

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 --> 00:00:11,880

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

5

00:00:17,160 --> 00:00:20,320

Captain Jeffrey Digmond was a Marine's Marine with a bright

6

00:00:20,320 --> 00:00:21,120

future.

7

00:00:21,120 --> 00:00:24,000

But then Jeffrey Digmond was found dead in his bedroom,

8

00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:25,560

a bullet to the head.

9

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

The police found him dead in the room.

10

00:00:28,320 --> 00:00:31,200

The police ruled suicide.

11

00:00:31,200 --> 00:00:34,520

His family says it was murder.

12

00:00:34,520 --> 00:00:38,200

Barbara Ann Ratner and Barbara Ann Smith met in 1958

13

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:40,080

when they were just teenagers.

14

00:00:40,080 --> 00:00:42,440

They soon became the best of friends.

15

00:00:42,440 --> 00:00:44,680

Years later, the two barbers discovered

16

00:00:44,680 --> 00:00:46,920

a mysterious secret in their past

17

00:00:46,920 --> 00:00:51,240

and learned that they shared much more than their first names.

18

00:00:51,240 --> 00:00:53,520

In Florida, nearly 30 churches have been

19

00:00:53,520 --> 00:00:56,840

hit by suspicious fires in only 16 months.

20

00:00:56,880 --> 00:00:59,960

Authorities feel a deranged arsonist may be at work.

21

00:01:02,440 --> 00:01:06,000

Also tonight, we celebrate a remarkable milestone.

22

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,840

Recently, calls from our viewers resulted in our 100th case

23

00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:10,280

solved.

24

00:01:10,280 --> 00:01:12,760

Thanks to you, law enforcement has closed cases

25

00:01:12,760 --> 00:01:15,240

that were deemed virtually unsolved.

26

00:01:15,240 --> 00:01:18,000

The families of missing persons have been joyously reunited

27

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:20,040

with their lost loved ones.

28

00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:22,760

Join me for this special presentation.

29

00:01:22,760 --> 00:01:25,200

You may be able to help solve a mystery.

30

00:01:56,840 --> 00:02:01,880

The Story of Barbara Ann Smith

31

00:02:01,880 --> 00:02:07,600

and Barbara Ann Smith

32

00:02:16,040 --> 00:02:18,520

Adopted children, a search for an actual parent

33

00:02:18,520 --> 00:02:20,880

could last a lifetime.

34

00:02:20,880 --> 00:02:23,600

In this unusual story, two women named Barbara

35

00:02:23,600 --> 00:02:25,920

are both looking for their mother.

36

00:02:25,920 --> 00:02:29,420

Remarkably, the two barbers are longtime best friends,

37

00:02:29,420 --> 00:02:32,500

who discovered as adults that they had far more in common

38

00:02:32,500 --> 00:02:33,700

they could have ever imagined.

39

00:02:37,700 --> 00:02:40,380

Barbara Smith grew up in Los Angeles, California,

40

00:02:40,380 --> 00:02:42,260

in the 1940s.

41

00:02:42,260 --> 00:02:44,060

When she was five years old, Barbara

42

00:02:44,060 --> 00:02:46,820

had one of those unfortunate childhood experiences,

43

00:02:46,820 --> 00:02:48,780

which would forever change her life.

44

00:02:48,780 --> 00:02:51,380

Anyway, and your own mother didn't want you.

45

00:02:51,380 --> 00:02:52,980

That's why she gave you up.

46

00:02:52,980 --> 00:02:54,460

My mother told me so.

47

00:02:56,280 --> 00:03:00,800

I just started to run home, and I just burst out into tears.

48

00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:03,640

That's when it rang clear to me that it could be used

49

00:03:03,640 --> 00:03:07,280

in a very vicious, hurtful way.

50

00:03:07,280 --> 00:03:08,920

Someone had given me up.

51

00:03:08,920 --> 00:03:10,320

Even though I had known the security

52

00:03:10,320 --> 00:03:15,280

and love of my own family, it was a time of, well, what happened?

53

00:03:15,280 --> 00:03:17,240

What really did happen?

54

00:03:17,240 --> 00:03:20,280

And I guess it was the first of the real feelings

55

00:03:20,280 --> 00:03:22,760

of what it meant to be adopted.

56

00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:28,160

Barbara was born in July of 1940.

57

00:03:28,160 --> 00:03:30,160

She remembers being told by her parents,

58

00:03:30,160 --> 00:03:33,000

Jack and Rose Smith, that she had been adopted.

59

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,760

It never bothered her until the day her best friend

60

00:03:35,760 --> 00:03:38,560

began her ridiculer.

61

00:03:38,560 --> 00:03:41,640

Sweetheart, remember I told you that the doctor's

62

00:03:41,640 --> 00:03:42,920

going to come over?

63

00:03:42,920 --> 00:03:45,840

That evening, Barbara was inconsolable.

64

00:03:45,840 --> 00:03:48,640

Her parents asked the family doctor, Maurice Silton,

65

00:03:48,640 --> 00:03:51,480

to stop by and speak with her.

66

00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:54,840

Dr. Silton came into my room, and he sat down

67

00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:56,240

and he told me the whole story.

68

00:03:56,240 --> 00:04:00,040

Barbara, I'm the doctor who delivered you.

69

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

Your real birth dad, he died during the Second World War,

70

00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:07,360

and your birth mother, she died right after giving birth

71

00:04:07,360 --> 00:04:09,320

to you.

72

00:04:09,320 --> 00:04:12,480

I don't believe it.

73

00:04:12,480 --> 00:04:16,680

Well, why don't you get a good night's sleep?

74

00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:19,360

So that started at that point.

75

00:04:19,400 --> 00:04:21,760

My father, to come in the room after the doctor left,

76

00:04:21,760 --> 00:04:26,120

and he talked with me and said, well,

77

00:04:26,120 --> 00:04:29,800

I hope you're feeling better and calming you down,

78

00:04:29,800 --> 00:04:34,840

and saying, Barbara, you know that everybody is gone.

79

00:04:34,840 --> 00:04:36,920

I know that my family's still alive,

80

00:04:36,920 --> 00:04:40,880

and you know that too, Daddy.

81

00:04:40,880 --> 00:04:43,080

And he just sort of left it.

82

00:04:43,080 --> 00:04:44,120

He didn't continue.

83

00:04:44,120 --> 00:04:46,080

He didn't say any more.

84

00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:47,200

Just left it at that.

85

00:04:50,080 --> 00:04:55,640

Finally, when Barbara was a teenager,

86

00:04:55,640 --> 00:04:58,800

her father brought out her long-buried adoption papers.

87

00:04:58,800 --> 00:05:00,760

For the first time, Barbara Smith

88

00:05:00,760 --> 00:05:05,080

learned that her real mother's name was Victoria Bumgoner.

89

00:05:05,080 --> 00:05:06,920

There was no indication there that she had ever died

90

00:05:06,920 --> 00:05:09,680

in childbirth, as I have been told.

91

00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:14,440

And I remember seeing my mother's signature on the paper,

92

00:05:14,440 --> 00:05:17,000

and I just stared at it and stared at it and stared at it.

93

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:20,080

I just, it was the only thing that I knew

94

00:05:20,080 --> 00:05:22,240

that she was in existence.

95

00:05:22,240 --> 00:05:26,480

And it sort of, at that point, re-surfed in myself,

96

00:05:26,480 --> 00:05:28,880

saying, I know that they're out there.

97

00:05:28,880 --> 00:05:33,560

I don't know who or what, but something is out there.

98

00:05:33,560 --> 00:05:35,320

A couple of years passed.

99

00:05:35,320 --> 00:05:39,440

In 1957, Barbara met a young man named Steve Reed.

100

00:05:39,440 --> 00:05:42,360

They soon fell in love and eventually became engaged.

101

00:05:42,720 --> 00:05:46,600

One afternoon, Steve and Barbara visited a friend

102

00:05:46,600 --> 00:05:48,600

of Steve's named High Ratner.

103

00:05:48,600 --> 00:05:50,640

Barbara was startled by a portrait

104

00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:53,200

hanging in the living room.

105

00:05:53,200 --> 00:05:56,080

Wow, that portrait looks almost like me.

106

00:05:56,080 --> 00:05:57,480

Yeah, that's my sister, Barb.

107

00:05:57,480 --> 00:05:59,440

Remember, I told you how much you guys looked alike.

108

00:05:59,440 --> 00:06:00,280

Oh, that's right.

109

00:06:00,280 --> 00:06:01,680

You did mention that.

110

00:06:01,680 --> 00:06:02,680

Yeah.

111

00:06:02,680 --> 00:06:03,480

Yeah.

112

00:06:03,480 --> 00:06:04,280

Oh, you got me.

113

00:06:04,280 --> 00:06:05,880

I looked at that portrait, and I thought, wow, he's right.

114

00:06:05,880 --> 00:06:07,120

She does resemble me.

115

00:06:07,120 --> 00:06:08,120

How interesting.

116

00:06:08,880 --> 00:06:11,280

Then we assembled into the dining room,

117

00:06:11,280 --> 00:06:14,880

and Barbara came in, and just we briefly were introduced

118

00:06:14,880 --> 00:06:15,880

and said hello.

119

00:06:15,880 --> 00:06:16,880

Are you sure?

120

00:06:16,880 --> 00:06:17,880

Yeah.

121

00:06:17,880 --> 00:06:18,880

Steve.

122

00:06:18,880 --> 00:06:19,880

Barbara.

123

00:06:19,880 --> 00:06:20,880

Hi.

124

00:06:20,880 --> 00:06:21,880

How are you?

125

00:06:21,880 --> 00:06:22,880

I'm good.

126

00:06:22,880 --> 00:06:23,880

How are you doing?

127

00:06:23,880 --> 00:06:26,880

OK, I'd like you to meet my fiance, Barbara.

128

00:06:26,880 --> 00:06:27,880

Hi.

129

00:06:27,880 --> 00:06:28,880

Barbara.

130

00:06:28,880 --> 00:06:30,880

And I thought she does look like me,

131

00:06:30,880 --> 00:06:32,880

and just kind of thought that to myself.

132

00:06:32,880 --> 00:06:34,880

Friends for the movies.

133

00:06:35,640 --> 00:06:41,920

We met, and it was just instant like.

134

00:06:41,920 --> 00:06:43,960

You know how sometimes you meet somebody,

135

00:06:43,960 --> 00:06:45,800

and you feel like you've known them for a long time.

136

00:06:48,800 --> 00:06:51,840

The two Barbans soon became the best of friends.

137

00:06:51,840 --> 00:06:54,960

They even married two men who were also best friends.

138

00:06:54,960 --> 00:06:58,160

The young couples were inseparable.

139

00:06:58,160 --> 00:07:01,200

Our friendship developed almost instantly.

140

00:07:01,200 --> 00:07:04,040

We really became very close.

141

00:07:04,120 --> 00:07:07,360

We shared a lot of our life's events.

142

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

Having children, we raised our children together

143

00:07:09,960 --> 00:07:12,120

to the point that Barbara was Aunt Barbara,

144

00:07:12,120 --> 00:07:13,600

and I was Aunt Barbara for her children.

145

00:07:16,240 --> 00:07:19,000

Barbara never knew that she was adopted,

146

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:21,320

and I had been told that she was adopted.

147

00:07:21,320 --> 00:07:24,840

So it was a thing that I knew, never talk about it.

148

00:07:24,840 --> 00:07:28,240

But I talked about it from my point of view later on.

149

00:07:28,240 --> 00:07:31,840

I told her that I was adopted in the name of my mother.

150

00:07:31,840 --> 00:07:34,240

And what I knew, she just asked a couple of questions,

151

00:07:34,240 --> 00:07:35,640

and that was it.

152

00:07:35,640 --> 00:07:39,160

And nothing more was ever thought about it

153

00:07:39,160 --> 00:07:40,400

until her mother passed away.

154

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,200

In 1966, Barbara Ratner's mother died,

155

00:07:46,200 --> 00:07:49,360

and her father decided to sell the family home.

156

00:07:49,360 --> 00:07:52,080

While helping to pack, Barbara uncovered a box filled

157

00:07:52,080 --> 00:07:55,880

with memories from her childhood.

158

00:07:55,880 --> 00:07:57,840

Barbara Ratner was shocked to discover

159

00:07:57,840 --> 00:07:59,840

that she had been adopted.

160

00:07:59,840 --> 00:08:03,120

Amazingly, the adoption papers listed her natural mother's

161

00:08:03,120 --> 00:08:07,440

last name as Bumgoner, the same last name as Barbara

162

00:08:07,440 --> 00:08:10,280

Smith's natural mother.

163

00:08:10,280 --> 00:08:12,240

I was dumbfounded.

164

00:08:12,240 --> 00:08:14,480

I didn't know that I was adopted,

165

00:08:14,480 --> 00:08:18,560

but I didn't connect it with Barbara at that moment.

166

00:08:18,560 --> 00:08:20,880

It was a few minutes later when I started reading

167

00:08:20,880 --> 00:08:22,680

the correspondence.

168

00:08:22,680 --> 00:08:27,200

And there was one paragraph where

169

00:08:27,200 --> 00:08:30,320

they were describing the mother as being a healthy woman,

170

00:08:30,320 --> 00:08:32,960

already having one previous child, a daughter,

171

00:08:32,960 --> 00:08:37,800

living in Beverly Hills that was in very good health.

172

00:08:37,800 --> 00:08:39,600

I just knew it was Barbara.

173

00:08:39,600 --> 00:08:40,320

I just knew.

174

00:08:42,920 --> 00:08:45,960

Barbara Ratner immediately called her best friend,

175

00:08:45,960 --> 00:08:48,280

Barbara Smith.

176

00:08:48,280 --> 00:08:52,080

What was your natural mother's name again?

177

00:08:52,080 --> 00:08:54,400

Victoria Bumgoner.

178

00:08:54,400 --> 00:08:56,240

And I said, well, you're not going to believe this.

179

00:08:58,200 --> 00:09:00,600

I said, I just found some papers,

180

00:09:00,600 --> 00:09:04,040

and I am baby girl Bumgoner.

181

00:09:04,040 --> 00:09:07,400

And there was a long pause, and then she said,

182

00:09:07,400 --> 00:09:08,840

I'll get back to you and hung up.

183

00:09:11,760 --> 00:09:14,600

Barbara Smith called her adoptive parents.

184

00:09:14,600 --> 00:09:17,520

Her father agreed to call Dr. Silton.

185

00:09:17,520 --> 00:09:20,440

He confirmed that Barbara Smith and Barbara Ratner

186

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:23,160

were indeed sisters.

187

00:09:23,160 --> 00:09:26,160

It was just the most wonderful thing to me.

188

00:09:26,160 --> 00:09:28,160

I mean, your best friend is your sister,

189

00:09:28,160 --> 00:09:30,600

and that can be more wonderful.

190

00:09:30,600 --> 00:09:32,120

I mean, we were already Annie Barbara.

191

00:09:32,120 --> 00:09:34,440

And I remember running into her children at one point and saying,

192

00:09:34,440 --> 00:09:36,760

but I'm really Annie Barbara, but I'm really Annie Barbara.

193

00:09:36,760 --> 00:09:38,200

And they looked at me and thought,

194

00:09:38,200 --> 00:09:39,400

what is she talking about?

195

00:09:43,320 --> 00:09:45,640

The two barbers were overjoyed.

196

00:09:45,640 --> 00:09:48,240

In 1969, the approached Dr. Silton

197

00:09:48,240 --> 00:09:50,880

with questions about their natural mother.

198

00:09:50,880 --> 00:09:52,600

He provided them with a few details,

199

00:09:52,600 --> 00:09:55,280

but withheld most of the information.

200

00:09:55,280 --> 00:09:58,320

Before his death in 1989, Dr. Silton

201

00:09:58,320 --> 00:10:03,680

destroyed all records pertaining to their adoptions.

202

00:10:03,680 --> 00:10:07,160

He was reluctant because he was very close to my parents.

203

00:10:07,160 --> 00:10:11,880

He just wanted to let sleeping dogs lie as a word.

204

00:10:11,880 --> 00:10:15,880

This was just not something that you could conduct with finesse.

205

00:10:15,880 --> 00:10:19,320

And to be close to the family and to do all of the arrangements

206

00:10:19,320 --> 00:10:22,320

and the things that went on in both of our cases,

207

00:10:22,320 --> 00:10:24,280

I mean, it just must have left him devastated.

208

00:10:24,280 --> 00:10:26,800

Because by law, you were to protect the mother.

209

00:10:26,800 --> 00:10:29,040

She was his patient.

210

00:10:29,040 --> 00:10:32,240

So where does that leave us with very little information?

211

00:10:35,280 --> 00:10:37,320

Barbara Smith and Barbara Ratner then

212

00:10:37,320 --> 00:10:40,800

contacted the Children's Home Society of California.

213

00:10:40,800 --> 00:10:43,880

A sketchy history of their past began to emerge.

214

00:10:47,080 --> 00:10:51,000

In 1940, an unmarried 23-year-old woman named Victoria

215

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:53,440

Bumgoner arrived in Los Angeles.

216

00:10:53,440 --> 00:10:56,680

She was pregnant and turned to Dr. Maurice Siltan for help.

217

00:10:56,680 --> 00:10:59,280

Having any discomfort?

218

00:10:59,280 --> 00:11:02,320

On July 31, the baby girl was born.

219

00:11:02,320 --> 00:11:04,560

She was adopted by Jack and Rose Smith,

220

00:11:04,560 --> 00:11:07,480

who named her Barbara Ann.

221

00:11:07,480 --> 00:11:08,440

I'm sorry, Victoria.

222

00:11:08,440 --> 00:11:11,720

It's time to take the baby back to the nursery now.

223

00:11:11,720 --> 00:11:15,520

15 months later, Victoria gave birth to a second daughter.

224

00:11:15,520 --> 00:11:18,320

Again, Dr. Silton made arrangements for adoption.

225

00:11:18,920 --> 00:11:21,560

In an absolutely mind-boggling coincidence,

226

00:11:21,560 --> 00:11:24,920

the two young sisters grew up just five miles apart.

227

00:11:24,920 --> 00:11:26,840

Each was named Barbara Ann, and each

228

00:11:26,840 --> 00:11:30,880

was raised by an adoptive mother named Rose.

229

00:11:30,880 --> 00:11:34,440

As we start to compare some of the facts and the dates,

230

00:11:34,440 --> 00:11:37,000

it was just a lot of similarities.

231

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:40,400

Even some of our outfits as children were similar.

232

00:11:40,400 --> 00:11:42,440

I mean, I don't think a lot of twins

233

00:11:42,440 --> 00:11:45,760

have as much similarities as we do.

234

00:11:45,760 --> 00:11:48,880

And the fact that we married best friends,

235

00:11:48,880 --> 00:11:53,920

and the fact that we are best friends, it's just a real,

236

00:11:53,920 --> 00:11:54,840

it just goes on.

237

00:11:58,840 --> 00:12:01,560

Barbara Ann Smith and Barbara Ann Rattner

238

00:12:01,560 --> 00:12:05,080

found each other against almost inconceivable odds.

239

00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:08,000

They have little information on Victoria Bumgoner,

240

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:09,880

but bolstered by their own experience,

241

00:12:09,880 --> 00:12:12,120

they are convinced that if they keep looking,

242

00:12:12,120 --> 00:12:14,760

they will someday find their way to the next step.

243

00:12:14,760 --> 00:12:16,800

They will someday find their natural mother.

244

00:12:28,560 --> 00:12:30,920

Next, the death of a marine captain

245

00:12:30,920 --> 00:12:32,760

is shrouded in controversy.

246

00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:34,560

Was it suicide or murder?

247

00:12:45,760 --> 00:12:47,400

From the time he was 10 years old,

248

00:12:47,400 --> 00:12:50,000

Jeffrey Digmond wanted to be a marine.

249

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:51,880

He signed up while he was still in college

250

00:12:51,880 --> 00:12:56,000

and was accepted into officers' candidate school.

251

00:12:56,000 --> 00:12:59,000

Jeffrey was very even-tempered.

252

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:02,400

He spoke very softly, very quietly.

253

00:13:02,400 --> 00:13:05,480

He was a very clean type of individual.

254

00:13:05,480 --> 00:13:09,840

Everything had to be just perfect.

255

00:13:09,840 --> 00:13:14,680

He was just a very organized, independent,

256

00:13:14,720 --> 00:13:17,280

individual who knew what he wanted

257

00:13:17,280 --> 00:13:19,400

and directed all of his efforts and attention

258

00:13:19,400 --> 00:13:20,840

and achieving in that.

259

00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:23,560

Because he was such an athletic kid,

260

00:13:23,560 --> 00:13:27,120

he thought it was very macho to be a marine.

261

00:13:27,120 --> 00:13:29,840

And I think that's why he chose the Marines.

262

00:13:29,840 --> 00:13:33,720

He thought he could do it and he could.

263

00:13:33,720 --> 00:13:37,160

At the age of 28, Jeffrey Digmond was promoted to captain

264

00:13:37,160 --> 00:13:40,160

and stationed in his hometown of San Diego.

265

00:13:40,160 --> 00:13:43,320

In late June of 1988, he and another officer

266

00:13:43,320 --> 00:13:47,960

had pooled their money and bought a house together.

267

00:13:47,960 --> 00:13:51,280

Just four months later, on November 1, 1988,

268

00:13:51,280 --> 00:13:53,440

Digmond was transferred to Puerto Rico.

269

00:13:57,400 --> 00:14:00,840

According to friends, Digmond was unhappy about the transfer.

270

00:14:00,840 --> 00:14:03,080

But by Christmas, he had begun to settle in

271

00:14:03,080 --> 00:14:06,600

and was dating Lucy Garcia, an accountant at the base.

272

00:14:06,600 --> 00:14:07,960

Thank you.

273

00:14:07,960 --> 00:14:11,160

Jeffrey was a very quiet person.

274

00:14:11,240 --> 00:14:16,800

He was so serious and I liked that of him.

275

00:14:16,800 --> 00:14:21,840

He said he was going to take two weeks off to go back home

276

00:14:21,840 --> 00:14:25,800

and fix some things, work in his income tax papers

277

00:14:25,800 --> 00:14:28,160

and do some other things over there.

278

00:14:31,360 --> 00:14:33,880

Just after the holidays, Digmond spent two weeks

279

00:14:33,880 --> 00:14:35,640

at his home in San Diego.

280

00:14:35,640 --> 00:14:37,640

He was scheduled to fly back to Puerto Rico

281

00:14:37,680 --> 00:14:42,400

on January 22, 1989, Super Bowl Sunday.

282

00:14:42,400 --> 00:14:45,880

At halftime, the neighbors saw Digmond return home.

283

00:14:45,880 --> 00:14:48,400

Digmond's roommate, a major in the Marine Corps,

284

00:14:48,400 --> 00:14:51,200

had gone to Las Vegas for the weekend with his girlfriend.

285

00:15:01,280 --> 00:15:03,480

At 6 PM, neighbors heard what they thought

286

00:15:03,480 --> 00:15:05,560

was a car backfiring.

287

00:15:05,560 --> 00:15:08,840

At 10 PM, a major returned from Las Vegas.

288

00:15:08,840 --> 00:15:12,520

He was surprised to see Jeffrey Digmond's car still there.

289

00:15:12,520 --> 00:15:14,800

Digmond's flight to Puerto Rico had been scheduled

290

00:15:14,800 --> 00:15:19,000

to depart 15 minutes earlier.

291

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:21,520

When the roommate returned home with his girlfriend,

292

00:15:21,520 --> 00:15:25,560

they noticed that the house appeared to have someone in it.

293

00:15:25,560 --> 00:15:26,360

The lights were on.

294

00:15:26,360 --> 00:15:29,680

The garage door was open, apparently.

295

00:15:29,680 --> 00:15:32,080

So this caused some concerns, some suspicion,

296

00:15:32,080 --> 00:15:34,320

as Mr. Digmond was not supposed to be there.

297

00:15:34,360 --> 00:15:37,960

The roommate and the girlfriend, again,

298

00:15:37,960 --> 00:15:41,040

thinking that something was out of the ordinary,

299

00:15:41,040 --> 00:15:44,800

went across the street to get some neighbors.

300

00:15:44,800 --> 00:15:45,720

Hi, Bill.

301

00:15:45,720 --> 00:15:46,600

Sorry to bother you.

302

00:15:46,600 --> 00:15:48,600

I was wondering if you could come over and help me out

303

00:15:48,600 --> 00:15:50,960

over at the house and just take a look inside with me.

304

00:15:50,960 --> 00:15:51,460

What do you need?

305

00:15:51,460 --> 00:15:52,000

What's the matter?

306

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:52,760

Well, I'm not sure.

307

00:15:52,760 --> 00:15:53,840

But if you could come over.

308

00:15:53,840 --> 00:15:55,560

The major persuaded his neighbor

309

00:15:55,560 --> 00:15:56,800

to go into the house with him.

310

00:15:56,800 --> 00:15:57,600

That's all right.

311

00:15:57,600 --> 00:15:59,360

Did you notice anything strange around here?

312

00:15:59,360 --> 00:16:01,640

No, it looks normal, natural.

313

00:16:01,640 --> 00:16:03,600

Jeff's car wasn't supposed to be here,

314

00:16:03,600 --> 00:16:05,680

and I was the lights were supposed to be off.

315

00:16:05,680 --> 00:16:07,520

I don't know, but I appreciate you coming over.

316

00:16:07,520 --> 00:16:08,320

That's OK.

317

00:16:12,400 --> 00:16:13,400

I'll check in here.

318

00:16:13,600 --> 00:16:14,600

The police.

319

00:16:30,080 --> 00:16:33,360

Jeffrey Digmond was dead with a single bullet wound

320

00:16:33,360 --> 00:16:36,720

to his right temple.

321

00:16:36,720 --> 00:16:40,760

Digmond's blood alcohol level measured an incredible 0.24,

322

00:16:40,800 --> 00:16:44,720

exactly three times a legal limit for intoxication.

323

00:16:44,720 --> 00:16:48,040

The death was ruled a suicide.

324

00:16:48,040 --> 00:16:53,720

Among the items that lead us to conclude that it is a suicide

325

00:16:53,720 --> 00:16:56,360

were talking to his acquaintances,

326

00:16:56,360 --> 00:17:01,720

as going to possibly his state of mind before this occurred.

327

00:17:01,720 --> 00:17:05,040

As well as forensic evidence that was discovered at the scene,

328

00:17:05,040 --> 00:17:07,000

one of the pieces of forensic evidence

329

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:09,600

was what we call a gunshot residue test.

330

00:17:09,640 --> 00:17:14,360

And that determined that there was gunpowder

331

00:17:14,360 --> 00:17:19,000

or an indication that Mr. Digmond had fired a gun

332

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:21,000

on the right hand.

333

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:26,520

I had no time ever believed that he committed suicide.

334

00:17:26,520 --> 00:17:30,680

I never believed that from when I first got the phone call

335

00:17:30,680 --> 00:17:34,000

to when I went down that night or in the past two years,

336

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:38,600

have I ever believed that he committed suicide.

337

00:17:38,600 --> 00:17:42,000

I've always believed that he was murdered.

338

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:46,920

And that's what the evidence shows, that he was murdered.

339

00:17:46,920 --> 00:17:48,920

The Naval Investigative Service backed up

340

00:17:48,920 --> 00:17:51,440

the coroner's ruling of suicide.

341

00:17:51,440 --> 00:17:53,360

Unconvinced, Bill and Donna Digmond

342

00:17:53,360 --> 00:17:57,080

hired several experts and began their own investigation, which

343

00:17:57,080 --> 00:17:59,080

not only took on a life of its own,

344

00:17:59,080 --> 00:18:01,240

but soon took over their lives as well.

345

00:18:05,200 --> 00:18:07,520

For more than a year, the Digmonds working out

346

00:18:07,560 --> 00:18:09,400

of their home collected information

347

00:18:09,400 --> 00:18:11,480

about their son's case.

348

00:18:11,480 --> 00:18:13,640

Upstairs in his childhood bedroom,

349

00:18:13,640 --> 00:18:17,200

they painstakingly duplicated the scene of Jeffrey's death

350

00:18:17,200 --> 00:18:20,240

using the actual furniture from his house.

351

00:18:20,240 --> 00:18:22,560

With the help of a private investigator,

352

00:18:22,560 --> 00:18:26,080

Bill Digmond demonstrated for us why he believes his son could

353

00:18:26,080 --> 00:18:29,000

not possibly have killed himself.

354

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:32,640

In this room, we've recreated a mockup of the crime scene.

355

00:18:32,640 --> 00:18:36,280

Everything is located in the same position it was that night,

356

00:18:36,320 --> 00:18:39,600

and it was determined by our investigator, Ted Gunnerson.

357

00:18:39,600 --> 00:18:42,120

The first thing I had to do was determine

358

00:18:42,120 --> 00:18:45,360

the trajectory of the bullet, which I did.

359

00:18:45,360 --> 00:18:50,160

And this is the trajectory of the bullet on that occasion.

360

00:18:50,160 --> 00:18:54,080

Also, it was important that we recreate the bedroom

361

00:18:54,080 --> 00:18:55,880

as nearly as possible.

362

00:18:55,880 --> 00:18:57,640

And we did that by measuring the furniture

363

00:18:57,640 --> 00:19:00,240

and using the exact furniture that was in the room that night

364

00:19:00,240 --> 00:19:02,200

the night of the shooting.

365

00:19:02,200 --> 00:19:05,680

This was the position that my son was found in.

366

00:19:08,520 --> 00:19:10,960

And I am the same height as my son.

367

00:19:10,960 --> 00:19:13,840

Now, he was shot through the head.

368

00:19:13,840 --> 00:19:17,080

And for him to have been able to have shot through the head,

369

00:19:17,080 --> 00:19:20,400

he had to be shot somewhere along the bullet path here,

370

00:19:20,400 --> 00:19:23,760

which means that you have to get lined up with it.

371

00:19:23,760 --> 00:19:27,160

And to do that, I have to get in this contorted position

372

00:19:27,160 --> 00:19:29,720

like this.

373

00:19:29,760 --> 00:19:33,880

The other thing was that he was left-handed.

374

00:19:33,880 --> 00:19:35,520

And if he had held the gun in his hand

375

00:19:35,520 --> 00:19:38,840

and in this contorted position or on the side of the bed,

376

00:19:38,840 --> 00:19:41,560

as soon as he was shot, he would have fallen to the floor.

377

00:19:44,800 --> 00:19:47,040

Even though Jeffrey Digman was left-handed,

378

00:19:47,040 --> 00:19:50,960

investigators found powder burns on his right hand as well.

379

00:19:50,960 --> 00:19:53,800

Bill and Donna Digman believe there was other evidence

380

00:19:53,800 --> 00:19:55,480

inconsistent with suicide.

381

00:19:56,160 --> 00:19:58,720

A trail of blood ran from Jeffrey Digman's left ear

382

00:19:58,720 --> 00:20:00,160

down his cheek.

383

00:20:00,160 --> 00:20:02,240

This raised the possibility that Digman

384

00:20:02,240 --> 00:20:05,120

was in an upright position for at least seven seconds

385

00:20:05,120 --> 00:20:07,960

after the gunshot wound was inflicted.

386

00:20:07,960 --> 00:20:09,720

Police photographs taken at the scene

387

00:20:09,720 --> 00:20:12,480

also revealed an abrasion on Digman's cheek

388

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:16,480

and a contusion on his elbow.

389

00:20:16,480 --> 00:20:18,960

Above Jeffrey's head on the turnback sheet

390

00:20:18,960 --> 00:20:21,400

was an unexplained smear of blood.

391

00:20:21,400 --> 00:20:25,360

His parents hired Steve Scherzer to take him to the hospital

392

00:20:25,400 --> 00:20:28,280

to see if he could get a shot.

393

00:20:28,280 --> 00:20:30,720

The scene was shot at the scene.

394

00:20:30,720 --> 00:20:33,320

Steve Schlebe, an independent forensic expert,

395

00:20:33,320 --> 00:20:36,440

to review the case.

396

00:20:36,440 --> 00:20:39,520

I don't feel that Jeffrey killed himself.

397

00:20:39,520 --> 00:20:42,000

I think there was some kind of a struggle that took place,

398

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:44,000

and he was shot during that struggle

399

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:48,600

based upon an evaluation of the evidence at the scene.

400

00:20:48,600 --> 00:20:50,800

10 months after Jeffrey Digman's death,

401

00:20:50,800 --> 00:20:53,040

his parents requested that his body be exhumed

402

00:20:54,040 --> 00:20:57,800

The Naval Hospital in San Diego performed a second autopsy.

403

00:20:57,800 --> 00:20:59,640

They found two injuries not mentioned

404

00:20:59,640 --> 00:21:01,840

in the first autopsy report.

405

00:21:01,840 --> 00:21:04,160

Contusions on Jeffrey Digman's right elbow

406

00:21:04,160 --> 00:21:06,760

and on the middle finger of his left hand.

407

00:21:06,760 --> 00:21:08,760

The second autopsy report, however,

408

00:21:08,760 --> 00:21:11,560

stated that these injuries were insignificant.

409

00:21:11,560 --> 00:21:17,520

There was no medical evidence to support a conclusion of homicide.

410

00:21:17,520 --> 00:21:20,520

The Digmans continued to believe that their son had been

411

00:21:20,520 --> 00:21:21,800

murdered.

412

00:21:21,840 --> 00:21:24,800

They felt Jeffrey's death was somehow related to his tenure

413

00:21:24,800 --> 00:21:27,800

with the San Diego Marine Drug Testing Unit.

414

00:21:27,800 --> 00:21:30,760

For seven months in 1988, before he was transferred

415

00:21:30,760 --> 00:21:36,640

to Puerto Rico, Jeffrey Digman had served as chief of the unit.

416

00:21:36,640 --> 00:21:38,840

People were dealing drugs.

417

00:21:38,840 --> 00:21:41,320

People were testing positive.

418

00:21:41,320 --> 00:21:44,040

He would write his reports documenting

419

00:21:44,040 --> 00:21:46,640

what the results of his investigation were.

420

00:21:46,640 --> 00:21:48,360

And those people weren't being disciplined.

421

00:21:48,360 --> 00:21:50,880

They were not being discharged.

422

00:21:50,960 --> 00:21:53,720

He was very upset over that.

423

00:21:53,720 --> 00:21:56,880

Jeffrey's mother recalls that while he was with the drug unit,

424

00:21:56,880 --> 00:21:59,360

she visited him at his house in the very room

425

00:21:59,360 --> 00:22:02,240

where he would later die.

426

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:06,320

I found some military documents in his safe,

427

00:22:06,320 --> 00:22:09,760

and I asked him, what were those documents?

428

00:22:09,760 --> 00:22:14,560

And that was when he told me that he was saving those tests

429

00:22:14,560 --> 00:22:19,080

from drug abuse tests so that he could cover himself

430

00:22:19,080 --> 00:22:24,000

in case anyone said that he wasn't doing his job.

431

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:27,760

When we came back to move Jeffrey's things,

432

00:22:27,760 --> 00:22:30,960

we wanted to empty the desk to make it lighter.

433

00:22:30,960 --> 00:22:35,000

And we opened the hinged door that the safe was usually

434

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:36,240

behind.

435

00:22:36,240 --> 00:22:38,480

And the hinged door came off in our hands,

436

00:22:38,480 --> 00:22:41,920

and the hinges were not connected.

437

00:22:41,920 --> 00:22:44,720

And the safe was not there.

438

00:22:44,720 --> 00:22:48,120

They were after those papers.

439

00:22:48,120 --> 00:22:50,000

We didn't get the safe back because I

440

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:53,800

believe that they pried it open, broke it.

441

00:22:53,800 --> 00:22:56,720

Conville will give it back to us if it would have been damaged,

442

00:22:56,720 --> 00:23:01,360

or possibly it had blood on it.

443

00:23:01,360 --> 00:23:04,400

There is a final puzzling post-script of this case.

444

00:23:04,400 --> 00:23:06,520

When Lucy Garcia helped the Marines pack

445

00:23:06,520 --> 00:23:09,240

Jeffrey Digman's belongings in Puerto Rico,

446

00:23:09,240 --> 00:23:13,640

one of the items was a small greenback diary.

447

00:23:13,640 --> 00:23:17,440

They opened the book, and they started reading it.

448

00:23:17,440 --> 00:23:19,480

They closed the book again, and then

449

00:23:19,480 --> 00:23:23,920

they give it to the person who was packing.

450

00:23:23,920 --> 00:23:28,840

When I give the green book to one of them listed,

451

00:23:28,840 --> 00:23:31,280

I noticed that all the pages were in the book.

452

00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:33,360

Everything was fine.

453

00:23:33,360 --> 00:23:35,760

Eventually, we unpacked things and looked

454

00:23:35,760 --> 00:23:40,320

for the little green book that Lucy was telling us about.

455

00:23:40,320 --> 00:23:43,920

And when we found it, what we found

456

00:23:43,920 --> 00:23:46,880

was that the pages were cut out of it.

457

00:23:54,040 --> 00:23:57,720

It's been difficult thinking about it all the time

458

00:23:57,720 --> 00:24:00,920

with Dumak up there so close.

459

00:24:00,920 --> 00:24:03,040

A constant reminder that he's dead.

460

00:24:06,480 --> 00:24:08,840

But I have a job to do.

461

00:24:08,840 --> 00:24:12,640

And some people may say that we're enthusiastic or obsessed

462

00:24:12,640 --> 00:24:14,520

with this.

463

00:24:14,520 --> 00:24:16,200

Yeah, we're obsessed with the fact

464

00:24:16,200 --> 00:24:18,840

we want to know why our son is dead.

465

00:24:18,840 --> 00:24:20,720

We want to know why.

466

00:24:20,720 --> 00:24:24,800

And we're not going to give up until we find out why.

467

00:24:24,800 --> 00:24:27,760

Two months ago, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

468

00:24:27,760 --> 00:24:30,240

reviewed both our topsy reports.

469

00:24:30,240 --> 00:24:33,240

They changed the cause of death to undetermined.

470

00:24:33,240 --> 00:24:35,040

Although the Naval Investigative Service

471

00:24:35,040 --> 00:24:37,000

and the Riverside County California Sheriff's

472

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:40,240

Department stand by their original suicide ruling,

473

00:24:40,240 --> 00:24:45,240

they would welcome any new evidence pertinent to the case.

474

00:24:45,240 --> 00:24:48,000

Next, authorities in Florida need your help

475

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:51,440

to solve a wave of arson on tonight's special alert.

476

00:25:04,240 --> 00:25:07,340

On October 24, 1991, firefighters

477

00:25:07,340 --> 00:25:10,660

rushed to the First Baptist Church in Ocala, Florida.

478

00:25:10,660 --> 00:25:13,420

Despite their efforts, the 85-year-old landmark

479

00:25:13,420 --> 00:25:15,260

was completely gutted.

480

00:25:15,260 --> 00:25:18,700

Incredibly, this was a 21st suspicious church fire

481

00:25:18,700 --> 00:25:21,700

in Florida during a 15-month period.

482

00:25:21,700 --> 00:25:23,420

Authorities began to fear that they

483

00:25:23,420 --> 00:25:26,500

might be dealing with a pathological serial arsonist.

484

00:25:29,140 --> 00:25:31,980

The series of blazes began in July of 1990

485

00:25:31,980 --> 00:25:33,980

in Jackson County, Florida.

486

00:25:33,980 --> 00:25:38,580

By February of 1991, 11 churches had been torched.

487

00:25:38,580 --> 00:25:43,380

By June, the total stood at 15.

488

00:25:43,380 --> 00:25:46,500

Then suddenly, the fires mysteriously stopped.

489

00:25:46,500 --> 00:25:50,340

The three and a half months all was quiet.

490

00:25:50,340 --> 00:25:53,940

But in October, the reign of destruction erupted again.

491

00:25:53,940 --> 00:25:58,820

Seven more churches in as many days went up in flames.

492

00:25:58,820 --> 00:26:02,580

Among them, the First Baptist Church in Ocala, Florida,

493

00:26:02,580 --> 00:26:05,500

damaged from this fire alone is estimated in excess

494

00:26:05,500 --> 00:26:09,780

of \$4 million.

495

00:26:09,780 --> 00:26:12,060

After the rash of fires in October,

496

00:26:12,060 --> 00:26:14,500

authorities formed a special joint task force

497

00:26:14,500 --> 00:26:18,860

comprised of federal, state, and local investigators.

498

00:26:18,860 --> 00:26:22,860

Task force is looking at all possible patterns and avenues,

499

00:26:22,860 --> 00:26:26,540

everything from profiles of possible fire setters

500

00:26:26,540 --> 00:26:29,100

to times of day and other information

501

00:26:29,100 --> 00:26:31,860

regarding the churches.

502

00:26:31,860 --> 00:26:35,900

But there certainly is no specific pattern

503

00:26:35,900 --> 00:26:40,100

that has been determined at this point.

504

00:26:40,100 --> 00:26:43,420

Just five hours before our camera crew arrived in Gainesville

505

00:26:43,420 --> 00:26:46,740

to film interviews, the Westwood Hills Church of God

506

00:26:46,740 --> 00:26:50,500

was destroyed by an arson fire.

507

00:26:50,500 --> 00:26:53,860

At daybreak, church members looked on as a task force

508

00:26:53,860 --> 00:26:55,140

searched the rubble for clues.

509

00:26:57,940 --> 00:27:01,140

Churches, like ours, like to stay open and offer people

510

00:27:01,140 --> 00:27:05,740

a place to meditate or pray and be involved 24 hours a day.

511

00:27:05,740 --> 00:27:07,260

And it's got to the place now where

512

00:27:07,260 --> 00:27:12,100

we can't leave our doors open so someone could come in and pray.

513

00:27:12,100 --> 00:27:14,380

We're having to guard the church.

514

00:27:14,380 --> 00:27:18,460

I would hope that we will come to some sort of quick solution.

515

00:27:18,460 --> 00:27:20,900

However, I think it should be noted

516

00:27:20,900 --> 00:27:23,260

that we need to be prepared for the long haul.

517

00:27:23,260 --> 00:27:25,260

These are very complex investigations.

518

00:27:28,140 --> 00:27:30,180

To date, more than 26 churches have

519

00:27:30,220 --> 00:27:32,860

been damaged or destroyed by the arson fires,

520

00:27:32,860 --> 00:27:34,820

resulting in a combined property loss

521

00:27:34,820 --> 00:27:37,260

in excess of \$8 million.

522

00:27:37,260 --> 00:27:39,580

But for the congregations, the devastation

523

00:27:39,580 --> 00:27:44,300

cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

524

00:27:44,300 --> 00:27:47,180

These are very important places for us,

525

00:27:47,180 --> 00:27:48,340

very important structures.

526

00:27:48,340 --> 00:27:50,900

They house memories, good feelings,

527

00:27:50,900 --> 00:27:53,420

and they're a very vital part of our community.

528

00:27:53,420 --> 00:27:57,620

So the loss is heavy for all of us.

529

00:27:57,620 --> 00:27:59,380

Fortunately, no one has been killed

530

00:27:59,420 --> 00:28:02,580

or seriously injured in any of the blazes.

531

00:28:02,580 --> 00:28:06,500

Currently, there are rewards totaling \$46,000 in this case.

532

00:28:06,500 --> 00:28:19,140

MUSIC

533

00:28:19,140 --> 00:28:28,460

MUSIC

534

00:28:28,460 --> 00:28:31,140

Teresa and Paul Stamper of Kingfisher, Oklahoma,

535

00:28:31,140 --> 00:28:33,580

were married in 1982.

536

00:28:33,580 --> 00:28:36,580

Paul was a successful local businessman.

537

00:28:36,580 --> 00:28:39,340

At the time, Teresa had no idea that Paul

538

00:28:39,340 --> 00:28:43,140

was also a convicted felon with a violent criminal past.

539

00:28:43,140 --> 00:28:44,140

I know you were with someone.

540

00:28:44,140 --> 00:28:46,940

Now, I want to know who you were with, and I want to know it now.

541

00:28:46,940 --> 00:28:49,460

Within six months, Teresa's marriage to Paul

542

00:28:49,460 --> 00:28:51,420

became a living nightmare.

543

00:28:51,420 --> 00:28:53,300

He accused her of being unfaithful

544

00:28:53,300 --> 00:28:56,900

and would often erupt in violent and uncontrollable rages.

545

00:28:56,900 --> 00:28:59,860

You shut up.

546

00:28:59,860 --> 00:29:01,220

He was jealous.

547

00:29:01,220 --> 00:29:04,900

You had better be here when I get back.

548

00:29:04,900 --> 00:29:08,020

I mean, I could be sitting at a red light,

549

00:29:08,020 --> 00:29:10,220

and I could just turn and look at someone,

550

00:29:10,220 --> 00:29:12,580

and it could be a guy sitting in this car,

551

00:29:12,580 --> 00:29:14,700

and he would just double his fist up and just hit me

552

00:29:14,700 --> 00:29:17,340

right in the mouth.

553

00:29:17,340 --> 00:29:20,180

Finally, after two years of nearly constant emotional

554

00:29:20,180 --> 00:29:23,060

and physical abuse, Teresa found the courage

555

00:29:23,060 --> 00:29:24,060

to leave her husband.

556

00:29:27,020 --> 00:29:29,020

For the next six months, Paul Stamper

557

00:29:29,060 --> 00:29:32,460

stalked Teresa night and day, waiting to seek his revenge.

558

00:29:36,380 --> 00:29:40,860

On November 23, 1985, Teresa and a friend, Chris Butler,

559

00:29:40,860 --> 00:29:43,380

were heading home after an evening out.

560

00:29:43,380 --> 00:29:45,380

They were pulled over by what they assumed

561

00:29:45,380 --> 00:29:46,500

was a highway patrol.

562

00:29:47,420 --> 00:29:49,820

Oh.

563

00:29:49,820 --> 00:29:52,260

■t

564

00:29:58,620 --> 00:30:00,760

Drank Man

565

00:30:02,020 --> 00:30:07,140

Excuse me, Chris!

566

00:30:07,140 --> 00:30:08,640

■us

567

00:30:08,640 --> 00:30:10,020

Chris had come to you

568

00:30:10,020 --> 00:30:13,900

and he had yelled, don't leave me here, you know?

569

00:30:13,900 --> 00:30:15,960

Teresa, don't leave me here.

570

00:30:15,960 --> 00:30:19,920

And there was, there wasn't anything I could do.

571

00:30:19,920 --> 00:30:22,300

Chris Butler survived the attack.

572

00:30:22,300 --> 00:30:25,860

Paul Stamper drove north, holding Teresa at gunpoint.

573

00:30:25,860 --> 00:30:29,100

After two days, she managed to escape.

574

00:30:29,100 --> 00:30:33,100

Paul Stamper was arrested at a bus station in Salina, Kansas.

575

00:30:33,100 --> 00:30:36,640

But just six months later, he broke out of jail and disappeared.

576

00:30:40,380 --> 00:30:41,320

Update.

577

00:30:41,320 --> 00:30:43,380

Just minutes after this story aired,

578

00:30:43,500 --> 00:30:46,580

the FBI received information from several of our viewers

579

00:30:46,580 --> 00:30:49,880

that Paul Stamper was living in Commerce City, a suburb

580

00:30:49,880 --> 00:30:52,300

of Denver, Colorado.

581

00:30:52,300 --> 00:30:54,080

One phone call was very specific.

582

00:30:54,080 --> 00:30:56,360

It had his alias.

583

00:30:56,360 --> 00:30:59,500

It had his location, his address, his employment,

584

00:30:59,500 --> 00:31:02,420

that he was driving a semi-truck overland.

585

00:31:02,420 --> 00:31:05,060

And that brought an immediate response from the Denver FBI

586

00:31:05,060 --> 00:31:06,780

so that we moved out within the hour.

587

00:31:10,060 --> 00:31:12,140

Just three hours after our broadcast,

588

00:31:12,140 --> 00:31:15,140

Paul Stamper was arrested as he left his home.

589

00:31:15,140 --> 00:31:17,420

The fugitive had been living in the Denver area

590

00:31:17,420 --> 00:31:19,300

under the assumed name Gary Wickle

591

00:31:19,300 --> 00:31:22,980

for approximately four years.

592

00:31:22,980 --> 00:31:26,740

This is one of the more efficient, cost-effective, speedy

593

00:31:26,740 --> 00:31:28,820

apprehensions that we've ever made for us

594

00:31:28,820 --> 00:31:32,460

to not have any idea early evening

595

00:31:32,460 --> 00:31:35,300

that this individual is in the Denver area.

596

00:31:35,300 --> 00:31:38,100

And by 1130, he is captured.

597

00:31:38,100 --> 00:31:39,580

He's off the streets.

598

00:31:39,580 --> 00:31:41,420

And he's on his way to Denver City Jail.

599

00:31:41,420 --> 00:31:44,420

That, I think, may be close to a record for us.

600

00:31:47,740 --> 00:31:49,780

Paul Stamper was returned to Oklahoma

601

00:31:49,780 --> 00:31:52,180

and is currently being held in the Kingfisher County

602

00:31:52,180 --> 00:31:54,900

Jail while awaiting trial on charges of kidnapping

603

00:31:54,900 --> 00:31:56,540

and attempted murder.

604

00:31:56,540 --> 00:31:59,380

If convicted, Stamper could receive life in prison.

605

00:32:12,300 --> 00:32:25,580

The Haunting Desert of the American Southwest.

606

00:32:25,580 --> 00:32:29,420

Immense, desolate, nearly uninhabitable.

607

00:32:29,420 --> 00:32:32,500

Visited by only the most durable of men and women,

608

00:32:32,500 --> 00:32:36,820

who for one reason or another find safety in its solitude.

609

00:32:36,820 --> 00:32:40,220

Vast horizons for one can be alone and unobserved,

610

00:32:40,220 --> 00:32:43,580

where secrets can be hidden amidst the sand, sage,

611

00:32:43,580 --> 00:32:44,460

and chaperone.

612

00:32:54,060 --> 00:32:58,100

1933, just north of Farmington, New Mexico.

613

00:32:58,100 --> 00:33:00,660

That summer, a daredevil barnstorming pilot

614

00:33:00,660 --> 00:33:03,180

named Red Mosier made several mysterious flights

615

00:33:03,180 --> 00:33:06,140

into the desert.

616

00:33:06,140 --> 00:33:08,020

There, he was met by a Mexican millionaire

617

00:33:08,020 --> 00:33:09,020

named Leon Trebuko.

618

00:33:11,900 --> 00:33:15,220

19 years later, the secrets of the enigmatic and elusive

619

00:33:15,220 --> 00:33:17,220

Trebuko would begin to unravel.

620

00:33:21,580 --> 00:33:24,020

In 1952, a federal grand jury was

621

00:33:24,020 --> 00:33:26,940

convened after investigations by the United States Treasury

622

00:33:26,940 --> 00:33:29,500

Department and the Secret Service.

623

00:33:29,500 --> 00:33:32,340

It was alleged that Leon Trebuko and four other financiers

624

00:33:32,340 --> 00:33:35,380

had engaged in a sinister plot to buy up much of Mexico's gold

625

00:33:35,380 --> 00:33:38,300

reserves and resell it in the United States.

626

00:33:38,300 --> 00:33:40,460

It is a brazen scheme concede that the height

627

00:33:40,460 --> 00:33:43,860

of the Great Depression and born from a conspiracy of greed.

628

00:33:51,220 --> 00:33:54,580

By the spring of 1933, Trebuko and his associates

629

00:33:54,580 --> 00:33:56,740

were convinced that the United States would soon

630

00:33:56,740 --> 00:34:00,540

devalue the dollar and that gold prices would skyrocket.

631

00:34:00,540 --> 00:34:04,580

But the potential for enormous profits carried great risk.

632

00:34:04,580 --> 00:34:07,820

Their gold had to be smuggled into the United States.

633

00:34:07,820 --> 00:34:11,180

If caught, the conspirators faced long prison terms.

634

00:34:14,740 --> 00:34:17,140

At a makeshift foundry in Puebla, Mexico,

635

00:34:17,140 --> 00:34:19,780

gold in every imaginable form was melted down

636

00:34:19,780 --> 00:34:21,740

and cast into ingots.

637

00:34:21,740 --> 00:34:23,860

In less than three months, the conspirators

638

00:34:23,860 --> 00:34:27,900

had allegedly amassed an incredible 16 tons of solid gold.

639

00:34:28,860 --> 00:34:33,300

So Mr. Trebuko, this is the property I was telling you about.

640

00:34:33,300 --> 00:34:34,980

Lots of space to store stuff.

641

00:34:34,980 --> 00:34:37,140

Leon Trebuko traveled to the United States

642

00:34:37,140 --> 00:34:40,620

in search of a safe hiding place for the illegal treasure.

643

00:34:40,620 --> 00:34:42,660

After several unsuccessful trips,

644

00:34:42,660 --> 00:34:46,020

he decided he would be wiser to bury the gold.

645

00:34:46,020 --> 00:34:47,980

It's too big.

646

00:34:47,980 --> 00:34:50,420

I need something a little more secluded.

647

00:34:50,420 --> 00:34:51,220

Secluded.

648

00:34:51,660 --> 00:34:54,660

I need something a little more secluded.

649

00:34:54,660 --> 00:34:55,660

Secluded.

650

00:34:57,820 --> 00:35:00,700

Legend has it that Trebuko chose a sparsely populated

651

00:35:00,700 --> 00:35:03,820

region in the northwest corner of New Mexico.

652

00:35:03,820 --> 00:35:07,020

The area is near the Ute and Navajo Indian reservations,

653

00:35:07,020 --> 00:35:09,340

just north of the small town of Farmington.

654

00:35:15,700 --> 00:35:18,740

Red Mosher allegedly made a total of 16 flights,

655

00:35:18,740 --> 00:35:22,500

carrying an average payload of one ton per trip.

656

00:35:22,500 --> 00:35:25,620

After each delivery, the gold was loaded into a pickup truck

657

00:35:25,620 --> 00:35:28,580

and transported to an unknown location.

658

00:35:28,580 --> 00:35:32,020

Oddly, Leon Trebuko never made a map of that location,

659

00:35:32,020 --> 00:35:35,220

nor did he reveal the burial place to his co-conspirators.

660

00:35:40,460 --> 00:35:42,940

Records indicate that the final shipment was delivered

661

00:35:42,940 --> 00:35:45,820

on July 14, 1933.

662

00:35:45,820 --> 00:35:47,460

Just six and a half months later,

663

00:35:47,460 --> 00:35:51,220

the Gold Reserve Act of 1934 became law,

664

00:35:51,220 --> 00:35:53,940

the price of gold's sword, the conspirators

665

00:35:53,940 --> 00:35:56,500

had made an overnight profit of \$7 million.

666

00:36:00,780 --> 00:36:03,220

However, the group elected not to sell the gold,

667

00:36:03,220 --> 00:36:07,300

but to wait, confident that the price would continue to rise.

668

00:36:07,300 --> 00:36:09,380

Blinded by greed, not one of them

669

00:36:09,380 --> 00:36:12,980

was aware of an executive order related to the Gold Act.

670

00:36:12,980 --> 00:36:15,180

It declared the private ownership of gold

671

00:36:15,220 --> 00:36:19,260

within US borders after January 17, 1934,

672

00:36:19,260 --> 00:36:23,300

would be punishable by steep fines and imprisonment.

673

00:36:23,300 --> 00:36:26,420

The group had waited too long.

674

00:36:26,420 --> 00:36:29,860

Well, when FDR put the gold embargo,

675

00:36:29,860 --> 00:36:32,940

that takes gold off of the market.

676

00:36:32,940 --> 00:36:35,420

Ed Foster grew up in Farmington, New Mexico,

677

00:36:35,420 --> 00:36:38,420

and has spent more than 35 years researching the legend

678

00:36:38,420 --> 00:36:40,940

of Leon Trebuko's treasure.

679

00:36:40,940 --> 00:36:43,900

It's illegal, and so consequently,

680

00:36:43,900 --> 00:36:49,580

these five men from financiers from Mexico City,

681

00:36:49,580 --> 00:36:52,820

they had 20 ton of junk.

682

00:36:52,820 --> 00:36:57,220

It was not worth a dime because they couldn't sell it

683

00:36:57,220 --> 00:37:00,260

for anything.

684

00:37:00,260 --> 00:37:02,500

Within five years, three of the conspirators

685

00:37:02,500 --> 00:37:04,540

met with untimely deaths.

686

00:37:04,540 --> 00:37:07,860

Leon Trebuko spent the next two decades traveling the world

687

00:37:07,860 --> 00:37:11,780

in a vain attempt to sell the illegal treasure.

688

00:37:11,780 --> 00:37:15,500

In 1952, he tried to cut a covert deal with US government

689

00:37:15,500 --> 00:37:18,900

officials, prompting the grand jury investigation.

690

00:37:18,900 --> 00:37:21,340

Trebuko was never indicted.

691

00:37:21,340 --> 00:37:24,660

He died several years later, apparently taking to his grave

692

00:37:24,660 --> 00:37:26,540

the secret location of the gold.

693

00:37:32,140 --> 00:37:35,740

Ed Foster is scour the desert terrain surrounding Farmington,

694

00:37:35,740 --> 00:37:38,220

and his convincing has found the landing strip used

695

00:37:38,220 --> 00:37:41,060

by Red Mosier in 1933.

696

00:37:41,060 --> 00:37:44,420

It is a seven mile long plateau known as Conger Mesa.

697

00:37:47,580 --> 00:37:51,540

I believe that Conger Mesa is where the plane would adjust

698

00:37:51,540 --> 00:37:54,660

and come in and land.

699

00:37:54,660 --> 00:37:58,420

I met this Indian lady that couldn't speak English,

700

00:37:58,420 --> 00:38:00,580

so I got an interpreter.

701

00:38:00,580 --> 00:38:04,260

She said she had watched that plane land there many, many

702

00:38:04,260 --> 00:38:07,220

times.

703

00:38:07,220 --> 00:38:10,020

Ed interviewed another Navajo woman who was six years

704

00:38:10,020 --> 00:38:11,500

old in 1933.

705

00:38:15,500 --> 00:38:17,380

She remembered several Mexican men

706

00:38:17,380 --> 00:38:20,340

who lived on the reservation.

707

00:38:20,340 --> 00:38:25,180

This would be very unusual for a Mexican to move out here.

708

00:38:25,180 --> 00:38:29,180

For a Spanish or a white man to move out here and live

709

00:38:29,180 --> 00:38:33,220

would be unheard of.

710

00:38:33,260 --> 00:38:36,500

20 miles west of Conger Mesa, near an abandoned Navajo

711

00:38:36,500 --> 00:38:42,100

home, stands a building unlike any other on the reservation.

712

00:38:42,100 --> 00:38:44,660

Ed believes that it was constructed by the men Leon

713

00:38:44,660 --> 00:38:47,060

Trebuko left behind to guard the gold.

714

00:38:50,140 --> 00:38:54,740

This house has windows, a front door, and a back door,

715

00:38:54,740 --> 00:38:56,820

and it had a veranda.

716

00:38:56,820 --> 00:39:01,220

To me, this house would look good in Tijuana, Mexico,

717

00:39:01,220 --> 00:39:03,500

but not on the Navajo reservation.

718

00:39:06,660 --> 00:39:09,460

28 miles east of the Mexican style home,

719

00:39:09,460 --> 00:39:11,660

Ed uncovered an intriguing clue etched

720

00:39:11,660 --> 00:39:16,260

in the face of a stone outcropping he calls shrine rock.

721

00:39:16,260 --> 00:39:19,100

Ed believes that it's the key that will ultimately lead him

722

00:39:19,100 --> 00:39:23,300

to Trebuko's treasure buried in 1933.

723

00:39:23,300 --> 00:39:26,580

This is 1933.

724

00:39:26,620 --> 00:39:35,020

16 T-O-N.

725

00:39:35,020 --> 00:39:37,980

Ed Foster feels certain that the gold is buried somewhere

726

00:39:37,980 --> 00:39:42,580

within this triangle formed by Conger Mesa, Shrine Rock,

727

00:39:42,580 --> 00:39:45,940

and the Mexican style home.

728

00:39:45,940 --> 00:39:48,660

Ed contacted internationally renowned treasure hunter

729

00:39:48,660 --> 00:39:51,780

Norm Scott to conduct a detailed survey of the area.

730

00:39:52,780 --> 00:39:55,220

I get an awful lot of stories coming to us

731

00:39:55,220 --> 00:39:58,300

after 30 years in the business, and probably about 80 or 90%

732

00:39:58,300 --> 00:40:01,700

of them you have to chalk up to some fictional writer

733

00:40:01,700 --> 00:40:03,500

as writing a book or magazine.

734

00:40:03,500 --> 00:40:07,300

But this one has a ring of authenticity to it,

735

00:40:07,300 --> 00:40:10,700

and therefore it deserves attention,

736

00:40:10,700 --> 00:40:12,900

and we intend to give it to it.

737

00:40:16,300 --> 00:40:19,460

I have looked with my eyes and metal detectors

738

00:40:19,500 --> 00:40:23,340

for many years, and now they have technology,

739

00:40:23,340 --> 00:40:27,940

and that's why I think it's going to be found with technology.

740

00:40:27,940 --> 00:40:31,340

It's not going to be found with dumb luck,

741

00:40:31,340 --> 00:40:33,180

because I've spent all of that.

742

00:40:37,300 --> 00:40:40,540

Is Ed Foster merely chasing a legend which has grown grander

743

00:40:40,540 --> 00:40:44,420

with the passing of the years, or does a desert of New Mexico

744

00:40:44,420 --> 00:40:47,860

indeed hold the secret to Leon Trebuko's treasure?

745

00:40:47,860 --> 00:40:51,020

Or is it the secret to Leon Trebuko's long lost fortune?

746

00:41:03,980 --> 00:41:07,620

On our next unsolved mysteries, in 1978,

747

00:41:07,620 --> 00:41:09,900

a charming, sophisticated man befriended

748

00:41:09,900 --> 00:41:12,020

a wealthy widow in Tennessee.

749

00:41:12,020 --> 00:41:15,660

Before long, he was running her estate and her affairs.

750

00:41:15,700 --> 00:41:18,660

Seven years later, he allegedly faked his own death

751

00:41:18,660 --> 00:41:22,660

and vanished, leaving the widow virtually penniless.

752

00:41:22,660 --> 00:41:26,820

Join me next week for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.