

1

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

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

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

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

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00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:20,840

to see is not a news broadcast.

4

00:00:20,840 --> 00:00:25,840

The breathtaking beauty of Canada's Yukon territory has captivated travelers for generations.

5

00:00:26,400 --> 00:00:30,800

But when Philip Frazier of Anchorage, Alaska picked up a lone hitchhiker, the wilderness

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00:00:30,800 --> 00:00:37,800

became the gateway to a nightmare. In 1990, four men were cast adrift when their fishing

7

00:00:37,800 --> 00:00:42,600

boats sunk off the coast of Georgia. After an incredible four-day ordeal, one of them

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00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:48,040

was rescued. As for the other three, a series of strange phone calls suggest that they are

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00:00:48,040 --> 00:00:54,640

being held against their will in a foreign country. When he was 20, Mac MacDonald fell

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00:00:54,640 --> 00:00:59,800

madly in love with a girl next door. A year later, Mac met his child for the first and

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00:00:59,800 --> 00:01:07,800

last time. Now that child could inherit Mac's estate estimated at more than a million dollars.

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00:01:07,800 --> 00:01:12,720

Freewheeling Las Vegas was a perfect locale for Mac's Carson, a fast-talking, self-style

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00:01:12,720 --> 00:01:19,280

film producer. In reality, Carson was a hustler and ex-cop named William John Wood. He is

14

00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:22,600

now wanted for rape.

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00:01:22,600 --> 00:01:28,760

Join me for these intriguing new stories. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.

16

00:01:52,600 --> 00:01:59,600

Alaska, America's last frontier.

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00:02:23,080 --> 00:02:28,760

Highway 1 is its lifeline, a thin-ass fault ribbon which cuts through Canada's Yukon territory

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00:02:28,760 --> 00:02:35,760

to connect Alaska to the continental United States. On June 14, 1988, 25-year-old Phillip

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00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:41,960

Frazier, the son of two physicians, left his home in Anchorage to enroll in a pre-med course

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00:02:41,960 --> 00:02:46,840

at Evergreen College in Washington State. Philip had packed up everything he owned for

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00:02:46,840 --> 00:02:53,840

the trip, including two handguns. On June 17, after losing two days to car trouble, Phillip

22

00:02:57,760 --> 00:02:59,760

crossed the border into Canada.

23

00:02:59,760 --> 00:03:01,760

Hi, where are you coming from?

24

00:03:01,760 --> 00:03:02,760

Alaska.

25

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

Alaska, where are you headed?

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00:03:03,760 --> 00:03:04,760

Washington, on the Scoop.

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00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:05,760

Going to school down there then?

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00:03:05,760 --> 00:03:06,760

Yeah.

29

00:03:06,760 --> 00:03:08,960

Anything on board, any goods that you purchased that you're bringing across?

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00:03:08,960 --> 00:03:11,520

Just my books and things like that for school.

31

00:03:11,520 --> 00:03:17,320

At Beaver Creek, Phillip was entering into Canada from Alaska into our Yukon territory.

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00:03:17,320 --> 00:03:24,160

And Phillip did declare that he had two firearms of his own. And at that point, our Canada customs

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00:03:24,160 --> 00:03:31,160

people seized the firearms from him as it is illegal for Americans to enter Canada with

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00:03:32,240 --> 00:03:36,040

any kind of a firearm.

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00:03:36,040 --> 00:03:41,200

After a one-hour delay, Phillip Frazier was on his way. His guns became the property of

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00:03:41,200 --> 00:03:47,640

the Canadian government.

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00:03:47,640 --> 00:03:52,760

The next day, 600 miles south of the border checkpoint, a hitchhiker was dropped off at

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00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:59,760

the 40-mile flat café owned by Gay Frocklage. Gay and her daughter Tina were on duty.

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00:04:01,960 --> 00:04:05,040

Individual that dropped them off didn't come into the café, just dropped them off and

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00:04:05,040 --> 00:04:12,040

left. And just looking at them through the window, there was something wrong with him.

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00:04:13,600 --> 00:04:20,600

And the parents wasn't comfortable. And I said to Tina, we've got a winner here. There's

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00:04:23,160 --> 00:04:25,320

something wrong with this guy.

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00:04:25,320 --> 00:04:29,320

I remember saying to Mom, you know, maybe he escaped from a mental institution because

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00:04:29,320 --> 00:04:30,320

he was so strange.

45

00:04:30,320 --> 00:04:37,320

I think we've got a problem here.

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00:04:39,600 --> 00:04:44,600

I wouldn't leave her alone in the building with him, as it was nobody else there at the

47

00:04:44,600 --> 00:04:51,600

time. And so I said to Tina, well, you go ahead and take care of him and I'll just hang around.

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00:04:52,600 --> 00:04:59,600

As I passed the side window, I seen a small black car pull up right to the side of the

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00:05:00,360 --> 00:05:06,960

café. And the young man in the car didn't get out of the car, but proceeded to act

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00:05:06,960 --> 00:05:12,960

like he was searching his car, like he had misplaced something that he needed. During

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00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:17,960

this time, another vehicle pulled up to the service station.

52

00:05:18,320 --> 00:05:22,320

Yeah, Tina, there's cars at the pumps. Do you want to serve them gas? And I'll just

53

00:05:22,320 --> 00:05:23,320

stay in here.

54

00:05:23,320 --> 00:05:27,200

OK, sure.

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00:05:27,200 --> 00:05:31,960

Tina Frocklage went to the parking lot to pump gas for another customer. She and Philip

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00:05:31,960 --> 00:05:34,960

Frazier exchanged hellos.

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00:05:34,960 --> 00:05:37,960

Is that everything?

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00:05:37,960 --> 00:05:39,960

Yeah.

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00:05:39,960 --> 00:05:44,760

Gay and Tina were relieved when the hitchhiker finished his meal. They remember that he paid

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00:05:44,760 --> 00:05:51,360

his bill in Canadian money.

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00:05:51,360 --> 00:05:58,360

I watched the hitchhiker go out and approach Frazier.

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00:05:58,360 --> 00:06:00,360

Hey, where are you heading?

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00:06:00,360 --> 00:06:01,360

Doussot.

64

00:06:01,360 --> 00:06:03,360

Yeah, I'm heading that way too.

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00:06:03,360 --> 00:06:04,360

Good.

66

00:06:04,360 --> 00:06:05,360

And how about a ride?

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00:06:05,360 --> 00:06:07,360

Uh, I'm good going here yet.

68

00:06:07,360 --> 00:06:08,360

You sure?

69

00:06:08,360 --> 00:06:09,360

Yeah.

70

00:06:09,360 --> 00:06:12,360

All right.

71

00:06:14,760 --> 00:06:21,760

The car sat for a few minutes, and then he pulled ahead like he had second thoughts.

72

00:06:21,760 --> 00:06:23,760

You still heading in this direction?

73

00:06:23,760 --> 00:06:26,760

I thought you were going to have a bite to eat. Mind if I go with you?

74

00:06:26,760 --> 00:06:30,760

The hitchhiker just ran beside him and pulled the door open.

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00:06:30,760 --> 00:06:35,760

And the young man in the car proceeded to let him enter.

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00:06:45,760 --> 00:06:51,760

The strange thing was, is as they left the yard, Tina made some remark about he's going

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00:06:51,760 --> 00:06:54,760

to live to regret this day he picked this man up.

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00:06:54,760 --> 00:06:59,760

It was like a sixth sense that this man was capable of anything.

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

Eight hours later, in 200 miles south of the 40-mile Flat Cafe, Eddie and Pauline Olson

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00:07:12,760 --> 00:07:16,760

of Gatwonga, Canada pulled over to help a stranded motorist.

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00:07:24,760 --> 00:07:26,760

Oh, wow, am I glad to see you guys.

82

00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:28,760

Hey, I think my car ran out of gas.

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00:07:28,760 --> 00:07:32,760

I don't know what happened, but I stopped at the last gas stop, but it just quit.

84

00:07:32,760 --> 00:07:36,760

I'm on my way to college, and I've got all my stuff in the back of the car.

85

00:07:36,760 --> 00:07:41,760

You could tell he was nervous, but I thought that, well, you know, he was just scared of

86

00:07:41,760 --> 00:07:47,760

being out here this late at night and I didn't want to stay out here because it's kind of a remote area.

87

00:07:47,760 --> 00:07:55,760

And at that point I just said, well, I'll tow you home and we'll figure it out in the morning.

88

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

Now you can sleep down here.

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

We've had quite a few people stay down here and they have a pretty good sleep.

90

00:08:06,760 --> 00:08:10,760

No, this will be great. I really appreciate everything you guys have done for me.

91

00:08:10,760 --> 00:08:15,760

You can just pick out whichever couch you want there and there's some blankets right there.

92

00:08:15,760 --> 00:08:16,760

Okay.

93

00:08:16,760 --> 00:08:18,760

Have a good sleep and we'll see you in the morning.

94

00:08:18,760 --> 00:08:19,760

All right, thanks.

95

00:08:19,760 --> 00:08:20,760

I'll sleep good.

96

00:08:25,760 --> 00:08:33,760

He slept downstairs in our basement, and I have about 12 or 15 guns and a gun case down there,

97

00:08:33,760 --> 00:08:38,760

and where he slept, the guns were just right beside him there.

98

00:08:40,760 --> 00:08:41,760

Good morning. How did you sleep?

99

00:08:41,760 --> 00:08:42,760

Oh, I slept great. Thanks.

100

00:08:42,760 --> 00:08:44,760

Oh, sit down and have a coffee.

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00:08:44,760 --> 00:08:45,760

Oh, thank you.

102

00:08:46,760 --> 00:08:51,760

The next morning, the young man told the Olsons that his parents were both doctors and anchorage

103

00:08:51,760 --> 00:08:54,760

and that he was on his way to college in the States to study medicine.

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00:08:55,760 --> 00:08:57,760

And I really wanted to thank you guys.

105

00:08:57,760 --> 00:09:02,760

I got talking to him about his car and he told me that if I was interested, he would sell it to me.

106

00:09:03,760 --> 00:09:09,760

And I said, well, I was interested because all he wanted was a plane ticket to Seattle,

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

but I said the only way I would buy it is if you waited till Monday and we went through customs.

108

00:09:14,760 --> 00:09:17,760

And he said that would be too late for him.

109

00:09:17,760 --> 00:09:22,760

I can't wait till Monday. I need to be in Seattle on Monday. I really can't wait.

110

00:09:22,760 --> 00:09:24,760

I really need to get going.

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00:09:24,760 --> 00:09:27,760

Is there something I can do for your hospitality? Anything?

112

00:09:28,760 --> 00:09:34,760

The Olsons were surprised when the young man pulled out two wallets and began to behave secretly.

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00:09:34,760 --> 00:09:39,760

He gave the Olsons \$20 in American money, then left to fix his car.

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00:09:39,760 --> 00:09:40,760

Thank you.

115

00:09:44,760 --> 00:09:47,760

Within an hour, the young man was back on the road headed south.

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

The car trouble had turned out to be nothing more than a broken fan belt.

117

00:09:55,760 --> 00:10:03,760

Twelve hours later, the charred ruins of Philip Frazier's car were found at a car wash

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00:10:03,760 --> 00:10:07,760

in Prince George, British Columbia, 300 miles from the Olsons home.

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00:10:10,760 --> 00:10:17,760

The condition of the car after it was burned was almost totally gutted out on the inside due to the fire

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00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:21,760

and fire damage to the outside as well.

121

00:10:25,760 --> 00:10:28,760

Nothing was found in the car of any significance.

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00:10:28,760 --> 00:10:33,760

In fact, none of Philip Frazier's belongings have ever been found.

123

00:10:35,760 --> 00:10:44,760

The parents were contacted in Alaska and there was a great deal of investigation done at that point

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00:10:44,760 --> 00:10:49,760

as Philip was considered a missing person and potentially a homicide victim.

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00:10:49,760 --> 00:11:00,760

I was sure that there had been foul play, but I kept hoping, thinking of all sorts of alternatives.

126

00:11:00,760 --> 00:11:06,760

Like maybe he decided he wanted to ditch his car and be in his own.

127

00:11:06,760 --> 00:11:12,760

And I knew, you know, intellectually I knew that was wrong because he really loved this car.

128

00:11:13,760 --> 00:11:20,760

Six weeks later, a body was discovered in a gravel turnaround area 70 miles from the Olsons home.

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00:11:23,760 --> 00:11:29,760

At the time of the discovery of the body, it was already well known about the instant of the car burning

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00:11:29,760 --> 00:11:37,760

in the car wash in Prince George and almost immediately investigators were looking at the remains of being that of Philip Frazier.

131

00:11:37,760 --> 00:11:43,760

In order to do a positive identification, we required dental records from Alaska,

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00:11:43,760 --> 00:11:49,760

which we obtained very quickly and were able to make that identification.

133

00:11:50,760 --> 00:11:57,760

I think, excuse me, any parent who loses a kid feels like he's lost part of himself.

134

00:11:57,760 --> 00:12:01,760

I think that's the one thing you definitely feel.

135

00:12:01,760 --> 00:12:06,760

You feel like you aren't intact yourself.

136

00:12:08,760 --> 00:12:11,760

I think it's very difficult just to describe it in words.

137

00:12:12,760 --> 00:12:17,760

You feel like your life and your family has been front-created. Cut off.

138

00:12:20,760 --> 00:12:25,760

I felt angry, bitter.

139

00:12:26,760 --> 00:12:38,760

I wondered what sort of a person, what kind of a person would destroy someone who was so idealistic and so full of life.

140

00:12:41,760 --> 00:12:44,760

What really happened along that lonely stretch of Highway 1?

141

00:12:45,760 --> 00:12:52,760

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police theorized that the mystery hitchhiker learned everything he could about Philip Frazier and then killed him.

142

00:12:53,760 --> 00:13:00,760

They believe the hitchhiker assumed Philip's identity, stole his possessions and finally attempted to destroy the car.

143

00:13:04,760 --> 00:13:09,760

In my mind, most definitely he's a dangerous person. He's taken one life.

144

00:13:11,760 --> 00:13:13,760

He has the capability of taking more.

145

00:13:14,760 --> 00:13:21,760

As to whether he's done this type of thing before, I couldn't say that, but we know he's taken one life.

146

00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:25,760

And I would consider him very dangerous.

147

00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:36,760

These are composite drawings of the hitchhiker based on the descriptions of Gayantina Frockledge and Eddie and Pauline Olsen.

148

00:13:37,760 --> 00:13:43,760

He is Caucasian, about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighs approximately 225 pounds.

149

00:13:43,760 --> 00:13:49,760

He has a flabby belly which overhangs his belt and is between 20 and 25 years old.

150

00:13:49,760 --> 00:13:51,760

He has brown hair and brown eyes.

151

00:13:54,760 --> 00:13:59,760

The authorities believe that the hitchhiker is familiar with the Toronto area and the Seattle, Washington area.

152

00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:02,760

He may be masquerading as Philip in his Frazier.

153

00:14:03,760 --> 00:14:09,760

Among the items never recovered were Philip Frazier's birth certificate, visa, passport and checkbook.

154

00:14:11,760 --> 00:14:18,760

Next, three fishermen are lost at sea, but some believe they survive when they're being held

against their will.

155

00:14:20,760 --> 00:14:32,760

The Best Oceans of the World have captivated humankind since the dawn of civilization.

156

00:14:33,760 --> 00:14:39,760

The young especially seem drawn by the promise of adventure and romance, but there are also a thousand hidden dangers.

157

00:14:40,760 --> 00:14:42,760

Sometimes a sea can be an unforgiving mistress.

158

00:14:43,760 --> 00:14:48,760

In 1990 alone, 865 people drowned in American coastal waters.

159

00:14:50,760 --> 00:14:58,760

April 12, 1990, Richland Hill, Georgia, just south of Savannah,

160

00:14:59,760 --> 00:15:03,760

four commercial fishermen prepare to embark on a seven-day expedition in the Atlantic.

161

00:15:04,760 --> 00:15:06,760

The captain is 23-year-old Billy Joe Neesmith.

162

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

The crew includes his brother Nathan, his nephew Keith Wilkes and a friend Franklin Brantley.

163

00:15:14,760 --> 00:15:16,760

We ready, let's go fishing.

164

00:15:16,760 --> 00:15:17,760

Franklin, you in?

165

00:15:18,760 --> 00:15:19,760

I'm in, let's go.

166

00:15:20,760 --> 00:15:26,760

In the late afternoon, they set off in the Casey Nicole, a snapper boat owned by Billy Joe Neesmith's employer.

167

00:15:27,760 --> 00:15:32,760

The boat had recently been returned to service after five weeks in dry dock for maintenance.

168

00:15:34,760 --> 00:15:39,760

We were headed out probably approximately close to 90 miles offshore.

169

00:15:40,760 --> 00:15:50,760

I guess it was somewhere around 3.30 or 4 in the morning, that next morning it was still dark.

170

00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:59,760

I had got up and was operating the boat and the boat just seemed to be sluggish, you know,

171

00:16:00,760 --> 00:16:03,760

like it wanted to bust through the waves kind of like a submarine or something.

172

00:16:04,760 --> 00:16:05,760

It did want to ride over the waves.

173

00:16:06,760 --> 00:16:07,760

Something's wrong.

174

00:16:08,760 --> 00:16:09,760

Man.

175

00:16:10,760 --> 00:16:11,760

Oh, you're right.

176

00:16:12,760 --> 00:16:13,760

Billy Joe!

177

00:16:14,760 --> 00:16:20,760

So I told my brother he was laying in the bunk, I woke him up, I said, Billy Joe, I said, oh son,

178

00:16:21,760 --> 00:16:22,760

I said something's wrong with the boat.

179

00:16:23,760 --> 00:16:24,760

What's up, man?

180

00:16:25,760 --> 00:16:26,760

Man, it wants to stay on course.

181

00:16:27,760 --> 00:16:28,760

What do you mean it wants to stay on course?

182

00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:30,760

I'm losing 10, 15 degrees, man.

183

00:16:31,760 --> 00:16:36,760

I try to manual in, it keeps going off and then I try to, oh, it's an automatic pilot

184

00:16:37,760 --> 00:16:38,760

and it won't hold, man.

185

00:16:39,760 --> 00:16:42,760

We got the noticing around, the boat was riding pretty deep into water.

186

00:16:43,760 --> 00:16:44,760

Yes, it's nice, I'm a two foot downer.

187

00:16:45,760 --> 00:16:46,760

Did you check the engine?

188

00:16:47,760 --> 00:16:48,760

It sounds like a sputter to me.

189

00:16:49,760 --> 00:16:50,760

No, I ain't checking.

190

00:16:51,760 --> 00:16:52,760

Man, Nathan, we got two foot of water down there.

191

00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:54,760

Let me see that line.

192

00:16:55,760 --> 00:16:56,760

Nathan, did you hit that pump shed?

193

00:16:57,760 --> 00:16:58,760

No.

194

00:16:59,760 --> 00:17:00,760

Hit him a couple of times.

195

00:17:01,760 --> 00:17:03,760

And we started working on our pumps, trying to get our pumps to work to pump the boat out.

196

00:17:04,760 --> 00:17:05,760

About now, nothing.

197

00:17:05,760 --> 00:17:06,760

We got to get them boys up there.

198

00:17:07,760 --> 00:17:08,760

We got to start fucking this water out here right now.

199

00:17:09,760 --> 00:17:11,760

The other crew members slept down in the bow.

200

00:17:12,760 --> 00:17:17,760

And when we turned on the light, we noticed they were watered about a foot deep down in the bunks where they were at.

201

00:17:18,760 --> 00:17:19,760

Hey, we're sinking, y'all. Come on, let's sail.

202

00:17:20,760 --> 00:17:21,760

Come on.

203

00:17:22,760 --> 00:17:26,760

And we got in a line and started passing the bucket, you know, trying to bail the boat out.

204

00:17:27,760 --> 00:17:29,760

In the meantime, we took the life raft out.

205

00:17:30,760 --> 00:17:31,760

It was a two man life raft.

206

00:17:32,760 --> 00:17:33,760

We'd been hollering Mayday on the radio.

207

00:17:33,760 --> 00:17:34,760

We had Billy Joe on it, working it.

208

00:17:35,760 --> 00:17:38,760

Casey Nicole, we're taking the water. Go down. Somebody come back to the place.

209

00:17:39,760 --> 00:17:41,760

Never did get anywhere with that.

210

00:17:42,760 --> 00:17:43,760

And the engine finally stalled.

211

00:17:44,760 --> 00:17:45,760

Casey Nicole, we're going.

212

00:17:47,760 --> 00:17:49,760

All power on the Casey Nicole was lost.

213

00:17:50,760 --> 00:17:51,760

The radio was useless.

214

00:17:52,760 --> 00:17:53,760

The four men abandoned ship.

215

00:17:57,760 --> 00:17:58,760

The life raft was kind of rotten.

216

00:17:59,760 --> 00:18:02,760

It had a hole in the side of it up on the top.

217

00:18:03,760 --> 00:18:08,760

We don't know for sure if the anchor snagged it and tore this hole in it.

218

00:18:09,760 --> 00:18:12,760

Or if the thing was just rotten and it eventually wore in it.

219

00:18:13,760 --> 00:18:14,760

We don't really know what happened there.

220

00:18:15,760 --> 00:18:18,760

But we do know that it had a hole in it about the size of a quarter.

221

00:18:20,760 --> 00:18:23,760

By sunrise, the life raft was sinking fast.

222

00:18:24,760 --> 00:18:25,760

Then salvation came floating by.

223

00:18:26,760 --> 00:18:28,760

The hatch cover from the Casey Nicole.

224

00:18:29,760 --> 00:18:30,760

I think I got it. You got it?

225

00:18:31,760 --> 00:18:32,760

Oh, it's here.

226

00:18:33,760 --> 00:18:34,760

Oh, it's here.

227

00:18:42,760 --> 00:18:45,760

The four men tethered the raft to the hatch cover and clamored aboard.

228

00:18:46,760 --> 00:18:51,760

It was then that Nathan Neesmith spotted the haul of the Casey Nicole in the distance.

229

00:18:52,760 --> 00:18:55,760

It looked like it was maybe three or four miles from us.

230

00:18:56,760 --> 00:18:57,760

I said, I don't know what kind of chance we got,

231

00:18:58,760 --> 00:19:02,760

but at least maybe one of us can make it to the boat and get some kind of help.

232

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:05,760

Well, that's what I struck out to do.

233

00:19:07,760 --> 00:19:10,760

And they started hollering, no, no, you come back, you stay with us.

234

00:19:11,760 --> 00:19:13,760

We can't separate up. We separate up.

235

00:19:14,760 --> 00:19:16,760

We're going to be split up and they ain't telling us what to go wrong.

236

00:19:26,760 --> 00:19:28,760

I just kept swimming and kept swimming.

237

00:19:29,760 --> 00:19:31,760

I swam from probably about nine o'clock that morning

238

00:19:31,760 --> 00:19:37,760

and just before dark that afternoon, I got to where I thought was what the boat was.

239

00:19:38,760 --> 00:19:42,760

Now I got a look around and I seen the stern of the boat sticking up at a distance,

240

00:19:43,760 --> 00:19:45,760

probably another hundred yards or so to the right of it.

241

00:19:46,760 --> 00:19:48,760

So I just kept swimming.

242

00:19:50,760 --> 00:19:53,760

I done swam till I thought there wasn't any more swimming in me

243

00:19:54,760 --> 00:19:57,760

and I drank some salt water trying to swim in it.

244

00:19:58,760 --> 00:19:59,760

I was just real weak.

245

00:20:02,760 --> 00:20:04,760

As darkness fell, Nathan lost sight of his companions.

246

00:20:05,760 --> 00:20:09,760

He spent a long harrowing night clinging to the hull of the Casey Nicole.

247

00:20:13,760 --> 00:20:17,760

The next morning, a freighter passed within three miles of Nathan.

248

00:20:18,760 --> 00:20:22,760

This ship here looked like it made about four stops, maybe five stops,

249

00:20:23,760 --> 00:20:27,760

and each time it would stop or circle, I could see a fog of smoke ball out of it.

250

00:20:27,760 --> 00:20:33,760

And it was in the direction that my other mates had went,

251

00:20:34,760 --> 00:20:37,760

so I figured that maybe it had stopped to pick them up.

252

00:20:39,760 --> 00:20:43,760

The freighter continued his odd maneuvers for nearly three hours, then disappeared.

253

00:20:44,760 --> 00:20:50,760

For two and a half days, Nathan and Niesmith drifted and prayed that the Casey Nicole would stay afloat.

254

00:20:51,760 --> 00:20:56,760

All seemed lost until a large wood and styrofoam bait box ripped loose from the boat's deck.

255

00:20:57,760 --> 00:20:58,760

And popped to the surface.

256

00:21:00,760 --> 00:21:05,760

I couldn't tell what it was for a minute, because I was scared and everything like that.

257

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

I swam over to it where I could get a better view of it.

258

00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:16,760

Like I say, I was pretty weak. I was about starved down. I was hungry and thirsty and really weak.

259

00:21:17,760 --> 00:21:20,760

And I got to the front of it and blessed God, the whole front was out.

260

00:21:20,760 --> 00:21:27,760

I mean, it was just like a boat to me. It looked like just something that I needed at the moment.

261

00:21:42,760 --> 00:21:46,760

It was really hard. I mean, I was getting real sunburned.

262

00:21:46,760 --> 00:21:50,760

My skin was turning real, real red. I was very close to dead.

263

00:21:51,760 --> 00:21:54,760

I mean, actually I was to the stage of death.

264

00:21:55,760 --> 00:21:58,760

But I knew I couldn't give up because I had two kids and a wife at home.

265

00:21:59,760 --> 00:22:03,760

And I remember saying, God, please let me go home to my wife and kids and be able to raise my kids.

266

00:22:04,760 --> 00:22:07,760

You know, don't let me die in this ocean.

267

00:22:07,760 --> 00:22:18,760

At 10 a.m. on April 15, 1990, Nathan Neesmith was finally rescued 20 miles off the coast of Georgia.

268

00:22:19,760 --> 00:22:22,760

He had been adrift without food or water for four days.

269

00:22:30,760 --> 00:22:32,760

Nathan Neesmith's companions were never found.

270

00:22:33,760 --> 00:22:38,760

A large-scale search mounted by the Coast Guard yielded no trace of the life raft or the hatch cover.

271

00:22:39,760 --> 00:22:43,760

But Nathan and his family never gave up hope that the three men might somehow have survived.

272

00:22:44,760 --> 00:22:49,760

It seemed a futile hope until a strange telephone call was made to the home of Nathan's sister, Onita.

273

00:22:53,760 --> 00:22:58,760

It was October 5, 1990, six months after the Casey Nicole had sunk.

274

00:22:59,760 --> 00:23:01,760

Onita's mother-in-law answered the telephone.

275

00:23:04,760 --> 00:23:05,760

Hello.

276

00:23:06,760 --> 00:23:07,760

What?

277

00:23:08,760 --> 00:23:09,760

I can't understand you.

278

00:23:10,760 --> 00:23:11,760

Can you speak English?

279

00:23:12,760 --> 00:23:17,760

The caller, a man, spoke in Spanish and seemed unable to understand English.

280

00:23:18,760 --> 00:23:21,760

I can't understand a word you're saying. Can you speak English?

281

00:23:22,760 --> 00:23:28,760

All this person would keep saying is repeating our phone number and saying our name, and that's all.

282

00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:32,760

Then it was just like a cut-off. It wasn't anything after that.

283

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:37,760

And, you know, we just kept saying hello, hello, and it was just cut-off, static cut-off.

284

00:23:39,760 --> 00:23:45,760

That same day, an unusual call also came into the home of Doug Tyson, owner of the ill-fated Casey Nicole.

285

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:47,760

Hello.

286

00:23:47,760 --> 00:23:54,760

Once again, the caller was a man. The only English words he said were the Tyson's name and telephone number.

287

00:23:55,760 --> 00:23:56,760

That was strange.

288

00:23:57,760 --> 00:23:58,760

What do you mean?

289

00:23:59,760 --> 00:24:00,760

They were speaking in Spanish.

290

00:24:01,760 --> 00:24:02,760

In Spanish?

291

00:24:03,760 --> 00:24:09,760

We didn't say anything about the call when we got it. Six weeks later after that, about six weeks, we were down visiting with the Niece Smith family.

292

00:24:09,760 --> 00:24:15,760

And they started telling us about their call. And after they got through, I said, how long ago was this?

293

00:24:16,760 --> 00:24:20,760

I asked them. They thought back a minute. They said about six weeks.

294

00:24:21,760 --> 00:24:26,760

I looked at my wife. She looked at me and she said, nodded her head. She said about the same time. I said, yeah.

295

00:24:28,760 --> 00:24:33,760

Over the next year, five more calls came in. Three to Onida and two to the Tysons.

296

00:24:34,760 --> 00:24:39,760

Finally, on March 6, 1991, the caller spoke a single sentence in English.

297

00:24:41,760 --> 00:24:42,760

Hello.

298

00:24:44,760 --> 00:24:45,760

Excuse me?

299

00:24:46,760 --> 00:24:55,760

I said just very simple words. Not, I'm bringing it home. I'm bringing him home. Just said, I'm bringing him home. That was him.

300

00:24:56,760 --> 00:24:57,760

Hello? Hello?

301

00:24:57,760 --> 00:24:58,760

Hello? Hello?

302

00:24:59,760 --> 00:25:13,760

After only a moment, the connection was broken. There have been no calls since. The Niece Smiths and the Tysons are convinced that the three missing men were taken aboard the passing freighter and perhaps transported to a foreign country against their will.

303

00:25:15,760 --> 00:25:26,760

I think there's somewhere being held. I really do. And I think that whoever called us is putting theirself on the line because my brother or my nephew, or our friend.

304

00:25:27,760 --> 00:25:38,760

One of the three has made a friend, a very dear friend, because this person that's doing this is probably putting himself on the line to do it.

305

00:25:40,760 --> 00:25:47,760

You know, in my mind, people are lost at sea. They're never found. I realize that. But there's no explanation for where the debris went.

306

00:25:47,760 --> 00:25:58,760

And then the fact that Nathan's seen the ship stop the first day, you add all those together with the phone calls and I think it adds up to a tremendous amount of hope.

307

00:25:59,760 --> 00:26:15,760

And my heart, yes, I feel like they're alive. I mean, I think they had a lot. I know they had a lot better chance of surviving than I did. I don't think that I would have ever made it not knowing that they couldn't make it.

308

00:26:18,760 --> 00:26:28,760

What really happened to the lost crewman of the Casey Nicole? The Coast Guard search was the largest ever conducted in the area of the Atlantic Ocean where they disappeared.

309

00:26:30,760 --> 00:26:37,760

Officially, Billy Joe Neesmith, Keith Wilkes and Franklin Bratley are presumed dead.

310

00:26:37,760 --> 00:26:42,760

Unofficially, there seems reasonable hope that they may still be alive.

311

00:26:43,760 --> 00:26:51,760

When we return, one man's poignant search for his long lost child stands to inherit more than a million dollars.

312

00:26:52,760 --> 00:27:11,760

It's our baby Mac. Beautiful baby, huh? It's ours.

313

00:27:12,760 --> 00:27:28,760

For most parents, seeing their baby for the very first time is a moment of unrestrained joy. But for this young father, it was a moment of confusion and panic that drove him away from the girl he loved and the child he has not seen since.

314

00:27:29,760 --> 00:27:32,760

Don't go. Don't.

315

00:27:32,760 --> 00:27:53,760

Four decades later, the young man is 63 years old. W.B. Mac McDonald is now a wealthy businessman with a sizable estate. Yet he is very much alone. Mac has never been married. No one from his immediate family is still alive.

316

00:27:54,760 --> 00:28:05,760

For 30 years, Mac McDonald has been searching for his child, but has found only frustration. Those lost years are the one thing his money cannot buy.

317

00:28:06,760 --> 00:28:19,760

Mac's story begins in 1948 in Pomona, California, when he fell madly, perhaps tragically, in love with a girl next door. Her name was Mary Helen Carr. She was just 16 years old.

318

00:28:23,760 --> 00:28:42,760

The first time that I noticed my neighbor, she was in a swing on her front porch. She was in a pair

of white slacks and a light colored blouse and very pleasing to look at.

319

00:28:43,760 --> 00:29:01,760

While she was there on the swing, there was definite attraction both ways. However, I guess I was a little shy at that time that I didn't speak to her at that time. It was several months before I finally began to speak to her.

320

00:29:02,760 --> 00:29:03,760

Nice bike.

321

00:29:04,760 --> 00:29:07,760

Yeah, I'd like to keep it clean. My name's Mac.

322

00:29:08,760 --> 00:29:09,760

Mary Helen.

323

00:29:09,760 --> 00:29:18,760

Nice to meet you. I've seen you before. I'm just cleaning my bike. Do you want to go for a ride sometime?

324

00:29:19,760 --> 00:29:23,760

My mother would forbid me to ride that, especially with you.

325

00:29:24,760 --> 00:29:25,760

Is your mother always here?

326

00:29:26,760 --> 00:29:46,760

The romance progressed slowly and discreetly. Mary Helen's mother was distrustful of Mac's intentions. Still, the two young lovers saw each other at every available opportunity. Until the inevitable day came when Mary Helen's mother caught them together.

327

00:29:47,760 --> 00:29:59,760

We were planning on a future together and here were these tremendous stumbling blocks being thrown out into the path.

328

00:30:03,760 --> 00:30:10,760

Mac felt he had no choice but to pack his bags and leave. His destination, the oil fields of Texas.

329

00:30:11,760 --> 00:30:28,760

I was very much in love with her. My whole life was revolving around her at that time. But with the disturbance that I was causing her at home, I thought, well, I'll get away a while and maybe it'll solve some of these problems.

330

00:30:29,760 --> 00:30:36,760

We can be sure that what we're feeling for each other is going to last the rest of our lives.

331

00:30:37,760 --> 00:30:44,760

We both agreed that this was the best thing to do, but it didn't make it any easier.

332

00:30:47,760 --> 00:30:55,760

Went directly to Houston the only time I stopped on that trip was just for gas, because it seemed like I left part of me in Pomona.

333

00:30:56,760 --> 00:31:00,760

And it didn't get any easier the more miles I got away from her.

334

00:31:01,760 --> 00:31:09,760

Three weeks later, Mac had established himself in Houston. He had no idea that Mary Helen had run away from home to join him.

335

00:31:10,760 --> 00:31:20,760

Mary Helen called me from the bus station there in Houston and she said, I'm here for good. And I told her I'll be right there.

336

00:31:21,760 --> 00:31:31,760

And I tore the streets up getting down to the bus station. It was a very happy reunion.

337

00:31:33,760 --> 00:31:34,760

Here we are.

338

00:31:35,760 --> 00:31:41,760

The next day, Mac and Mary Helen posing as husband and wife found an apartment and began planning for the rest of their lives.

339

00:31:42,760 --> 00:31:43,760

We're here for the apartment?

340

00:31:44,760 --> 00:31:46,760

Their troubles seemed far behind them.

341

00:31:47,760 --> 00:31:48,760

They just got married, right?

342

00:31:48,760 --> 00:31:49,760

Well, congratulations.

343

00:31:50,760 --> 00:31:52,760

Thank you. Well, it's right here. Let me show you.

344

00:31:54,760 --> 00:31:58,760

It was happiness itself. It was the ultimate dream.

345

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

The feeling that she gave you, she was beautiful to look at, she was beautiful to talk to, and she gave you the incentive to tear the world up.

346

00:32:10,760 --> 00:32:11,760

I got a new neighbor.

347

00:32:12,760 --> 00:32:13,760

You did? Are they nice?

348

00:32:14,760 --> 00:32:15,760

Yeah, they're nice.

349

00:32:16,760 --> 00:32:19,760

One month later, Mac and Mary Helen's world would collapse again.

350

00:32:20,760 --> 00:32:21,760

It was very good.

351

00:32:25,760 --> 00:32:26,760

Hello? Just a minute.

352

00:32:28,760 --> 00:32:31,760

A friend tipped Mac off at the police or on their way to the apartment.

353

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

Hello?

354

00:32:33,760 --> 00:32:35,760

Mary Helen's mother had made good on her threats.

355

00:32:36,760 --> 00:32:41,760

The authorities carried warns charging Mac with statutory rape and illegally living with a minor.

356

00:32:42,760 --> 00:32:43,760

Right now.

357

00:32:44,760 --> 00:32:46,760

I'm so sorry. I don't know how she found out.

358

00:32:47,760 --> 00:32:48,760

Sorry to fall.

359

00:32:49,760 --> 00:32:50,760

She doesn't talk to your mother or something.

360

00:32:51,760 --> 00:32:52,760

It's okay. It's all right.

361

00:32:53,760 --> 00:32:54,760

That's fine. We'll call you.

362

00:32:56,760 --> 00:32:58,760

Mac made his escape with no time to spare.

363

00:33:04,760 --> 00:33:07,760

I left Texas and it was in the afternoon.

364

00:33:08,760 --> 00:33:14,760

See, my afternoon is when all these departures took place and I didn't stop till I was out of the state of Texas.

365

00:33:18,760 --> 00:33:19,760

I was devastated again.

366

00:33:21,760 --> 00:33:23,760

They jerked her back to California.

367

00:33:25,760 --> 00:33:27,760

And I had no way of contacting her again.

368

00:33:27,760 --> 00:33:28,760

A year passed.

369

00:33:30,760 --> 00:33:32,760

Mac returned to California to take a new job.

370

00:33:33,760 --> 00:33:36,760

One evening he and a friend stopped off at a drive-in in Long Beach.

371

00:33:39,760 --> 00:33:40,760

Mac?

372

00:33:41,760 --> 00:33:42,760

Mary?

373

00:33:44,760 --> 00:33:45,760

Mary?

374

00:33:46,760 --> 00:33:47,760

Mary?

375

00:33:48,760 --> 00:33:49,760

Mary?

376

00:33:50,760 --> 00:33:51,760

Mary?

377

00:33:52,760 --> 00:33:53,760

Mary?

378

00:33:54,760 --> 00:33:55,760

Mary?

379

00:33:55,760 --> 00:33:56,760

Mary?

380

00:33:57,760 --> 00:33:58,760

I almost fell out of the car.

381

00:33:59,760 --> 00:34:03,760

The waitress, the car hop that came to wait on us, was Mary Helen.

382

00:34:05,760 --> 00:34:06,760

Los Angeles is a big city.

383

00:34:07,760 --> 00:34:08,760

It was a big city then.

384

00:34:09,760 --> 00:34:17,760

And the possibilities of driving into a restaurant and having her the waitress was like hitting a keynote ticket here in Reno.

385

00:34:18,760 --> 00:34:21,760

Well listen, I can't really talk to you, but I get off work at nine.

386

00:34:22,760 --> 00:34:23,760

Do you want to come by my apartment?

387

00:34:24,760 --> 00:34:25,260

Yeah.

388

00:34:26,760 --> 00:34:27,760

Here's my address.

389

00:34:29,760 --> 00:34:30,760

Grace.

390

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

You can see our baby.

391

00:34:35,760 --> 00:34:36,760

I have a baby?

392

00:34:41,760 --> 00:34:44,760

I almost had heart failure and it took my breath away.

393

00:34:45,760 --> 00:34:49,760

Because I had no idea she was pregnant. There was that possibility though.

394

00:34:50,760 --> 00:34:52,760

So I told her I'll be right over.

395

00:34:55,760 --> 00:34:56,760

I'm sorry.

396

00:35:05,760 --> 00:35:06,760

When I...

397

00:35:07,760 --> 00:35:08,760

Mac.

398

00:35:09,760 --> 00:35:10,760

Come on in.

399

00:35:11,760 --> 00:35:12,760

With this baby on her arms.

400

00:35:13,760 --> 00:35:14,760

Come in. Look.

401

00:35:16,760 --> 00:35:19,760

Well I thought with a police department it was probably on premises.

402

00:35:20,760 --> 00:35:21,760

Honey?

403

00:35:21,760 --> 00:35:25,760

It was just a matter of time until I'm going to be shackled and in jail over this.

404

00:35:26,760 --> 00:35:27,760

So glad to see you.

405

00:35:28,760 --> 00:35:31,760

I was so distraught when her mother opened the door.

406

00:35:32,760 --> 00:35:33,760

What's yours? Hold him.

407

00:35:34,760 --> 00:35:38,760

That I overlooked the fact that she was about half civilized the first time she'd ever spoke to me civilly.

408

00:35:39,760 --> 00:35:40,760

It's not beautiful.

409

00:35:41,760 --> 00:35:43,760

I was in such a traumatic state of fear.

410

00:35:44,760 --> 00:35:49,760

The benefit of being able to hold your baby for the first time, I missed that.

411

00:35:49,760 --> 00:35:54,760

Because all I could think of is either the law is in the bedroom or they're on the way.

412

00:35:55,760 --> 00:35:56,760

Mac sit down.

413

00:35:57,760 --> 00:36:01,760

Mac was terrified that Mary Helen's mother still had a warrant out for his arrest.

414

00:36:02,760 --> 00:36:03,760

I can't.

415

00:36:04,760 --> 00:36:08,760

In California, statutory rape was punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

416

00:36:09,760 --> 00:36:12,760

Mac McDonald stayed for less than five minutes.

417

00:36:13,760 --> 00:36:16,760

He never even learned if the baby was a boy or a girl.

418

00:36:17,760 --> 00:36:24,760

I feel that I made the greatest mistake of my life by not staying there and writing it out.

419

00:36:25,760 --> 00:36:31,760

I don't think there was, it probably, well it been 40 years.

420

00:36:32,760 --> 00:36:33,760

That's what it's cost me.

421

00:36:36,760 --> 00:36:41,760

I feel that the youngsters entitled to my estate.

422

00:36:41,760 --> 00:36:46,760

I'm not entitled to be its father probably.

423

00:36:47,760 --> 00:36:56,760

But I'd want that youngster to know that even with the mistakes that I love them, I don't want them to have the best.

424

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

The night of our broadcast, Mac McDonald learned that he had a daughter named Sherry.

425

00:37:05,760 --> 00:37:10,760

The long awaited news came from a viewer in Dallas, Texas, Mary Helen Carr, Sherry's mother.

426

00:37:11,760 --> 00:37:16,760

Unlike many of the reunions we have featured, the end of this search evoked decidedly mixed emotions.

427

00:37:17,760 --> 00:37:23,760

From Mac, from Mary Helen, and especially for their daughter Sherry, who'd been raised by a loving and caring stepfather.

428

00:37:24,760 --> 00:37:30,760

I'm 43 years old and pretty well set in my life and everything and I didn't know what to think.

429

00:37:31,760 --> 00:37:38,760

You know, I'm very happily married and I have two great kids and we just are a normal American family.

430

00:37:38,760 --> 00:37:41,760

And this is quite a shock to everyone.

431

00:37:43,760 --> 00:37:48,760

One week after our broadcast, Mac McDonald arrived at Sherry's home in Denver, Colorado.

432

00:37:49,760 --> 00:37:55,760

For Mac, the reunion would bring a bitter sweet and at times unsettling reconciliation with the past.

433

00:37:59,760 --> 00:38:02,760

Hello. Come on in.

434

00:38:04,760 --> 00:38:05,760

Yes, hi Mac.

435

00:38:09,760 --> 00:38:18,760

It's hard to describe the feeling that I had for my daughter when I opened the door and she was there and I was able to hold her.

436

00:38:26,760 --> 00:38:36,760

I just tried to come to the realization that it really was my father standing there and I just, you know, to see, does he look like me?

437

00:38:36,760 --> 00:38:40,760

Does he act like me? You know, I have all these things I need to learn about him.

438

00:38:41,760 --> 00:38:43,760

I don't know what to say. I'm still on a state of shock.

439

00:38:44,760 --> 00:38:52,760

At this point in my life, to find that there is someone who is my father and who wants to establish a relationship with me, it's just emotionally very traumatic.

440

00:38:53,760 --> 00:38:55,760

Apparently he wants to be part of her life.

441

00:38:59,760 --> 00:39:01,760

And if that's the case, it's okay.

442

00:39:02,760 --> 00:39:08,760

I hope since he's gone to this much effort to find her that he doesn't bring any sorrow to her.

443

00:39:09,760 --> 00:39:18,760

The fact that I didn't stay and fight the battle, it's most unfortunate. I don't believe I would do it that way again.

444

00:39:19,760 --> 00:39:24,760

However, yesterday unfortunately can't be redone.

445

00:39:28,760 --> 00:39:29,760

I'd like to.

446

00:39:32,760 --> 00:39:38,760

No matter how you look at it, he left my mother with a tiny baby, you know, and I have to deal with that.

447

00:39:39,760 --> 00:39:45,760

I have to deal with the fact that I have a father who loves for me, who has raised me, who has cared for me.

448

00:39:46,760 --> 00:39:49,760

But I believe there's enough room in this family for everyone.

449

00:39:50,760 --> 00:39:52,760

And I sincerely mean that.

450

00:39:53,760 --> 00:40:01,760

Next, an ex cop masquerading as a movie producer is wanted on charges of rape.

451

00:40:13,760 --> 00:40:19,760

Every year more than 20 million tourists descend upon Las Vegas, Nevada, the gambling capital of the world.

452

00:40:20,760 --> 00:40:24,760

Most come for only one reason, to spend and win money.

453

00:40:25,760 --> 00:40:31,760

It's no wonder that Vegas is also a mecca for every kind of hustler and con artist imaginable.

454

00:40:37,760 --> 00:40:43,760

In May of 1988, a self-styled star maker named Maxwell Carson arrived in Las Vegas.

455

00:40:44,760 --> 00:40:48,760

Carson was a smooth talker who dabbled in anything that might make money.

456

00:40:50,760 --> 00:40:56,760

Carson owned and operated a sports betting business, a fledgling film company and a modeling agency.

457

00:40:58,760 --> 00:41:04,760

But Max Carson was a man with a dark past. He was an ex cop gone bad whose real name was William John Wood.

458

00:41:05,760 --> 00:41:11,760

In 1972, Wood resigned from the Toledo, Ohio police force while under investigation for misconduct.

459

00:41:12,760 --> 00:41:23,760

Between 1977 and 1985, Wood served time for a number of offenses, from passing bad checks to impersonating a federal officer to assault with intent to rape.

460

00:41:28,760 --> 00:41:34,760

In 1986, William John Wood moved to Las Vegas and became Max Carson.

461

00:41:35,760 --> 00:41:39,760

Max was absolutely obsessed with good-looking women.

462

00:41:40,760 --> 00:41:56,760

He would especially with actresses, models, any good-looking women, use the movie industry or use his clout as quote unquote a movie producer to be, could get them whatever they wanted.

463

00:41:58,760 --> 00:42:00,760

Tiffany? Hi, Mr. Carson, I'll see you now.

464

00:42:01,760 --> 00:42:13,760

In November of 1989, Carson began holding auditions for an upcoming film. One striking 19-year-old model caught his eye. We will call her Tiffany.

465

00:42:14,760 --> 00:42:15,760

Hi, how are you?

466

00:42:15,760 --> 00:42:16,760

Hi, great. Thank you.

467

00:42:16,760 --> 00:42:18,760

Have a seat. You're?

468

00:42:19,760 --> 00:42:20,760

I'm Tiffany.

469

00:42:20,760 --> 00:42:21,760

Tiffany.

470

00:42:21,760 --> 00:42:29,760

I went in, I talked to him and he told me a little bit about him, what the movie was about and what I would be doing.

471

00:42:30,760 --> 00:42:32,760

I'm going to put the role in there for you, of course, the speaking part.

472

00:42:32,760 --> 00:42:34,760

That'd be wonderful.

473

00:42:34,760 --> 00:42:44,760

He had started talking about money and I felt strange that he would offer a large amount of money to someone in my position that's never really had any acting before.

474

00:42:44,760 --> 00:42:53,760

So I talked to a couple agents and they'd all heard of him. They had done their homework on him and found that there was nothing wrong with him.

475

00:42:53,760 --> 00:42:57,760

Super, well, we've got your address and phone number, I'm going to get in touch with you and I appreciate you coming in.

476

00:42:57,760 --> 00:43:06,760

Tiffany had several other meetings with Carson, but the movie never got off the ground. Max Carson's empire was on the verge of collapse.

477

00:43:06,760 --> 00:43:09,760

We haven't played ease, they haven't been paid.

478

00:43:09,760 --> 00:43:14,760

No, Bob, just relax. Have faith. We've been through so much together.

479

00:43:14,760 --> 00:43:22,760

By January of 1990, Max Carson would shut down his offices, yet he would maintain the illusion that he was still in full operation.

480

00:43:22,760 --> 00:43:25,760

Hello, nice to speak to Tiffany.

481

00:43:25,760 --> 00:43:31,760

In February, he called Tiffany and hired her as a last minute replacement model for a photo shoot.

482

00:43:31,760 --> 00:43:34,760

We had a photo session this afternoon.

483

00:43:34,760 --> 00:43:38,760

Carson arranged to meet her later that day at a restaurant on the Strip.

484

00:43:38,760 --> 00:43:40,760

Matt?

485

00:43:40,760 --> 00:43:44,760

Oh, hi. We're all set up. We've got two rooms set up, one for wardrobe.

486

00:43:44,760 --> 00:43:56,760

I met him in front of the coffee shop and he said that we needed to go to the motel there where they had set up a dressing room for me.

487

00:43:56,760 --> 00:44:02,760

Here's the limousine we're going to be using. And oh, I want to thank you very much for coming here on a short notice.

488

00:44:02,760 --> 00:44:07,760

This shoot should be probably about two hours you'd be done and those dresses are just fine.

489

00:44:07,760 --> 00:44:12,760

I started to feel a little uncomfortable just because there was no one around.

490

00:44:12,760 --> 00:44:16,760

Tiffany, why don't you just go over there and fill out those forms and I'll make a call.

491

00:44:16,760 --> 00:44:25,760

I left the door open with my bag sitting in between the room and the door so that it would make it a little bit difficult to get the door shut.

492

00:44:25,760 --> 00:44:29,760

This is Max Carson. Listen, I'm expecting somebody in very shortly and...

493

00:44:29,760 --> 00:44:38,760

Supposedly, yeah. He was calling the makeup artist and the photographer to let them know that we're here and waiting.

494

00:44:38,760 --> 00:44:41,760

Yes, okay. Well, I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

495

00:44:41,760 --> 00:44:45,760

And about that time, he had asked me if I would give him a hug.

496

00:44:45,760 --> 00:44:46,760

Me, too.

497

00:44:46,760 --> 00:44:49,760

And I knew that I was in trouble.

498

00:44:49,760 --> 00:44:54,760

Um, Max, I don't feel very comfortable, okay? Um, I'm not going to do that.

499

00:44:54,760 --> 00:44:56,760

What do you mean you don't feel very comfortable?

500

00:44:56,760 --> 00:44:58,760

Let's just forget about the whole thing.

501

00:44:58,760 --> 00:44:59,760

Max!

502

00:44:59,760 --> 00:45:01,760

You're not going anywhere.

503

00:45:01,760 --> 00:45:05,760

Don't make a sound. Do what I say and I won't hurt you.

504

00:45:09,760 --> 00:45:14,760

I thought at that point that I was going to die.

505

00:45:14,760 --> 00:45:19,760

I thought I was going to be extremely lucky if I walked out.

506

00:45:19,760 --> 00:45:27,760

I tried very hard to cooperate, hoping that that would keep him from becoming more violent.

507

00:45:27,760 --> 00:45:30,760

I mean, this was scary.

508

00:45:31,760 --> 00:45:40,760

Later that day, Tiffany called the police, even though Carson had threatened that he would accuse her of prostitution if she told anyone.

509

00:45:40,760 --> 00:45:48,760

Max Carson was charged with kidnapping sexual assault and battery, but by then he had disappeared.

510

00:45:49,760 --> 00:45:55,760

Two months later, and 3,000 miles away, Max Carson surfaced in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

511

00:45:55,760 --> 00:46:00,760

Once again, he tried to work a scam on a beautiful woman.

512

00:46:00,760 --> 00:46:03,760

Hi. I hope I didn't keep you waiting.

513

00:46:03,760 --> 00:46:05,760

No, I just got here.

514

00:46:05,760 --> 00:46:08,760

Paul, I've been here before. Why don't you, uh, we go upstairs and lounge.

515

00:46:08,760 --> 00:46:10,760

Um, how about downstairs? I just want you to...

516

00:46:10,760 --> 00:46:14,760

Carson and the woman had arranged to meet in the lobby of a Cocoa Beach hotel.

517

00:46:14,760 --> 00:46:18,760

Carson wanted to continue their conversation in a private room upstairs,

518

00:46:18,760 --> 00:46:22,760

yet convinced the woman to accept money for sex.

519

00:46:22,760 --> 00:46:24,760

I'll get something upstairs.

520

00:46:24,760 --> 00:46:27,760

Police, police, you're under arrest. Solicit, take it.

521

00:46:27,760 --> 00:46:29,760

Red, it's got 4148 knots and half a meter.

522

00:46:29,760 --> 00:46:32,760

Max Carson had walked into a clever trap.

523

00:46:32,760 --> 00:46:36,760

The woman was wearing a concealed wire as part of a sting operation.

524

00:46:36,760 --> 00:46:40,760

Carson pleaded guilty to solicitation of prostitution.

525

00:46:40,760 --> 00:46:45,760

At the time, police in Florida had no idea that he was wanted in Las Vegas.

526

00:46:45,760 --> 00:46:47,760

Take this guy downtown.

527

00:46:47,760 --> 00:46:52,760

Two days later, Max Carson was released from jail and disappeared once again.

528

00:46:52,760 --> 00:46:57,760

Only then did police finally discover his true identity.

529

00:46:59,760 --> 00:47:03,760

William John Wood was last seen in Reno, Nevada, in March of 1991,

530

00:47:03,760 --> 00:47:06,760

still using the name Max Carson.

531

00:47:06,760 --> 00:47:10,760

He tried to run one of his scams on a model he had known in Las Vegas.

532

00:47:10,760 --> 00:47:13,760

When she confronted him with his past, he disappeared.

533

00:47:13,760 --> 00:47:16,760

Authorities believe he may be operating anywhere in the country,

534

00:47:16,760 --> 00:47:20,760

though he seems to prefer Florida, Nevada, or Southern California.

535

00:47:20,760 --> 00:47:25,760

They are certain that he is still masquerading as a film producer or talent agent.

536

00:47:36,760 --> 00:47:51,760

Join me next time for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

537

00:48:36,760 --> 00:48:39,760

Unsolved Mysteries