

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 --> 00:00:12,120

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

5

00:00:16,720 --> 00:00:21,120

Tonight, on a special edition of Unsolved Mysteries,

6

00:00:21,120 --> 00:00:23,400

meet Todd Mueller, an accused con man

7

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

with a twisted sense of humor.

8

00:00:25,400 --> 00:00:27,280

His escapades are the most important

9

00:00:27,280 --> 00:00:29,200

and frustrated police investigators

10

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

in Honolulu and Chicago.

11

00:00:31,200 --> 00:00:33,720

Not content just to break the law,

12

00:00:33,720 --> 00:00:35,800

Mueller has mercilessly taunted authorities

13

00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:39,840

with a series of practical jokes.

14

00:00:39,840 --> 00:00:41,600

Chad Mauer of Madison, Wisconsin

15

00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:45,680

was an active popular teenager, the all-American boy.

16

00:00:45,680 --> 00:00:48,320

Then in 1990, he was found asphyxiating

17

00:00:48,320 --> 00:00:50,880

in an abandoned garage in Chicago.

18

00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:53,040

What could have taken Chad Mauer to Chicago's

19

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

semi-south state of mind?

20

00:00:55,040 --> 00:00:57,840

Then Chad Mauer to Chicago's semi-south side

21

00:00:57,840 --> 00:01:01,280

and ultimately led to his death.

22

00:01:01,280 --> 00:01:04,560

As a young single mother, Loreen Roberts was so destitute,

23

00:01:04,560 --> 00:01:08,080

she felt compelled to put her three children up for adoption.

24

00:01:08,080 --> 00:01:11,160

Now she is one of the heirs to a million-dollar estate

25

00:01:11,160 --> 00:01:12,400

and doesn't even know it.

26

00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:17,920

In 1974, the violent murder of their mother

27

00:01:17,920 --> 00:01:20,720

ripped apart the nine children of the Vest family.

28

00:01:20,720 --> 00:01:23,640

17 years later, one of them is still missing.

29

00:01:25,680 --> 00:01:29,920

Join me for this intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

30

00:01:29,920 --> 00:01:32,000

Perhaps you can help solve a mystery.

31

00:01:55,040 --> 00:01:56,080

What's this?

32

00:01:56,080 --> 00:02:25,600

Okay, I think this is a great bike I want to show you.

33

00:02:25,600 --> 00:02:27,720

It's perfect for what you're looking for.

34

00:02:27,720 --> 00:02:30,440

19-year-old Chad Mauer worked in a bike shop

35

00:02:30,440 --> 00:02:33,880

in the Midwest College town of Madison, Wisconsin.

36

00:02:33,880 --> 00:02:37,480

He was a typical boy next door, a popular, well-rounded

37

00:02:37,480 --> 00:02:39,680

athlete who hoped to save up enough money

38

00:02:39,680 --> 00:02:43,560

to attend college in Colorado.

39

00:02:43,560 --> 00:02:46,000

So Chad, how are things at the bike shop today?

40

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:47,440

Pat, you wouldn't believe it.

41

00:02:47,440 --> 00:02:47,940

Oh, really?

42

00:02:47,940 --> 00:02:49,240

Have you sold anything yet?

43

00:02:49,240 --> 00:02:51,280

Yeah, sold my first bike.

44

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:53,800

On the afternoon of May 19, 1990,

45

00:02:53,840 --> 00:02:56,440

Chad returned home to grab a quick lunch.

46

00:02:56,440 --> 00:02:58,840

You know, it's packed over there, so I got to get going.

47

00:02:58,840 --> 00:02:59,740

See you.

48

00:02:59,740 --> 00:03:00,960

OK, see you, Chad.

49

00:03:00,960 --> 00:03:04,200

It would be the last time Chad's parents would ever see him.

50

00:03:04,200 --> 00:03:06,480

Dad, can I borrow some money for gas?

51

00:03:06,480 --> 00:03:07,380

Be right out.

52

00:03:07,380 --> 00:03:08,320

OK, thanks.

53

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

There was nothing about him that was different.

54

00:03:10,320 --> 00:03:11,520

I mean, he wasn't on edge.

55

00:03:11,520 --> 00:03:13,360

Chad, do you want me to get a jacket to take with you?

56

00:03:13,360 --> 00:03:14,260

No, that's all right.

57

00:03:14,260 --> 00:03:15,160

Thanks.

58

00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:16,060

Bye-bye.

59

00:03:16,060 --> 00:03:18,320

You know, he was just so excited about the job.

60

00:03:18,320 --> 00:03:22,640

And he had a big smile on his face, as usual.

61

00:03:22,680 --> 00:03:24,200

Hold the gas for 20, Chad, OK?

62

00:03:24,200 --> 00:03:24,600

Sold out.

63

00:03:24,600 --> 00:03:25,800

Have a good day, OK?

64

00:03:25,800 --> 00:03:26,440

Catch you later.

65

00:03:26,440 --> 00:03:27,480

Bye.

66

00:03:27,480 --> 00:03:29,520

Now, staying right outside, saying goodbye to him,

67

00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:30,640

and have a good one.

68

00:03:30,640 --> 00:03:32,480

You know, I didn't notice anything different,

69

00:03:32,480 --> 00:03:34,160

either, about anything in the car.

70

00:03:34,160 --> 00:03:37,480

You know, just kind of cool out that day and stuff.

71

00:03:37,480 --> 00:03:39,760

I just don't think he had any intention of going anywhere.

72

00:03:39,760 --> 00:03:41,480

Or else he would have had a jacket with him.

73

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:45,280

About an hour, an hour and a half later,

74

00:03:45,280 --> 00:03:48,920

John needed something at the hardware store that's

75

00:03:48,920 --> 00:03:50,320

near the bike shop.

76

00:03:50,320 --> 00:03:52,280

Matter of fact, it's two doors down from it.

77

00:03:52,320 --> 00:03:55,200

So we headed up to the hardware store,

78

00:03:55,200 --> 00:03:58,440

and we noticed the car, Chad's car,

79

00:03:58,440 --> 00:04:00,160

was not in the parking lot.

80

00:04:00,160 --> 00:04:02,840

So we decided instead of going to the hardware store

81

00:04:02,840 --> 00:04:05,840

to stop there and see where Chad was.

82

00:04:05,840 --> 00:04:06,840

Just a minute, an hour and a half.

83

00:04:06,840 --> 00:04:07,840

This is up for us.

84

00:04:10,320 --> 00:04:11,400

Thank you.

85

00:04:11,400 --> 00:04:12,560

George, you know where Chad is.

86

00:04:12,560 --> 00:04:14,280

His car's not out front.

87

00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:16,000

Well, he better be here.

88

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:18,720

He may have a customer in the back.

89

00:04:18,720 --> 00:04:20,000

I knew there was something wrong,

90

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:21,800

but I just couldn't imagine.

91

00:04:21,800 --> 00:04:25,320

You know, so we just thought Chad will show up.

92

00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:28,280

I hardly slept at all that night.

93

00:04:28,280 --> 00:04:29,680

I probably got about five hours sleep.

94

00:04:29,680 --> 00:04:31,440

And I got up at six, and I literally

95

00:04:31,440 --> 00:04:32,440

started calling kids.

96

00:04:32,440 --> 00:04:34,480

But I started calling kids about 7.30.

97

00:04:34,480 --> 00:04:36,480

And nobody knew anything.

98

00:04:36,480 --> 00:04:39,080

The last time anybody saw Chad was Friday night

99

00:04:39,080 --> 00:04:41,080

at a party for a couple hours.

100

00:04:41,080 --> 00:04:41,720

And that was it.

101

00:04:48,640 --> 00:04:51,480

The south side of Chicago is one of the roughest neighborhoods

102

00:04:51,480 --> 00:04:52,960

in the country.

103

00:04:52,960 --> 00:04:55,360

It is just a three hour drive from Chad's home

104

00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:56,560

in Madison, Wisconsin.

105

00:05:02,760 --> 00:05:04,920

Two days after Chad was last seen,

106

00:05:04,920 --> 00:05:06,880

a maintenance worker found Chad's car

107

00:05:06,880 --> 00:05:11,400

abandoned in the garage of a south side housing complex.

108

00:05:11,400 --> 00:05:12,320

Oh my god.

109

00:05:14,840 --> 00:05:18,880

Inside the car was Chad Mauer, dead from carbon monoxide

110

00:05:18,880 --> 00:05:19,880

poison.

111

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,280

The Chicago police contacted the Mowers

112

00:05:24,280 --> 00:05:27,240

with the tragic news that their son had committed suicide.

113

00:05:30,440 --> 00:05:31,720

My system went into shock.

114

00:05:31,720 --> 00:05:33,200

My brain went into shock.

115

00:05:33,200 --> 00:05:37,640

And I was not thinking until the kids started calling.

116

00:05:37,640 --> 00:05:39,280

I don't even know how the kids found out,

117

00:05:39,280 --> 00:05:40,600

but the kids started calling.

118

00:05:40,600 --> 00:05:42,360

And they were screaming over the phone,

119

00:05:42,360 --> 00:05:43,800

did Chad commit suicide?

120

00:05:43,800 --> 00:05:46,640

And while he died of carbon monoxide, no, no, not Chad.

121

00:05:46,640 --> 00:05:47,880

Not Chad.

122

00:05:47,880 --> 00:05:49,520

Chad had too much going for him.

123

00:05:49,520 --> 00:05:51,000

Chad had all his friends.

124

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:54,040

And Chad loved life.

125

00:05:54,040 --> 00:05:55,840

Chad was not depressed.

126

00:05:55,840 --> 00:05:57,040

Chad was not down.

127

00:05:57,040 --> 00:05:58,160

He had all these goals.

128

00:06:02,960 --> 00:06:05,600

John and Dolly viewed Chad's body for the first time

129

00:06:05,600 --> 00:06:07,760

just prior to the funeral.

130

00:06:07,760 --> 00:06:10,440

They were startled by his appearance.

131

00:06:10,440 --> 00:06:11,920

While the Chicago police had said

132

00:06:11,920 --> 00:06:14,200

there was no evidence of foul play,

133

00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:17,040

the knuckles on both hands had been skinned to the bone.

134

00:06:17,040 --> 00:06:18,640

And there were bruises on his face.

135

00:06:19,560 --> 00:06:20,720

Are you aware of here?

136

00:06:20,720 --> 00:06:23,280

Well, we did receive his clothing, and that was soiled.

137

00:06:23,280 --> 00:06:24,400

Soiled?

138

00:06:24,400 --> 00:06:26,080

Yes, would you like to see it?

139

00:06:26,080 --> 00:06:26,880

Most definitely.

140

00:06:26,880 --> 00:06:29,800

Moments later, Chad's father got his first look

141

00:06:29,800 --> 00:06:32,400

at the clothes Chad was wearing when he died.

142

00:06:32,400 --> 00:06:34,480

Oh, no, Chad.

143

00:06:34,480 --> 00:06:35,440

Front and back.

144

00:06:35,440 --> 00:06:36,360

Oh, what happened?

145

00:06:36,360 --> 00:06:37,280

What happened?

146

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:41,720

He could not understand why there were blood

147

00:06:41,720 --> 00:06:43,720

stains on the t-shirt.

148

00:06:43,720 --> 00:06:46,680

Now convinced that Chad's death was not a suicide,

149

00:06:46,680 --> 00:06:48,560

the Mowers contacted the local authorities.

150

00:06:48,560 --> 00:06:51,600

What is the crime scene photographs that were sent up

151

00:06:51,600 --> 00:06:53,760

by the Chicago authorities?

152

00:06:53,760 --> 00:06:56,160

Together with Detective David Bon Jovain,

153

00:06:56,160 --> 00:06:59,360

they studied the police report filed in Chicago.

154

00:06:59,360 --> 00:07:02,560

John and Dolly immediately noticed yet another suspicious

155

00:07:02,560 --> 00:07:03,960

clue.

156

00:07:03,960 --> 00:07:06,520

Speaking of that, what the heck is that next time there?

157

00:07:06,520 --> 00:07:08,280

The jacket.

158

00:07:08,280 --> 00:07:09,120

Yeah.

159

00:07:09,120 --> 00:07:10,680

Chad didn't take a jacket with him,

160

00:07:10,680 --> 00:07:12,800

and he didn't own a jacket like that.

161

00:07:12,800 --> 00:07:13,760

And you're positive in that?

162

00:07:13,760 --> 00:07:15,560

Yes, I'm positive.

163

00:07:15,560 --> 00:07:18,040

The parents noted the jacket on the front seat

164

00:07:18,040 --> 00:07:20,000

was not a jacket they knew Chad owned.

165

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,360

It would be interesting to know the size of the jacket

166

00:07:22,360 --> 00:07:24,840

if it's consistent with Chad's size,

167

00:07:24,840 --> 00:07:27,320

or it may give us an idea of the basic build of somebody

168

00:07:27,320 --> 00:07:29,920

that may have been in the car with him,

169

00:07:29,920 --> 00:07:32,680

may have given us an idea of where in fact the jacket was

170

00:07:32,680 --> 00:07:35,240

purchased, which would give us possibly a location,

171

00:07:35,240 --> 00:07:39,120

assuming it's a real common brand.

172

00:07:39,120 --> 00:07:42,000

But the parents had pointed out that article in the photograph.

173

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:47,480

And when I checked with Chicago, they

174

00:07:47,520 --> 00:07:50,240

had noted the jacket as well, but we're not

175

00:07:50,240 --> 00:07:53,640

sure where the jacket was.

176

00:07:53,640 --> 00:07:56,240

They were going to check into that.

177

00:07:56,240 --> 00:07:58,280

The best thing I can determine was

178

00:07:58,280 --> 00:08:00,680

that the jacket remained in the car.

179

00:08:00,680 --> 00:08:03,880

And before the car was towed, somebody

180

00:08:03,880 --> 00:08:06,920

took the jacket from the vehicle because we couldn't secure it

181

00:08:06,920 --> 00:08:09,200

with the window being locked out.

182

00:08:09,200 --> 00:08:14,840

So now I wish we had the jacket, but we have no jacket.

183

00:08:14,840 --> 00:08:17,000

The autopsy report also suggested

184

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:19,560

that Chad had not taken his own life.

185

00:08:19,560 --> 00:08:23,360

The level of carbon monoxide in his body was 74%,

186

00:08:23,360 --> 00:08:28,040

a figure much higher than usually found in a suicide.

187

00:08:28,040 --> 00:08:31,040

It's my understanding that levels where they're conscious

188

00:08:31,040 --> 00:08:33,040

at the time they succumb to carbon monoxide

189

00:08:33,040 --> 00:08:35,440

is about 50% to 60%.

190

00:08:35,440 --> 00:08:38,320

Levels that get up to about 74% to 80%

191

00:08:38,320 --> 00:08:41,040

are more consistent with a person being unconscious or sleeping

192

00:08:41,040 --> 00:08:43,320

at the time they succumb to carbon monoxide poisoning.

193

00:08:43,320 --> 00:08:46,200

And that's because people naturally

194

00:08:46,320 --> 00:08:49,160

have a tendency to breathe deeper and more methodically

195

00:08:49,160 --> 00:08:51,680

when they're sleeping than possibly when they're awake.

196

00:08:54,760 --> 00:08:57,520

The cause of Chad's death was changed from suicide

197

00:08:57,520 --> 00:08:59,440

to undetermined.

198

00:08:59,440 --> 00:09:04,320

Authorities began a full-blown investigation.

199

00:09:04,320 --> 00:09:06,640

Do you have an opinion as to what happened that day?

200

00:09:06,640 --> 00:09:09,360

The bike shop owner was quoted in a local newspaper

201

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

regarding Chad's case.

202

00:09:11,360 --> 00:09:14,280

And something or someone spooked him.

203

00:09:14,360 --> 00:09:17,040

Nine days later, the shop was vandalized.

204

00:09:21,720 --> 00:09:24,320

No other stores in the area were hit.

205

00:09:24,320 --> 00:09:29,320

It now appeared that someone was sending a message.

206

00:09:29,320 --> 00:09:31,560

The following is a message from the Madison area

207

00:09:31,560 --> 00:09:32,600

Crime Stoppers.

208

00:09:32,600 --> 00:09:35,760

On October 22, 1990, Chad's story

209

00:09:35,760 --> 00:09:38,840

was aired on a local Crime Stoppers program in Madison,

210

00:09:38,840 --> 00:09:42,880

and a disturbing scenario emerged.

211

00:09:42,880 --> 00:09:45,120

After the broadcast, an anonymous tip

212

00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:47,960

alleged that Chad was involved in a drug deal

213

00:09:47,960 --> 00:09:51,760

with people who lived in his apartment complex in Madison.

214

00:09:51,760 --> 00:09:53,760

The same people had previously lived

215

00:09:53,760 --> 00:09:55,200

on the south side of Chicago.

216

00:09:57,920 --> 00:10:00,120

We know through our intelligence sources

217

00:10:00,120 --> 00:10:03,080

that there is a pipeline of narcotics trafficking

218

00:10:03,080 --> 00:10:05,760

from Chicago to Madison.

219

00:10:05,760 --> 00:10:08,800

Now, there's nothing in Chad's background

220

00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:13,080

that would really suggest that he's involved with narcotics.

221

00:10:13,080 --> 00:10:18,160

His toxicological analysis came back pure of any narcotics,

222

00:10:18,160 --> 00:10:20,000

not even any alcohol.

223

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:23,760

But because of this conduit, there's

224

00:10:23,760 --> 00:10:29,360

a possibility that he might have been tricked or enticed

225

00:10:29,360 --> 00:10:34,160

in some way to be involved in narcotics and narcotics

226

00:10:34,160 --> 00:10:37,120

trafficking.

227

00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:39,440

Is it possible that somebody else offered him money?

228

00:10:39,440 --> 00:10:40,480

Chad was looking for money.

229

00:10:40,480 --> 00:10:41,720

He wanted to move to Colorado.

230

00:10:41,720 --> 00:10:43,560

He was hoping to get a couple of thousand dollars

231

00:10:43,560 --> 00:10:48,840

to go to Colorado for snowboarding and BMX, a future.

232

00:10:48,840 --> 00:10:51,960

Is it possible that somebody offered him \$500 to make the trip?

233

00:10:51,960 --> 00:10:53,360

And then when they got to Chicago,

234

00:10:53,360 --> 00:10:55,520

reneged on that.

235

00:10:55,520 --> 00:10:57,240

And an altercation occurred.

236

00:10:57,240 --> 00:10:59,760

And Chad, obviously, being the loser of that altercation.

237

00:11:07,120 --> 00:11:08,120

Go!

238

00:11:08,120 --> 00:11:09,120

Go!

239

00:11:09,120 --> 00:11:10,120

Go!

240

00:11:10,120 --> 00:11:13,120

Keep your hands up.

241

00:11:13,120 --> 00:11:14,120

Let's go, man.

242

00:11:14,120 --> 00:11:15,120

Let's go!

243

00:11:15,120 --> 00:11:16,120

Come on, go.

244

00:11:16,120 --> 00:11:17,120

Go!

245

00:11:17,120 --> 00:11:18,120

Go!

246

00:11:18,120 --> 00:11:19,120

Go!

247

00:11:19,120 --> 00:11:20,120

Go!

248

00:11:20,120 --> 00:11:21,120

Go!

249

00:11:21,120 --> 00:11:22,120

Go!

250

00:11:22,120 --> 00:11:23,120

Go!

251

00:11:23,120 --> 00:11:24,120

Go!

252

00:11:26,120 --> 00:11:30,120

Most all of our homicides in Chicago

253

00:11:30,120 --> 00:11:34,120

have a common denominator of drugs in it somewhere,

254

00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:36,120

whether they're selling it, whether they're fighting over

255

00:11:36,120 --> 00:11:39,120

the territory, whether they're using it.

256

00:11:39,120 --> 00:11:43,120

Drug seems to come up in a great majority of our cases.

257

00:11:43,120 --> 00:11:49,120

So this is also a reason that we're inclined to lean toward this drug

258

00:11:49,120 --> 00:11:54,120

angle a little bit more because we see it so often here.

259

00:11:54,120 --> 00:11:58,120

We feel that there are people probably in the Madison area

260

00:11:58,120 --> 00:12:01,120

that probably know more than they're coming forward with.

261

00:12:01,120 --> 00:12:05,120

And I think probably that's who we're trying to reach out to now

262

00:12:05,120 --> 00:12:11,120

because we're not going to know what happened inside that garage

263

00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:15,120

unless we know the circumstances surrounding how he got there.

264

00:12:15,120 --> 00:12:19,120

And that's what we're really after, I think, at this point.

265

00:12:19,120 --> 00:12:24,120

All we know in Chad's case is Chad is dead and handed up in Chicago.

266

00:12:24,120 --> 00:12:26,120

That's all we know in this case.

267

00:12:26,120 --> 00:12:28,120

And we know he was beaten up.

268

00:12:28,120 --> 00:12:30,120

But why was he beaten up?

269

00:12:30,120 --> 00:12:32,120

How did he end up in Chicago?

270

00:12:32,120 --> 00:12:33,120

So many questions.

271

00:12:33,120 --> 00:12:37,120

And every day we wake up and we think a different thing

272

00:12:37,120 --> 00:12:39,120

that could have happened to Chad.

273

00:12:39,120 --> 00:12:43,120

I know it won't bring Chad back, but we cannot rest

274

00:12:43,120 --> 00:12:48,120

and we cannot put Chad to rest until we really have the answers to this case.

275

00:13:03,120 --> 00:13:10,120

In 1971, Big Brothers of America opened a chapter in Elkhart, Indiana.

276

00:13:10,120 --> 00:13:14,120

Their first little brother was seven-year-old Jeff Fisher.

277

00:13:14,120 --> 00:13:20,120

Jeff's big brother was John Novotny, a local salesman and father of a two-year-old daughter.

278

00:13:20,120 --> 00:13:22,120

I play shortstop, buddy.

279

00:13:22,120 --> 00:13:25,120

John gave me the companionship that I really needed at that time.

280

00:13:25,120 --> 00:13:29,120

Just the fact that this was an older guy that I could hang around with

281

00:13:29,120 --> 00:13:34,120

and not have him tell me to go away and come back later and stuff.

282

00:13:34,120 --> 00:13:39,120

A guy that wanted to spend some time with me made me feel really good.

283

00:13:39,120 --> 00:13:42,120

So I'll get this tied up and then we're just about ready.

284

00:13:42,120 --> 00:13:45,120

After Jeff and John started seeing each other,

285

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:49,120

I noticed that Jeff had a lot more confidence in himself.

286

00:13:49,120 --> 00:13:53,120

And he was very proud of the fact that he had a big brother.

287

00:13:53,120 --> 00:13:55,120

And he would tell the other kids,

288

00:13:55,120 --> 00:13:57,120

well, John and I are going to go do this,

289

00:13:57,120 --> 00:14:00,120

or my big brother and I are going to go do this.

290

00:14:00,120 --> 00:14:04,120

He was very proud of the fact that he had a man in his life.

291

00:14:04,120 --> 00:14:05,120

I think it's ready to light.

292

00:14:05,120 --> 00:14:06,120

Yeah.

293

00:14:06,120 --> 00:14:07,120

OK.

294

00:14:07,120 --> 00:14:10,120

A year and a half later, John and his family moved away.

295

00:14:10,120 --> 00:14:13,120

Although Jeff never saw John again,

296

00:14:13,120 --> 00:14:16,120

he never forgot the warmth and kindness that changed his life.

297

00:14:19,120 --> 00:14:24,120

He just introduced me to a world that I had never seen before.

298

00:14:24,120 --> 00:14:28,120

And if I finally see him again, I just want to thank him.

299

00:14:28,120 --> 00:14:30,120

He made a lasting impression.

300

00:14:30,120 --> 00:14:35,120

It's been 20 years and he's still a really vivid part of my memory.

301

00:14:39,120 --> 00:14:42,120

Thanks to our viewers, Jeff Fisher searched for his big brother

302

00:14:42,120 --> 00:14:44,120

and ended the night of our broadcast.

303

00:14:44,120 --> 00:14:48,120

Nine days later, Jeff and his mother traveled to John Lovatny's home

304

00:14:48,120 --> 00:14:51,120

in Tacoma, Washington for an emotional reunion.

305

00:14:51,120 --> 00:14:53,120

He's doing the like this now.

306

00:14:53,120 --> 00:14:54,120

There they are.

307

00:14:54,120 --> 00:14:56,120

There they are.

308

00:14:58,120 --> 00:14:59,120

Bye, God.

309

00:14:59,120 --> 00:15:00,120

Thank you.

310

00:15:00,120 --> 00:15:01,120

Thank you.

311

00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:03,120

Yes, nice to meet you.

312

00:15:03,120 --> 00:15:06,120

I can't believe we're in the same place.

313

00:15:06,120 --> 00:15:08,120

Now you look just like your picture, man.

314

00:15:11,120 --> 00:15:12,120

It's unbelievable.

315

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

I was absolutely stunned.

316

00:15:14,120 --> 00:15:19,120

I had absolutely no idea that Jeff was looking for me.

317

00:15:19,120 --> 00:15:25,120

And then as the show aired, people from Elkhart and from Michigan

318

00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:29,120

started calling me on the phone telling me that I was on television.

319

00:15:29,120 --> 00:15:35,120

And Jeff Fisher was looking for me and we must have got 35 calls that night

320

00:15:35,120 --> 00:15:37,120

and at least that many the next night.

321

00:15:37,120 --> 00:15:40,120

You know, I've been wanting to say thanks to this guy for 18 years

322

00:15:40,120 --> 00:15:46,120

and you know, whatever it took to come out and say that, you know, I was willing to do.

323

00:15:47,120 --> 00:15:51,120

This is when we were down in some Kentucky for a John Mellencamp show.

324

00:15:51,120 --> 00:15:55,120

When I first started being a big brother, the question was,

325

00:15:55,120 --> 00:15:58,120

would I really have enough time to do it right?

326

00:15:58,120 --> 00:16:03,120

And then 20 years later to find out that I really did make a difference,

327

00:16:03,120 --> 00:16:06,120

I mean, it brings the whole thing to reality.

328

00:16:17,120 --> 00:16:20,120

The Homeless.

329

00:16:20,120 --> 00:16:26,120

Estimates of their numbers go as high as 3 million in the United States alone.

330

00:16:26,120 --> 00:16:31,120

Sadly, many of us tend not to see the individuals in the faceless mass.

331

00:16:31,120 --> 00:16:36,120

We forget that for each man, woman and child on the streets, there is an untold story.

332

00:16:36,120 --> 00:16:38,120

The written of a promise.

333

00:16:39,120 --> 00:16:44,120

This is the story of a woman named Loreen Roberts who may be lost among the homeless.

334

00:16:44,120 --> 00:16:48,120

Her family has not seen or heard from her in more than 30 years.

335

00:16:48,120 --> 00:16:53,120

Loreen has no way of knowing that she is one of the heirs to a million-dollar estate.

336

00:16:56,120 --> 00:16:58,120

Loreen grew up in Dripping Springs, Texas.

337

00:16:58,120 --> 00:17:03,120

She was on the high school basketball team and the first woman to be found was a woman

338

00:17:03,120 --> 00:17:06,120

Loreen grew up in Dripping Springs, Texas.

339

00:17:06,120 --> 00:17:10,120

She was on the high school basketball team and a member of the pep club.

340

00:17:10,120 --> 00:17:14,120

But at 16, Loreen inexplicably dropped out of school.

341

00:17:14,120 --> 00:17:20,120

Her family believes this may have been the beginning of a slow descent into mental illness.

342

00:17:21,120 --> 00:17:24,120

Loreen was very quiet.

343

00:17:24,120 --> 00:17:30,120

She would just be to herself with her own thoughts and her own world.

344

00:17:31,120 --> 00:17:36,120

It's as if she wasn't there with you most of the time.

345

00:17:39,120 --> 00:17:41,120

Hey, little lady, can we get some coffee over here?

346

00:17:41,120 --> 00:17:43,120

Yeah, you the pretty one.

347

00:17:43,120 --> 00:17:45,120

You want to take our order?

348

00:17:45,120 --> 00:17:47,120

Oh, I'll be with you.

349

00:17:47,120 --> 00:17:53,120

In 1949, just after she dropped out of high school, Loreen moved to Austin and soon found work as a waitress.

350

00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:55,120

She also found love.

351

00:17:55,120 --> 00:17:59,120

Coffee, pie, and how about I take you for a whirl?

352

00:18:00,120 --> 00:18:03,120

I don't know what you mean.

353

00:18:03,120 --> 00:18:06,120

Let me show you.

354

00:18:13,120 --> 00:18:18,120

Just 10 days after they met, Loreen and the young service man were married.

355

00:18:18,120 --> 00:18:25,120

Loreen and her husband had three children in quick succession.

356

00:18:25,120 --> 00:18:29,120

In 1956, they moved to his hometown in New Jersey.

357

00:18:29,120 --> 00:18:33,120

That decision would prove to be the undoing of the young couple.

358

00:18:33,120 --> 00:18:38,120

Loreen told me that she wasn't happy there.

359

00:18:38,120 --> 00:18:41,120

His family didn't accept him.

360

00:18:42,120 --> 00:18:46,120

Loreen told me that she wasn't happy there.

361

00:18:46,120 --> 00:18:49,120

His family didn't accept her.

362

00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:53,120

And that his mother bought her and the children a train ticket

363

00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:57,120

and put them on the train to come back to Austin, send them back to Austin.

364

00:18:59,120 --> 00:19:02,120

Loreen's husband filed for divorce.

365

00:19:02,120 --> 00:19:04,120

With no money and no means of support,

366

00:19:04,120 --> 00:19:09,120

Loreen and her three young children returned to Texas and an uncertain future.

367

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:12,120

I'm tired. Who are we going to go home with?

368

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

Am I at the sweetheart?

369

00:19:16,120 --> 00:19:18,120

Would you put this on for me? That other one's dirty.

370

00:19:18,120 --> 00:19:20,120

Come here, put this on for mommy.

371

00:19:20,120 --> 00:19:22,120

I'm hungry. Who's going to feed us?

372

00:19:22,120 --> 00:19:24,120

This is the kitchen.

373

00:19:24,120 --> 00:19:26,120

I need you to help me out.

374

00:19:26,120 --> 00:19:27,120

Mother!

375

00:19:27,120 --> 00:19:28,120

Can you do that?

376

00:19:28,120 --> 00:19:30,120

But who's going to take care of us?

377

00:19:30,120 --> 00:19:32,120

You. I need you to be the man while I'm gone.

378

00:19:32,120 --> 00:19:34,120

Can you do that? Will you be in charge for mommy?

379

00:19:34,120 --> 00:19:36,120

Will you do that for me?

380

00:19:36,120 --> 00:19:38,120

I gotta go now.

381

00:19:38,120 --> 00:19:39,120

Okay.

382

00:19:39,120 --> 00:19:40,120

Okay.

383

00:19:40,120 --> 00:19:41,120

Bye.

384

00:19:45,120 --> 00:19:51,120

Loreen tried. She worked and she tried to handle, you know, her situations.

385

00:19:51,120 --> 00:19:54,120

And she loved her children very much.

386

00:19:54,120 --> 00:19:59,120

But that was just something she couldn't handle and she's seen she couldn't handle it.

387

00:20:00,120 --> 00:20:04,120

And she tried to get help from her husband, but no help.

388

00:20:04,120 --> 00:20:06,120

She got no help.

389

00:20:07,120 --> 00:20:12,120

She decided the best thing to do was to just give them up and let them be adopted out

390

00:20:12,120 --> 00:20:15,120

where they would be taken care of.

391

00:20:15,120 --> 00:20:18,120

Come along. Now, just get into the car.

392

00:20:18,120 --> 00:20:20,120

Now, don't fuss.

393

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

We'll get you some food.

394

00:20:22,120 --> 00:20:24,120

Now, don't fuss. I want you to sit there quietly.

395

00:20:24,120 --> 00:20:26,120

Yes. Yes, you.

396

00:20:26,120 --> 00:20:31,120

After the children were adopted, Loreen's emotional state grew increasingly fragile.

397

00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:41,120

She came to me and she admitted that she was sick to me and said she needed help, said she needed a doctor.

398

00:20:41,120 --> 00:20:45,120

And my dad said, would you take her to the psychiatrist?

399

00:20:45,120 --> 00:20:47,120

And I did.

400

00:20:47,120 --> 00:20:51,120

And he gave her admittance to the state hospital.

401

00:20:51,120 --> 00:21:00,120

So I took her out there and she cried and everything when she hugged my neck and loved me and everything.

402

00:21:00,120 --> 00:21:03,120

And it was so hard to seek to have to leave her there.

403

00:21:05,120 --> 00:21:12,120

Between 1957 and 1961, Loreen was admitted to the state mental hospital on five separate occasions.

404

00:21:15,120 --> 00:21:18,120

Each time she was released, she found work as a waitress.

405

00:21:18,120 --> 00:21:24,120

But each time when the pressure became too great, Loreen would check herself back into the hospital.

406

00:21:25,120 --> 00:21:29,120

In 1959, on one of her furloughs from the state hospital,

407

00:21:29,120 --> 00:21:32,120

Loreen showed up at Ruby's house, unannounced.

408

00:21:33,120 --> 00:21:35,120

Loreen!

409

00:21:35,120 --> 00:21:41,120

Honey, it's so good to see you. Get up here and let me give you a big old hug.

410

00:21:41,120 --> 00:21:45,120

Oh. How are you doing?

411

00:21:45,120 --> 00:21:47,120

Oh, I'm just fine, Ruby.

412

00:21:47,120 --> 00:21:49,120

Well, you look thin. Can I fix you something to eat?

413

00:21:49,120 --> 00:21:51,120

Oh, no, no, no.

414

00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:53,120

Nothing. I can only stay a few minutes.

415

00:21:53,120 --> 00:21:56,120

Well, then sit down here and tell me what's been going on.

416

00:21:56,120 --> 00:21:58,120

Well, I'm getting married.

417

00:21:58,120 --> 00:21:59,120

Married?

418

00:21:59,120 --> 00:22:00,120

Uh-huh.

419

00:22:00,120 --> 00:22:02,120

That's great. Who, too?

420

00:22:02,120 --> 00:22:03,120

College professor.

421

00:22:03,120 --> 00:22:05,120

A college professor.

422

00:22:05,120 --> 00:22:07,120

Well, that's great.

423

00:22:07,120 --> 00:22:09,120

I came to show you, Loreen.

424

00:22:09,120 --> 00:22:13,120

Well, that's mighty pretty, honey. Where'd you meet a college professor?

425

00:22:14,120 --> 00:22:16,120

It's pretty, isn't it?

426

00:22:16,120 --> 00:22:17,120

Loreen?

427

00:22:17,120 --> 00:22:18,120

Mm-hmm.

428

00:22:18,120 --> 00:22:20,120

Where'd you meet a college professor?

429

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

The college.

430

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

At that time, I was just hoping the best for her.

431

00:22:25,120 --> 00:22:27,120

So I didn't question too much or anything.

432

00:22:27,120 --> 00:22:30,120

I just hoped the best, you know.

433

00:22:30,120 --> 00:22:32,120

And that's the last time I've saw Loreen,

434

00:22:32,120 --> 00:22:35,120

and I haven't heard from her or anything since.

435

00:22:35,120 --> 00:22:37,120

Well, I got to get going.

436

00:22:37,120 --> 00:22:39,120

Well, can I take you somewhere?

437

00:22:39,120 --> 00:22:42,120

Oh, no, no. I came in a cab and I'm going to leave in a cab.

438

00:22:42,120 --> 00:22:43,120

Take care, now.

439

00:22:43,120 --> 00:22:45,120

Okay, you too.

440

00:22:45,120 --> 00:22:48,120

Two weeks later, Ruby received a big hug.

441

00:22:48,120 --> 00:22:52,120

Two weeks later, Ruby received a bill for Loreen's engagement ring.

442

00:22:52,120 --> 00:22:56,120

Loreen had bought the ring herself and failed to make the payments.

443

00:23:02,120 --> 00:23:05,120

We have searched everything looking for Loreen.

444

00:23:05,120 --> 00:23:08,120

All the public records have been searched.

445

00:23:08,120 --> 00:23:13,120

No one has any records of Loreen being alive for the last 25 years.

446

00:23:13,120 --> 00:23:20,120

Her mother died in 1988, and her will provided for the distribution of her estate,

447

00:23:20,120 --> 00:23:23,120

which was valued at about a million dollars to her children.

448

00:23:23,120 --> 00:23:25,120

And Loreen was one of the children.

449

00:23:25,120 --> 00:23:27,120

And so since no one knew where she was,

450

00:23:27,120 --> 00:23:31,120

the court appointed me to represent her and to try to locate her.

451

00:23:31,120 --> 00:23:35,120

I don't think it's going to be easy to find Loreen,

452

00:23:35,120 --> 00:23:38,120

but I also don't think she's disappeared off the face of the earth.

453

00:23:38,120 --> 00:23:40,120

I think she's out there somewhere.

454

00:23:40,120 --> 00:23:44,120

She's either on the street or in a hospital or under some new identity,

455

00:23:44,120 --> 00:23:46,120

but I think she's out there.

456

00:23:48,120 --> 00:23:52,120

There's a big void in our life without her.

457

00:23:52,120 --> 00:23:56,120

And not knowing whether she's alive or dead,

458

00:23:56,120 --> 00:23:59,120

then we want that filled.

459

00:23:59,120 --> 00:24:05,120

I would share her children that have found us and her grandchildren.

460

00:24:05,120 --> 00:24:08,120

That would be the first thing I'd want her to know about.

461

00:24:08,120 --> 00:24:10,120

She would be so happy.

462

00:24:11,120 --> 00:24:13,120

When we aired this story,

463

00:24:13,120 --> 00:24:17,120

we never imagined that Loreen would call our telecenter and solve her own mystery.

464

00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:21,120

Loreen's family was overjoyed to learn that she was alive and well.

465

00:24:21,120 --> 00:24:25,120

Her sister Ruby immediately flew to Little Rock, Arkansas,

466

00:24:25,120 --> 00:24:29,120

where Loreen had been working as a housekeeper for just room and board.

467

00:24:32,120 --> 00:24:34,120

A few days later,

468

00:24:34,120 --> 00:24:37,120

she brought Loreen back home to Austin, Texas,

469

00:24:37,120 --> 00:24:40,120

for a poignant reunion with the rest of her family.

470

00:24:50,120 --> 00:24:52,120

It was unbelievable.

471

00:24:52,120 --> 00:24:54,120

I could hardly believe it,

472

00:24:54,120 --> 00:24:58,120

because I guess for so long we had searched and searched for her,

473

00:24:58,120 --> 00:25:01,120

and we couldn't find a lead.

474

00:25:01,120 --> 00:25:03,120

I was so enthused.

475

00:25:03,120 --> 00:25:07,120

I just cried. I laughed.

476

00:25:07,120 --> 00:25:09,120

I did everything.

477

00:25:14,120 --> 00:25:17,120

Yes, it's getting nice to be back.

478

00:25:17,120 --> 00:25:20,120

They're real nice. They've always been.

479

00:25:21,120 --> 00:25:26,120

They're original people that are very darling people.

480

00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:30,120

After we filmed this reunion,

481

00:25:30,120 --> 00:25:33,120

Loreen remained in Austin for three months.

482

00:25:33,120 --> 00:25:36,120

She received her \$105,000 inheritance

483

00:25:36,120 --> 00:25:39,120

and has since returned to her home in Arkansas.

484

00:25:44,120 --> 00:25:47,120

This is the wonderful person we looked for for 30 years.

485

00:25:48,120 --> 00:25:52,120

We're going to try to be happy and just do all the things we can

486

00:25:52,120 --> 00:25:55,120

to be together and love each other.

487

00:25:56,120 --> 00:25:59,120

And include her children and her grandchildren,

488

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

in which I think will be real good for Loreen

489

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

and all of us.

490

00:26:17,120 --> 00:26:21,120

August 29, 1990, the Hawaiian island of Maui.

491

00:26:21,120 --> 00:26:23,120

A man arrived at a local bank

492

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

and introduced himself as Pepito de Bayon.

493

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

I've been named representative to my aunt's estate.

494

00:26:30,120 --> 00:26:33,120

And what I'd like to do is take the funds from her account

495

00:26:33,120 --> 00:26:35,120

and open up a new account.

496

00:26:35,120 --> 00:26:37,120

In addition to the \$52,000 from her account,

497

00:26:37,120 --> 00:26:40,120

I'd like to deposit this check also.

498

00:26:40,120 --> 00:26:42,120

Do you have some identification?

499

00:26:42,120 --> 00:26:46,120

And also I'd like to transfer \$20,000 to my associate in Honolulu,

500

00:26:46,120 --> 00:26:48,120

Julian Bellamont.

501

00:26:48,120 --> 00:26:52,120

I see. That's \$20,000 to Julian Bellamont.

502

00:26:53,120 --> 00:26:55,120

Although the documents appeared in order,

503

00:26:55,120 --> 00:26:58,120

something about the smooth talking customer

504

00:26:58,120 --> 00:27:00,120

put the bank manager on guard.

505

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

I tell you what, all this is going to take some time.

506

00:27:03,120 --> 00:27:05,120

If you could come back in an hour,

507

00:27:05,120 --> 00:27:07,120

we'll be all ready for you to go when you come back.

508

00:27:07,120 --> 00:27:09,120

OK. Great.

509

00:27:09,120 --> 00:27:11,120

I guess I'll see you in around an hour.

510

00:27:11,120 --> 00:27:12,120

Yes, thank you, Mr. de Bayon.

511

00:27:12,120 --> 00:27:13,120

Thank you.

512

00:27:17,120 --> 00:27:20,120

An hour later, Pepito de Bayon returned to schedule.

513

00:27:23,120 --> 00:27:24,120

Hi.

514

00:27:31,120 --> 00:27:33,120

Are you Pepito de Bayon?

515

00:27:33,120 --> 00:27:34,120

Yes, ma'am.

516

00:27:34,120 --> 00:27:36,120

We believe this check is a forgery.

517

00:27:36,120 --> 00:27:39,120

De Bayon was arrested on the spot for suspicion of forgery.

518

00:27:44,120 --> 00:27:47,120

Turn to your right.

519

00:27:47,120 --> 00:27:51,120

At first, Maui police had no idea who they had in custody.

520

00:27:51,120 --> 00:27:54,120

The suspect carried 15 identification cards,

521

00:27:54,120 --> 00:27:56,120

each with a different alias.

522

00:27:56,120 --> 00:27:59,120

Eventually, authorities identified their prisoner

523

00:27:59,120 --> 00:28:01,120

as an elusive con man named Todd Mueller.

524

00:28:05,120 --> 00:28:08,120

Todd Mueller is not your run-of-the-mill criminal.

525

00:28:08,120 --> 00:28:10,120

He specializes in forging court documents,

526

00:28:10,120 --> 00:28:12,120

which give him free reign to plunder the estates

527

00:28:12,120 --> 00:28:14,120

of the recently deceased.

528

00:28:14,120 --> 00:28:18,120

His many escapades of confused and frustrated authorities,

529

00:28:18,120 --> 00:28:21,120

often leaving them shaking their heads in disbelief.

530

00:28:21,120 --> 00:28:25,120

As it turns out, Todd Mueller is something of a practical joker

531

00:28:25,120 --> 00:28:27,120

who delights in taunting those who are trying

532

00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:29,120

to keep him behind bars.

533

00:28:32,120 --> 00:28:35,120

December 3, 1991, Honolulu, Hawaii.

534

00:28:35,120 --> 00:28:36,120

Hi, my name is Clara.

535

00:28:36,120 --> 00:28:38,120

Hi, Clara. How are you? I'm Arthur Iona.

536

00:28:38,120 --> 00:28:40,120

Three months after his arrest in Maui,

537

00:28:40,120 --> 00:28:43,120

Todd Mueller was out on bail and back on the scam,

538

00:28:43,120 --> 00:28:46,120

calling himself Arthur Iona.

539

00:28:46,120 --> 00:28:48,120

What may I do for you today?

540

00:28:48,120 --> 00:28:50,120

Well, Clara, I've been named personal representative

541

00:28:50,120 --> 00:28:52,120

to the estate of George McLaughlin.

542

00:28:52,120 --> 00:28:55,120

And what I'd like to do is take the funds from this account

543

00:28:55,120 --> 00:28:57,120

and open a checking account in my name.

544

00:28:57,120 --> 00:28:59,120

May I see some ID? Absolutely.

545

00:28:59,120 --> 00:29:02,120

We think Todd Mueller looked at a newspaper

546

00:29:02,120 --> 00:29:04,120

in the obituary section.

547

00:29:04,120 --> 00:29:07,120

From there, he would get names of deceased persons,

548

00:29:07,120 --> 00:29:10,120

their accounts being in probate court.

549

00:29:10,120 --> 00:29:13,120

He would then go over to the copying machines

550

00:29:13,120 --> 00:29:15,120

located right in circuit court,

551

00:29:15,120 --> 00:29:17,120

take these photocopies home,

552

00:29:17,120 --> 00:29:20,120

and he would make up letters of administration,

553

00:29:20,120 --> 00:29:23,120

naming him the trustee for the account.

554

00:29:28,120 --> 00:29:31,120

The fictitious documents and phony checks

555

00:29:31,120 --> 00:29:33,120

enable Mueller to steal thousands of dollars

556

00:29:33,120 --> 00:29:35,120

from banks throughout Hawaii.

557

00:29:35,120 --> 00:29:38,120

He had created a lucrative cottage industry

558

00:29:38,120 --> 00:29:40,120

right in his own apartment,

559

00:29:40,120 --> 00:29:43,120

but his work was sometimes less than perfect.

560

00:29:44,120 --> 00:29:47,120

One particular check the bank listed on the check

561

00:29:47,120 --> 00:29:50,120

was the bank of Iowa, Boise, Iowa.

562

00:29:50,120 --> 00:29:52,120

There is no Boise, Iowa.

563

00:29:52,120 --> 00:29:54,120

Instead, it should be Boise, Idaho.

564

00:29:54,120 --> 00:29:56,120

And we thought that was pretty hilarious with him,

565

00:29:56,120 --> 00:29:58,120

you know, just making up any name.

566

00:29:58,120 --> 00:30:01,120

I guess he didn't realize it was Boise, Idaho.

567

00:30:04,120 --> 00:30:07,120

Todd Mueller was not only a bit sloppy, he was greedy.

568

00:30:07,120 --> 00:30:09,120

During the next three days,

569

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

he returned to the bank in Honolulu

570

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

with Drew more than \$31,000,

571

00:30:13,120 --> 00:30:17,120

arousing the suspicions of yet another bank manager.

572

00:30:17,120 --> 00:30:19,120

She called me to tell me that

573

00:30:19,120 --> 00:30:22,120

she thought these probate documents were false.

574

00:30:22,120 --> 00:30:25,120

She described the individual to me.

575

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

I immediately thought Todd Mueller.

576

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

Mr. Mueller?

577

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

Todd Mueller?

578

00:30:32,120 --> 00:30:34,120

Detective Nobriga. Yeah, finally to meet you.

579

00:30:34,120 --> 00:30:36,120

All right, you're under arrest for forgery.

580

00:30:36,120 --> 00:30:38,120

Chance be on your back.

581

00:30:38,120 --> 00:30:40,120

After the arrest, Detective Nobriga

582

00:30:40,120 --> 00:30:43,120

proceeded to an address given him by Mueller.

583

00:30:43,120 --> 00:30:46,120

Once he determined that Mueller did live there,

584

00:30:46,120 --> 00:30:48,120

Nobriga left to obtain a search warrant.

585

00:30:48,120 --> 00:30:53,120

Meanwhile, Todd Mueller posted bail and was released.

586

00:30:53,120 --> 00:30:55,120

Todd Mueller calls me at my office.

587

00:30:55,120 --> 00:30:58,120

He invites me over to his house.

588

00:30:58,120 --> 00:31:01,120

He tells me, you don't have to make any search warrants.

589

00:31:01,120 --> 00:31:05,120

Just come over to my house and I'll let you look around.

590

00:31:05,120 --> 00:31:07,120

Hello?

591

00:31:20,120 --> 00:31:22,120

I just kind of smiled and thought,

592

00:31:22,120 --> 00:31:26,120

well, he's leading me on a wild goose chase.

593

00:31:26,120 --> 00:31:29,120

I walked over and checked with some of the neighbors

594

00:31:29,120 --> 00:31:32,120

and they had told me just about an hour before I arrived there.

595

00:31:32,120 --> 00:31:35,120

There was a flurry of activity where guys were moving stuff

596

00:31:35,120 --> 00:31:38,120

out of the house, thrown it onto a truck,

597

00:31:38,120 --> 00:31:40,120

and they took off and left.

598

00:31:43,120 --> 00:31:46,120

One week later, at the Oahu Correctional Facility,

599

00:31:46,120 --> 00:31:49,120

a former cellmate of Todd Mueller's Roy Hartsock

600

00:31:49,120 --> 00:31:51,120

received a welcome surprise.

601

00:31:51,120 --> 00:31:53,120

Pack your stuff up, man.

602

00:31:53,120 --> 00:31:54,120

Today's your lucky day.

603

00:31:54,120 --> 00:31:55,120

Be paroled.

604

00:31:55,120 --> 00:31:56,120

What?

605

00:31:56,120 --> 00:31:57,120

Be paroled.

606

00:31:57,120 --> 00:31:59,120

Pack your stuff up.

607

00:31:59,120 --> 00:32:02,120

Nah, I don't get paroled until February.

608

00:32:02,120 --> 00:32:07,120

A court order had been issued for Hartsock's immediate release.

609

00:32:07,120 --> 00:32:11,120

Roy Hartsock left the out-in for parts unknown.

610

00:32:11,120 --> 00:32:13,120

Three weeks later, authorities discovered

611

00:32:13,120 --> 00:32:16,120

that Hartsock's release documents had been forged.

612

00:32:16,120 --> 00:32:19,120

Todd Mueller had apparently struck again.

613

00:32:22,120 --> 00:32:24,120

At about the time we're looking for Todd Mueller,

614

00:32:24,120 --> 00:32:28,120

I got a phone call from a New York police sergeant

615

00:32:28,120 --> 00:32:32,120

saying that they had arrested Todd Mueller in New York.

616

00:32:32,120 --> 00:32:35,120

When I tried to call this New York sergeant back,

617

00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:37,120

we learned that there was no such person,

618

00:32:37,120 --> 00:32:40,120

no such department there in New York.

619

00:32:40,120 --> 00:32:43,120

And where was Todd Mueller?

620

00:32:43,120 --> 00:32:47,120

Living it up at an exclusive hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

621

00:32:47,120 --> 00:32:48,120

Hi.

622

00:32:48,120 --> 00:32:50,120

It's 1720.

623

00:32:50,120 --> 00:32:52,120

I want to pay for tonight, tomorrow.

624

00:32:52,120 --> 00:32:54,120

I'm not sure when I'll be checking out.

625

00:32:54,120 --> 00:32:55,120

Mr. Mueller?

626

00:32:55,120 --> 00:32:58,120

I'm suspicious of Mr. Mueller because of the activity

627

00:32:58,120 --> 00:33:01,120

that was taking place in the lobby.

628

00:33:01,120 --> 00:33:04,120

He had very suspicious looking people coming to the hotel,

629

00:33:04,120 --> 00:33:08,120

and he was giving large sums of money to them.

630

00:33:08,120 --> 00:33:11,120

And I informed the front office manager

631

00:33:11,120 --> 00:33:13,120

that we should not extend this day.

632

00:33:13,120 --> 00:33:14,120

The hotel's booked?

633

00:33:14,120 --> 00:33:16,120

That's correct.

634

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

Are you sure there isn't some mistake?

635

00:33:18,120 --> 00:33:19,120

I've been here all week.

636

00:33:19,120 --> 00:33:21,120

I'm afraid not.

637

00:33:21,120 --> 00:33:23,120

We have a convention coming in.

638

00:33:23,120 --> 00:33:25,120

The entire floor is booked.

639

00:33:25,120 --> 00:33:26,120

I see.

640

00:33:26,120 --> 00:33:28,120

Mueller, however, wasn't quite ready to leave.

641

00:33:28,120 --> 00:33:30,120

I guess in that case, I'll be checking in.

642

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

He simply called the hotel's two free reservation service

643

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

and booked another room across the hall.

644

00:33:37,120 --> 00:33:41,120

That irked me, to say the least.

645

00:33:41,120 --> 00:33:45,120

And at that point, that's when I felt that we should take

646

00:33:45,120 --> 00:33:49,120

some sort of action as to at least check on his identity

647

00:33:49,120 --> 00:33:51,120

of who Mr. Mueller actually was.

648

00:33:54,120 --> 00:33:57,120

Pat Amiano searched Mueller's vacated room.

649

00:33:57,120 --> 00:33:59,120

He found several discarded checks,

650

00:33:59,120 --> 00:34:01,120

which later proved to be forgeries.

651

00:34:01,120 --> 00:34:05,120

Amiano also discovered that Mueller had placed several calls

652

00:34:05,120 --> 00:34:09,120

to Honolulu, Hawaii.

653

00:34:09,120 --> 00:34:11,120

On the off chance, he called one of the phone numbers,

654

00:34:11,120 --> 00:34:14,120

and it happened to be my office.

655

00:34:14,120 --> 00:34:17,120

I think he just has a dispensation for making everyone

656

00:34:17,120 --> 00:34:19,120

chase him around.

657

00:34:19,120 --> 00:34:24,120

I guess he's sort of like cops and robbers kind of thing.

658

00:34:24,120 --> 00:34:27,120

When Chicago police arrived to arrest Mueller,

659

00:34:27,120 --> 00:34:31,120

they were met by his former cellmate from Hawaii, Roy Hartsock.

660

00:34:31,120 --> 00:34:32,120

We're looking for Todd Mueller.

661

00:34:32,120 --> 00:34:33,120

He's not here.

662

00:34:33,120 --> 00:34:34,120

And you are?

663

00:34:34,120 --> 00:34:35,120

Roy Hartsock.

664

00:34:35,120 --> 00:34:38,120

Hartsock was surprised to learn that his early release

665

00:34:38,120 --> 00:34:41,120

from prison had been secured with forged documents.

666

00:34:41,120 --> 00:34:42,120

Do you have any identification?

667

00:34:42,120 --> 00:34:45,120

Yeah.

668

00:34:45,120 --> 00:34:46,120

Todd Mueller?

669

00:34:49,120 --> 00:34:51,120

Chicago PD, you're under arrest.

670

00:34:51,120 --> 00:34:54,120

Once again, Todd Mueller was in custody.

671

00:34:54,120 --> 00:34:56,120

But this time, there would be no bail.

672

00:34:56,120 --> 00:34:58,120

You have the right to remain silent.

673

00:34:58,120 --> 00:35:00,120

Anything you say or do can be used against you

674

00:35:00,120 --> 00:35:01,120

in a court of law.

675

00:35:01,120 --> 00:35:02,120

Do you understand that?

676

00:35:02,120 --> 00:35:03,120

Yes, I do.

677

00:35:03,120 --> 00:35:05,120

Todd was parading around town prior to his arrest,

678

00:35:05,120 --> 00:35:07,120

pretending to be someone other than what he was,

679

00:35:07,120 --> 00:35:10,120

committed several burglaries, stole mail,

680

00:35:10,120 --> 00:35:13,120

federal mail theft charges, opened bank accounts,

681

00:35:13,120 --> 00:35:18,120

and attempted to withdraw some of \$204,000 from my account.

682

00:35:19,120 --> 00:35:24,120

Roy Hartsock was returned to Hawaii to complete his sentence.

683

00:35:24,120 --> 00:35:28,120

Todd Mueller was booked on charges of forgery, fraud, and robbery.

684

00:35:28,120 --> 00:35:31,120

He was held in the Cook County Jail pending trial.

685

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

But Mueller had one more trick up his sleeve.

686

00:35:38,120 --> 00:35:41,120

After six months behind bars, he was rushed to a hospital

687

00:35:41,120 --> 00:35:43,120

emergency room after telling guards

688

00:35:43,120 --> 00:35:47,120

he had swallowed a razor blade.

689

00:35:47,120 --> 00:35:50,120

Mueller was handcuffed to his hospital bed.

690

00:35:50,120 --> 00:35:53,120

A guard was posted outside the door.

691

00:35:53,120 --> 00:35:55,120

It didn't do a bit of good.

692

00:35:55,120 --> 00:36:00,120

Authorities still cannot explain how Todd Mueller got away.

693

00:36:00,120 --> 00:36:04,120

Dr. Kravitz, a visitor at the main hall.

694

00:36:09,120 --> 00:36:12,120

Since Todd Mueller escaped, he would call me

695

00:36:12,120 --> 00:36:16,120

just to say that he wanted to turn himself into me.

696

00:36:16,120 --> 00:36:19,120

Some of his phone calls claim to be on the plane itself,

697

00:36:19,120 --> 00:36:22,120

coming into Hawaii, saying that I'm on my way in,

698

00:36:22,120 --> 00:36:24,120

I'm on so-and-so flight.

699

00:36:24,120 --> 00:36:27,120

Why don't you meet me at the airport?

700

00:36:27,120 --> 00:36:30,120

Go down there. He's never there.

701

00:36:30,120 --> 00:36:35,120

I don't think my sense of humor is any worse for it.

702

00:36:35,120 --> 00:36:38,120

I don't particularly enjoy what he's doing,

703

00:36:38,120 --> 00:36:42,120

but I just think what he's doing is silly.

704

00:36:42,120 --> 00:36:45,120

Eventually he's going to get caught.

705

00:36:46,120 --> 00:36:49,120

Next, a woman's poignant search for her brothers and sisters

706

00:36:49,120 --> 00:36:52,120

torn apart by tragedy.

707

00:37:17,120 --> 00:37:21,120

James and Juan De Vest were married in 1956.

708

00:37:21,120 --> 00:37:24,120

17 years later, they had nine children,

709

00:37:24,120 --> 00:37:26,120

six sons and three daughters.

710

00:37:26,120 --> 00:37:30,120

The oldest child was 16, the youngest just 10 months.

711

00:37:30,120 --> 00:37:32,120

James worked in the construction business,

712

00:37:32,120 --> 00:37:37,120

and for the Vest children, life at home seems safe and secure.

713

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

came home safe and secure.

714

00:37:53,120 --> 00:37:56,120

We would eat dinner every night together at the table.

715

00:37:56,120 --> 00:38:04,120

My mother would have everything done before my father got off work.

716

00:38:04,120 --> 00:38:07,120

My mother sat at one end, my father sat at the other end,

717

00:38:07,120 --> 00:38:09,120

and the kids sat on the sides.

718

00:38:09,120 --> 00:38:12,120

And I think that was something that was really important

719

00:38:12,120 --> 00:38:15,120

to my father, you know, that the family be together

720

00:38:15,120 --> 00:38:17,120

at dinner time and sit there and eat.

721

00:38:17,120 --> 00:38:19,120

Yeah.

722

00:38:19,120 --> 00:38:22,120

Okay. Again.

723

00:38:22,120 --> 00:38:24,120

We had an ideal life.

724

00:38:24,120 --> 00:38:26,120

We would go to church on Sundays.

725

00:38:26,120 --> 00:38:29,120

We would get up on the stage of the church and sing with my mother

726

00:38:29,120 --> 00:38:31,120

because she played the accordion.

727

00:38:31,120 --> 00:38:33,120

We would sing at home together.

728

00:38:33,120 --> 00:38:35,120

Okay.

729

00:38:35,120 --> 00:38:37,120

We would have fun.

730

00:38:37,120 --> 00:38:42,120

It was typical American family life that you see on Liberty Beaver.

731

00:38:52,120 --> 00:38:55,120

The Lord is my shepherd.

732

00:38:55,120 --> 00:38:57,120

I shall not want.

733

00:38:57,120 --> 00:39:00,120

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

734

00:39:00,120 --> 00:39:04,120

In May of 1974, the Vest family was ripped apart by tragedy.

735

00:39:04,120 --> 00:39:07,120

He restored my soul.

736

00:39:07,120 --> 00:39:10,120

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

737

00:39:10,120 --> 00:39:13,120

Wanda Vest had died on her 34th birthday.

738

00:39:13,120 --> 00:39:15,120

I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

739

00:39:15,120 --> 00:39:19,120

I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.

740

00:39:19,120 --> 00:39:22,120

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

741

00:39:22,120 --> 00:39:25,120

I think I felt more cheated than anything.

742

00:39:25,120 --> 00:39:28,120

I remember my little sister try to touch my mother,

743

00:39:28,120 --> 00:39:30,120

and I pulled her hand back.

744

00:39:30,120 --> 00:39:32,120

And then she went up there, and I guess she touched her

745

00:39:32,120 --> 00:39:34,120

because she came back, and she goes,

746

00:39:34,120 --> 00:39:37,120

Sissy, why is mama so cold?

747

00:39:37,120 --> 00:39:39,120

And I couldn't answer her.

748

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

I didn't know what to say, so I just sat her down on my lap

749

00:39:41,120 --> 00:39:43,120

and just held her there.

750

00:39:43,120 --> 00:39:45,120

Now prepare us the table before me.

751

00:39:45,120 --> 00:39:48,120

James Vest did not attend the funeral.

752

00:39:48,120 --> 00:39:53,120

He was in jail, charged with the murder of his wife.

753

00:39:53,120 --> 00:39:56,120

My cup overflowed.

754

00:39:56,120 --> 00:39:59,120

What could bring a man to kill his own wife

755

00:39:59,120 --> 00:40:01,120

and leave his children as orphans?

756

00:40:01,120 --> 00:40:05,120

The answer in this isolated case may be hauntingly simple.

757

00:40:05,120 --> 00:40:07,120

James Vest was an alcoholic.

758

00:40:07,120 --> 00:40:10,120

The nine Vest children not only lost both of their parents

759

00:40:10,120 --> 00:40:12,120

to this devastating disease.

760

00:40:12,120 --> 00:40:15,120

They also lost each other for 17 years.

761

00:40:15,120 --> 00:40:17,120

This is a story of one woman's determination

762

00:40:17,120 --> 00:40:19,120

to find her brothers and sisters,

763

00:40:19,120 --> 00:40:21,120

and one family's resilience

764

00:40:21,120 --> 00:40:24,120

in the face of overwhelming tragedy.

765

00:40:27,120 --> 00:40:30,120

By 1973, years of drinking binges

766

00:40:30,120 --> 00:40:34,120

has steadily eroded James and Wanda Vest's marriage.

767

00:40:34,120 --> 00:40:37,120

James is often too drunk to work.

768

00:40:37,120 --> 00:40:41,120

He also became increasingly violent towards his wife.

769

00:40:51,120 --> 00:40:52,120

Wanda?

770

00:40:52,120 --> 00:40:53,120

Yeah.

771

00:40:53,120 --> 00:40:55,120

Hey, Wanda, where's that bottle?

772

00:40:55,120 --> 00:40:58,120

I remember on one occasion, my father coming home

773

00:40:58,120 --> 00:41:00,120

looking for his bottle of liquor,

774

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

and my mother had hit it, so he couldn't find it.

775

00:41:03,120 --> 00:41:04,120

No, I didn't.

776

00:41:04,120 --> 00:41:05,120

You hid that bottle, Wanda?

777

00:41:05,120 --> 00:41:06,120

You probably drank it.

778

00:41:06,120 --> 00:41:07,120

I didn't drink the bottle.

779

00:41:07,120 --> 00:41:08,120

It was a full bottle this morning.

780

00:41:08,120 --> 00:41:09,120

Where the hell is it?

781

00:41:09,120 --> 00:41:12,120

And he got really upset and wanted his liquor,

782

00:41:12,120 --> 00:41:14,120

and when my mother went and gave it to him,

783

00:41:14,120 --> 00:41:16,120

he was beating her up.

784

00:41:16,120 --> 00:41:19,120

And he was hitting her and choking her.

785

00:41:19,120 --> 00:41:22,120

And so my brothers would fight.

786

00:41:22,120 --> 00:41:26,120

My brothers would go over there and try to get him off of her.

787

00:41:26,120 --> 00:41:31,120

I was always more quiet and afraid.

788

00:41:31,120 --> 00:41:34,120

Wanda Vest had finally had enough.

789

00:41:34,120 --> 00:41:36,120

James soon moved out of the house,

790

00:41:36,120 --> 00:41:38,120

and Wanda filed for divorce.

791

00:41:38,120 --> 00:41:40,120

She was determined to make a new life for herself

792

00:41:40,120 --> 00:41:42,120

and the nine children.

793

00:41:42,120 --> 00:41:45,120

But with no formal training and little work experience,

794

00:41:45,120 --> 00:41:50,120

Wanda was forced to wait tables and ten bar at a local tavern.

795

00:41:50,120 --> 00:41:55,120

May 27, 1974, at around 1 a.m.,

796

00:41:55,120 --> 00:41:58,120

James Vest wandered into the tavern where his wife worked.

797

00:41:58,120 --> 00:42:00,120

It was Wanda's 34th birthday.

798

00:42:00,120 --> 00:42:03,120

I just came to buy you a drink for your birthday, babe.

799

00:42:03,120 --> 00:42:04,120

I don't want anything from you.

800

00:42:04,120 --> 00:42:05,120

Get out.

801

00:42:05,120 --> 00:42:06,120

Come on.

802

00:42:06,120 --> 00:42:07,120

We do this every year.

803

00:42:07,120 --> 00:42:08,120

Get out.

804

00:42:08,120 --> 00:42:11,120

According to witnesses, James had been drinking heavily.

805

00:42:11,120 --> 00:42:12,120

OK.

806

00:42:21,120 --> 00:42:23,120

Get out of here.

807

00:42:23,120 --> 00:42:25,120

Get out of here!

808

00:42:25,120 --> 00:42:28,120

What are you doing?

809

00:42:28,120 --> 00:42:30,120

Put the thing down.

810

00:42:30,120 --> 00:42:32,120

Put the gun down, Jim.

811

00:42:32,120 --> 00:42:34,120

Put it down!

812

00:42:34,120 --> 00:42:36,120

Put the gun down!

813

00:42:36,120 --> 00:42:38,120

What are you doing?

814

00:42:38,120 --> 00:42:41,120

Put the thing down.

815

00:42:41,120 --> 00:42:43,120

Put the gun down, Jim.

816

00:42:43,120 --> 00:42:45,120

Put it down!

817

00:42:45,120 --> 00:42:47,120

Put the gun down!

818

00:42:58,120 --> 00:43:01,120

I love you, Wanda.

819

00:43:06,120 --> 00:43:09,120

Approximately an hour later, James Vest was arrested

820

00:43:09,120 --> 00:43:11,120

at a nearby tavern.

821

00:43:11,120 --> 00:43:14,120

Minutes after killing Wanda, James had swaggered into the bar

822

00:43:14,120 --> 00:43:18,120

and openly boasted that he had just shot his wife.

823

00:43:18,120 --> 00:43:21,120

He said he needed a drink.

824

00:43:21,120 --> 00:43:24,120

Vest later pled guilty to first-degree murder

825

00:43:24,120 --> 00:43:28,120

and was sentenced to life in prison where he died in 1983.

826

00:43:28,120 --> 00:43:30,120

In one senseless and violent moment,

827

00:43:30,120 --> 00:43:33,120

James Vest had shattered his entire family.

828

00:43:33,120 --> 00:43:35,120

Within days of their mother's funeral,

829

00:43:35,120 --> 00:43:39,120

the Vest children were sent to live in separate homes.

830

00:43:39,120 --> 00:43:42,120

I think for some reason I felt we had enough family

831

00:43:42,120 --> 00:43:44,120

that some kind of way we would all be kept together,

832

00:43:44,120 --> 00:43:46,120

but I was wrong.

833

00:43:46,120 --> 00:43:48,120

It was like nobody wanted us.

834

00:43:48,120 --> 00:43:50,120

We were taboo, you know.

835

00:43:50,120 --> 00:43:52,120

To be around us would be to remember what happened,

836

00:43:52,120 --> 00:43:55,120

to have to accept it, and they didn't want that.

837

00:43:55,120 --> 00:43:59,120

So to me, we were punished for what my father did

838

00:43:59,120 --> 00:44:03,120

because we weren't even allowed to have each other.

839

00:44:03,120 --> 00:44:07,120

The oldest boy, James Jr., was taken in by his grandmother.

840

00:44:07,120 --> 00:44:10,120

Shereen and three brothers, Russell, Kenneth, and Wayne,

841

00:44:10,120 --> 00:44:12,120

were placed in foster homes.

842

00:44:12,120 --> 00:44:14,120

Her sister, Kendra, and the three youngest children,

843

00:44:14,120 --> 00:44:17,120

Heath, Dawn, and Kevin, were put up for adoption.

844

00:44:21,120 --> 00:44:22,120

Excuse me.

845

00:44:22,120 --> 00:44:24,120

Do you have any spare change?

846

00:44:24,120 --> 00:44:28,120

For 14-year-old Shereen, the tragic loss of her entire family

847

00:44:28,120 --> 00:44:31,120

marked the beginning of a cycle of despair.

848

00:44:31,120 --> 00:44:34,120

Just three months after her mother was murdered,

849

00:44:34,120 --> 00:44:37,120

Shereen ran away from her foster home and took to the streets.

850

00:44:40,120 --> 00:44:45,120

In the very beginning, sometimes I would sleep

851

00:44:45,120 --> 00:44:48,120

in the apartment building hallway,

852

00:44:48,120 --> 00:44:51,120

and a couple times I slept outside.

853

00:44:51,120 --> 00:44:52,120

It was cold.

854

00:44:52,120 --> 00:44:54,120

I was scared.

855

00:44:54,120 --> 00:44:56,120

I had a backpack that had some clothes in it.

856

00:44:56,120 --> 00:44:58,120

I had a backpack for a pillow.

857

00:44:58,120 --> 00:45:02,120

You lay there and halfway sleep and hope that no one comes around.

858

00:45:09,120 --> 00:45:12,120

Remarkably, Shereen managed to escape the streets.

859

00:45:12,120 --> 00:45:14,120

Eventually, she enrolled in business school

860

00:45:14,120 --> 00:45:17,120

and later got a job as an office manager.

861

00:45:17,120 --> 00:45:20,120

Today, Shereen lives in San Diego, California,

862

00:45:20,120 --> 00:45:22,120

with her husband and two daughters.

863

00:45:22,120 --> 00:45:25,120

Four years ago, with the love and encouragement

864

00:45:25,120 --> 00:45:28,120

of her family, Shereen began searching for her missing brothers

865

00:45:28,120 --> 00:45:31,120

and sisters whom she had not seen in 11 years.

866

00:45:33,120 --> 00:45:36,120

Incredibly, it took Shereen less than two months

867

00:45:36,120 --> 00:45:38,120

to find four of her brothers.

868

00:45:38,120 --> 00:45:41,120

Two years later, she was reunited with her oldest sister

869

00:45:41,120 --> 00:45:44,120

and just last Christmas, Shereen finally made contact

870

00:45:44,120 --> 00:45:47,120

with her youngest sister and brother.

871

00:45:47,120 --> 00:45:51,120

But one of the best children still remains unaccounted for.

872

00:45:51,120 --> 00:45:54,120

Shereen's brother Heath, who was six years old

873

00:45:54,120 --> 00:45:56,120

when they were separated.

874

00:45:56,120 --> 00:46:00,120

I actually had a dream one night that there was all nine of us in a room

875

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

and I was actually going to count them all down the line

876

00:46:04,120 --> 00:46:07,120

and I couldn't believe it.

877

00:46:07,120 --> 00:46:09,120

It's like something that you want,

878

00:46:09,120 --> 00:46:13,120

but it's just out of reach, you'll never get it.

879

00:46:13,120 --> 00:46:16,120

But I believe enough and I bet

880

00:46:16,120 --> 00:46:19,120

because I will not take no for an answer.

881

00:46:19,120 --> 00:46:22,120

I just know that I'm going to get them all together.

882

00:46:25,120 --> 00:46:27,120

The night of our broadcast, Shereen's dream

883

00:46:27,120 --> 00:46:29,120

of finding her brother Heath came true

884

00:46:29,120 --> 00:46:31,120

when he called our telecenter.

885

00:46:31,120 --> 00:46:33,120

Heath, who was now married and living in Ohio,

886

00:46:33,120 --> 00:46:36,120

was shocked to learn he'd been featured on national television.

887

00:46:36,120 --> 00:46:39,120

The next day, Heath spoke with his sister

888

00:46:39,120 --> 00:46:42,120

for the first time in more than 17 years.

889

00:46:45,120 --> 00:46:48,120

Four weeks later, Heath, accompanied by his wife, Robin,

890

00:46:48,120 --> 00:46:51,120

arrived in Los Angeles for a special reunion

891

00:46:51,120 --> 00:46:54,120

with five of his brothers and sisters.

892

00:47:01,120 --> 00:47:04,120

I was really excited. I just wanted to get out of the car.

893

00:47:04,120 --> 00:47:07,120

I was thinking, who am I going to hug first?

894

00:47:07,120 --> 00:47:10,120

I didn't want anybody to start bawling or anything.

895

00:47:10,120 --> 00:47:14,120

I just wanted to get out and hug everybody at once, basically.

896

00:47:15,120 --> 00:47:19,120

When I heard Heath was found, I was actually kind of numb.

897

00:47:21,120 --> 00:47:24,120

I thought it would take months.

898

00:47:24,120 --> 00:47:26,120

I didn't know that people would just call in

899

00:47:26,120 --> 00:47:28,120

and it would be that easy.

900

00:47:28,120 --> 00:47:33,120

I'm glad it was because it's been a long wait.

901

00:47:35,120 --> 00:47:38,120

Meeting everybody, it's changed my attitude a lot.

902

00:47:38,120 --> 00:47:41,120

It's picked up my attitude because, you know,

903

00:47:41,120 --> 00:47:43,120

I've had a lot of feelings.

904

00:47:43,120 --> 00:47:47,120

I had that unwanted feeling and I never really knew why.

905

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

But now, since they've found me,

906

00:47:50,120 --> 00:47:53,120

I have that wanted feeling now.

907

00:47:57,120 --> 00:48:01,120

It's a good feeling because I never really knew.

908

00:48:03,120 --> 00:48:07,120

Finding Heath and this reunion is the first day of a new beginning.

909

00:48:08,120 --> 00:48:11,120

I know when we all leave here that we're all going to leave her differently.

910

00:48:11,120 --> 00:48:13,120

It's going to be better for all of us.

911

00:48:25,120 --> 00:48:29,120

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, the final appeal of Larry Race.

912

00:48:29,120 --> 00:48:34,120

In 1982, Race took his wife from Moonlight Boat Ride on Lake Superior.

913

00:48:35,120 --> 00:48:38,120

The next morning, Debbie Race's lifeless body washed ashore.

914

00:48:38,120 --> 00:48:42,120

Larry Race was convicted of murder and sent to prison.

915

00:48:42,120 --> 00:48:45,120

To this day, Race maintains his innocence

916

00:48:45,120 --> 00:48:49,120

and the family of his dead wife believes he is telling the truth.

917

00:48:49,120 --> 00:48:52,120

At the outbreak of World War II,

918

00:48:52,120 --> 00:48:55,120

a young woman of the Ojibwe Indian Nation was banished by her father

919

00:48:55,120 --> 00:48:58,120

when she joined the Royal Canadian Air Force.

920

00:48:58,120 --> 00:49:02,120

Her brothers and sisters have not seen her in nearly 50 years.

921

00:49:02,120 --> 00:49:09,120

Join me next time for another intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.