

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 --> 00:00:12,280

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

5

00:00:16,280 --> 00:00:19,920

In November of 1991, an exuberant high school dance

6

00:00:19,920 --> 00:00:24,160

in Santa Clara, California, was marred by unexpected tragedy.

7

00:00:24,160 --> 00:00:27,000

When a 15-year-old boy was struck by a car,

8

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:30,960

he would die within an hour, the victim of a baffling,

9

00:00:30,960 --> 00:00:33,360

unknown illness.

10

00:00:33,360 --> 00:00:36,240

The death of Frank Santos Jr. was the latest blow

11

00:00:36,240 --> 00:00:39,400

for his family, which has been tormented by an incurable heart

12

00:00:39,400 --> 00:00:41,880

disease for more than 30 years.

13

00:00:41,880 --> 00:00:44,600

Perhaps some watching tonight can finally

14

00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:48,080

provide a clue that will help this courageous family.

15

00:00:48,080 --> 00:00:52,120

Join me for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

16

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:39,000

MUSIC

17

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:53,000

December 31, 1960, the American territory of Guam,

18

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,960

3,000 miles west of the Hawaiian Islands.

19

00:01:56,960 --> 00:02:00,640

Shortly after midnight, Donna Tilla Santos and a 34-year-old

20

00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:04,680

husband Francisco were sound asleep.

21

00:02:04,680 --> 00:02:09,680

About 1.30 that morning, he starts snoring,

22

00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:13,960

and he never snored in his life, ever since we were married,

23

00:02:13,960 --> 00:02:16,720

and never experienced any snoring.

24

00:02:16,720 --> 00:02:20,200

So I start waking him up, because that's very unusual.

25

00:02:20,200 --> 00:02:23,440

He won't wake up.

26

00:02:23,440 --> 00:02:26,800

I started crying, and he still won't wake up.

27

00:02:26,800 --> 00:02:31,640

I lift him up halfway, and I let him lean against me.

28

00:02:31,640 --> 00:02:34,320

But then all of a sudden, he took his last breath,

29

00:02:34,320 --> 00:02:35,320

and that was it.

30

00:02:35,320 --> 00:02:38,120

He was gone.

31

00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:41,120

Francisco's death was initially attributed to a stroke,

32

00:02:41,120 --> 00:02:45,040

but was later determined to be the result of heart failure.

33

00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:47,720

Donna Tilla was left to raise seven young children

34

00:02:47,720 --> 00:02:48,440

by herself.

35

00:02:52,320 --> 00:02:54,560

For Donna Tilla Santos, the death of her husband

36

00:02:54,560 --> 00:02:56,760

was only the beginning.

37

00:02:56,760 --> 00:02:59,440

In the past decade, five more family members

38

00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:03,320

have fallen to a mysterious, undiagnosable disease.

39

00:03:03,320 --> 00:03:06,640

Today, Donna Tilla lives in Yuba City, California.

40

00:03:06,640 --> 00:03:08,560

She hopes that by presenting her story,

41

00:03:08,560 --> 00:03:12,240

someone will be able to help identify this deadly affliction,

42

00:03:12,240 --> 00:03:15,240

which has plagued the Santos family for three generations.

43

00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:21,120

By 1970, Donna Tilla had remarried

44

00:03:21,120 --> 00:03:22,920

and moved with her children and new husband

45

00:03:22,920 --> 00:03:25,080

to Northern California.

46

00:03:25,080 --> 00:03:28,040

Then in April of 1981, the Santos family

47

00:03:28,040 --> 00:03:30,840

experienced another sudden tragedy.

48

00:03:30,840 --> 00:03:33,600

27-year-old Doris, the youngest daughter,

49

00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:37,000

was found unconscious in her bedroom.

50

00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:39,800

She was half on, half off the bed, you know?

51

00:03:39,800 --> 00:03:42,800

Normally Doris keeps herself all covered up.

52

00:03:42,800 --> 00:03:44,920

So I tried to wake her up, you know, to scoot in,

53

00:03:44,920 --> 00:03:47,520

you know, cover herself up.

54

00:03:47,520 --> 00:03:50,600

She wouldn't, you know, she didn't respond.

55

00:03:50,600 --> 00:03:52,600

So I ran over, and I called my mom.

56

00:03:52,600 --> 00:03:54,400

He starts knocking on my door and says,

57

00:03:54,400 --> 00:03:57,480

Mom, wake up, because something's wrong.

58

00:03:57,480 --> 00:04:00,080

Doris don't want to wake up immediately.

59

00:04:00,080 --> 00:04:03,040

Jump out of bed, went into her bedroom,

60

00:04:03,040 --> 00:04:07,400

and I start waking her up, and she won't wake up.

61

00:04:07,400 --> 00:04:09,480

I told my son, Steve, I said, call the paramedic

62

00:04:09,480 --> 00:04:12,160

and the priest immediately.

63

00:04:12,160 --> 00:04:13,880

Doctors determined that Doris had died

64

00:04:13,880 --> 00:04:15,840

of acute congestive heart failure,

65

00:04:15,840 --> 00:04:17,720

resulting from the ventricles inability

66

00:04:17,720 --> 00:04:20,880

to pump sufficient amounts of blood to the body.

67

00:04:20,880 --> 00:04:23,800

Doctors drew no parallels between Doris's death

68

00:04:23,800 --> 00:04:27,880

and the condition that killed her father.

69

00:04:27,880 --> 00:04:29,920

Within two years of Doris's death,

70

00:04:29,920 --> 00:04:32,600

23-year-old Ronnie, the baby of the family,

71

00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:35,280

began experiencing chest pains.

72

00:04:35,280 --> 00:04:37,920

At the time, he was engaged to his high school sweetheart,

73

00:04:37,920 --> 00:04:39,320

Dana.

74

00:04:39,320 --> 00:04:41,400

Ronnie was found to have a virus of the heart

75

00:04:41,400 --> 00:04:45,640

muscle, which could be controlled by medication.

76

00:04:45,640 --> 00:04:49,920

I was scared, but I thought, well,

77

00:04:49,920 --> 00:04:53,120

he's under a good doctor's care, and things will be fine.

78

00:04:53,120 --> 00:04:54,200

I didn't.

79

00:04:54,200 --> 00:04:57,320

It was not related to what had happened to Doris,

80

00:04:57,320 --> 00:04:59,040

because it was a virus of the heart muscle.

81

00:04:59,040 --> 00:05:01,360

And hers was congestive heart failure.

82

00:05:01,360 --> 00:05:04,760

And as far as I knew, his father died of a stroke.

83

00:05:04,760 --> 00:05:09,480

So they obviously weren't related in my mind.

84

00:05:09,480 --> 00:05:13,120

By the following September, Ronnie and Dana had married.

85

00:05:13,120 --> 00:05:15,080

Under a doctor's supervision, Ronnie

86

00:05:15,080 --> 00:05:17,880

was able to live a normal, active life, which included

87

00:05:17,920 --> 00:05:21,440

weekly games of softball.

88

00:05:21,440 --> 00:05:27,160

It was a Monday, and I was sitting out and talking to a friend.

89

00:05:27,160 --> 00:05:29,600

And they had played half of an inning.

90

00:05:29,600 --> 00:05:31,800

They had been out in the field, and they came in.

91

00:05:31,800 --> 00:05:33,680

Not there hadn't been much action.

92

00:05:33,680 --> 00:05:35,440

He hadn't been running around or anything.

93

00:05:35,440 --> 00:05:38,760

He'd just kind of been fielding a few balls.

94

00:05:38,760 --> 00:05:41,600

He came in, and he was standing by the backstop,

95

00:05:41,600 --> 00:05:43,960

talking to a few friends, leaning on a bat.

96

00:05:48,880 --> 00:05:49,880

Ronnie!

97

00:05:49,880 --> 00:05:50,880

Let me go call help.

98

00:05:50,880 --> 00:05:51,880

Ronnie!

99

00:05:51,880 --> 00:05:56,280

He was groaning and moaning, and I couldn't

100

00:05:56,280 --> 00:05:57,520

figure out what was wrong with him.

101

00:05:57,520 --> 00:05:59,360

And I was just standing there screaming.

102

00:05:59,360 --> 00:06:01,360

All I could do was scream and point.

103

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

I had no idea what was happening.

104

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

Ronnie!

105

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

Ronnie!

106

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

Ronnie Santos never regained consciousness.

107

00:06:12,360 --> 00:06:14,360

He was pronounced dead on arrival.

108

00:06:14,360 --> 00:06:16,360

He was shot dead in the back of his head.

109

00:06:16,440 --> 00:06:19,640

He was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

110

00:06:19,640 --> 00:06:23,840

The cause of death, cardiomyopathy, and irregular heartbeat

111

00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:26,040

probably the result of a viral infection.

112

00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:34,160

I still can't believe at 24 he was gone.

113

00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:38,560

It's such a shock to think that it's just too young.

114

00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:40,160

Too many things to live for.

115

00:06:41,160 --> 00:06:43,160

A year later, the Santos family was

116

00:06:43,160 --> 00:06:46,160

forced to face yet another funeral.

117

00:06:46,160 --> 00:06:49,840

This time, the victim was the eldest son, 33-year-old Frank,

118

00:06:49,840 --> 00:06:54,440

who collapsed while sitting at home watching television.

119

00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:57,040

His mother and I were out running errands,

120

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

and we received a phone call.

121

00:07:00,040 --> 00:07:06,640

And I just remember she got off the phone, and she said,

122

00:07:06,640 --> 00:07:10,120

she was in a panic state, and she said, we've got to go.

123

00:07:10,120 --> 00:07:11,120

We've got to go.

124

00:07:11,120 --> 00:07:12,120

Something's wrong.

125

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

Something happened to Frank.

126

00:07:16,120 --> 00:07:18,120

We were driving back to my house,

127

00:07:18,120 --> 00:07:24,120

and his mother was on the passenger side, and she was praying.

128

00:07:24,120 --> 00:07:29,120

And I saw the shadows from the lights of the paramedics truck.

129

00:07:29,120 --> 00:07:34,120

And then it hit me, and I knew something was wrong.

130

00:07:34,120 --> 00:07:40,120

I ran into the house, and I stopped right at the dining room,

131

00:07:40,120 --> 00:07:42,120

looking into the family room.

132

00:07:42,120 --> 00:07:47,120

And I saw the paramedics working on my husband,

133

00:07:47,120 --> 00:07:52,120

and I knew he was gone.

134

00:07:52,120 --> 00:07:55,120

It was just a great shock.

135

00:07:55,120 --> 00:07:57,120

I can't believe my other son is leaving,

136

00:07:57,120 --> 00:07:59,120

and I can't believe I'm leaving.

137

00:07:59,120 --> 00:08:01,120

I'm so sorry.

138

00:08:01,120 --> 00:08:03,120

I can't believe my other son is leaving.

139

00:08:03,120 --> 00:08:05,120

And I thought to myself, he cannot leave.

140

00:08:05,120 --> 00:08:10,120

He's my oldest son, and he's not supposed to die.

141

00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:11,120

But he was gone.

142

00:08:15,120 --> 00:08:18,120

Tragically, Francisco Santos and three of his children

143

00:08:18,120 --> 00:08:22,120

had died of heart disease before reaching the age of 35.

144

00:08:22,120 --> 00:08:25,120

Physicians searched for answers, and soon discovered

145

00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:28,120

that heart disorders had plagued Francisco's side of the family

146

00:08:28,120 --> 00:08:30,120

for a number of generations.

147

00:08:32,120 --> 00:08:35,120

I think that what's most mysterious about the family

148

00:08:35,120 --> 00:08:41,120

is the fact that none of the family members who died

149

00:08:41,120 --> 00:08:46,120

were thought to have abnormal hearts prior to dying.

150

00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:49,120

And most of them have had postmortem examinations,

151

00:08:49,120 --> 00:08:57,120

and there were no serious problems found at postmortem examination.

152

00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:01,120

Frank's death was also attributed to cardiomyopathy,

153

00:09:01,120 --> 00:09:05,120

but doctors were unable to identify the specific disease

154

00:09:05,120 --> 00:09:10,120

that would soon claim two more members of the Santos family.

155

00:09:10,120 --> 00:09:14,120

In August of 1987, another brother, 30-year-old Ralph,

156

00:09:14,120 --> 00:09:18,120

fell asleep on the sofa and never woke up.

157

00:09:18,120 --> 00:09:22,120

His death was also attributed to a viral infection of the heart.

158

00:09:22,120 --> 00:09:26,120

He left behind a wife and two young sons.

159

00:09:27,120 --> 00:09:31,120

Then in November of 1991, 15-year-old Frank Santos Jr.

160

00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:34,120

was struck down at a high school dance.

161

00:09:34,120 --> 00:09:37,120

The mysterious malady had skipped to the next generation.

162

00:09:37,120 --> 00:09:40,120

Frank's mother was called to the gym.

163

00:09:40,120 --> 00:09:43,120

She had now lost a husband and a son.

164

00:09:45,120 --> 00:09:50,120

I walked in, and I knew right when I saw him laying there still

165

00:09:50,120 --> 00:09:55,120

and the paramedics were administering CPR.

166

00:09:55,120 --> 00:09:59,120

I knew he was gone.

167

00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:06,120

Frank Santos Jr. was buried next to his uncle Ronnie.

168

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

Nearby are the graves of his father, his Aunt Doris,

169

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

and his uncle Ralph.

170

00:10:12,120 --> 00:10:15,120

The funeral was a time for Steve Santos,

171

00:10:15,120 --> 00:10:17,120

the family's only surviving son,

172

00:10:17,120 --> 00:10:20,120

to reflect on his own uncertain future.

173

00:10:22,120 --> 00:10:25,120

I was thinking, I might be next, you know,

174

00:10:25,120 --> 00:10:30,120

or my sister's going to be next, you know, one of us.

175

00:10:30,120 --> 00:10:35,120

I'm very certain that this is a problem that is in the genetic code,

176

00:10:35,120 --> 00:10:40,120

and we have just not been smart enough to figure out exactly what this problem is.

177

00:10:40,120 --> 00:10:43,120

It's not like we've seen 100 or 150 families like this

178

00:10:43,120 --> 00:10:47,120

with the exact same findings that we can look very, very carefully.

179

00:10:47,120 --> 00:10:50,120

This is a very unusual situation.

180

00:10:53,120 --> 00:10:55,120

Despite the years of pain and hardship,

181

00:10:55,120 --> 00:10:58,120

and despite the loss of six loved ones,

182

00:10:58,120 --> 00:11:01,120

the Santos family has remained remarkably resilient.

183

00:11:01,120 --> 00:11:05,120

Drawing from each other, the strength and hope that modern medicine

184

00:11:05,120 --> 00:11:08,120

has been unable to provide.

185

00:11:09,120 --> 00:11:13,120

It just brought us that much closer to each other.

186

00:11:13,120 --> 00:11:16,120

Now I have a three-month-old daughter.

187

00:11:16,120 --> 00:11:19,120

You know, I fear for them, just like I fear for myself,

188

00:11:19,120 --> 00:11:21,120

for my sisters.

189

00:11:21,120 --> 00:11:26,120

You know, now that it's hit their generation, you know,

190

00:11:26,120 --> 00:11:29,120

I fear it pretty much.

191

00:11:29,120 --> 00:11:34,120

Every day I think about my children, my grandchildren,

192

00:11:34,120 --> 00:11:38,120

what's going to happen, and I'm not praying.

193

00:11:38,120 --> 00:11:40,120

I'm hoping I'm praying that they will die.

194

00:11:40,120 --> 00:11:42,120

I just hope that this is going to stop.

195

00:11:42,120 --> 00:11:45,120

It's enough already.

196

00:12:04,120 --> 00:12:09,120

Next, controversy surrounds a fatal car fire.

197

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

Was it an accident or a murder?

198

00:12:35,120 --> 00:12:41,120

On October 25, 1987, in the small town of New Rockford, North Dakota,

199

00:12:41,120 --> 00:12:45,120

an angry confrontation erupted between Kathy Bonderson and their husband

200

00:12:45,120 --> 00:12:49,120

over their teenage son who had gone out without permission.

201

00:12:49,120 --> 00:12:51,120

What am I supposed to do about missing a night at work?

202

00:12:51,120 --> 00:12:53,120

You're the one that grounded him in the first place.

203

00:12:53,120 --> 00:12:55,120

Somebody has to set some limits for the boy,

204

00:12:55,120 --> 00:12:57,120

and obviously it's not going to be you.

205

00:12:57,120 --> 00:13:01,120

It was after two AMS, and I was told that I was going to be a real criminal.

206

00:13:01,120 --> 00:13:03,120

And obviously it's not going to be you.

207

00:13:03,120 --> 00:13:08,120

It was after two AM, Kathy's husband had already conducted a cursory search

208

00:13:08,120 --> 00:13:09,120

and given up.

209

00:13:09,120 --> 00:13:10,120

He'll be home when he's ready.

210

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

This is ridiculous.

211

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

It's 2.30 in the morning, and we don't know where our son is.

212

00:13:14,120 --> 00:13:15,120

Fine.

213

00:13:15,120 --> 00:13:16,120

You go look for him then.

214

00:13:16,120 --> 00:13:17,120

OK.

215

00:13:17,120 --> 00:13:18,120

I will.

216

00:13:18,120 --> 00:13:21,120

Yeah, well, I hope you have a heck of a lot better luck than I did.

217

00:13:21,120 --> 00:13:25,120

Kathy, a dedicated employee at a local convalescent home,

218

00:13:25,120 --> 00:13:26,120

had never missed a shift at work.

219

00:13:26,120 --> 00:13:32,120

Yet this night, she was so concerned about her son that she called in sick.

220

00:13:32,120 --> 00:13:36,120

Around 2.30 AM, the boy was on his way home with his girlfriend

221

00:13:36,120 --> 00:13:40,120

when he saw his mother's car heading out of town.

222

00:13:40,120 --> 00:13:42,120

That was my mom's car.

223

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

She's a hope she didn't see me.

224

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:48,120

Another vehicle was following close behind Kathy's.

225

00:13:48,120 --> 00:13:51,120

Her son assumed that his mother was driving her car,

226

00:13:51,120 --> 00:13:55,120

but in fact, he was unable to clearly see the driver in either vehicle.

227

00:14:09,120 --> 00:14:12,120

An hour later, a car was reported burning out of control

228

00:14:12,120 --> 00:14:17,120

on a lonely country road, just a few yards west of a railroad crossing.

229

00:14:18,120 --> 00:14:19,120

Close the line.

230

00:14:19,120 --> 00:14:20,120

Close the line now.

231

00:14:20,120 --> 00:14:22,120

Make sure the pressure's way up.

232

00:14:22,120 --> 00:14:23,120

The pressure's up.

233

00:14:23,120 --> 00:14:24,120

Leave on the hood.

234

00:14:24,120 --> 00:14:25,120

Somebody give the hood.

235

00:14:25,120 --> 00:14:26,120

I got it.

236

00:14:26,120 --> 00:14:27,120

I got it.

237

00:14:27,120 --> 00:14:28,120

The heat was intense.

238

00:14:28,120 --> 00:14:32,120

So intense that 15 long minutes passed before firefighters

239

00:14:32,120 --> 00:14:35,120

could get close enough to look inside.

240

00:14:35,120 --> 00:14:36,120

No one on this side.

241

00:14:36,120 --> 00:14:38,120

Glass, check the other side.

242

00:14:38,120 --> 00:14:41,120

A body was in the seated position on the floorboard

243

00:14:41,120 --> 00:14:43,120

of the passenger side of the vehicle.

244

00:14:43,120 --> 00:14:44,120

Come in here.

245

00:14:44,120 --> 00:14:49,120

The victim was later identified as 35-year-old Kathy Bonderson.

246

00:14:56,120 --> 00:14:59,120

Daybreak, finally the car had cooled down enough

247

00:14:59,120 --> 00:15:01,120

to remove Kathy's charred body.

248

00:15:01,120 --> 00:15:05,120

At the time, Edward Almaras was the sheriff of Eddie County.

249

00:15:05,120 --> 00:15:11,120

As I remember it, the firewall was completely burned.

250

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

The steering column, the dash, the front seat.

251

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

The only thing that was left was the steel.

252

00:15:17,120 --> 00:15:21,120

Listen, I'd like to have the boys flush it out

253

00:15:21,120 --> 00:15:23,120

so if there's any fragments left from the body.

254

00:15:23,120 --> 00:15:26,120

The fire had to start up front someplace.

255

00:15:26,120 --> 00:15:28,120

There could have been a short, a wire pinch,

256

00:15:28,120 --> 00:15:31,120

something because that car was doing some bending

257

00:15:31,120 --> 00:15:35,120

also when it went across those tracks.

258

00:15:35,120 --> 00:15:38,120

Kathy's car was found here.

259

00:15:38,120 --> 00:15:41,120

Sheriff Almaras believed that as Kathy approached

260

00:15:41,120 --> 00:15:44,120

the railroad crossing, she inexplicably swerved to the right

261

00:15:44,120 --> 00:15:49,120

and lost control when she careened over the exposed tracks.

262

00:15:49,120 --> 00:15:56,120

The car made a abrupt turn as if it was trying to avoid something.

263

00:15:57,120 --> 00:16:00,120

Then straightened out went across the tracks.

264

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

There was marks on the tracks which showed us that the car

265

00:16:06,120 --> 00:16:12,120

very definitely went over the tracks, not the crossing, but the tracks.

266

00:16:12,120 --> 00:16:16,120

Almaras believed that a high-speed impact with the raised tracks

267

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

not only caused the car to burst into flames,

268

00:16:19,120 --> 00:16:22,120

but also threw Kathy to the passenger side of the car

269

00:16:23,120 --> 00:16:26,120

Sheriff Almaras felt that he had an open and shut case.

270

00:16:26,120 --> 00:16:30,120

Kathy Bonerson was no doubt the victim of a tragic accident.

271

00:16:30,120 --> 00:16:33,120

Yet oddly, her car keys are found virtually undamaged

272

00:16:33,120 --> 00:16:35,120

on the floorboard of the vehicle,

273

00:16:35,120 --> 00:16:38,120

even though the car's interior had melted.

274

00:16:38,120 --> 00:16:41,120

Within two days, a theory emerged which would pit Sheriff Almaras

275

00:16:41,120 --> 00:16:43,120

against an investigator from the North Dakota State Highway

276

00:16:43,120 --> 00:16:46,120

and the car's interior had been damaged.

277

00:16:46,120 --> 00:16:49,120

The car was in a state of emergency.

278

00:16:49,120 --> 00:16:53,120

The Sheriff Almaras against an investigator from the North Dakota State Highway Patrol.

279

00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:57,120

Four years later, the two lawmen still disagree,

280

00:16:57,120 --> 00:17:01,120

and the question remains, did Kathy Bonerson die in an accident

281

00:17:01,120 --> 00:17:04,120

or was she murdered?

282

00:17:09,120 --> 00:17:13,120

The day after the fire, Captain William Byrum of the Highway Patrol

283

00:17:13,120 --> 00:17:18,120

visited the scene to file a standard report.

284

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

Byrum found no tire tracks to indicate that

285

00:17:22,120 --> 00:17:25,120

not-of-control car had veered off the road.

286

00:17:25,120 --> 00:17:28,120

Further, the tall grass in the area seemed undisturbed.

287

00:17:28,120 --> 00:17:31,120

The truck, which was not on the road,

288

00:17:31,120 --> 00:17:34,120

was not on the road,

289

00:17:34,120 --> 00:17:36,120

and the car was on the roadside.

290

00:17:36,120 --> 00:17:39,120

The car was on the roadside,

291

00:17:39,120 --> 00:17:42,120

and the road was on the roadside.

292

00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:45,120

The truck was on the roadside,

293

00:17:45,120 --> 00:17:48,120

and the area seemed undisturbed.

294

00:17:48,120 --> 00:17:51,120

He noticed the same marks on the railroad tracks

295

00:17:51,120 --> 00:17:54,120

which Sheriff Almaras had discovered.

296

00:17:54,120 --> 00:17:58,120

Byrum, however, believes they were not made by Kathy's car.

297

00:17:58,120 --> 00:18:03,120

The marks I found were a reddish color.

298

00:18:03,120 --> 00:18:05,120

We talked with the firemen,

299

00:18:05,120 --> 00:18:09,120

and the hoses that were used that night were a red rubber hose,

300

00:18:09,120 --> 00:18:12,120

and they had been in and around that area,

301

00:18:12,120 --> 00:18:15,120

and they had drugged the hoses over the tracks.

302

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

Felt that what I was looking at was something

303

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

that had been put there by them.

304

00:18:21,120 --> 00:18:25,120

The next day, Byrum and the State Fire Marshal

305

00:18:25,120 --> 00:18:28,120

examined Kathy Bonderson's car.

306

00:18:28,120 --> 00:18:33,120

I see that it's totally burned,

307

00:18:33,120 --> 00:18:37,120

but I see absolutely no damage,

308

00:18:37,120 --> 00:18:40,120

structural-wise, from impact,

309

00:18:40,120 --> 00:18:45,120

which is normal to find in this type of an accident.

310

00:18:45,120 --> 00:18:50,120

But I couldn't find any. I found none. Zero.

311

00:18:50,120 --> 00:18:53,120

The fuel line looks okay, and the fuel filter stores the paint on it.

312

00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:56,120

Surprisingly, the fuel tank still held

313

00:18:56,120 --> 00:18:59,120

twelve and a half gallons of gasoline.

314

00:18:59,120 --> 00:19:04,120

The fuel line from the tank itself to the carburetor

315

00:19:04,120 --> 00:19:06,120

was intact.

316

00:19:06,120 --> 00:19:11,120

No cracks, no dents, no damage whatsoever.

317

00:19:11,120 --> 00:19:14,120

It doesn't appear that we had any impact on any rail.

318

00:19:14,120 --> 00:19:17,120

Based on the evidence, the fire marshal came to his own,

319

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

disturbing conclusion.

320

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

It appeared the fire started in several different areas,

321

00:19:22,120 --> 00:19:26,120

which would not be normally found in an accidental fire.

322

00:19:26,120 --> 00:19:31,120

There's no question in my mind this fire was not an accident.

323

00:19:31,120 --> 00:19:34,120

This fire was intentionally set.

324

00:19:37,120 --> 00:19:40,120

Three weeks later, Captain Byron requested that

325

00:19:40,120 --> 00:19:43,120

Kathy Bonderson's body be exhumed for an autopsy.

326

00:19:43,120 --> 00:19:45,120

Sheriff El Maris objected.

327

00:19:45,120 --> 00:19:48,120

Byron threatened to obtain a court order.

328

00:19:48,120 --> 00:19:51,120

El Maris, back down.

329

00:19:51,120 --> 00:19:55,120

You know, it ticked me off when I was forced

330

00:19:55,120 --> 00:20:02,120

into signing the petition to exhum the body.

331

00:20:02,120 --> 00:20:09,120

And then after we got the full wrap-up from the doctor

332

00:20:09,120 --> 00:20:16,120

in Minnesota, the one who performed the autopsy,

333

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

he couldn't come up with any cause of death.

334

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

One of the very important facts from the autopsy

335

00:20:24,120 --> 00:20:31,120

proved that Kathy Bonderson was dead before the fire started.

336

00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:35,120

According to the pathologist's findings,

337

00:20:35,120 --> 00:20:38,120

there was no carbon monoxide in Kathy's lungs,

338

00:20:38,120 --> 00:20:42,120

suggesting that she was not alive when the fire was ignited.

339

00:20:42,120 --> 00:20:46,120

I asked him, you know, if she could have been killed

340

00:20:46,120 --> 00:20:50,120

from a blow on the head, and he says yes.

341

00:20:50,120 --> 00:20:52,120

Well, if you're ever in a bouncing car,

342

00:20:52,120 --> 00:20:55,120

you know, where your head is going to hit.

343

00:20:55,120 --> 00:20:58,120

Tests conducted on fragments of Kathy's clothing

344

00:20:58,120 --> 00:21:01,120

and the vehicles carpeting revealed that each contained

345

00:21:01,120 --> 00:21:05,120

traces of gasoline, supporting the possibility of arson.

346

00:21:05,120 --> 00:21:08,120

Further several days after the incident,

347

00:21:08,120 --> 00:21:11,120

an empty gasoline jug was found just 300 yards

348

00:21:11,120 --> 00:21:14,120

from where the car was burned.

349

00:21:14,120 --> 00:21:19,120

Still, Sheriff El Maris would not change his findings.

350

00:21:19,120 --> 00:21:22,120

There's been no proof offered.

351

00:21:22,120 --> 00:21:27,120

Nothing in my investigation brought up anything that even

352

00:21:27,120 --> 00:21:32,120

would give you an inkling that there's might be a homicide

353

00:21:32,120 --> 00:21:35,120

rather than a car accident. Nothing.

354

00:21:36,120 --> 00:21:43,120

There are too many other facts leading me to believe

355

00:21:43,120 --> 00:21:46,120

that it was not an accident.

356

00:21:48,120 --> 00:21:51,120

And I have to work with facts.

357

00:21:57,120 --> 00:22:01,120

Captain Byram is convinced that someone murdered Kathy Bonderson

358

00:22:01,120 --> 00:22:05,120

and set her car on fire to make it look like an accident.

359

00:22:05,120 --> 00:22:09,120

If so, who killed her and why?

360

00:22:27,120 --> 00:22:34,120

8.51pm, November 13, 1991.

361

00:22:34,120 --> 00:22:37,120

A chilling call from the police.

362

00:22:37,120 --> 00:22:41,120

The police found that Kathy's car was burned.

363

00:22:41,120 --> 00:22:43,120

The car was burned.

364

00:22:43,120 --> 00:22:47,120

The police found that Kathy was a car accident.

365

00:22:47,120 --> 00:22:50,120

The police found that Kathy was a car accident.

366

00:22:50,120 --> 00:22:53,120

The police found that Kathy was a car accident.

367

00:22:53,120 --> 00:22:57,120

8.51pm, November 13, 1991.

368

00:22:57,120 --> 00:23:01,120

A chilling call came into the Balejo, California police.

369

00:23:01,120 --> 00:23:05,120

Loomis driver said they pulled the store and see a subject tied on the floor.

370

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

Possibly subjects inside.

371

00:23:08,120 --> 00:23:11,120

Hold on, hold on.

372

00:23:11,120 --> 00:23:14,120

Patrol cars immediately rolled to the scene of what they believed

373

00:23:14,120 --> 00:23:18,120

was a robbery in progress at the Loomis Armored Car Company.

374

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

As police made their approach, they saw that the security door

375

00:23:27,120 --> 00:23:30,120

of the main building was partially open.

376

00:23:30,120 --> 00:23:33,120

A bag of money lay near the entrance.

377

00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:36,120

The officers moved cautiously and were fearful that somewhere

378

00:23:36,120 --> 00:23:39,120

a gunman might still be lurking.

379

00:23:53,120 --> 00:23:57,120

Inside police discovered that this was far more than a simple robbery.

380

00:23:57,120 --> 00:24:00,120

Just beyond the door, a security guard lay dead.

381

00:24:00,120 --> 00:24:04,120

His hands had been bound with rope and he'd been shot through the head.

382

00:24:18,120 --> 00:24:22,120

In another part of the building, police found two other guards

383

00:24:22,120 --> 00:24:25,120

one was dead, the other mortally wounded.

384

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

Like the first victim, they had each been bound and shot in the head.

385

00:24:34,120 --> 00:24:38,120

The guards were identified as 49-year-old Martin McCumber,

386

00:24:38,120 --> 00:24:41,120

29-year-old Dennis Jacobson,

387

00:24:41,120 --> 00:24:44,120

and 25-year-old Alfonso Lontayo.

388

00:24:44,120 --> 00:24:47,120

McCumber left behind a wife and children.

389

00:24:47,120 --> 00:24:51,120

Lontayo was engaged to be married in six months.

390

00:24:52,120 --> 00:24:56,120

This one will forever stick in my mind as being a very brutal

391

00:24:56,120 --> 00:25:00,120

and senseless killing of three innocent people who were trying to make a living.

392

00:25:00,120 --> 00:25:06,120

And the way they were killed and just the brutality of the incident

393

00:25:06,120 --> 00:25:10,120

will be something that will stick in my mind for a pretty long time.

394

00:25:11,120 --> 00:25:15,120

The brutality of this crime was not its only hallmark.

395

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

Police were surprised to find that the killers had left behind

396

00:25:19,120 --> 00:25:22,120

an abundance of physical evidence.

397

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

All of that evidence has been used in our recreations.

398

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

Watch closely.

399

00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:31,120

Perhaps someone in the audience will be able to help identify the killers.

400

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

Immediately after police units had secured the crime scene,

401

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

detectives were called in.

402

00:25:41,120 --> 00:25:45,120

We looked inside numerous duffel bags that had been left behind.

403

00:25:45,120 --> 00:25:48,120

Inside these duffel bags, we found a pair of shoes.

404

00:25:48,120 --> 00:25:51,120

We found some tools and some lighter fluid.

405

00:25:51,120 --> 00:25:55,120

The lighter fluid itself is still somewhat of a mystery to us.

406

00:25:55,120 --> 00:25:57,120

Try as we might.

407

00:25:57,120 --> 00:26:02,120

We have not been able to conceive of the purpose of bringing that lighter fluid to the facility.

408

00:26:03,120 --> 00:26:06,120

A price had been handwritten on the lighter fluid container.

409

00:26:06,120 --> 00:26:10,120

So far, no match for the writing has been found.

410

00:26:11,120 --> 00:26:17,120

The shoes were a brand called Honours, sold exclusively at Target chain stores.

411

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

Detectives were surprised to find that the murder weapon had been left behind.

412

00:26:24,120 --> 00:26:29,120

This revolver is an 8-inch blue-steel called Trooper.

413

00:26:29,120 --> 00:26:35,120

We were able to determine that that weapon had been reported as previously lost or stolen

414

00:26:35,120 --> 00:26:38,120

in the Los Angeles area in approximately 1969.

415

00:26:39,120 --> 00:26:43,120

By the next morning, the FBI had been called in.

416

00:26:43,120 --> 00:26:46,120

At every turn, more evidence was discovered.

417

00:26:46,120 --> 00:26:52,120

Inside the compound, investigators found an orange duffel bag stuffed with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

418

00:26:53,120 --> 00:26:58,120

Nearby, they found the bolt cutters, which had been used to break in through the wire fence.

419

00:27:01,120 --> 00:27:07,120

As we traveled along the fence line of Loomis, we located a pair of gloves that were maybe

420

00:27:07,120 --> 00:27:11,120

15 to 20 feet from that cut hole in the fence.

421

00:27:11,120 --> 00:27:18,120

Beyond that, we began locating ski masks, gloves, camouflage, or fatigue-type clothing.

422

00:27:18,120 --> 00:27:21,120

We found another one of those large bags.

423

00:27:21,120 --> 00:27:24,120

Inside that bag was abundance of currency.

424

00:27:24,120 --> 00:27:26,120

It, too, appeared to have been abandoned.

425

00:27:27,120 --> 00:27:35,120

In a park across the street, investigators found a pair of gloves, a ski mask, and an AK-47 assault rifle.

426

00:27:36,120 --> 00:27:41,120

Nearby, where this AK-47 was found, we found an impression in the ground.

427

00:27:41,120 --> 00:27:47,120

This impression leads us to believe that the responsible laid in that area for some time following the crime,

428

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

hoping that the police would leave and he could finish his escape.

429

00:27:52,120 --> 00:27:56,120

Judging from the evidence, the authorities theorized that there were four robbers.

430

00:27:56,120 --> 00:28:02,120

Hair samples found on the ski masks indicated that at least one of them was white and one black.

431

00:28:02,120 --> 00:28:05,120

Eye witnesses would later confirm this.

432

00:28:11,120 --> 00:28:17,120

Exactly one week to the hour after the murders, authorities set up a roadblock near the armored car facility,

433

00:28:17,120 --> 00:28:21,120

hoping to find people who travel the area regularly.

434

00:28:21,120 --> 00:28:27,120

They learned that a white male was seen running north from the building at around 9 p.m. on November 13th.

435

00:28:27,120 --> 00:28:32,120

A black male was seen around the same time running north on a different street.

436

00:28:38,120 --> 00:28:43,120

Working backwards, authorities began to piece together what happened on the night of the murders.

437

00:28:46,120 --> 00:28:52,120

At approximately 8 p.m., four heavily armed men dressed in combat fatigues approached the Loomis building.

438

00:28:53,120 --> 00:28:56,120

One security guard was on duty inside.

439

00:28:57,120 --> 00:29:02,120

40 minutes later, two other guards arrived, transporting a significant amount of cash.

440

00:29:03,120 --> 00:29:09,120

They made radio contact with a guard inside the building, who was stationed in a lookout booth called the Turret Room.

441

00:29:12,120 --> 00:29:16,120

Several Loomis trucks were parked on the inside of the fence.

442

00:29:16,120 --> 00:29:22,120

This would have provided the responsables with easy cover, so as not to be seen by the police.

443

00:29:22,120 --> 00:29:29,120

Once the truck arrived and the gate began to open, it would have been possible for the murderers to enter the facility,

444

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

coming in underneath the opening gate quickly before the guards had a chance to respond.

445

00:29:39,120 --> 00:29:44,120

The guards were on duty in the open area, and the guards were on duty in the open area.

446

00:29:44,120 --> 00:29:49,120

The guards were on duty in the open area, and the guards were on duty in the open area.

447

00:29:53,120 --> 00:29:58,120

The guards were on duty in the open area, and the guards were on duty in the open area.

448

00:30:03,120 --> 00:30:07,120

You're going to hand them behind your head. Head behind your head. Come on.

449

00:30:10,120 --> 00:30:13,120

They could have held the guards as hostages, ordering the guard to exit the Turret Room,

450

00:30:13,120 --> 00:30:18,120

which he may have done thinking that that would save the lives of his friends.

451

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

Once all three of these guards were overpowered, they were then bound.

452

00:30:27,120 --> 00:30:34,120

Once the guards were bound, that allowed the responsables to focus their attention on the truck.

453

00:30:40,120 --> 00:30:41,120

Get down!

454

00:30:41,120 --> 00:30:57,120

There was no reason to kill them other than if for some reason they could possibly identify the

robbers.

455

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

That would be the only reason that they would have to be killed.

456

00:31:01,120 --> 00:31:09,120

Now, this leads to a great deal of speculation, whether one or more of the employees who were killed actually knew one of the robbers.

457

00:31:12,120 --> 00:31:22,120

When a gunshot was fired, they activated an interior alarm which caused them to panic and flee.

458

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

They filled the bags so full of money that they could not carry them.

459

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

They were not aware of how heavy money actually is.

460

00:31:39,120 --> 00:31:44,120

Despite the blaring alarm, the killers fled and got away scot-free.

461

00:31:44,120 --> 00:31:49,120

The stark irony is that they also got away with absolutely no money.

462

00:31:52,120 --> 00:31:55,120

These three victims of this crime were more than just guards.

463

00:31:55,120 --> 00:32:00,120

They had wives, children, girlfriends, fathers and mothers that they left behind.

464

00:32:00,120 --> 00:32:05,120

These people's lives, their survivors, have been permanently impacted.

465

00:32:06,120 --> 00:32:11,120

Nothing can be ever done to undo what's been done to those people.

466

00:32:11,120 --> 00:32:17,120

And probably the closest we can ever come to rectifying the impact on their life is to help solve this crime.

467

00:32:36,120 --> 00:32:39,120

The next victim is a woman.

468

00:32:57,120 --> 00:33:04,120

Next, a woman is stricken with a rare form of amnesia and loses 16 years of her memory.

469

00:33:06,120 --> 00:33:09,120

The first victim is a woman.

470

00:33:14,120 --> 00:33:21,120

Imagine what it would be like to awake one day from a deep sleep and discover that your most precious memories are gone forever.

471

00:33:21,120 --> 00:33:26,120

That's exactly what happened to a 39-year-old housewife from Dundalk, Maryland.

472

00:33:26,120 --> 00:33:32,120

She's been stricken with amnesia, a medical mystery which has confounded science for centuries.

473

00:33:32,120 --> 00:33:36,120

She is not searching for a lost loved one. No crime has been committed.

474

00:33:36,120 --> 00:33:40,120

What she has lost is every single memory from a 16-year period.

475

00:33:40,120 --> 00:33:45,120

The mystery of Sarah DeGenerro is a mystery of the mind.

476

00:33:53,120 --> 00:33:59,120

It began on Friday the 13th, August 1976, when Sarah stopped by her local bank.

477

00:34:00,120 --> 00:34:08,120

Sarah had a long history of debilitating migraine headaches, but this day, the pain was beyond anything she had ever experienced before.

478

00:34:11,120 --> 00:34:22,120

The pain was so bad. If my head had exploded, you know, if dynamite had gone off on the left side of my head, it would have probably felt the same way.

479

00:34:22,120 --> 00:34:27,120

There was so much pain. The only thing I could do was leave there.

480

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

The attack left Sarah confused and disoriented, unable to see out of her left eye.

481

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

Somehow, she managed to make her way home.

482

00:34:37,120 --> 00:34:41,120

Honey? Honey, what's wrong?

483

00:34:41,120 --> 00:34:46,120

Three hours later, Sarah's husband, Paul, found his wife sprawled across the bed.

484

00:34:46,120 --> 00:34:49,120

Honey, wake up.

485

00:34:49,120 --> 00:34:52,120

She was partially paralyzed and babbling incoherently.

486

00:34:52,120 --> 00:34:54,120

Honey, honey, talk to me.

487

00:34:54,120 --> 00:35:05,120

I tried to tell him. You know that I was down at the bank and my head exploded, but I couldn't say it.

488

00:35:05,120 --> 00:35:13,120

A blood vessel had burst in Sarah's brain. Doctors recommended an extremely delicate and risky operation.

489

00:35:13,120 --> 00:35:19,120

The alternative was bleak. Sarah would likely be incapacitated for the rest of her life.

490

00:35:20,120 --> 00:35:23,120

They're bringing the pressure down.

491

00:35:23,120 --> 00:35:26,120

OK, the clip is on.

492

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

Surgeons use a relatively new and experimental procedure called micro-surgery to repair the broken blood vessel in Sarah's brain.

493

00:35:33,120 --> 00:35:38,120

All right, we've got the first aneurysm flipped. It looks like there's another aneurysm here, though, that we didn't...

494

00:35:38,120 --> 00:35:41,120

Then they discovered that her condition was worse than they had imagined.

495

00:35:41,120 --> 00:35:45,120

There was a second ruptured vessel which had failed to show up in X-rays.

496

00:35:46,120 --> 00:35:53,120

Sarah was on the operating table for nine and a half grueling hours as doctors struggled to save her life.

497

00:35:57,120 --> 00:36:00,120

Hello, Sarah. How are you doing?

498

00:36:00,120 --> 00:36:05,120

Listen, the doctor says we can remove some of those stitches now that are in your head.

499

00:36:05,120 --> 00:36:12,120

During the first few days of recovery, Sarah knew something was not quite right and became frightened.

500

00:36:12,120 --> 00:36:19,120

She noticed that in just three days, Paul's 1960s crew cut had grown out and he appeared to have put on weight.

501

00:36:19,120 --> 00:36:24,120

Sarah's daughter, Kelly, sensed immediately that her mother had changed.

502

00:36:24,120 --> 00:36:29,120

What Kelly did not know was that her mother did not even recognize her.

503

00:36:29,120 --> 00:36:33,120

I can remember the day that my father took me to the hospital.

504

00:36:33,120 --> 00:36:41,120

It was after my mother was out of intensive care and she was in her private room and it also happened to be the day that she was getting her stitches out.

505

00:36:41,120 --> 00:36:50,120

So as the nurse was removing the stitches from her head, I was to one side of her and I kept watching her and she would be looking over at me just out of the corner of her eye

506

00:36:50,120 --> 00:36:54,120

and not really saying anything to me at all the whole time that I was there.

507

00:36:56,120 --> 00:36:58,120

I was wondering who I was.

508

00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:03,120

Sixteen years of Sarah's memory had been erased.

509

00:37:03,120 --> 00:37:11,120

In her mind, she was only 23 years old and had three youngsters waiting for her at home, not four teenage children.

510

00:37:12,120 --> 00:37:27,120

Most people who have an aneurysm that ruptures do experience some memory loss, but the memory loss tends to be around the event itself, not a prolonged period of time that is lost.

511

00:37:27,120 --> 00:37:39,120

In Mrs. DiGenerro's case, 16 years, a time when children were being born and were growing, to be deprived of that is really unusual.

512

00:37:41,120 --> 00:37:45,120

Two and a half weeks after surgery, Sarah was released from the hospital.

513

00:37:47,120 --> 00:37:56,120

The neighborhood seemed oddly out of kilter. What had once been a dirt road was now a paved street, where there were once empty lots, new houses stood.

514

00:37:58,120 --> 00:37:59,120

This is here.

515

00:38:00,120 --> 00:38:01,120

Kids, kids are here.

516

00:38:02,120 --> 00:38:10,120

Doctors had warned Sarah that following the surgery, she might feel slightly disoriented, but no one had prepared her for what she found.

517

00:38:11,120 --> 00:38:12,120

Right over here.

518

00:38:13,120 --> 00:38:19,120

There was nothing in the house like it was before. Everything was just different.

519

00:38:20,120 --> 00:38:21,120

Yeah, it's fine.

520

00:38:21,120 --> 00:38:30,120

But I figured that if I just kept quiet, eventually I'd have things figured out.

521

00:38:31,120 --> 00:38:34,120

Do Eloise and Bob still live in Towson?

522

00:38:35,120 --> 00:38:40,120

Two days after returning from the hospital, Sarah began to understand the full magnitude of her problem.

523

00:38:41,120 --> 00:38:43,120

And it is 1960, isn't it?

524

00:38:44,120 --> 00:38:45,120

No.

525

00:38:46,120 --> 00:38:48,120

It's 1976, Mom.

526

00:38:49,120 --> 00:38:50,120

You're kidding us, right?

527

00:38:52,120 --> 00:38:55,120

Yeah, I'm just fooling you guys. I knew that.

528

00:38:56,120 --> 00:39:06,120

Terrified by her inexplicable memory loss, Sarah made a conscious decision that no one must know. Not her family, not her friends, not even her doctors.

529

00:39:07,120 --> 00:39:13,120

Whenever she was alone, Sarah sifted through family photographs, searching for clues about her past.

530

00:39:14,120 --> 00:39:18,120

She became obsessed with discovering who she was and where she had come from.

531

00:39:19,120 --> 00:39:22,120

I didn't have all the knowledge that I had before.

532

00:39:23,120 --> 00:39:29,120

I would try to get back everything that was lost in my brain.

533

00:39:29,120 --> 00:39:33,120

Sarah found herself mystified by the most ordinary household appliances.

534

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

When Sarah was 23, few families had automatic dishwashers.

535

00:39:40,120 --> 00:39:45,120

Microwave ovens had not yet been invented. Personal computers were unheard of.

536

00:39:46,120 --> 00:39:50,120

Even the family cars seemed like something out of the space age.

537

00:39:50,120 --> 00:39:57,120

I'd never seen anything like that in my life. I mean, it was this big, streamlined car. It was unbelievable.

538

00:39:58,120 --> 00:40:05,120

The magazines, they used to give pictures of cars of the future. That's what the Pontiac Grand Prix looked like.

539

00:40:07,120 --> 00:40:10,120

Sarah internalized the history of the car.

540

00:40:10,120 --> 00:40:16,120

The magazines, they used to give pictures of cars of the future. That's what the Pontiac Grand Prix looked like.

541

00:40:19,120 --> 00:40:25,120

Sarah internalized her fears and tried to go about life as if nothing had happened. Yet everything had changed.

542

00:40:26,120 --> 00:40:34,120

Sarah's taste in music, fashion and dance was out of a 23-year-old, not a woman approaching middle age.

543

00:40:35,120 --> 00:40:41,120

I can remember coming home from school or coming home from work and the stereo would just be blasting.

544

00:40:42,120 --> 00:40:47,120

The first thing I would do would be to come in the back door and just turn the stereo down because it would just drive me crazy.

545

00:40:48,120 --> 00:40:54,120

It's been a real role reversal at some points, you know, and just the music that she listens to.

546

00:40:55,120 --> 00:41:00,120

It's music of my generation and it's a bit much for me at times.

547

00:41:04,120 --> 00:41:08,120

For nearly four years, Sarah managed to keep up her charade.

548

00:41:09,120 --> 00:41:13,120

Finally in November of 1979, Sarah discovered that she was not alone.

549

00:41:15,120 --> 00:41:18,120

Kelly, Kelly, come here and sit down.

550

00:41:19,120 --> 00:41:23,120

An article in the local newspaper gave her the courage to reveal her secret to her family.

551

00:41:24,120 --> 00:41:28,120

I just read an article about people who have aneurysms, right?

552

00:41:28,120 --> 00:41:32,120

And for years now I thought there was something wrong with me.

553

00:41:33,120 --> 00:41:38,120

Everything was out and she, you know, was willing to admit that she did not know who we were or

know who I was.

554

00:41:39,120 --> 00:41:51,120

Sometimes I wish that she could remember me as when I was younger and I was growing up because I think I did get some characteristics from her such as being athletic, but I think she would have really enjoyed remembering of me.

555

00:41:51,120 --> 00:42:05,120

We always hope that we can learn from the experiences of our patients and by that process continue to grow intellectually.

556

00:42:06,120 --> 00:42:14,120

But from time to time, an event will occur that remains inexplicable, a mystery.

557

00:42:14,120 --> 00:42:22,120

Today with the help of her family, Sarah is trying to reconstruct the years she thought she had lost forever.

558

00:42:24,120 --> 00:42:32,120

I didn't know as much as I did at one time and wasn't able to do the things I could do before.

559

00:42:33,120 --> 00:42:38,120

Nothing was going to get me down. I was going to relearn everything.

560

00:42:38,120 --> 00:42:46,120

You know, handicapped people are, everybody goes, oh, isn't that a shame? And they were going to do that to me.

561

00:42:50,120 --> 00:42:57,120

Despite tremendous advances in the field of medicine, scientists tell us that we understand even less than 5% of how our memory functions.

562

00:42:58,120 --> 00:43:09,120

Sarah DiGenerro is still adjusting to life with 16 years of missing time. Though she carries on bravely, her doctors do not foresee the day that Sarah will recover her lost memories.

563

00:43:10,120 --> 00:43:34,120

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, three suspicious deaths all investigated as possible suicides haunt a freelance journalist who now believes he has been targeted for murder because he may know too much about possibly illegal, multi-million dollar gold transactions.

564

00:43:35,120 --> 00:43:48,120

On June 26, 1990, in Rochester, New York, one of the largest armored car robberies in United States history went off without a hitch. The total haul, over \$10 million in untraceable bills.

565

00:43:50,120 --> 00:43:55,120

Join me next time. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.