurt.

83

00:09:06,040 --> 00:09:21,040

This is a bomb. Nobody move and it won't go off.

84

00:09:23,040 --> 00:09:31,040

As the two men flee, Mitchell drops a bag containing \$28,000. Nevertheless, their take for the day is nearly half a million dollars.

85

00:09:32,040 --> 00:09:36,040

The bomb is a phony, but it buys valuable escape time.

86

00:09:37,040 --> 00:09:45,040

8.40 a.m. A woman who works at the storage facility sees Mitchell drive away, a rack full of clothes hung across the back seat.

87

00:09:45,040 --> 00:09:49,040

It is the last sighting of Patrick Michael Mitchell in Gainesville.

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00:09:53,040 --> 00:09:57,040

Two months after the Gainesville robbery, Johnny Salazar Stewart was apprehended.

89

00:09:58,040 --> 00:10:05,040

Despite his innocence plea, he was tried and convicted for his role in the robbery in his today's serving of 40-year sentence.

90

00:10:06,040 --> 00:10:14,040

A year after the robbery, Patrick Mitchell's Cadillac was found abandoned in a storage facility in Tallahassee, 150 miles from Gainesville.

91

00:10:14,040 --> 00:10:20,040

The car was clean of evidence, but Mitchell did leave nine cookbooks in the back seat.

92

00:10:21,040 --> 00:10:26,040

During the last two years, Mitchell has been cited in Texas, Georgia, and Alabama.

93

00:10:26,040 --> 00:10:33,040

However he is Canadian and authorities believe he could have returned to Canada. His last known alias was Johnny Grant.

94

00:10:35,040 --> 00:10:43,040

I think it's imperative that we find Patrick Michael Mitchell because I don't believe that he'll be stopping with the Gainesville robbery.

95

00:10:43,040 --> 00:10:54,040

Based on his previous activities in the past 11 years and his hit frequency, I believe that it's not if he's going to hit but when he's going to hit.

96

00:11:13,040 --> 00:11:22,040

Next, the poignant saga of a little boy torn from his family during the Depression. Perhaps you can help reunite him with his brothers and sisters.

97

00:11:32,040 --> 00:11:37,040

Dylan Vale, Ohio, 1929. The darkest days of the Great Depression.

98

00:11:38,040 --> 00:11:45,040

For an eight-year-old farm boy named Frank, the hard times common to all Americans were especially cruel.

99

00:11:50,040 --> 00:11:57,040

I had the chickens to feed and the grass to cotton, chores to do, and of course I was busy.

100

00:11:59,040 --> 00:12:03,040

I didn't mind that so much because I'd like to have been fed afterward.

101

00:12:04,040 --> 00:12:10,040

For as far back as he can remember, Frank's hardships went beyond his thankless chores.

102

00:12:11,040 --> 00:12:15,040

Have you fed the chickens yet? What have you been doing, you're such a lazy boy. This whole barn has to be clean.

103

00:12:15,040 --> 00:12:18,040

This new hay has to be spread and those chickens have to be fed.

104

00:12:18,040 --> 00:12:21,040

I went so hungry the smell of food made me sick.

105

00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:23,040

No supper for you.

106

00:12:26,040 --> 00:12:32,040

I wasn't allowed in the house. I'd sleep at the barn most of the time or with the dog.

107

00:12:34,040 --> 00:12:40,040

I was bitter, angry, and a very upset young man, say the least.

108

00:12:44,040 --> 00:12:47,040

By age nine, Frank's life had completely disintegrated.

109

00:12:47,040 --> 00:12:53,040

His parents informed him that he wasn't even their son and ordered him off the farm and out of their lives.

110

00:12:54,040 --> 00:12:57,040

Frank was told that his real parents didn't want him either.

111

00:12:57,040 --> 00:13:02,040

They had turned him over to the State Welfare Department just days after he was born.

112

00:13:02,040 --> 00:13:08,040

Frank was left to fend for himself. He had no family and no idea who he really was.

113

00:13:11,040 --> 00:13:15,040

The search for a missing family and one's true identity can be a difficult ordeal.

114

00:13:16,040 --> 00:13:22,040

Many times years of research end with disappointment and the dust-covered files of some county record department.

115

00:13:23,040 --> 00:13:27,040

For those who do succeed, the solution can sometimes be more painful than the quest.

116

00:13:28,040 --> 00:13:32,040

When a child discovers he was abandoned by parents who simply didn't care,

117

00:13:33,040 --> 00:13:39,040

this was a fear that haunted nine-year-old Frank, who's search for the truth would last more than half a century.

118

00:13:43,040 --> 00:13:49,040

After being put out of his home, Frank was shuffled from state institutions to foster families and back again.

119

00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:53,040

I was a ward of the State of Ohio.

120

00:13:54,040 --> 00:13:57,040

I ate at the soup kitchens.

121

00:13:58,040 --> 00:14:02,040

I stole food off the front of stores. Just to eat.

122

00:14:02,040 --> 00:14:04,040

No, it was not a thief.

123

00:14:06,040 --> 00:14:09,040

I didn't know anything about my parents.

124

00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:13,040

I was told all types of stories like the family deserted me.

125

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

I just was lost.

126

00:14:17,040 --> 00:14:19,040

Frank? Frank?

127

00:14:19,040 --> 00:14:21,040

Frank?

128

00:14:21,040 --> 00:14:23,040

As a teenager, Frank's troubles continued.

129

00:14:24,040 --> 00:14:26,040

Did you hear my question?

130

00:14:27,040 --> 00:14:29,040

Did you read your homework last night?

131

00:14:29,040 --> 00:14:33,040

The belief that his birth parents had willfully abandoned him left Frank dispirited and aimless.

132

00:14:33,040 --> 00:14:35,040

Frank, this is the third time in two weeks.

133

00:14:35,040 --> 00:14:40,040

You're going to stay after school and write the entire chapter on pronouns until you finish.

134

00:14:40,040 --> 00:14:43,040

But at 16, his life took an unexpected turn.

135

00:14:43,040 --> 00:14:47,040

A concerned social worker confirmed that Frank was not his real name.

136

00:14:47,040 --> 00:14:49,040

He had been born Victor Scheiman.

137

00:14:49,040 --> 00:14:51,040

The counselor also made a promise.

138

00:14:51,040 --> 00:14:58,040

If Frank applied himself in the state in school, his real parents would be in the audience when he received his diploma.

139

00:14:59,040 --> 00:15:01,040

He told me my name was Victor Scheiman.

140

00:15:01,040 --> 00:15:08,040

I had a family that he would see that my parents and that would be there on my graduation day.

141

00:15:09,040 --> 00:15:11,040

And I buckled down when to work.

142

00:15:11,040 --> 00:15:13,040

Thank you.

143

00:15:16,040 --> 00:15:17,040

Brad Carney.

144

00:15:17,040 --> 00:15:20,040

The day Frank had worked so hard for finally came.

145

00:15:20,040 --> 00:15:22,040

He was going to meet his real family.

146

00:15:23,040 --> 00:15:26,040

Frank asked that he officially be graduated Victor Scheiman.

147

00:15:26,040 --> 00:15:29,040

It's the first time he'll lose his real name.

148

00:15:30,040 --> 00:15:32,040

Victor Scheiman.

149

00:15:36,040 --> 00:15:40,040

I thought if my parents were in the audience, they would hear the name and they would respond.

150

00:15:40,040 --> 00:15:42,040

Lisa Goldblatt.

151

00:15:48,040 --> 00:15:50,040

Nobody showed up.

152

00:15:50,040 --> 00:15:52,040

Andy Robinson.

153

00:15:52,040 --> 00:15:56,040

And what's turned out to be one of the sorryest days of my life.

154

00:15:58,040 --> 00:15:59,040

Tina Marie Miller.

155

00:15:59,040 --> 00:16:06,040

I wrote to the Bureau of Charities, the Welfare Department, State of Ohio.

156

00:16:07,040 --> 00:16:13,040

And the answer they got that I received that nothing could be found.

157

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

They knew very little.

158

00:16:17,040 --> 00:16:21,040

And that my family had just disappeared without a trace.

159

00:16:22,040 --> 00:16:24,040

So I gave up.

160

00:16:29,040 --> 00:16:33,040

At a complete dead end, Victor had no choice but to move ahead with his life.

161

00:16:34,040 --> 00:16:38,040

In the 1950s, he married Eleanor Kell and started a family of his own.

162

00:16:38,040 --> 00:16:43,040

For 34 years, Victor all but abandoned the hope of finding his family.

163

00:16:45,040 --> 00:16:50,040

But in 1984, Victor learned of an organization in Reynoldsburg, Ohio called Reunite,

164

00:16:50,040 --> 00:16:54,040

a support group for people searching for lost loved ones.

165

00:16:55,040 --> 00:17:00,040

An old school chum told me about this group and I thought, well, what have I got to lose?

166

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

A little bit of time? I can spare that.

167

00:17:04,040 --> 00:17:07,040

So I went and I was very amazed.

168

00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:09,040

My name is Victor Scheinman.

169

00:17:09,040 --> 00:17:14,040

I was born September the 5th, 1921 in Alliance, Ohio.

170

00:17:14,040 --> 00:17:17,040

Victor told the group the story of his childhood.

171

00:17:17,040 --> 00:17:21,040

That evening, he met amateur genealogist Rose Murphy.

172

00:17:21,040 --> 00:17:28,040

This man has spent his entire life, 60 plus years, without any knowledge of his history.

173

00:17:28,040 --> 00:17:31,040

I couldn't believe that that could be true.

174

00:17:32,040 --> 00:17:38,040

And it just, it went crossgreens to everything I believe in because I think everyone has the right to their history.

175

00:17:39,040 --> 00:17:45,040

Rose Murphy was determined to find Victor's family and solve the puzzle which had eluded Victor his entire life.

176

00:17:45,040 --> 00:17:51,040

She began sifting through a labyrinth of state adoption records, county welfare files and old newspapers.

177

00:17:52,040 --> 00:17:58,040

Incredibly, less than a week later, she discovered the obituary of a Hungarian immigrant named Lena Schemann.

178

00:17:59,040 --> 00:18:07,040

Lena had died in 1921, just hours after giving birth to her 11th child, the baby's name, Victor.

179

00:18:08,040 --> 00:18:16,040

When I contacted a Hungarian language professor, he said that he would venture to guess and would probably be right

180

00:18:16,040 --> 00:18:24,040

that the family name was actually Simon, a common Hungarian family name, but pronounced by a Hungarian-spoken person

181

00:18:24,040 --> 00:18:35,040

and heard by an English ear would be spelled as Schemann or Schemann or any other forms of spelling, depending upon the person hearing it.

182

00:18:35,040 --> 00:18:42,040

Within 20 minutes, I had located Victor's original birth certificate that had sit here for 64 years.

183

00:18:42,040 --> 00:18:48,040

They hadn't caught it because they're searching for it as the Schemann family rather than the Simon family.

184

00:18:50,040 --> 00:18:57,040

Information found in the obituary and birth certificate enabled Rose to reconstruct the events surrounding Victor's birth.

185

00:18:57,040 --> 00:19:04,040

Victor's father, Dan Simon, had worked for the railroad in Alliance Ohio just 100 miles from where Victor had grown up.

186

00:19:05,040 --> 00:19:12,040

Just before Victor's birth, a tragic series of events was set into motion that would separate him from his family.

187

00:19:12,040 --> 00:19:19,040

The bones and Dan Simon's ankle were shattered.

188

00:19:19,040 --> 00:19:24,040

He was rushed to the hospital.

189

00:19:24,040 --> 00:19:30,040

The bones and Dan Simon's ankle were shattered.

190

00:19:30,040 --> 00:19:35,040

He was rushed to the hospital.

191

00:19:35,040 --> 00:19:40,040

That afternoon, Dan's wife, Lena, went into labor.

192

00:19:40,040 --> 00:19:47,040

Push! That's it! You've got to help me! Good!

193

00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:54,040

I can imagine a tremendous struggle going on physically as well as emotionally.

194

00:19:54,040 --> 00:19:59,040

I can't believe I'm in this.

195

00:19:59,040 --> 00:20:11,040

I can imagine a tremendous struggle going on physically as well as emotionally in that room as Lena gave life to Victor and lost her own in the process.

196

00:20:17,040 --> 00:20:24,040

I will fear no evil for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff may come.

197

00:20:24,040 --> 00:20:31,040

According to her obituary, Mr. Simon was taken from the hospital to the funeral.

198

00:20:31,040 --> 00:20:36,040

With this broken ankle, the father being totally unable to care for the child,

199

00:20:36,040 --> 00:20:46,040

welfare placed the child for foster care and in fact indicated in their records that the father agreed to that foster care only with great regret.

200

00:20:46,040 --> 00:20:53,040

Well, here he is. Strong and healthy boy. His name is Victor.

201

00:20:53,040 --> 00:20:55,040

We've decided to call him Frank.

202

00:20:55,040 --> 00:20:57,040

Frank? Frank is your name.

203

00:20:57,040 --> 00:21:04,040

I feel very strongly that his father returned to welfare after he recuperated and was out of the hospital and said,

204

00:21:04,040 --> 00:21:08,040

you know, you have my son Victor Simon. I want my son back.

205

00:21:08,040 --> 00:21:13,040

He could very possibly have been told we don't have anybody by that name, which they didn't have.

206

00:21:13,040 --> 00:21:19,040

They had a Victor Emanuel Shimon. They didn't have a Victor Simon in their records.

207

00:21:24,040 --> 00:21:30,040

Victor Simon can take comfort in knowing that he was not truly an unwodded child,

208

00:21:30,040 --> 00:21:34,040

but rather a victim of an unlikely conspiracy of events.

209

00:21:34,040 --> 00:21:38,040

However, several pieces to the puzzle of his life are still missing.

210

00:21:41,040 --> 00:21:46,040

I hope that I meet some member of my family to know that I belong.

211

00:21:46,040 --> 00:21:49,040

I want to know what happened.

212

00:21:49,040 --> 00:21:55,040

I want my children to have their side of the family like uncles, brothers, sisters and so on.

213

00:21:55,040 --> 00:22:01,040

I just want to see somebody and talk to somebody that I belong to.

214

00:22:05,040 --> 00:22:10,040

When we return, a brutal attack leaves a mother and her two daughters dead.

215

00:22:10,040 --> 00:22:13,040

The woman's husband is wanted for murder.

216

00:22:20,040 --> 00:22:25,040

Las Vegas, city of big dreams and high rollers.

217

00:22:25,040 --> 00:22:30,040

This desert town has attracted every kind of crook and con man.

218

00:22:30,040 --> 00:22:34,040

However, during the last decade, the dry climate and limitless entertainment

219

00:22:34,040 --> 00:22:38,040

have also begun to attract a large retirement community.

220

00:22:38,040 --> 00:22:45,040

Frank Allen, a Los Angeles businessman, bought his dream retirement home in 1986.

221

00:22:45,040 --> 00:22:50,040

He was located in an elegant gated community ten miles from downtown Las Vegas.

222

00:22:50,040 --> 00:22:55,040

As a temporary measure, he rented the house to another family,

223

00:22:55,040 --> 00:23:00,040

maintaining a room for himself as well for his frequent business trips to Nevada.

224

00:23:00,040 --> 00:23:05,040

But Frank Allen had no idea that Joe Smith, the man who was renting his house,

225

00:23:05,040 --> 00:23:07,040

had an unsavory past.

226

00:23:09,040 --> 00:23:14,040

Joe Weldon Smith, who called himself a real estate investor, had a long history as a con man

227

00:23:14,040 --> 00:23:17,040

and had once been convicted of attempted grand theft.

228

00:23:17,040 --> 00:23:22,040

He lived in the Nevada house with his wife Judith and her two daughters from her previous marriage,

229

00:23:22,040 --> 00:23:25,040

12-year-old Christie and 20-year-old Wendy.

230

00:23:27,040 --> 00:23:32,040

On October 6, 1990, Frank Allen expected to have the house to himself.

231

00:23:32,040 --> 00:23:36,040

Joe Smith has said that he and his family would be out of town for a few days.

232

00:23:36,040 --> 00:23:41,040

Instead of a restful weekend, Allen had stepped into a nightmare.

233

00:23:42,040 --> 00:23:49,040

I locked the door behind me and went up the top of the steps and unlocked the bedroom and went in.

234

00:23:50,040 --> 00:23:57,040

I started undressing, took off my jacket shirt tie, and suddenly stopped in my track and said,

235

00:23:57,040 --> 00:23:59,040

something is wrong.

236

00:23:59,040 --> 00:24:02,040

I said, I don't know what it is, but something is wrong.

237

00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:15,040

Joe, what the hell are you doing?

238

00:24:15,040 --> 00:24:23,040

I grabbed him at the wrist on that arm, his right arm, and that's when I shook him and I said,

239

00:24:23,040 --> 00:24:26,040

Joe, what in the hell are you trying to do?

240

00:24:26,040 --> 00:24:30,040

And then it was clear to me that he was trying to murder me.

241

00:24:35,040 --> 00:24:40,040

Coming down the steps, I said, now I've locked myself in with these double-dead boats

242

00:24:40,040 --> 00:24:43,040

and I don't have time to reach for a key.

243

00:24:43,040 --> 00:24:47,040

So I ran across the four-year into the living room, dining room,

244

00:24:47,040 --> 00:24:51,040

and sure enough, he went the opposite direction to hit me up in the kitchen.

245

00:24:51,040 --> 00:24:54,040

And I doubled back for the front door.

246

00:24:54,040 --> 00:24:59,040

I still didn't think I had time to stumble for keys, so I went straight through the door.

247

00:25:00,040 --> 00:25:14,040

He stood in the door and glared at me and then walked back in the direction of the bar.

248

00:25:14,040 --> 00:25:21,040

And I drove my car up to the guard gate and said to the guard, call the police, there's a man in my house.

249

00:25:21,040 --> 00:25:26,040

Joe, Joe, it's the police. You're in there, come on out.

250

00:25:30,040 --> 00:25:36,040

Ten minutes later, local police arrived at the house, expecting to find Joe Smith still inside.

251

00:25:36,040 --> 00:25:40,040

They quickly made their way from the living room to a downstairs bedroom.

252

00:25:40,040 --> 00:25:42,040

Joe, come on out, Joe.

253

00:25:43,040 --> 00:25:47,040

They thought they had cornered Joe Smith hiding under a blanket.

254

00:25:47,040 --> 00:25:52,040

Instead, they were confronted with a tragic scene of 12-year-old Christy Cox, Miss Deppner.

255

00:25:52,040 --> 00:25:55,040

She had been strangled and bludgeoned to death.

256

00:25:56,040 --> 00:26:02,040

It was obvious that she had been dead for quite some time. She had several wounds to the face and to her head.

257

00:26:05,040 --> 00:26:10,040

In the next bedroom, they forcefully entered that also, and that's when Wendy Cox was found laying beside the bed.

258

00:26:10,040 --> 00:26:18,040

She had approximately 32 wounds to her head and defensive wounds to her hands, and she had also been strangled.

259

00:26:19,040 --> 00:26:31,040

Officers went upstairs, searched the open rooms, the game rooms and so forth, and then went to the master bedroom, entered that, the doors were closed, they entered that bedroom, and that's when they found Joe Smith lying in the bed.

260

00:26:33,040 --> 00:26:38,040

Joe Smith, Joe's wife and mother of the two girls had also been bludgeoned to death.

261

00:26:38,040 --> 00:26:44,040

Police later determined that the three victims had been dead for approximately 18 hours.

262

00:26:49,040 --> 00:26:54,040

Hello?

263

00:26:54,040 --> 00:26:59,040

Two hours after the bodies were discovered, Smith telephoned his wife's daughter-in-law.

264

00:26:59,040 --> 00:27:03,040

He denied all involvement in the murders.

265

00:27:03,040 --> 00:27:07,040

Joe, what's going on? It's after four in the morning.

266

00:27:07,040 --> 00:27:09,040

Are you sitting down?

267

00:27:09,040 --> 00:27:11,040

Yes.

268

00:27:11,040 --> 00:27:17,040

Approximately four at thirty in the morning, on October six, called her on the phone, told her that her mother and sisters had been murdered.

269

00:27:17,040 --> 00:27:23,040

And he had killed one of the people that did the killing and knew who the other ones were.

270

00:27:23,040 --> 00:27:30,040

Where are you? It doesn't matter where I am right now. You just have to believe I had nothing to do with it.

271

00:27:30,040 --> 00:27:39,040

If I don't kill myself, I'm going to find the guys who did it. I know who they are, and I'm going to kill them.

272

00:27:39,040 --> 00:27:50,040

In my opinion, it was a ruse by Mr. Smith to get support from Judas Smith's family members and make them believe that he was not involved in the killings.

273

00:27:50,040 --> 00:27:58,040

Joe Smith fled in a gold Lincoln Continental with Vanity, Nevada license plates, reading, Smitty Two.

274

00:27:58,040 --> 00:28:03,040

He is wanted on three counts of murder and one count of attempted murder with a deadly weapon.

275

00:28:03,040 --> 00:28:09,040

Smith is fifty years old, six feet tall, and weighs a hundred and sixty pounds.

276

00:28:09,040 --> 00:28:15,040

He has brown hair and brown eyes. He may be working in real estate.

277

00:28:15,040 --> 00:28:19,040

Police are still puzzled by what appears to have been a motiveless crime.

278

00:28:19,040 --> 00:28:22,040

By all accounts, a Smith's marriage was a happy one.

279

00:28:22,040 --> 00:28:31,040

Though Joe Smith was in dire financial straits, he was not named in his wife's will, nor did he have life insurance policies for her or her daughters.

280

00:28:31,040 --> 00:28:36,040

Authorities believe Smith may now be somewhere in the southwestern United States or Mexico.

281

00:28:36,040 --> 00:28:47,040

Just minutes after we profiled Smith's case, an anonymous viewer called our telecenter to report that the fugitive was living near Los Angeles, California.

282

00:28:47,040 --> 00:28:54,040

Smith was hiding out at this motel, but managed to escape before he could be apprehended.

283

00:28:55,040 --> 00:29:03,040

Once we established that Joe Weldon Smith was in the Los Angeles area, we focused our attention to his brother, who we knew that he had close contact with.

284

00:29:03,040 --> 00:29:09,040

After five days of surveilling this brother, we established where the suspect was residing.

285

00:29:11,040 --> 00:29:18,040

Twenty minutes later, Joe Weldon Smith was arrested at another local motel where he was registered under an assumed name.

286

00:29:19,040 --> 00:29:25,040

Inside Smith's room, detectives recovered several credit and identification cards.

287

00:29:25,040 --> 00:29:30,040

Smith told police that he was in the process of creating a new identity.

288

00:29:30,040 --> 00:29:36,040

At the time of his arrest, Joe Smith indicated to me that he had seen the last hearing of the Unsolved Mystery Program.

289

00:29:36,040 --> 00:29:43,040

He also told me that it was very tough being a fugitive, and he always knew that someone would be knocking at the door one day.

290

00:29:43,040 --> 00:29:45,040

He was kind of glad it's all over at this point.

291

00:29:48,040 --> 00:30:05,040

Next, former residents claim that this house is haunted, but are the spirits friendly, evil, or just a figure of overactive imaginations?

292

00:30:18,040 --> 00:30:25,040

In the tiny hamlet of Fish Springs, Nevada stands a 120-year-old Kansas-style farmhouse.

293

00:30:25,040 --> 00:30:31,040

It was originally built next to a graveyard in Virginia City and has been moved three times.

294

00:30:31,040 --> 00:30:37,040

Some people find it very odd that the houses managed to survive for more than a century.

295

00:30:37,040 --> 00:30:43,040

Others believe the explanation is simple. They say this house is haunted.

296

00:30:44,040 --> 00:30:55,040

I'd like to see it destroyed. I think it is a center point for spirits. The house is something keeping it alive.

297

00:30:55,040 --> 00:30:59,040

Man, I'd like to see it burn to the ground.

298

00:30:59,040 --> 00:31:09,040

I've always loved older homes, and I'm fascinated by them, by their building, and the fact that they have so much history that they've withstood all that time.

299

00:31:09,040 --> 00:31:17,040

I just feel like they have the memory of their own, just like people. They can remember the past and things that have happened there.

300

00:31:27,040 --> 00:31:33,040

There's something about haunted houses that even the most skeptical among us finds difficult to resist.

301

00:31:33,040 --> 00:31:38,040

Perhaps it's because they bring back childhood memories and things that go bump in the night.

302

00:31:38,040 --> 00:31:45,040

Or perhaps they just like a good ghost story. This is a tale of two families, the Kelceys and the Robinsons.

303

00:31:45,040 --> 00:31:52,040

Both families believe they had supernatural encounters while they lived in the Nevada house, but the end result would be very different for each.

304

00:31:52,040 --> 00:32:00,040

Is this a story of a congenial and well-meaning spirit? Is it the tale of a fearsome poltergeist, or is it simply a tale?

305

00:32:00,040 --> 00:32:04,040

You, no doubt, have an opinion of your own.

306

00:32:05,040 --> 00:32:14,040

The Kelcey family bought the house on their second 1978, 100 years to the day after the man who built it had died.

307

00:32:14,040 --> 00:32:19,040

From the beginning, there was something eerie about the house.

308

00:32:19,040 --> 00:32:30,040

I felt like we had gotten more than we bargained for, and I wouldn't walk through the house in the dark at all for fear that I was going to run into something, something that wasn't supposed to be there.

309

00:32:35,040 --> 00:32:41,040

Just as you're getting to sleep, you would hear footsteps walking up and down the stairs.

310

00:32:41,040 --> 00:32:43,040

What's wrong?

311

00:32:43,040 --> 00:32:50,040

My husband would tell me that he heard a swishing noise, like the rustle of the old chiffon skirts was how he described it.

312

00:32:50,040 --> 00:32:52,040

Sounds like swishing, doesn't it?

313

00:32:52,040 --> 00:33:00,040

We got really scared, or I did anyway, thinking that either there really was something happening in the house, or we had just seen too many scary movies,

314

00:33:00,040 --> 00:33:04,040

and my imagination was running wild because it was an old house.

315

00:33:08,040 --> 00:33:14,040

The Kelcey's daughter, Jennifer, who was then four years old, had an even more bizarre experience.

316

00:33:17,040 --> 00:33:27,040

I'd just woken up for some reason, I don't know why, and I remember I rolled over and I looked at my bedroom door, and I saw this little boy.

317

00:33:28,040 --> 00:33:40,040

He looked like he was sad, and the man he just looked like he was really concerned, and it was just only there for a few seconds, but then it just disappeared, it was weird.

318

00:33:41,040 --> 00:33:48,040

They didn't look familiar to me at all, but the way they were looking at me just seemed like they knew me. It was just really weird.

319

00:33:49,040 --> 00:34:03,040

For some reason I keep thinking that the levitation was the same night that I saw him, for some reason I just combined the two together in memory, but I just remember laying there in my bed, it seemed like my whole bed was just floating.

320

00:34:04,040 --> 00:34:24,040

After Jennifer told me what had happened, I was very scared that things were starting to happen that aren't supposed to happen normally, and I told my husband about it, and he asked me if she was actually levitated, and I said from what she was saying that's what it sounded like.

321

00:34:24,040 --> 00:34:43,040

Jim and Susan Kelsey often heard strange footsteps approaching their daughter's bedroom. They were concerned for her safety. In desperation, the Kelsey's decided to call in the local man, Daniel Martin, who had a reputation as a psychic.

322

00:34:44,040 --> 00:34:53,040

When I first talked to Mrs. Kelsey, she was more concerned, confused, because she didn't understand what was happening.

323

00:34:55,040 --> 00:35:05,040

After visiting the house, Martin returned to his home and put himself into a deep trance. Incredibly, Martin says that while he was in the trance, he met the Kelsey's ghost.

324

00:35:06,040 --> 00:35:32,040

I contacted an entity, appeared to me as a sailing man, that's what came to my mind, he had the mustache, and at that time I asked him, who are you? And he told me his name was Samuel, and he told me at the time that his purpose there was to protect the child, and he was there not to harm anyone.

325

00:35:33,040 --> 00:35:43,040

When I explained to him that he was frightening the family, and Samuel promised not to do these things in the future, not to frighten them by doing frightening things to them.

326

00:35:45,040 --> 00:35:59,040

Jennifer asked me, she said, does that mean he's going away? And I said, I don't know. And then a couple weeks later, things had quieted down, and she asked me if he had moved away, and I said, I didn't know, and she said, well I don't think he did, she says I think he's up in the attic.

327

00:36:00,040 --> 00:36:20,040

The Kelcies became convinced that their ghost, Samuel, was a spirit who meant them no harm. Three years later, in 1981, they moved to a more modern house nearby. The old home was leased to a potential buyer. By now, the Kelcies had three children, including an infant son.

328

00:36:21,040 --> 00:36:24,040

Right there. Wow.

329

00:36:26,040 --> 00:36:45,040

When my son was seven weeks old, I had taken some pictures of him, and I'd run out of flash, and I had the rest of the roll of film to use up, and so I decided to try to get the pictures taken of him anyway, and I propped him up on the love seat next to the lamp and some stuffed animals around him, and proceeded to take the rest of the roll of film, figuring there should be enough light.

330

00:36:46,040 --> 00:37:08,040

When I went to pick the pictures up, I opened them up and I pulled them out, and there was a man on the first picture, and I thought these aren't my pictures, so I went through them, and after that initial picture, everything in there, the roll was of my son, and I checked my negative, and the man was on it.

331

00:37:09,040 --> 00:37:31,040

The only way I can explain the photograph is that it is of our ghost Samuel, because my daughter had told me about three weeks earlier that she felt that he had moved with us, and I didn't believe her, and I just saw the picture of him, and it was his way of telling us that he had in fact moved with us. That was the only explanation there was.

332

00:37:32,040 --> 00:37:47,040

The mysterious photograph became front page news and fish springs. Interestingly, nobody in town recognized the man in the picture. Unsolved mysteries brought in photographic expert Vernon Miller to analyze the snapshot.

333

00:37:48,040 --> 00:38:03,040

I can't say precisely how this image was formed. There's not enough evidence. The image is three dimensional, and has reflected qualities, where the skin is tight against the skull, it's brighter, and there's highlights there.

334

00:38:04,040 --> 00:38:23,040

A manifestation of a ghost is usually thought of as transparent or self-illuminant, and this is definitely reflected light. I detected lines, horizontal lines across the image. In conclusion, I would say that Samuel's ghost was made off of a large television screen.

335

00:38:24,040 --> 00:38:38,040

The picture of Samuel is not a fake. There's a lot of things that can't be explained, and I just think this is one of them. I know I can't explain how somebody came out in my picture that wasn't there when I snapped it.

336

00:38:39,040 --> 00:38:50,040

The Calcies insist they have never photographed their television screen. Could the picture be a simple accident, even a hoax? Or could it really be a ghost?

337

00:38:50,040 --> 00:39:02,040

For 15 months, the new tenants at the Fish Springs House reported nothing out of the ordinary. But then in October of 1989, the house was rented to another family.

338

00:39:03,040 --> 00:39:15,040

Steve and Mona Robinson knew nothing about the house's ghostly past. Soon, however, the Robinson family was caught up in the middle of its very own ghost story.

339

00:39:16,040 --> 00:39:39,040

I felt that there was ghosts in the house, but then I kept telling myself, no. And things started happening more and more. The footsteps, the bangs. I'd bring it up to Steve once in a while, and he would say, no, there's got to be some reason why all this is happening.

340

00:39:39,040 --> 00:39:46,040

You know, it's an old house. We even thought about pipes. You know, we thought of all kinds of things.

341

00:39:48,040 --> 00:39:54,040

The Robinsons became extremely concerned when their 11-year-old son, Garrett, began to have frightening experiences.

342

00:39:59,040 --> 00:40:06,040

I started hearing noises upstairs, and I was walking, banging and stuff.

343

00:40:09,040 --> 00:40:17,040

After I heard the laughing, I went up to the top of the stairs. I was scared, though, because I heard all these footsteps already.

344

00:40:19,040 --> 00:40:27,040

And there was a whole bunch of them walking around, banging, full of us upstairs.

345

00:40:28,040 --> 00:40:38,040

I started hearing humming, three different voices. Fire one, a yelling, and a roaring.

346

00:40:41,040 --> 00:40:50,040

I didn't even open the door. When I got out, when I was inside my driveway, there was all this banging out the screen door.

347

00:40:51,040 --> 00:41:01,040

And then, for some reason, I looked over to the window, and I saw this old guy, and he had this rain on his face.

348

00:41:03,040 --> 00:41:07,040

A smart kid, and a real mean one, like he was trying to be mean.

349

00:41:10,040 --> 00:41:14,040

Six-year-old Miles was the next child to fall under the spell of the house.

350

00:41:15,040 --> 00:41:30,040

I remember one night, I was getting lifted out of bed. I got lifted up pretty high, and I didn't know what was happening.

351

00:41:32,040 --> 00:41:34,040

I just got lifted up.

352

00:41:35,040 --> 00:41:46,040

Well, I had told my husband then that I didn't want to live there. And he said, well, he goes, they're not going to hurt us. He wasn't afraid.

353

00:41:50,040 --> 00:41:53,040

Finally, Mona Robinson reached the end of her rope.

354

00:41:54,040 --> 00:42:05,040

My husband and I were getting ready to go to bed, and I couldn't sleep. And I could hear bangs in the hallway, coming down the stairs.

355

00:42:05,040 --> 00:42:12,040

Then all of a sudden, I heard right behind my bed, in a man's voice, call me bitch.

356

00:42:13,040 --> 00:42:23,040

It was a bad voice. Mad. Angry.

357

00:42:23,040 --> 00:42:33,040

I thought, you know, that she was going nuts, but at the same time, I believed her.

358

00:42:34,040 --> 00:42:42,040

She or she used to go to bed. She was always afraid that once we got into bed, the noises would start. So she'd stay up all night long.

359

00:42:44,040 --> 00:42:56,040

I thought like they were trying to drive me crazy. I would never believe anybody that told me what has happened to me. I wouldn't believe them.

360

00:42:57,040 --> 00:43:03,040

I do believe now because we had it happen to us. You never believe anything like that until it happens to you.

361

00:43:06,040 --> 00:43:13,040

On January 31, 1990, the Robinsons moved out of the house less than four months after they had moved in.

362

00:43:13,040 --> 00:43:21,040

The Kelsys, who still owned the house, once again called in Daniel Martin. Once again, he put himself into a trance.

363

00:43:22,040 --> 00:43:27,040

Once again, he claimed he met ghosts, this time different ones.

364

00:43:32,040 --> 00:43:37,040

That time, I encountered three entities, two men and one woman.

365

00:43:37,040 --> 00:43:44,040

My first impressions when I approached these entities were that they were of the Virginia City era back in the old days.

366

00:43:45,040 --> 00:43:55,040

These entities were not destructive. They were just contankerous, kind of a rowdy little gang of troublemakers. It had been and still was.

367

00:43:56,040 --> 00:44:08,040

Martin says he asked the spirits to leave the house, but it was too late to do the Robinsons any good. They were already settled in a new home, far away from hauntings and poltergeists.

368

00:44:09,040 --> 00:44:15,040

To most of us, this saga sounds incredible, but the Kelsys and the Robinsons take it very seriously.

369

00:44:15,040 --> 00:44:23,040

It is interesting to note that last year, the Kelsys sold the house to a couple with two children who bought with full knowledge of the stories of spirits and haunting.

370

00:44:23,040 --> 00:44:35,040

The new owners have been in the home for eight months and have reported no unusual phenomena. Perhaps ghosts, like many other things, exist only in the eye of the beholder. Perhaps.

371

00:44:39,040 --> 00:44:59,040

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, for a lonely widow, Eric Kessler is like a dream come true. Charming, elegant and cosmopolitan, he has a perfect qualities for a potential husband and a master con man.

372

00:44:59,040 --> 00:45:10,040

His elaborate schemes have allegedly netted more than \$150,000 from at least four vulnerable women. Authorities are convinced that his list of victims is much longer and still growing.

373

00:45:11,040 --> 00:45:15,040

Join me for our next edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

374

00:45:59,040 --> 00:46:03,040

Unsolved Mysteries