

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,680

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,280

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

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

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,280 --> 00:00:12,080

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

5

00:00:16,080 --> 00:00:19,280

Tonight, a fascinating new mystery.

6

00:00:19,280 --> 00:00:22,400

For years, Jim Boombarton had the oddest encounters

7

00:00:22,400 --> 00:00:24,600

with people he had never seen before who

8

00:00:24,600 --> 00:00:26,800

were positive that he would have been

9

00:00:26,800 --> 00:00:28,360

someone else.

10

00:00:28,360 --> 00:00:31,000

Then his friends and family began to have odd run-ins

11

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,440

with a mysterious stranger who appeared to be Jim's exact double.

12

00:00:35,440 --> 00:00:38,160

Was someone impersonating Jim Boombarton?

13

00:00:38,160 --> 00:00:42,360

If so, who and why?

14

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

After he assassinated Abraham Lincoln,

15

00:00:44,560 --> 00:00:46,840

history records that John Wilkes Booth was tracked

16

00:00:46,840 --> 00:00:50,160

to a farm in Virginia and killed by Union troops.

17

00:00:50,160 --> 00:00:52,040

But history may be wrong.

18

00:00:52,040 --> 00:00:54,480

A few eyewitness accounts show that the story

19

00:00:54,480 --> 00:00:57,080

of the man in the barn was not Booth.

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00:00:57,080 --> 00:01:00,960

And some historians now believe that Lincoln's assassin was never

21

00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:03,320

brought to justice.

22

00:01:03,320 --> 00:01:06,040

When Alex Cooper, a devoted father and grandfather,

23

00:01:06,040 --> 00:01:09,800

disappeared, his family made an unsettling discovery.

24

00:01:09,800 --> 00:01:12,760

There was no such person as Alex Cooper.

25

00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:19,240

He had created a fictitious past and become a man who never was.

26

00:01:19,240 --> 00:01:22,880

Join me for another edition of On The Side.

27

00:01:22,880 --> 00:01:25,280

For another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

28

00:01:52,880 --> 00:02:19,280

April 1865, the Civil War was over.

29

00:02:19,280 --> 00:02:23,160

For nearly two weeks, 2,000 Union soldiers scoured the countryside

30

00:02:23,160 --> 00:02:24,160

searching for his assassin.

31

00:02:30,160 --> 00:02:34,640

On April 26th at 4 AM, a cavalry detachment surrounded

32

00:02:34,640 --> 00:02:39,680

a tobacco barn on Garrett Farm in Virginia.

33

00:02:39,680 --> 00:02:43,080

They had been told that Inside was one of the most notorious

34

00:02:43,080 --> 00:02:46,440

and most dangerous places in the world.

35

00:02:46,480 --> 00:02:49,520

They had been told that Inside was one of the most notorious

36

00:02:49,520 --> 00:02:53,400

criminals of the century or of any age.

37

00:02:53,400 --> 00:02:57,600

John Wilkes Booth, you are surrounded.

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00:02:57,600 --> 00:02:59,960

You and all with you.

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00:02:59,960 --> 00:03:03,760

26-year-old John Wilkes Booth was an actor of national fame

40

00:03:03,760 --> 00:03:07,120

considered by some the handsomest man in America.

41

00:03:07,120 --> 00:03:12,440

He was also deeply committed to the Confederate cause.

42

00:03:12,440 --> 00:03:15,760

On April 14th, Booth had mortally wounded President Lincoln

43

00:03:15,800 --> 00:03:19,840

at Ford's Theater in Washington.

44

00:03:19,840 --> 00:03:22,200

The man who had freed the slaves and given hope

45

00:03:22,200 --> 00:03:25,120

to the disenfranchised was gone.

46

00:03:25,120 --> 00:03:27,520

Abraham Lincoln, who had preserved the Union

47

00:03:27,520 --> 00:03:31,000

through sheer force of will, now belonged to the ages.

48

00:03:33,760 --> 00:03:37,200

On April 26th, 12 days after the assassination,

49

00:03:37,200 --> 00:03:39,800

an informant directed Union troops to the Garrett Farm.

50

00:03:40,440 --> 00:03:43,840

The man who surrendered was not John Wilkes Booth,

51

00:03:43,840 --> 00:03:47,280

but 21-year-old David Harrell, known to be one of Booth's

52

00:03:47,280 --> 00:03:48,280

co-conspirators.

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00:03:51,360 --> 00:03:53,920

Lieutenant Edward Daugherty grew impatient.

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00:03:53,920 --> 00:03:56,400

He gave the command to smoke out his quarry.

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00:04:00,920 --> 00:04:02,520

The soldiers are under strict orders

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00:04:02,520 --> 00:04:04,480

to take Booth off the ship.

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00:04:04,480 --> 00:04:06,800

The soldiers were told to leave the ship

58

00:04:07,480 --> 00:04:10,600

The soldiers are under strict orders to take Booth alive.

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00:04:10,600 --> 00:04:13,160

But an overzealous sergeant named Boston Corbett

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00:04:13,160 --> 00:04:14,960

took matters into his own hands.

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00:04:23,680 --> 00:04:26,400

Two soldiers dragged the body from the raging inferno.

62

00:04:29,120 --> 00:04:32,000

The nation was avenged, or was it?

63

00:04:32,800 --> 00:04:35,760

There is tremendous physical evidence,

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00:04:35,760 --> 00:04:37,560

which proves beyond a doubt.

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00:04:37,560 --> 00:04:40,040

John Wilkes Booth, in reality, was not killed

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00:04:40,040 --> 00:04:43,360

by the federal government officers, as they claimed.

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00:04:43,360 --> 00:04:47,280

In fact, lived until January 13, 1903, when he died

68

00:04:47,280 --> 00:04:48,560

in Enid, Oklahoma, Territory.

69

00:04:51,560 --> 00:04:53,720

According to official history, John Wilkes Booth

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00:04:53,720 --> 00:04:57,160

died on April 26, 1865.

71

00:04:57,160 --> 00:05:01,000

Incredibly, this fact has given rise to a number of reasons.

72

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,720

It has given rise to an unlikely controversy

73

00:05:03,720 --> 00:05:04,880

in historical circles.

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00:05:11,720 --> 00:05:13,160

The matter of Booth's life and death

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00:05:13,160 --> 00:05:15,000

has always seemed an indisputable chapter

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00:05:15,000 --> 00:05:17,080

in American history.

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00:05:17,080 --> 00:05:19,000

But even the encyclopedia Britannica

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,560

states that the identification of the man shot in the barn

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00:05:21,560 --> 00:05:24,200

was equivocal at the time.

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00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:25,800

Those who question the official account

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00:05:25,800 --> 00:05:28,440

believe that in the confusion following the Civil War,

82

00:05:28,440 --> 00:05:30,720

critical evidence may have been mistakenly recorded

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00:05:30,760 --> 00:05:33,040

or perhaps covered up.

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00:05:33,040 --> 00:05:36,280

Others dismissed these series as revisionist nonsense.

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00:05:36,280 --> 00:05:39,240

We'll examine both sides of this fascinating controversy, which

86

00:05:39,240 --> 00:05:41,880

has been brewing for 125 years.

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00:05:45,720 --> 00:05:48,880

In 1866, Senator Charles Sumner argued

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00:05:48,880 --> 00:05:51,080

that the government reward for Booth's capture

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00:05:51,080 --> 00:05:53,120

should not be paid out.

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00:05:53,120 --> 00:05:55,440

He claimed that there was simply not enough evidence

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00:05:55,440 --> 00:05:58,000

to verify Booth's identity.

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00:05:58,040 --> 00:06:01,000

That same year, Senator Garrett Davis of Kentucky

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00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,320

complained that he had never seen any satisfactory evidence

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00:06:04,320 --> 00:06:06,320

that Booth had been killed.

95

00:06:06,320 --> 00:06:08,920

And in the early 1900s, John Schumacher,

96

00:06:08,920 --> 00:06:12,800

general counsel to the Department of the Army, wrote,

97

00:06:12,800 --> 00:06:14,880

The evidence put forth by the government

98

00:06:14,880 --> 00:06:17,040

to support the conclusion that the body was

99

00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:21,440

that of John Wilkes Booth was so insubstantial that it would not

100

00:06:21,440 --> 00:06:23,080

stand up in a court of law.

101

00:06:23,720 --> 00:06:25,680

Nate Orlowek and Dr. Arthur Chitty

102

00:06:25,680 --> 00:06:28,640

have spent years studying the Lincoln assassination.

103

00:06:28,640 --> 00:06:33,880

Independently, they have arrived at the same conclusion.

104

00:06:33,880 --> 00:06:38,360

The most persuasive evidence to me at Garrett's barn

105

00:06:38,360 --> 00:06:41,800

that the man in the barn was not Booth

106

00:06:41,800 --> 00:06:44,840

is the fact that his friend David E. Harold came out

107

00:06:44,840 --> 00:06:45,800

of the barn.

108

00:06:45,800 --> 00:06:48,480

And the first thing he said was, the man in there is not Booth.

109

00:06:48,480 --> 00:06:52,360

The man inside that barn is not John Wilkes Booth.

110

00:06:52,360 --> 00:06:55,360

His name is Booth.

111

00:06:55,360 --> 00:06:58,840

And there was a boyd who was a wanted fugitive at this time

112

00:06:58,840 --> 00:07:01,840

for killing a Captain Watkins in Maryland.

113

00:07:01,840 --> 00:07:05,800

Of course, Harold was not permitted to testify in his trial,

114

00:07:05,800 --> 00:07:07,600

as was the case with all the defendants.

115

00:07:07,600 --> 00:07:09,440

None of them were permitted to testify.

116

00:07:09,440 --> 00:07:11,440

His statement, of course, was kept secret,

117

00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:12,440

as all the others were.

118

00:07:12,440 --> 00:07:14,440

So we don't want to be a victim of the fact

119

00:07:14,440 --> 00:07:16,440

that the man in the barn was not Booth.

120

00:07:16,480 --> 00:07:18,160

It was kept secret, as all the others were.

121

00:07:18,160 --> 00:07:20,760

So we don't really know, because Harold was not

122

00:07:20,760 --> 00:07:21,840

permitted to say anything.

123

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:22,880

And of course, he was hanged.

124

00:07:22,880 --> 00:07:26,760

So we don't know exactly who the man was.

125

00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:31,800

I have heard the account that Harold was pulled out of Garrett's

126

00:07:31,800 --> 00:07:34,640

barn and said, that's not Booth in there.

127

00:07:34,640 --> 00:07:36,600

I have no source for that.

128

00:07:36,600 --> 00:07:40,200

I don't know where the story came from.

129

00:07:40,200 --> 00:07:42,800

Historian James Hall refused this incident

130

00:07:42,800 --> 00:07:45,840

by citing a 40-page statement made by David Harold

131

00:07:45,880 --> 00:07:50,760

to government investigators 36 hours after his arrest.

132

00:07:50,760 --> 00:07:54,880

Harold referred to Booth 10 times by name

133

00:07:54,880 --> 00:07:58,080

when he was discussing what went on in the barn

134

00:07:58,080 --> 00:08:00,920

while it was being surrounded by the soldiers.

135

00:08:00,920 --> 00:08:02,760

To me, that's conclusive.

136

00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:06,200

I can't see where they get the idea that he'd come running out

137

00:08:06,200 --> 00:08:07,800

and say it's not Booth.

138

00:08:07,800 --> 00:08:11,080

By the time David E. Harold changed his testimony,

139

00:08:11,080 --> 00:08:13,600

he was under such enormous pressure.

140

00:08:13,600 --> 00:08:15,640

He was in fear of his life.

141

00:08:15,640 --> 00:08:20,320

He had been incarcerated with a canvas bag over his head

142

00:08:20,320 --> 00:08:23,720

and just a little hole to be fed through.

143

00:08:23,720 --> 00:08:26,120

He was under terrible emotional strain

144

00:08:26,120 --> 00:08:28,200

and was trying to save his neck.

145

00:08:28,200 --> 00:08:31,000

And so therefore, when he thought

146

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:34,400

that he would survive by changing his story,

147

00:08:34,400 --> 00:08:35,600

he changed his story.

148

00:08:38,720 --> 00:08:41,400

According to Nate Orlowek, other eyewitnesses

149

00:08:41,400 --> 00:08:44,080

also refuted the government's identification

150

00:08:44,080 --> 00:08:45,840

of the man killed at Garrett's Farm.

151

00:08:48,480 --> 00:08:51,840

Colonel, this man is not Booth.

152

00:08:51,840 --> 00:08:53,360

What's that, Lieutenant?

153

00:08:53,360 --> 00:08:54,720

This man is not Booth.

154

00:08:54,720 --> 00:08:56,120

This man has red hair.

155

00:08:56,120 --> 00:08:57,040

Lieutenant.

156

00:08:57,040 --> 00:08:59,240

Lieutenant William C. Allen worked for the United States Secret

157

00:08:59,240 --> 00:09:01,200

Service in 1865.

158

00:09:01,200 --> 00:09:05,920

And in August of 1937, his widow, Mrs. Hannah Allen,

159

00:09:05,920 --> 00:09:09,720

told a journalist that her husband had told her

160

00:09:09,720 --> 00:09:13,840

that he saw the man at Garrett's Farm who had been killed

161

00:09:13,880 --> 00:09:17,800

and that the man had red hair and that the government knew

162

00:09:17,800 --> 00:09:19,480

that that man was not Booth.

163

00:09:19,480 --> 00:09:23,200

But they were determined to force this man on the nation

164

00:09:23,200 --> 00:09:25,760

as Booth.

165

00:09:25,760 --> 00:09:29,480

By every historical account, Booth's hair was jet black.

166

00:09:29,480 --> 00:09:31,920

Stephen's testimony about the red-haired man

167

00:09:31,920 --> 00:09:35,000

was corroborated by two other Union soldiers,

168

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:39,640

Private Joseph Zistian and quartermaster Wilson D. Kenzie.

169

00:09:39,640 --> 00:09:41,560

The 16th, they surrounded Garrett's barn.

170

00:09:41,560 --> 00:09:42,640

They burned the barn down.

171

00:09:42,640 --> 00:09:44,120

They shot John Wilkes Booth.

172

00:09:44,120 --> 00:09:45,400

Only it's not Booth.

173

00:09:45,400 --> 00:09:45,800

How do you know?

174

00:09:45,800 --> 00:09:47,000

It doesn't look like him.

175

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:47,920

No one will believe me.

176

00:09:47,920 --> 00:09:48,720

Come back with me.

177

00:09:48,720 --> 00:09:51,080

Kenzie and his buddy Joseph Zistian

178

00:09:51,080 --> 00:09:56,320

were friends of Booth in 1862 and 63 in New Orleans.

179

00:09:56,320 --> 00:09:58,960

Kenzie was a quartermaster and was

180

00:09:58,960 --> 00:10:01,280

free to go wherever he wanted, basically,

181

00:10:01,280 --> 00:10:02,440

within the military lines.

182

00:10:02,440 --> 00:10:05,200

And so he went with Zistian to Garrett's Farm

183

00:10:05,200 --> 00:10:06,520

because he had an interest in what

184

00:10:06,520 --> 00:10:07,480

was going to happen to Booth.

185

00:10:08,200 --> 00:10:14,920

In 1922, when he was 77 years old,

186

00:10:14,920 --> 00:10:17,440

Kenzie detailed what he saw at Garrett's Farm

187

00:10:17,440 --> 00:10:20,360

in a sworn affidavit.

188

00:10:20,360 --> 00:10:24,160

As I rode up, Joseph Zistian called here a communist sergeant

189

00:10:24,160 --> 00:10:26,640

to St. John Wilkes Booth tall.

190

00:10:26,640 --> 00:10:29,200

His face was exposed enough so I could see the color

191

00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:31,680

of his hair on the side of his face.

192

00:10:31,680 --> 00:10:34,000

From the fact that this man had sandy hair

193

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,760

and Booth had very dark hair, I knew at once

194

00:10:36,760 --> 00:10:38,360

it wasn't he.

195

00:10:38,360 --> 00:10:41,400

His body was exposed, the lower part of it,

196

00:10:41,400 --> 00:10:45,640

and he had no injured leg that I could see.

197

00:10:45,640 --> 00:10:48,560

You men, move away from that body.

198

00:10:48,560 --> 00:10:51,000

You two are under direct orders to speak to no one

199

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:52,080

of what you've seen here today.

200

00:10:52,080 --> 00:10:53,480

Do you understand me?

201

00:10:53,480 --> 00:10:56,640

And he said that the officers there told him,

202

00:10:56,640 --> 00:10:59,240

everyone has to keep this secret.

203

00:10:59,240 --> 00:11:03,520

There'll be dire consequences for anyone who tells the truth.

204

00:11:03,520 --> 00:11:05,080

The military really meant business,

205

00:11:05,080 --> 00:11:07,480

and they were not going to risk their lives just

206

00:11:07,480 --> 00:11:08,200

to tell the truth.

207

00:11:11,600 --> 00:11:13,440

The government autopsy was performed

208

00:11:13,440 --> 00:11:15,520

by a physician who was acquainted with Booth.

209

00:11:20,040 --> 00:11:22,960

Dr. John F. May was a Washington surgeon

210

00:11:22,960 --> 00:11:25,760

who removed a tumor from the back of Booth's neck

211

00:11:25,760 --> 00:11:29,680

a few months before the assassination in 1865.

212

00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:34,320

His statement is now in the National Archives.

213

00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:36,000

Like all the other government records on the case,

214

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,280

it was held secret for 70 years.

215

00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:48,880

The corpse bears no resemblance to the actor John Luke's Booth.

216

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:55,640

John and Frederick May wanted to tell the truth,

217

00:11:55,640 --> 00:11:58,640

and he recognized that this was not Booth,

218

00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:01,240

but it was made pretty clear to him very early on

219

00:12:01,240 --> 00:12:03,000

that this better be Booth.

220

00:12:04,320 --> 00:12:05,320

It's freckled.

221

00:12:05,320 --> 00:12:07,000

I do not remember Booth as being freckled.

222

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:13,480

And so we have the curious affidavit, which starts off

223

00:12:13,480 --> 00:12:16,600

saying, I'm sure this is Booth.

224

00:12:16,600 --> 00:12:20,080

And then goes on to say, but it doesn't look like Booth.

225

00:12:20,080 --> 00:12:25,880

And it goes on to say, I recall Booth is having black hair,

226

00:12:25,880 --> 00:12:28,840

and this man has sandy hair.

227

00:12:28,840 --> 00:12:31,560

I recall that Booth had rather clear complexion

228

00:12:31,560 --> 00:12:34,120

and this man is freckled.

229

00:12:34,120 --> 00:12:39,840

But this is certainly Booth, signed John Frederick May.

230

00:12:39,840 --> 00:12:42,680

In 1906, Dr. May clarified his findings

231

00:12:42,680 --> 00:12:45,880

in an article titled The Mark of the Scalpel.

232

00:12:45,880 --> 00:12:48,280

He said he believed the discrepancies he found

233

00:12:48,280 --> 00:12:50,520

were due to the physical deterioration of Booth

234

00:12:50,520 --> 00:12:52,280

while he was on the run.

235

00:12:52,280 --> 00:12:54,880

Dr. May also said there was a scar on the neck

236

00:12:54,880 --> 00:12:59,480

which corresponded to the scar left by his surgery in 1867.

237

00:13:00,480 --> 00:13:05,040

Now had the government really believed that that body was Booth's,

238

00:13:05,040 --> 00:13:06,920

they would have taken pictures of it.

239

00:13:06,920 --> 00:13:09,880

They would have had many, many hundreds of people

240

00:13:09,880 --> 00:13:11,440

to identify it.

241

00:13:11,440 --> 00:13:13,040

But the War Department didn't do that.

242

00:13:13,040 --> 00:13:15,640

The government knew that that man was not Booth.

243

00:13:21,040 --> 00:13:23,800

Eventually, Booth's body was secretly buried

244

00:13:23,800 --> 00:13:25,960

in the basement of the old man's body.

245

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:28,000

Eventually, Booth's body was secretly

246

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:33,000

buried in the basement of the old naval prison in Washington.

247

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:35,480

It seems incredible that union authorities would have

248

00:13:35,480 --> 00:13:38,960

misidentified the assassin of President Lincoln.

249

00:13:38,960 --> 00:13:41,400

But if John Wilkes Booth was not killed at Garrett's

250

00:13:41,400 --> 00:13:45,320

barn in 1865, then what became of him?

251

00:13:45,320 --> 00:13:48,960

When we return, we'll present evidence of Booth's escape

252

00:13:48,960 --> 00:13:51,320

his later years and startling facts

253

00:13:51,320 --> 00:13:52,960

about the assassination conspiracy.

254

00:13:56,960 --> 00:13:59,680

In 1865, the government moved quickly

255

00:13:59,680 --> 00:14:02,840

to close the books on the Lincoln assassination.

256

00:14:02,840 --> 00:14:06,000

John Wilkes Booth had been hunted down and killed.

257

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:07,840

The trial of Booth's co-conspirators

258

00:14:07,840 --> 00:14:12,120

resulted in four hangings and three life sentences.

259

00:14:12,120 --> 00:14:15,400

As the nation began to rebuild, the details of the conspiracy

260

00:14:15,400 --> 00:14:18,560

were classified as secret and hidden away.

261

00:14:18,560 --> 00:14:22,320

Some believe, however, that John Wilkes Booth escaped union

262

00:14:22,360 --> 00:14:25,840

soldiers, that he fled south under assumed names

263

00:14:25,840 --> 00:14:30,480

and lived another 38 years.

264

00:14:30,480 --> 00:14:34,280

In 1907, an obscure attorney from Texas named Finest Bates

265

00:14:34,280 --> 00:14:37,200

published this book, The Escape and Suicide of John Wilkes

266

00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:38,680

Booth.

267

00:14:38,680 --> 00:14:41,280

In these pages, Bates claimed that he learned the true story

268

00:14:41,280 --> 00:14:44,000

of Booth from one of his clients, a man named John St.

269

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:45,600

Helen of Grandbury, Texas.

270

00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:53,000

In 1877, St. Helen felt grievous liel,

271

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:56,160

and thinking he was about to die made a startling confession

272

00:14:56,160 --> 00:14:57,640

to Finest Bates.

273

00:14:57,640 --> 00:15:00,080

Finest.

274

00:15:00,080 --> 00:15:00,840

John.

275

00:15:00,840 --> 00:15:03,760

Finest.

276

00:15:03,760 --> 00:15:07,400

My name is not John St. Helen.

277

00:15:07,400 --> 00:15:12,720

It's really John Wilkes Booth, assassin, resident Lincoln.

278

00:15:15,600 --> 00:15:20,560

If I die, tell my brother Edwin I'm dead.

279

00:15:20,560 --> 00:15:24,560

Well, Bates, of course, thought this guy was crazy.

280

00:15:24,560 --> 00:15:26,360

He had been told, as everyone else had,

281

00:15:26,360 --> 00:15:28,920

that Booth had been killed in 1865.

282

00:15:28,920 --> 00:15:30,360

So he thought he was just hallucinating.

283

00:15:30,360 --> 00:15:32,080

TV rope.

284

00:15:32,080 --> 00:15:35,040

And Booth said to him, no, I really am John Wilkes Booth.

285

00:15:35,040 --> 00:15:36,480

And now that I've told you my secret,

286

00:15:36,480 --> 00:15:39,480

I want to give you the whole story.

287

00:15:39,480 --> 00:15:42,600

So he poured out for Bates a very long confession,

288

00:15:42,640 --> 00:15:46,040

detailing in great detail the kidnapped conspiracy,

289

00:15:46,040 --> 00:15:49,160

the murder conspiracy, how he got out of Washington,

290

00:15:49,160 --> 00:15:51,320

how he escaped altogether.

291

00:15:51,320 --> 00:15:56,920

Escaped Washington DC using a password.

292

00:15:56,920 --> 00:15:58,720

TV rope.

293

00:15:58,720 --> 00:16:01,400

St. Helen explained that during the Civil War,

294

00:16:01,400 --> 00:16:04,440

all bridges out of Washington were closed after nightfall

295

00:16:04,440 --> 00:16:09,480

and heavily guarded, making escape near impossible.

296

00:16:09,480 --> 00:16:11,480

I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what.

297

00:16:11,480 --> 00:16:12,760

But I must cross.

298

00:16:12,760 --> 00:16:15,320

I'm sorry, the bridge is closed.

299

00:16:15,320 --> 00:16:16,840

I have a password.

300

00:16:16,840 --> 00:16:18,080

Password?

301

00:16:18,080 --> 00:16:19,320

TV.

302

00:16:19,320 --> 00:16:22,240

TV rope.

303

00:16:22,240 --> 00:16:23,320

All right, you may pass.

304

00:16:33,120 --> 00:16:36,560

Carroborating Booth alias St. Helen telling Bates

305

00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:39,960

of this password is the dramatic letter written

306

00:16:39,960 --> 00:16:42,720

by Frederick A. DeMond, who was one of the guards

307

00:16:42,720 --> 00:16:46,120

at the Navy Yard Bridge the night of the assassination.

308

00:16:46,120 --> 00:16:51,640

On May 31, 1916, DeMond sent Bates a letter.

309

00:16:51,640 --> 00:16:55,080

In that letter, DeMond says at about 10 PM that night,

310

00:16:55,080 --> 00:16:58,440

a captain rode up to the bridge and said,

311

00:16:58,440 --> 00:17:03,960

if anyone comes up using a certain password, let him through.

312

00:17:03,960 --> 00:17:08,720

And that password was TV, TV road.

313

00:17:08,720 --> 00:17:10,560

DeMond says that was very peculiar,

314

00:17:10,560 --> 00:17:13,880

because never before had anyone been allowed to cross

315

00:17:13,880 --> 00:17:15,480

the bridge using a password.

316

00:17:15,480 --> 00:17:17,640

Bridge out of Washington is closed up to dark.

317

00:17:17,640 --> 00:17:19,760

I don't know what happened there that night.

318

00:17:19,760 --> 00:17:23,560

These were just a bunch of old soldiers later on remembering

319

00:17:23,560 --> 00:17:24,600

it.

320

00:17:24,600 --> 00:17:28,000

But Sergeant Silas Cobb, who was in charge of the squad

321

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:32,160

at the bridge, made a statement, which

322

00:17:32,280 --> 00:17:33,680

is in the National Archives.

323

00:17:33,680 --> 00:17:37,120

And he also testified at the conspiracy trial.

324

00:17:37,120 --> 00:17:40,160

And he didn't say anything about passwords.

325

00:17:40,160 --> 00:17:43,360

All he said was that I thought these people were proper people

326

00:17:43,360 --> 00:17:45,760

to go across the bridge, and I let them cross.

327

00:17:45,760 --> 00:17:50,520

I can't tell you why these old soldiers dreamed up

328

00:17:50,520 --> 00:17:51,600

this as a password.

329

00:17:55,440 --> 00:17:57,600

St. Helen's narrative continued.

330

00:17:57,600 --> 00:18:00,360

He told Bates that he joined up with co-conspirator David

331

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

Harold, and together they visited a doctor who

332

00:18:03,040 --> 00:18:05,960

said his broken leg.

333

00:18:05,960 --> 00:18:07,280

I'm going to have to take your boot off

334

00:18:07,280 --> 00:18:09,040

so I can see your leg, all right?

335

00:18:09,040 --> 00:18:11,080

Booth, alias St. Helen, told Bates

336

00:18:11,080 --> 00:18:13,800

that when he was going through the open country in Virginia,

337

00:18:13,800 --> 00:18:15,280

he hid in the back of a wagon.

338

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:20,800

And at one point, he heard someone shout,

339

00:18:20,800 --> 00:18:22,720

Darsdam soldiers now.

340

00:18:22,720 --> 00:18:24,800

He thought they were northern soldiers.

341

00:18:24,800 --> 00:18:27,880

So hurriedly, he was yanked out at the back of the wagon

342

00:18:27,920 --> 00:18:29,080

and hustled into the woods.

343

00:18:34,960 --> 00:18:38,200

When that happened, his papers and other personal effects

344

00:18:38,200 --> 00:18:38,600

fell out.

345

00:18:42,320 --> 00:18:44,160

St. Helen claimed that while on his way

346

00:18:44,160 --> 00:18:46,600

to the Garrett plantation, he sent a man back

347

00:18:46,600 --> 00:18:48,360

to retrieve his papers.

348

00:18:48,360 --> 00:18:50,600

Before the man returned and while David Harold

349

00:18:50,600 --> 00:18:55,440

was out seeking supplies, news came of approaching Union troops.

350

00:18:55,440 --> 00:18:58,280

Mr. Booth, Union soldiers are riding in from Bowling Green.

351

00:18:58,280 --> 00:18:59,840

You do be getting out of here.

352

00:18:59,840 --> 00:19:00,960

How far behind you are they?

353

00:19:00,960 --> 00:19:02,160

About two hours.

354

00:19:02,160 --> 00:19:03,060

Thank you.

355

00:19:03,060 --> 00:19:05,360

Thank you, gentlemen.

356

00:19:05,360 --> 00:19:07,600

According to St. Helen, he immediately fled.

357

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:09,400

Yeah.

358

00:19:09,400 --> 00:19:10,200

Yeah.

359

00:19:10,200 --> 00:19:12,120

The man sent to retrieve his papers

360

00:19:12,120 --> 00:19:14,240

was in the Garrett barn with David Harold

361

00:19:14,240 --> 00:19:18,840

when it was surrounded by Union troops on April 26.

362

00:19:18,840 --> 00:19:20,600

Harold decided to surrender.

363

00:19:20,600 --> 00:19:22,600

It's not Booth.

364

00:19:22,600 --> 00:19:27,960

The other man was shot inside the barn

365

00:19:27,960 --> 00:19:30,440

because a dead man carried Booth's papers.

366

00:19:30,440 --> 00:19:32,760

He was identified as the assassin.

367

00:19:37,120 --> 00:19:38,200

I believe you, John.

368

00:19:38,200 --> 00:19:40,200

I want you to rest.

369

00:19:40,200 --> 00:19:41,840

All right?

370

00:19:41,840 --> 00:19:45,240

Several weeks later, St. Helen recovered from his illness.

371

00:19:45,240 --> 00:19:47,040

Bates tried to dismiss the confession

372

00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:50,160

as hallucinations brought on by the fever.

373

00:19:50,160 --> 00:19:54,240

But St. Helen later added even more details to his story.

374

00:19:54,240 --> 00:19:57,280

The following year, John St. Helen left Texas.

375

00:19:57,280 --> 00:20:02,480

But Finest Bates was haunted by his confession.

376

00:20:02,480 --> 00:20:04,840

Can you imagine a young lawyer talking

377

00:20:04,840 --> 00:20:09,440

to a bar owner down in Texas, a gullible young lawyer?

378

00:20:09,440 --> 00:20:13,960

So he just fills him full of a great, big, long story.

379

00:20:13,960 --> 00:20:17,640

And later on, Bates, that was the name of this young lawyer,

380

00:20:17,640 --> 00:20:23,000

embroidered the story nicely and wrote a book about it.

381

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:28,000

But I think he just took a young lawyer and fed him a line.

382

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:28,600

It's that easy.

383

00:20:28,600 --> 00:20:32,040

Certainly it wasn't Booth.

384

00:20:32,040 --> 00:20:35,720

Is it possible that John St. Helen was in reality John Wilkes

385

00:20:35,720 --> 00:20:36,920

Booth?

386

00:20:36,920 --> 00:20:42,520

A comparison of photographs shows a striking resemblance.

387

00:20:42,520 --> 00:20:46,200

On January 13, 1903, while staying at a boarding house

388

00:20:46,200 --> 00:20:49,920

in Enid, Oklahoma, John St. Helen committed suicide

389

00:20:49,920 --> 00:20:54,320

by drinking a glass of wine laced with strychnine.

390

00:20:54,320 --> 00:20:57,920

Bates had the body preserved.

391

00:20:57,920 --> 00:21:00,960

He took many pictures of the body.

392

00:21:00,960 --> 00:21:03,720

And eventually, he had the body mummified

393

00:21:03,720 --> 00:21:06,520

to preserve it for posterity, to prove once and for all

394

00:21:06,520 --> 00:21:10,120

that the government had fooled us all.

395

00:21:10,120 --> 00:21:12,360

And he was going to not allow that coverup

396

00:21:12,360 --> 00:21:15,040

to stand.

397

00:21:15,040 --> 00:21:18,480

In 1931, six Chicago physicians examined

398

00:21:18,480 --> 00:21:20,720

the mummified body of John St. Helen

399

00:21:20,720 --> 00:21:23,600

and recorded their findings in this affidavit.

400

00:21:23,600 --> 00:21:26,480

They specifically noted a scarred right eyebrow,

401

00:21:26,480 --> 00:21:30,000

a crushed right thumb, and a broken left leg.

402

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:33,360

John Wilkes Booth is known to have had all three

403

00:21:33,360 --> 00:21:37,640

of these unusual characteristics.

404

00:21:37,640 --> 00:21:40,960

Did John Wilkes Booth escape Union troops at Garrett Farm

405

00:21:40,960 --> 00:21:43,280

only to kill himself 38 years later

406

00:21:43,280 --> 00:21:45,640

in an Oklahoma boarding house?

407

00:21:45,640 --> 00:21:47,800

The history books say no.

408

00:21:47,800 --> 00:21:51,160

John Wilkes Booth died in 1865.

409

00:21:51,160 --> 00:21:53,960

Four years later, his remains were returned to Maryland

410

00:21:53,960 --> 00:21:57,280

and buried in an unmarked grave in the family plot.

411

00:21:57,280 --> 00:22:00,040

Perhaps there rests the definitive answer

412

00:22:00,040 --> 00:22:04,320

to this unsolved mystery.

413

00:22:04,320 --> 00:22:20,320

MUSIC

414

00:22:28,320 --> 00:22:32,000

Imagine that there's someone who looks exactly like you,

415

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:35,720

walks the same way you do, talks the same way you do.

416

00:22:35,720 --> 00:22:38,520

That has been the bizarre fact of life for Jim Boomgarden,

417

00:22:38,520 --> 00:22:40,360

a buyer in Illinois.

418

00:22:40,360 --> 00:22:42,440

For years, Jim has been haunted by the specter

419

00:22:42,440 --> 00:22:46,240

of a strange double, a man who seems to be everywhere,

420

00:22:46,240 --> 00:22:48,560

or at least everywhere Jim isn't.

421

00:22:53,440 --> 00:22:57,000

The place Rockford, Illinois in 1984,

422

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:00,240

the occasion, a company softball game.

423

00:23:00,280 --> 00:23:03,560

It is a typical Saturday morning except for an eerie event

424

00:23:03,560 --> 00:23:05,640

about to unfold.

425

00:23:05,640 --> 00:23:09,120

Third baseman Rick Holder is coming up to bat.

426

00:23:09,120 --> 00:23:11,760

Suddenly, his brother-in-law Jim Boomgarden,

427

00:23:11,760 --> 00:23:14,200

who should be 20 miles away at home,

428

00:23:14,200 --> 00:23:16,800

enters the game to pitch for the opposing team.

429

00:23:16,800 --> 00:23:18,200

Hey, Jim.

430

00:23:18,200 --> 00:23:20,200

Jim.

431

00:23:20,200 --> 00:23:23,080

Hey, Jim.

432

00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:25,880

You know, I would say hi to him and say, hi, Jim.

433

00:23:25,880 --> 00:23:26,800

Hello, Jim.

434

00:23:26,800 --> 00:23:28,920

And I wasn't getting no response from the guy.

435

00:23:28,920 --> 00:23:30,960

So I just thought, you know, after the game was over,

436

00:23:30,960 --> 00:23:33,560

I'd go up and I'd talk to the guy.

437

00:23:33,560 --> 00:23:34,480

Hey, Jim.

438

00:23:36,600 --> 00:23:37,400

How's Cindy and the kids?

439

00:23:40,040 --> 00:23:43,080

After the game, he said he went up, shook his hand,

440

00:23:43,080 --> 00:23:45,480

and thinking he was talking to me.

441

00:23:45,480 --> 00:23:47,760

And he said, the guy just kind of looked at him weird,

442

00:23:47,760 --> 00:23:49,120

gave him a funny look, and turned around

443

00:23:49,120 --> 00:23:52,040

and walked away from him.

444

00:23:52,040 --> 00:23:54,920

Five years later, and just a few miles away,

445

00:23:54,920 --> 00:23:57,960

Jim Boomgarden's father, Ernie, was leaving the doctor's

446

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,880

office when he saw his son.

447

00:23:59,880 --> 00:24:02,080

Jim.

448

00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:04,760

My dad came after this guy.

449

00:24:04,760 --> 00:24:05,720

Was yelling at him.

450

00:24:05,720 --> 00:24:06,720

Jim.

451

00:24:11,720 --> 00:24:14,160

This guy ignored him, got into a car,

452

00:24:14,160 --> 00:24:17,240

which he said was very similar to mine,

453

00:24:17,240 --> 00:24:19,560

drove off, and didn't even acknowledge him.

454

00:24:22,200 --> 00:24:26,680

Now we had two people who knew me very well.

455

00:24:26,720 --> 00:24:31,680

And they were both fooled, especially my dad who reared me.

456

00:24:31,680 --> 00:24:35,000

This guy fooled my dad.

457

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:38,400

He has to look almost identical to me.

458

00:24:44,480 --> 00:24:48,120

Jim spent his childhood in the suburb of Rockford, Illinois.

459

00:24:48,120 --> 00:24:50,640

He knew he had been given up at birth by his mother,

460

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:53,640

but he had no idea who she was.

461

00:24:53,640 --> 00:24:56,120

Jim loved his adopted family, and his life

462

00:24:56,160 --> 00:25:00,280

was happy and uneventful, except for one strange incident.

463

00:25:03,360 --> 00:25:05,920

When Jim was 11, and visiting his grandparents

464

00:25:05,920 --> 00:25:08,320

in Rochelle, Illinois, he was approached

465

00:25:08,320 --> 00:25:11,360

by a group of neighborhood boys.

466

00:25:11,360 --> 00:25:13,200

Billy.

467

00:25:13,200 --> 00:25:14,280

You talking to me?

468

00:25:14,280 --> 00:25:14,680

Yeah.

469

00:25:14,680 --> 00:25:16,360

Do you want to play basketball with us?

470

00:25:16,360 --> 00:25:18,400

My name isn't Billy.

471

00:25:18,400 --> 00:25:19,320

What are you talking about?

472

00:25:19,320 --> 00:25:20,200

It's not Billy.

473

00:25:20,200 --> 00:25:22,040

My name is Jimmy.

474

00:25:22,040 --> 00:25:23,560

It's Billy.

475

00:25:23,560 --> 00:25:25,920

Look, if you don't call me by my right name,

476

00:25:25,920 --> 00:25:27,560

I won't play basketball with you.

477

00:25:31,800 --> 00:25:34,680

I couldn't understand why they want me to play basketball

478

00:25:34,680 --> 00:25:37,600

so much, and they wouldn't call me by my name,

479

00:25:37,600 --> 00:25:39,160

and why they were making this name up.

480

00:25:39,160 --> 00:25:42,000

I could not understand that.

481

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:47,200

Jim filed the incident away at the back of his mind.

482

00:25:47,200 --> 00:25:49,000

After high school, he joined the army

483

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:52,880

and served a tour in Vietnam.

484

00:25:52,920 --> 00:25:56,000

In 1978, Jim married Cindy Holder.

485

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:01,120

They settled near Rockford, Illinois, and had two children.

486

00:26:01,120 --> 00:26:04,280

Often in Rockford, people Jim didn't recognize

487

00:26:04,280 --> 00:26:07,120

greeted him in an unusually friendly way.

488

00:26:07,120 --> 00:26:08,520

How's it going, man?

489

00:26:08,520 --> 00:26:09,360

I've seen it a long time.

490

00:26:09,360 --> 00:26:10,920

What's going on?

491

00:26:10,920 --> 00:26:12,800

Not much.

492

00:26:12,800 --> 00:26:15,520

I'll see you around, OK?

493

00:26:15,520 --> 00:26:16,800

I met a lot of people, and there's

494

00:26:16,800 --> 00:26:20,440

no way that you can remember every face you see.

495

00:26:20,480 --> 00:26:23,480

So I kind of brushed off as nothing

496

00:26:23,480 --> 00:26:29,280

until some people would see me in places that I never was,

497

00:26:29,280 --> 00:26:30,800

or I wasn't at that time.

498

00:26:33,440 --> 00:26:36,880

Finally on Christmas Day 1991, the strange encounters

499

00:26:36,880 --> 00:26:40,800

culminated at a mini-mart just five blocks from Jim's house.

500

00:26:40,800 --> 00:26:44,760

Shirley Hurlene was behind the cash register.

501

00:26:44,760 --> 00:26:48,840

I was working, and this gentleman came in.

502

00:26:48,840 --> 00:26:50,200

I assumed it was Jim.

503

00:26:50,200 --> 00:26:52,600

No, not today.

504

00:26:52,600 --> 00:26:53,760

He looked like him.

505

00:26:53,760 --> 00:26:58,960

He walked the same talk, the same mannerisms.

506

00:26:58,960 --> 00:27:01,560

I assumed it was Jim.

507

00:27:01,560 --> 00:27:04,720

Within minutes, Jim and Cindy walk in.

508

00:27:04,720 --> 00:27:05,920

Do you forget something?

509

00:27:05,920 --> 00:27:06,800

No, why?

510

00:27:06,800 --> 00:27:08,680

Well, you were just here a few minutes ago.

511

00:27:08,680 --> 00:27:10,680

First time I've been here today.

512

00:27:10,680 --> 00:27:11,800

And I looked over at Cindy.

513

00:27:11,800 --> 00:27:13,800

I said, he's kidding, right?

514

00:27:13,800 --> 00:27:17,800

And she said, no, this first time he'd been out today.

515

00:27:17,800 --> 00:27:19,840

And I said, well, my god, there was somebody that came in

516

00:27:19,840 --> 00:27:21,720

and looked just like you.

517

00:27:21,720 --> 00:27:25,840

If I'd been just 15 minutes earlier, just maybe

518

00:27:25,840 --> 00:27:28,440

we could have ran into each other as he was coming out,

519

00:27:28,440 --> 00:27:31,600

and I was going in and met face to face,

520

00:27:31,600 --> 00:27:37,600

how awesome that would have been to see yourself.

521

00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:40,640

The lady who was there said she saw a man who looked exactly

522

00:27:40,640 --> 00:27:43,920

like Jim, and they're not 15 minutes ago.

523

00:27:43,920 --> 00:27:47,440

She said he could have been Jim's twin.

524

00:27:48,080 --> 00:27:51,520

Three weeks later, Jim's wife Cindy

525

00:27:51,520 --> 00:27:53,320

was visiting his grandmother, Sophie.

526

00:27:56,640 --> 00:27:59,200

Sophie grew strangely quiet when Cindy told her

527

00:27:59,200 --> 00:28:04,680

about the odd case of mistaken identity at the mini mart.

528

00:28:04,680 --> 00:28:05,720

Grandma, what's wrong?

529

00:28:08,440 --> 00:28:09,280

Are you OK?

530

00:28:12,680 --> 00:28:16,760

Bernie told me something a long time ago.

531

00:28:16,800 --> 00:28:19,880

And I promised to keep it a secret.

532

00:28:19,880 --> 00:28:22,960

Jim's father, Ernie, had died a few months earlier.

533

00:28:22,960 --> 00:28:25,680

And Cindy had no idea she was about to hear

534

00:28:25,680 --> 00:28:28,640

a long-held family secret.

535

00:28:28,640 --> 00:28:31,800

Ernie told me that when he contacted his lawyers

536

00:28:31,800 --> 00:28:38,320

about adopting Jimmy, he learned that Jimmy had a brother,

537

00:28:38,320 --> 00:28:39,240

a twin.

538

00:28:39,240 --> 00:28:41,000

Jim had a twin.

539

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:44,520

She said that Ernie didn't like keeping it a secret,

540

00:28:44,520 --> 00:28:48,640

but yet he figured that Jim had never known his brother.

541

00:28:48,640 --> 00:28:51,360

He would never miss him.

542

00:28:51,360 --> 00:28:54,880

I was kind of hurt at Ernie because he never told us

543

00:28:54,880 --> 00:28:57,640

his self while he was alive.

544

00:28:57,640 --> 00:29:01,160

But I was very relieved that we had somebody

545

00:29:01,160 --> 00:29:04,520

that could confirm that there was a twin.

546

00:29:04,520 --> 00:29:09,080

I was excited.

547

00:29:09,080 --> 00:29:12,640

All the speculations are now true.

548

00:29:12,680 --> 00:29:17,280

I am looking for a twin brother.

549

00:29:17,280 --> 00:29:20,800

Jim obtained a family history from the adoption agency.

550

00:29:20,800 --> 00:29:23,440

To his disappointment, no names were used,

551

00:29:23,440 --> 00:29:26,040

but the report did give one clue.

552

00:29:26,040 --> 00:29:31,680

His birth mother had a nephew who drowned at the age of 14.

553

00:29:31,680 --> 00:29:34,960

Desperate for details, Jim spent hours in the library

554

00:29:34,960 --> 00:29:38,920

until he found the story in a 1945 newspaper.

555

00:29:38,920 --> 00:29:42,640

Finally, Jim had come up with a family name, Heronimus.

556

00:29:46,160 --> 00:29:49,520

Through the phone book, Jim located a woman by that name,

557

00:29:49,520 --> 00:29:53,520

living just 20 miles away.

558

00:29:53,520 --> 00:29:54,400

May I help you?

559

00:29:54,400 --> 00:29:55,320

Good afternoon.

560

00:29:55,320 --> 00:29:56,800

My name is Jim Boomegarden.

561

00:29:56,800 --> 00:29:58,600

This is my wife, Cindy.

562

00:29:58,600 --> 00:30:00,800

And I apologize for disturbing you,

563

00:30:00,800 --> 00:30:03,120

but I was wondering if you could help me.

564

00:30:03,120 --> 00:30:05,280

Is your last name Heronimus?

565

00:30:05,280 --> 00:30:06,640

Yes.

566

00:30:06,640 --> 00:30:08,920

I think we might be related.

567

00:30:08,920 --> 00:30:11,200

You don't have to tell me we're related.

568

00:30:11,200 --> 00:30:14,600

You look exactly like my brother, Bud.

569

00:30:14,600 --> 00:30:18,560

Jim had found his aunt, Myrtle, his birth mother's sister,

570

00:30:18,560 --> 00:30:22,920

the mother of the boy who had drowned in 1945.

571

00:30:22,920 --> 00:30:25,360

That would have been taken sometime in the mid-40s.

572

00:30:25,360 --> 00:30:28,120

She was about 33 or 34 at that time.

573

00:30:28,120 --> 00:30:30,840

That's about the time I was born.

574

00:30:30,840 --> 00:30:32,880

I tell you.

575

00:30:32,880 --> 00:30:35,240

For the first time, Jim saw a photograph

576

00:30:35,280 --> 00:30:37,680

of his mother, Hazel, and learned that she had died

577

00:30:37,680 --> 00:30:39,720

three years earlier.

578

00:30:39,720 --> 00:30:42,160

Myrtle told Jim that his mother had cut herself off

579

00:30:42,160 --> 00:30:45,520

from the family, and that they had known nothing of his birth

580

00:30:45,520 --> 00:30:47,880

or his twin brothers.

581

00:30:47,880 --> 00:30:49,720

Did you know my father?

582

00:30:49,720 --> 00:30:53,680

Well, there was a man Hazel was seeing.

583

00:30:53,680 --> 00:30:55,400

I think he might have been married.

584

00:30:55,400 --> 00:30:57,960

I didn't really know him.

585

00:30:57,960 --> 00:31:01,120

Hazel never told you about me and my brother?

586

00:31:01,120 --> 00:31:02,000

No.

587

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,640

He never said anything about having had twin boys.

588

00:31:06,640 --> 00:31:09,680

Of course, I knew about the little girl she had.

589

00:31:09,680 --> 00:31:11,280

Little girl?

590

00:31:11,280 --> 00:31:12,480

When?

591

00:31:12,480 --> 00:31:13,440

Well, let's see.

592

00:31:13,440 --> 00:31:18,160

It was October, November 1945.

593

00:31:18,160 --> 00:31:20,440

I was in the hospital myself.

594

00:31:20,440 --> 00:31:22,880

Jim's aunt had dropped a bombshell.

595

00:31:22,880 --> 00:31:25,040

Not only did Jim have a twin brother,

596

00:31:25,040 --> 00:31:28,400

he had an older sister as well.

597

00:31:28,400 --> 00:31:29,520

Now the mystery is even harder.

598

00:31:29,520 --> 00:31:31,320

Now I got two to find instead of one.

599

00:31:31,320 --> 00:31:33,760

But I'm bounding to her, and I want to find them

600

00:31:33,760 --> 00:31:37,000

one way or the other.

601

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:41,080

Finally, Jim was able to visit his birth mother's family plot.

602

00:31:41,080 --> 00:31:44,520

Her maiden name was Hazel Georgetta de Balfour.

603

00:31:44,520 --> 00:31:49,680

Eventually, she married a man named Connor, also now deceased.

604

00:31:49,680 --> 00:31:54,120

I found out everything except my brother and my sister

605

00:31:54,120 --> 00:31:56,120

in finding my family.

606

00:31:56,120 --> 00:31:59,480

It's the only part of the web that needs to be untangled now

607

00:31:59,520 --> 00:32:00,400

is finding them.

608

00:32:00,400 --> 00:32:05,200

And then it will be complete, and I will be satisfied and relaxed.

609

00:32:09,360 --> 00:32:12,720

Jim Boonegarten and his brother, whose first name might be Billy,

610

00:32:12,720 --> 00:32:15,360

were born in the Salvation Army Hospital in Cook County,

611

00:32:15,360 --> 00:32:18,920

Illinois, on March 29, 1947.

612

00:32:18,920 --> 00:32:22,320

His brother was adopted by a family in Rochelle, Illinois.

613

00:32:22,320 --> 00:32:24,840

Their older sister was also born in Rockford,

614

00:32:24,840 --> 00:32:28,800

St. Anthony's Hospital in October or November of 1945.

615

00:32:48,800 --> 00:32:52,640

Next, the baffling disappearance of a 65-year-old salesman

616

00:32:52,640 --> 00:32:54,800

from Canada.

617

00:32:54,800 --> 00:33:07,240

Alex Cooper of Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada,

618

00:33:07,240 --> 00:33:09,240

was an accomplished musician.

619

00:33:09,240 --> 00:33:11,160

A folksy, down-to-earth family man

620

00:33:11,160 --> 00:33:13,520

who enjoyed nothing more than fishing and camping

621

00:33:13,520 --> 00:33:16,320

with his wife, Margaret, his five grown children

622

00:33:16,320 --> 00:33:19,520

and his three grandchildren.

623

00:33:19,520 --> 00:33:22,640

Alex was a local businessman who worked in the cleaning industry

624

00:33:22,640 --> 00:33:26,040

from 1974 to 1983.

625

00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:29,080

Then in 1986, he took a job as a salesman

626

00:33:29,080 --> 00:33:32,000

and began to spend some of his time on the road.

627

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:33,960

Everyone who knew him agreed.

628

00:33:33,960 --> 00:33:35,880

Alex Cooper was the last person you'd

629

00:33:35,880 --> 00:33:39,440

expect to find at the center of a mystery.

630

00:33:39,440 --> 00:33:42,280

Then came the morning of April 4, 1987,

631

00:33:42,280 --> 00:33:45,200

when Alex's daughter Lila and her husband Pete

632

00:33:45,200 --> 00:33:49,240

left Cranbrook for a shopping trip.

633

00:33:49,240 --> 00:33:52,080

We left Cranbrook quite early that morning, about 7, 7.30.

634

00:33:52,080 --> 00:33:54,320

We were going to drive to another city,

635

00:33:54,320 --> 00:33:56,160

which was about a three-hour drive.

636

00:33:56,160 --> 00:34:00,520

And it was actually Pete that said, that's your dad's car.

637

00:34:00,520 --> 00:34:03,440

And it was, obviously, his car.

638

00:34:03,440 --> 00:34:04,720

Does anyone know what he's doing here?

639

00:34:04,720 --> 00:34:06,120

Let's stop and see what he's doing.

640

00:34:06,120 --> 00:34:07,600

My dad and I were so close.

641

00:34:07,600 --> 00:34:10,240

Pete would have known that if we didn't stop and say hello,

642

00:34:10,240 --> 00:34:12,080

I was just going to sell all day anyway.

643

00:34:12,080 --> 00:34:13,520

So we did.

644

00:34:13,520 --> 00:34:15,400

We right away turned around.

645

00:34:15,400 --> 00:34:18,880

And I just couldn't imagine driving by without stopping

646

00:34:18,880 --> 00:34:19,720

and saying hello.

647

00:34:19,720 --> 00:34:21,280

It's just the way we were.

648

00:34:22,200 --> 00:34:24,400

So we just walked right by the car.

649

00:34:24,400 --> 00:34:25,760

I didn't really pay any attention.

650

00:34:25,760 --> 00:34:30,240

We walked by it, walked down the bank to the water.

651

00:34:30,240 --> 00:34:31,760

We just assumed that he was fishing.

652

00:34:31,760 --> 00:34:32,260

Yeah.

653

00:34:32,260 --> 00:34:32,760

It's a long time.

654

00:34:32,760 --> 00:34:33,760

He got away on the weekend.

655

00:34:33,760 --> 00:34:34,760

Yeah, that's true.

656

00:34:37,240 --> 00:34:38,720

Guys got down here.

657

00:34:38,720 --> 00:34:39,220

Dad!

658

00:34:43,600 --> 00:34:44,100

Dad!

659

00:34:46,640 --> 00:34:48,840

At the water, I was curious.

660

00:34:48,880 --> 00:34:51,320

When I got back to the car, I started

661

00:34:51,320 --> 00:34:54,240

to get a little bit that feeling in your stomach

662

00:34:54,240 --> 00:34:57,200

like, this is really unusual.

663

00:34:57,200 --> 00:34:58,280

Past curious now.

664

00:35:01,480 --> 00:35:03,840

Concerned because her father had a heart condition,

665

00:35:03,840 --> 00:35:06,240

Lila called her mother.

666

00:35:06,240 --> 00:35:12,160

Margaret Cooper had not seen her husband for more than 24 hours.

667

00:35:12,160 --> 00:35:14,760

I felt a great deal of fear.

668

00:35:14,760 --> 00:35:18,680

Lila suggested that she check out the hotel, which was close.

669

00:35:18,680 --> 00:35:21,480

The hospitals.

670

00:35:21,480 --> 00:35:26,480

And then if he didn't find him, she would go to the police.

671

00:35:26,480 --> 00:35:28,120

Do you know where he was headed to?

672

00:35:28,120 --> 00:35:30,680

He was on a regular sales trip, as far as we know.

673

00:35:30,680 --> 00:35:33,680

On his way through the valley to sell some supplies.

674

00:35:33,680 --> 00:35:35,720

What kind of supplies does he sell?

675

00:35:35,720 --> 00:35:37,040

Restaurant equipment.

676

00:35:37,040 --> 00:35:40,320

There was no footprints or any other physical evidence

677

00:35:40,320 --> 00:35:42,960

that may be around the vehicle.

678

00:35:42,960 --> 00:35:44,840

The vehicle was locked.

679

00:35:44,840 --> 00:35:46,960

He had a set of clothes that were left in the vehicle,

680

00:35:46,960 --> 00:35:49,120

along with some fishing tackle.

681

00:35:49,120 --> 00:35:51,080

Nothing that we found around the vehicle

682

00:35:51,080 --> 00:35:53,000

would suggest that foul play was involved in this.

683

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:57,920

We're going to have to take the car, too.

684

00:35:57,920 --> 00:36:00,400

You can see he's going to be towing it away.

685

00:36:00,400 --> 00:36:01,520

They have to take the car.

686

00:36:01,520 --> 00:36:03,040

That has to go back to our office.

687

00:36:03,040 --> 00:36:05,920

We've got to check it to see if there's any evidence at all.

688

00:36:05,920 --> 00:36:08,200

I felt very lost seeing the car go away.

689

00:36:08,200 --> 00:36:09,560

I wanted to make them leave it.

690

00:36:09,560 --> 00:36:10,360

Very good.

691

00:36:10,360 --> 00:36:11,160

Happy taking.

692

00:36:11,160 --> 00:36:12,200

It has to go.

693

00:36:12,200 --> 00:36:13,720

I felt that if the car was there,

694

00:36:13,720 --> 00:36:16,200

you would probably come back and get into it.

695

00:36:16,200 --> 00:36:23,080

And we would just wait and get to the car away.

696

00:36:23,080 --> 00:36:24,360

And he didn't come back.

697

00:36:30,120 --> 00:36:32,800

The police launched an extensive air and land search,

698

00:36:32,800 --> 00:36:35,760

but Alex Cooper had absolutely vanished.

699

00:36:35,760 --> 00:36:38,360

Perplexed and heartbroken, his family desperately

700

00:36:38,360 --> 00:36:39,480

searched for answers.

701

00:36:42,040 --> 00:36:44,400

They learned that on the day Alex disappeared,

702

00:36:44,400 --> 00:36:46,760

he ate lunch at a restaurant less than a mile

703

00:36:46,760 --> 00:36:48,560

from where his car was found.

704

00:36:48,560 --> 00:36:49,560

Hi.

705

00:36:49,560 --> 00:36:53,080

Alex had a very bad habit in that he carried his money

706

00:36:53,080 --> 00:36:55,480

in a roll in his front pocket.

707

00:36:55,480 --> 00:36:58,080

And if he was going to pay for anything, out came the roll.

708

00:36:58,080 --> 00:37:01,680

He took off what he needed, popped it back in.

709

00:37:01,680 --> 00:37:04,920

And that worried me a great deal afterward.

710

00:37:04,920 --> 00:37:05,820

Excuse me, sir.

711

00:37:05,820 --> 00:37:06,720

Yeah.

712

00:37:06,720 --> 00:37:07,720

He's heading up the road this week?

713

00:37:07,720 --> 00:37:08,620

Yeah.

714

00:37:08,620 --> 00:37:09,880

I was wondering, could I catch a ride with you?

715

00:37:09,880 --> 00:37:11,520

I'm just going up a little ways.

716

00:37:11,520 --> 00:37:12,320

Sure.

717

00:37:12,320 --> 00:37:14,120

Climb in.

718

00:37:14,120 --> 00:37:17,160

Margaret Cooper feared the worst possible scenario.

719

00:37:17,160 --> 00:37:19,840

Someone may have robbed her husband, killed him,

720

00:37:19,840 --> 00:37:23,780

dumped his body in the Canadian wilderness.

721

00:37:23,780 --> 00:37:26,720

Lila Cooper imagined an altogether different course

722

00:37:26,720 --> 00:37:29,520

of events.

723

00:37:29,520 --> 00:37:31,680

I was thinking about all the things

724

00:37:31,680 --> 00:37:34,160

that could have happened to him.

725

00:37:34,160 --> 00:37:36,040

I focused on the water.

726

00:37:36,040 --> 00:37:37,680

Number one, that was my main thought,

727

00:37:37,680 --> 00:37:39,600

was that he had fallen into the water.

728

00:37:39,600 --> 00:37:43,240

I could see him maybe going down to the creek, to the water.

729

00:37:43,240 --> 00:37:46,040

Being a fisherman, seeing what the possibility was

730

00:37:46,040 --> 00:37:49,440

of maybe trying to catch something or drop a line in.

731

00:37:49,440 --> 00:37:52,000

And he fell in, or he had a heart attack and fell in.

732

00:37:59,760 --> 00:38:02,080

Police divers dragged the creek and found nothing.

733

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,400

The media picked up the story.

734

00:38:07,400 --> 00:38:09,120

Newspaper and television coverage

735

00:38:09,120 --> 00:38:12,360

provided yet another theory.

736

00:38:12,360 --> 00:38:14,960

After the broadcast, we had numerous sightings.

737

00:38:14,960 --> 00:38:17,760

People come to our office reporting

738

00:38:17,760 --> 00:38:21,440

that they had seen a fellow matching a similar description

739

00:38:21,440 --> 00:38:25,560

as Alex Cooper for height, weight, same type of clothing.

740

00:38:25,560 --> 00:38:28,560

They'd seen hitchhiking in the area of the vehicle.

741

00:38:28,560 --> 00:38:31,240

The investigators' theory was he just

742

00:38:31,240 --> 00:38:35,320

left the area on his own for what reasons we have no idea.

743

00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:40,000

If Alex had indeed left by his own free will,

744

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,400

why did he leave his heart medication and credit cards

745

00:38:42,400 --> 00:38:47,600

at home, and why had he taken only the clothes he was wearing?

746

00:38:47,600 --> 00:38:52,920

It was suggested that maybe he had stays of disappearance

747

00:38:52,920 --> 00:38:54,400

and just ran away from us.

748

00:38:57,960 --> 00:39:01,520

I wasn't able to accept that at all.

749

00:39:01,520 --> 00:39:07,560

Alex wasn't the kind of man who would be capable of creating

750

00:39:07,560 --> 00:39:11,280

that kind of pain for his family.

751

00:39:11,280 --> 00:39:14,240

He was the best father anybody could ever want.

752

00:39:14,240 --> 00:39:15,360

And he loved us all.

753

00:39:15,360 --> 00:39:19,720

And he was funny and he was sincere and he was honest.

754

00:39:19,720 --> 00:39:25,240

And if I'm proven wrong, I guess I'll have to eat my words.

755

00:39:25,240 --> 00:39:27,800

But I believed everything he ever told me.

756

00:39:32,520 --> 00:39:35,520

The Cooper family suffered through an entire year

757

00:39:35,520 --> 00:39:37,600

with no word from Alex.

758

00:39:37,600 --> 00:39:40,040

Eventually, they had to face the painful reality

759

00:39:40,040 --> 00:39:42,160

that he was gone forever.

760

00:39:42,160 --> 00:39:45,240

Margaret Cooper petitioned the Supreme Court of British Columbia

761

00:39:45,240 --> 00:39:48,120

to have her husband declared legally dead.

762

00:39:48,120 --> 00:39:51,960

Her request was granted.

763

00:39:51,960 --> 00:39:56,360

I'm calling in regards to Alex Cooper, birth certificate.

764

00:39:56,360 --> 00:39:58,720

Margaret tried to obtain Alex's birth certificate

765

00:39:58,720 --> 00:40:01,240

and made a chilling discovery.

766

00:40:01,240 --> 00:40:03,320

No information at all.

767

00:40:03,320 --> 00:40:04,960

Did you check out?

768

00:40:04,960 --> 00:40:07,680

She was stunned to learn that a birth certificate was never

769

00:40:07,680 --> 00:40:09,880

issued in Alex's name.

770

00:40:09,880 --> 00:40:13,560

In fact, prior to his marriage to Margaret, 1952,

771

00:40:13,560 --> 00:40:16,520

there were no official records of Alex Cooper,

772

00:40:16,520 --> 00:40:19,920

no high school transcripts, no military papers,

773

00:40:19,920 --> 00:40:21,800

no medical history.

774

00:40:21,800 --> 00:40:25,960

As far as anyone could tell, Alex Cooper simply did not

775

00:40:25,960 --> 00:40:29,280

and had never existed.

776

00:40:29,320 --> 00:40:34,240

Finding no record of him made me feel very mixed up.

777

00:40:37,800 --> 00:40:44,640

I'm sure of myself and of him because I guess I had to really

778

00:40:44,640 --> 00:40:48,600

admit for the first time that he hadn't been completely honest

779

00:40:48,600 --> 00:40:51,200

with me in things.

780

00:40:51,200 --> 00:40:54,640

Made me really wonder about his identity.

781

00:40:54,640 --> 00:40:58,320

Didn't make me wonder about him as a person, though.

782

00:40:58,360 --> 00:41:02,720

Because if he'd have been Joe Smith, I'd still love him.

783

00:41:02,720 --> 00:41:04,880

Who was Alex Cooper?

784

00:41:04,880 --> 00:41:07,240

Why had he assumed an alias and, in essence,

785

00:41:07,240 --> 00:41:10,040

lived alive for more than 30 years?

786

00:41:10,040 --> 00:41:13,000

And most important, was he still alive?

787

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:15,800

If so, why had he chosen to disappear?

788

00:41:20,000 --> 00:41:22,000

For four long years, the Cooper family

789

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:24,840

lived in a constant state of uncertainty.

790

00:41:24,840 --> 00:41:28,400

Then on May 27, 1991, a mystery of Alex Cooper

791

00:41:28,400 --> 00:41:30,800

finally began to unravel.

792

00:41:30,800 --> 00:41:32,680

Halfway across the country in Toronto,

793

00:41:32,680 --> 00:41:34,960

another man was reported missing.

794

00:41:34,960 --> 00:41:37,240

He was also a traveling salesman.

795

00:41:37,240 --> 00:41:39,200

His name was David Cooper, and he

796

00:41:39,200 --> 00:41:44,040

born on Canary resemblance to Alex Cooper.

797

00:41:44,040 --> 00:41:45,880

Do you like saving money?

798

00:41:45,880 --> 00:41:47,000

Everybody likes saving money.

799

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:49,200

You certainly sound like a sensible person.

800

00:41:49,200 --> 00:41:52,000

The man known as David Cooper had lived in a boarding house

801

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:53,600

in Toronto for nearly a year.

802

00:41:54,880 --> 00:41:57,480

Every week, he would venture out to a new community,

803

00:41:57,480 --> 00:42:01,720

selling meat products to families via the telephone.

804

00:42:01,720 --> 00:42:02,480

Yeah, that's right.

805

00:42:02,480 --> 00:42:03,320

Half a cow.

806

00:42:03,320 --> 00:42:05,320

We take the shell off it, though.

807

00:42:05,320 --> 00:42:06,000

All you get is a city.

808

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:07,680

During one of Cooper's business trips,

809

00:42:07,680 --> 00:42:09,920

a friend reported him as missing.

810

00:42:09,920 --> 00:42:13,080

Police searched Cooper's room and found this photograph.

811

00:42:13,080 --> 00:42:17,680

David Cooper and Alex Cooper were one and the same.

812

00:42:17,680 --> 00:42:21,600

Sitting there holding this Polaroid of him,

813

00:42:21,600 --> 00:42:24,200

I couldn't believe every prayer that I'd ever made.

814

00:42:24,200 --> 00:42:28,040

And my dreams were answered because he was alive,

815

00:42:28,040 --> 00:42:29,320

but I didn't have him.

816

00:42:29,320 --> 00:42:32,320

He was there, but he wasn't there.

817

00:42:32,320 --> 00:42:37,320

I had my 39th wedding anniversary, not too long ago,

818

00:42:37,320 --> 00:42:40,120

by myself.

819

00:42:40,120 --> 00:42:41,040

Please see.

820

00:42:44,120 --> 00:42:45,000

Had it been limbo.

821

00:42:49,440 --> 00:42:52,800

On the 29th of May, when Mr. Cooper returned home,

822

00:42:52,800 --> 00:42:54,240

he went up to his room.

823

00:42:54,240 --> 00:42:58,160

And when he went into his room or his flat,

824

00:42:58,160 --> 00:43:01,680

he noticed that there was evidence of police presence

825

00:43:01,680 --> 00:43:03,560

to dust that's used.

826

00:43:03,560 --> 00:43:06,360

To take fingerprints was on the wall

827

00:43:06,360 --> 00:43:09,360

and it was on a couple of other places.

828

00:43:19,200 --> 00:43:20,600

This is Chase.

829

00:43:20,600 --> 00:43:22,280

This is Chase.

830

00:43:22,320 --> 00:43:24,320

What happened to my room?

831

00:43:24,320 --> 00:43:25,560

Mr. Cooper.

832

00:43:25,560 --> 00:43:28,320

And at that time, his landlady advised him

833

00:43:28,320 --> 00:43:30,560

that he'd been reported missing by the police

834

00:43:30,560 --> 00:43:34,040

and the police were trying to find out where he was.

835

00:43:34,040 --> 00:43:35,840

Well, who reported me missing?

836

00:43:35,840 --> 00:43:38,560

I have no idea, but I know I didn't.

837

00:43:38,560 --> 00:43:40,480

I did all right, didn't I?

838

00:43:40,480 --> 00:43:43,240

It's not your fault, Mrs. Chase.

839

00:43:43,240 --> 00:43:45,520

By the time police returned to the boarding house,

840

00:43:45,520 --> 00:43:48,420

Alex Cooper had disappeared once again for reasons

841

00:43:48,420 --> 00:43:50,920

known only to himself.

842

00:43:50,920 --> 00:43:53,200

We have a person who has something

843

00:43:53,200 --> 00:43:56,960

to hide to a point where he would walk away

844

00:43:56,960 --> 00:43:59,080

and leave the family that has been with her

845

00:43:59,080 --> 00:44:01,640

for the last 35 years.

846

00:44:01,640 --> 00:44:05,240

So it has to be something that's very serious,

847

00:44:05,240 --> 00:44:09,080

or at least he believes it's very serious.

848

00:44:09,080 --> 00:44:11,960

I'd love to get him back.

849

00:44:11,960 --> 00:44:13,320

I want to give him a real big hug,

850

00:44:13,320 --> 00:44:16,880

and then I kind of want to give him a kick in the butt

851

00:44:16,880 --> 00:44:18,920

and then another big hug.

852

00:44:18,920 --> 00:44:22,680

But I'd love to have him back.

853

00:44:22,680 --> 00:44:26,240

If he's running, I don't know why he's running,

854

00:44:26,240 --> 00:44:29,680

but it's time he quit.

855

00:44:29,680 --> 00:44:33,160

He's got this family that care about him.

856

00:44:33,160 --> 00:44:36,760

And if he's out there living among strangers,

857

00:44:36,760 --> 00:44:39,280

he should rethink this thing.

858

00:44:39,280 --> 00:44:40,880

We deserve it.

859

00:44:40,880 --> 00:44:41,880

And so does he.

860

00:44:41,880 --> 00:44:46,880

The Story of Alex Cooper

861

00:45:00,880 --> 00:45:04,000

Shortly after this story aired, a viewer in Hamilton,

862

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:06,720

Canada recognized Alex Cooper and immediately called

863

00:45:06,720 --> 00:45:08,360

authorities.

864

00:45:08,360 --> 00:45:11,240

During questioning, the mystery surrounding his life

865

00:45:11,280 --> 00:45:14,480

began to unravel.

866

00:45:14,480 --> 00:45:17,560

Alex Cooper told police that his true name was Albin

867

00:45:17,560 --> 00:45:18,760

Arsenault.

868

00:45:18,760 --> 00:45:22,480

In 1948, he was accused of robbing an office of the Canadian

869

00:45:22,480 --> 00:45:27,080

Pacific Railroad where he was employed at the time.

870

00:45:27,080 --> 00:45:30,120

I was young and I panicked.

871

00:45:30,120 --> 00:45:33,400

And I said to myself, there is no way I'm going to take

872

00:45:33,400 --> 00:45:38,120

the fall for this because I didn't do it.

873

00:45:38,240 --> 00:45:42,440

I took off at that time and I became Alex

874

00:45:42,440 --> 00:45:45,160

and Cooper at that point.

875

00:45:45,160 --> 00:45:47,840

Four years later, Alex married Margaret.

876

00:45:47,840 --> 00:45:50,880

He had no idea that any criminal charges that might have been

877

00:45:50,880 --> 00:45:54,040

filed against him had probably been dropped.

878

00:45:54,040 --> 00:45:58,560

For more than 35 years, his true identity remained a secret.

879

00:45:58,560 --> 00:46:02,320

Then as a 65th birthday neared, Alex Cooper's past

880

00:46:02,320 --> 00:46:05,840

began to catch up.

881

00:46:05,920 --> 00:46:10,200

I was due for pension and you required to submit a birth

882

00:46:10,200 --> 00:46:12,640

certificate.

883

00:46:12,640 --> 00:46:13,800

I knew I couldn't produce one.

884

00:46:16,520 --> 00:46:20,080

Several months prior to this, I knew this was coming up.

885

00:46:20,080 --> 00:46:24,560

I couldn't bring myself about to tell my family.

886

00:46:24,560 --> 00:46:27,760

So I walked away.

887

00:46:27,760 --> 00:46:35,240

It was a snap decision and it was a wrong one.

888

00:46:35,280 --> 00:46:38,480

Two days after his question by Hamilton authorities,

889

00:46:38,480 --> 00:46:40,840

Alex Cooper returned to British Columbia

890

00:46:40,840 --> 00:46:46,280

and was reunited with his family after more than five years.

891

00:46:46,280 --> 00:46:47,960

We were a very close family.

892

00:46:47,960 --> 00:46:50,080

And this has been very devastating for all of us

893

00:46:50,080 --> 00:46:53,040

since we were young.

894

00:46:53,040 --> 00:46:56,960

And I'm really hoping that we can work through this

895

00:46:56,960 --> 00:47:00,840

and put it back together if not the way it is,

896

00:47:00,840 --> 00:47:03,880

maybe something better.

897

00:47:03,880 --> 00:47:08,880

We can't pick up where we left off because things have changed.

898

00:47:08,880 --> 00:47:12,680

But we're going to start fresh, take it a day at a time.

899

00:47:12,680 --> 00:47:17,840

The way I feel, I don't deserve for anybody to accept

900

00:47:17,840 --> 00:47:19,760

my apology.

901

00:47:19,760 --> 00:47:25,440

What I'd done, abandonment of your family to me

902

00:47:25,440 --> 00:47:28,640

is one hell of a crime.

903

00:47:28,640 --> 00:47:32,360

And the biggest job for me at this point

904

00:47:32,360 --> 00:47:34,560

will be to make amends.

905

00:47:34,560 --> 00:47:38,240

And I would say it'll probably take me the rest of my life.

906

00:47:44,240 --> 00:47:54,440

On our next unsolved mysteries, this

907

00:47:54,440 --> 00:47:56,960

is a legendary shroud of Turin.

908

00:47:56,960 --> 00:47:58,760

Believers say it is the actual burial

909

00:47:58,760 --> 00:48:01,280

cloth of Jesus Christ and that his image has

910

00:48:01,320 --> 00:48:03,920

been miraculously imprinted upon it.

911

00:48:03,920 --> 00:48:05,800

Skeptics claim the image was somehow

912

00:48:05,800 --> 00:48:09,720

etched on the cloth in the 14th century by a master painter.

913

00:48:09,720 --> 00:48:14,800

What is the truth behind the mysterious shroud of Turin?

914

00:48:14,800 --> 00:48:17,840

In 1989, Ethel Kidd began building her dream

915

00:48:17,840 --> 00:48:21,120

home in rural Virginia, seeking the safety and security

916

00:48:21,120 --> 00:48:22,600

of country living.

917

00:48:22,600 --> 00:48:25,080

But in a fatal twist of fate, Ethel soon

918

00:48:25,080 --> 00:48:27,640

felt prey to the same kind of senseless crime

919

00:48:27,640 --> 00:48:30,680

she had been trying to escape.

920

00:48:30,680 --> 00:48:32,960

Joe Maloney was a master of deception

921

00:48:32,960 --> 00:48:35,120

and a master of manipulation.

922

00:48:35,120 --> 00:48:38,400

He fashioned a devious plot against his estranged wife,

923

00:48:38,400 --> 00:48:44,080

in which the murder weapon was a party drink laced with poison.

924

00:48:44,080 --> 00:48:48,000

Join me next time for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.