

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 --> 00:00:18,920

By his own admission, Stephen Michalak

6

00:00:18,920 --> 00:00:22,400

is an ordinary man who leads an ordinary life.

7

00:00:22,400 --> 00:00:26,400

But in 1967, Michalak claims that his life was turned upside

8

00:00:26,400 --> 00:00:26,900

down.

9

00:00:27,500 --> 00:00:28,860

When he had an extraordinary encounter

10

00:00:28,860 --> 00:00:32,340

with a mysterious flying craft.

11

00:00:32,340 --> 00:00:34,860

For many years, A.J. Bro was a fixture

12

00:00:34,860 --> 00:00:37,860

in the small community of Homa, Louisiana.

13

00:00:37,860 --> 00:00:41,500

Then suddenly in 1991, he simply vanished.

14

00:00:41,500 --> 00:00:43,820

A mysterious note sent to the police

15

00:00:43,820 --> 00:00:45,700

suggested that he had accidentally killed

16

00:00:45,700 --> 00:00:47,500

himself while drinking.

17

00:00:47,500 --> 00:00:49,980

But at least three eyewitnesses are positive.

18

00:00:49,980 --> 00:00:53,380

They saw Bro in the weeks after he disappeared.

19

00:00:53,980 --> 00:00:56,940

California's Frontera prison is one of the largest women's

20

00:00:56,940 --> 00:00:59,100

penitentiaries in America.

21

00:00:59,100 --> 00:01:02,300

But over the past decade, the deaths of a prison guard

22

00:01:02,300 --> 00:01:05,140

and an inmate have led to controversial allegations

23

00:01:05,140 --> 00:01:09,780

of corruption inside the prison walls.

24

00:01:09,780 --> 00:01:12,980

Join me for these intriguing stories and a heartwarming

25

00:01:12,980 --> 00:01:15,740

update on another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

26

00:01:54,380 --> 00:02:18,020

Every year, there are thousands of reports

27

00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:20,940

of unidentified flying objects.

28

00:02:20,940 --> 00:02:23,060

As a rule, people who admit to having an encounter

29

00:02:23,100 --> 00:02:26,900

with a UFO open themselves to ridicule and derision.

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00:02:26,900 --> 00:02:28,740

Some will call them crazy.

31

00:02:28,740 --> 00:02:32,220

Others will openly accuse them of concocting a hoax.

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00:02:32,220 --> 00:02:33,820

In this story, the person involved

33

00:02:33,820 --> 00:02:36,140

is a simple, unassuming man who is always

34

00:02:36,140 --> 00:02:40,540

skeptical about UFOs until he had his own close encounter.

35

00:02:43,740 --> 00:02:46,780

Stephen Michalak and his wife came to Manitoba, Canada

36

00:02:46,780 --> 00:02:50,020

from Poland after the Second World War.

37

00:02:50,020 --> 00:02:52,260

Stephen found work as an industrial mechanic

38

00:02:52,300 --> 00:02:55,300

in a cement plant, and life was happy and uneventful

39

00:02:55,300 --> 00:02:56,620

for nearly 20 years.

40

00:03:01,180 --> 00:03:03,100

Stephen was an amateur rock hound who

41

00:03:03,100 --> 00:03:06,340

spent every spare moment in the beautiful natural woodlands

42

00:03:06,340 --> 00:03:08,700

of Manitoba.

43

00:03:08,700 --> 00:03:09,980

I love nature.

44

00:03:09,980 --> 00:03:13,340

I love birds, animals.

45

00:03:13,340 --> 00:03:19,860

And also, I have interest in nature's old rocks and this

46

00:03:19,860 --> 00:03:21,700

and that.

47

00:03:21,700 --> 00:03:24,500

Every weekend, the long weekend, I usually

48

00:03:24,500 --> 00:03:29,820

travel, go out in the country and snooping in the rocks.

49

00:03:32,540 --> 00:03:36,500

On May 20, 1967, Stephen was prospecting approximately

50

00:03:36,500 --> 00:03:39,580

100 miles east of Winnipeg.

51

00:03:39,580 --> 00:03:42,180

Suddenly, he was distracted when a flock of geese

52

00:03:42,180 --> 00:03:44,780

in the pond below kicked up an unusual racket.

53

00:03:45,700 --> 00:03:54,180

Looking on the tree, I notice a two-cigarette-like shape

54

00:03:54,180 --> 00:03:58,100

thinks with the hump in the middle.

55

00:04:01,260 --> 00:04:02,980

I said, what the hell is that?

56

00:04:06,900 --> 00:04:12,220

One stay in the air, and the other one is coming down.

57

00:04:12,300 --> 00:04:13,220

Down, down.

58

00:04:18,260 --> 00:04:23,980

I start looking for marks.

59

00:04:23,980 --> 00:04:30,140

I never see a year or NASA or something written on it.

60

00:04:30,140 --> 00:04:30,940

No.

61

00:04:30,940 --> 00:04:31,540

Nothing.

62

00:04:31,540 --> 00:04:34,020

I didn't see anything on it.

63

00:04:34,020 --> 00:04:38,900

But still, I was thinking that probably

64

00:04:38,940 --> 00:04:42,620

experimenting with a vehicle from the United States.

65

00:04:45,220 --> 00:04:48,300

Stephen Michalak says that he made this sketch of the strange

66

00:04:48,300 --> 00:04:52,220

craft just after he saw it land.

67

00:04:52,220 --> 00:04:54,940

I do remember one description that he gave at the time.

68

00:04:54,940 --> 00:04:57,220

He said that the skin of the craft, the outside of the craft,

69

00:04:57,220 --> 00:04:58,980

was flawless.

70

00:04:58,980 --> 00:05:02,620

Stan Michalak was 10 years old in 1967.

71

00:05:02,620 --> 00:05:03,500

No, nothing.

72

00:05:03,500 --> 00:05:06,460

It was as though you had milled out of a solid piece of wood

73

00:05:06,580 --> 00:05:10,260

this disk, this saucer with the dome on top.

74

00:05:10,260 --> 00:05:13,780

Stephen Michalak told his son that after a few moments,

75

00:05:13,780 --> 00:05:15,740

the door of the craft slowly opened.

76

00:05:18,740 --> 00:05:26,020

When the gate opened, there was a kind of shrieky talk

77

00:05:26,020 --> 00:05:30,900

like a kid's in problem or something.

78

00:05:30,900 --> 00:05:35,020

Thinking of US as a country, a country that

79

00:05:35,020 --> 00:05:42,100

was in the end of USA, I said, OK, Yankee boys.

80

00:05:42,100 --> 00:05:45,580

Seems to me you are in trouble.

81

00:05:45,580 --> 00:05:46,220

You got troubles.

82

00:05:46,220 --> 00:05:47,020

I'll help you.

83

00:05:50,620 --> 00:05:52,620

When his English received no response,

84

00:05:52,620 --> 00:05:53,860

Stephen tried Russian.

85

00:05:58,100 --> 00:05:59,100

Then Polish.

86

00:06:06,020 --> 00:06:07,420

And finally German.

87

00:06:27,740 --> 00:06:30,140

Stephen says that as he drew nearer the door,

88

00:06:30,140 --> 00:06:32,820

the light was so bright he had to snap down the visor

89

00:06:32,820 --> 00:06:33,940

on his safety goggles.

90

00:06:36,020 --> 00:06:38,020

After a few moments, the door suddenly shut.

91

00:06:51,020 --> 00:06:52,020

It's hard to do.

92

00:06:56,020 --> 00:06:59,020

According to Stephen, the craft rotated counterclockwise

93

00:06:59,020 --> 00:07:00,020

and the door was closed.

94

00:07:00,020 --> 00:07:01,020

And the door was closed.

95

00:07:01,020 --> 00:07:02,020

And the door was closed.

96

00:07:02,020 --> 00:07:05,020

According to Stephen, the craft rotated counterclockwise,

97

00:07:05,020 --> 00:07:08,020

knocking him backwards and setting his shirt on fire.

98

00:07:12,020 --> 00:07:16,020

After igniting with the fire, the craft

99

00:07:16,020 --> 00:07:20,020

lifts up 30 to 40 feet in vanishing.

100

00:07:24,020 --> 00:07:27,020

And then I decided, I said, now is the time for me

101

00:07:27,020 --> 00:07:31,020

to buzz off from here, go out.

102

00:07:31,020 --> 00:07:32,020

So I started going.

103

00:07:35,020 --> 00:07:39,020

He started feeling strange and threw up several times.

104

00:07:39,020 --> 00:07:43,020

At the same time, he was experiencing spots in front

105

00:07:43,020 --> 00:07:45,520

of his eyes, which could be after effects from the brilliant

106

00:07:45,520 --> 00:07:49,580

lights emanating from what appear to be ducks or ports

107

00:07:49,580 --> 00:07:51,460

in the top of the alleged craft.

108

00:07:58,020 --> 00:07:59,500

When Stephen checked his compass,

109

00:07:59,500 --> 00:08:01,980

trying to find his way southeast to the road,

110

00:08:01,980 --> 00:08:03,500

he says a needle went haywire.

111

00:08:07,900 --> 00:08:10,180

Disoriented and badly burned, Stephen

112

00:08:10,180 --> 00:08:12,940

took his best guess at the direction.

113

00:08:12,940 --> 00:08:16,380

Nine hours later, he finally arrived back home in Winnipeg,

114

00:08:16,380 --> 00:08:18,500

where his story made local headlines

115

00:08:18,500 --> 00:08:22,500

and apparently left doctors baffled.

116

00:08:22,500 --> 00:08:26,980

At that point in time, the diagnosis,

117

00:08:26,980 --> 00:08:30,980

if you can call it that, was burns.

118

00:08:30,980 --> 00:08:32,020

And sure, they were burns.

119

00:08:32,020 --> 00:08:34,700

Yes, heat caused burns.

120

00:08:34,700 --> 00:08:37,740

What they couldn't diagnose and didn't have a clue about

121

00:08:37,740 --> 00:08:41,500

was what appeared below the chest on the abdomen.

122

00:08:41,500 --> 00:08:44,580

The exact same pattern of holes that

123

00:08:44,580 --> 00:08:48,260

was on the grid on the side of the craft in the same order,

124

00:08:48,260 --> 00:08:50,940

in the same rows, in the same number

125

00:08:50,940 --> 00:08:56,300

appeared as red spots on his lower abdomen, red dots.

126

00:08:56,340 --> 00:08:58,260

Stephen was released from the hospital,

127

00:08:58,260 --> 00:09:00,740

but he says his symptoms worsened.

128

00:09:00,740 --> 00:09:02,780

The nausea continued, and his body

129

00:09:02,780 --> 00:09:06,780

seemed to emit a sulfuric stench.

130

00:09:06,780 --> 00:09:11,220

There was this sulfur ozone electric burning motor stink.

131

00:09:11,220 --> 00:09:12,580

About him, it's like he's carrying

132

00:09:12,580 --> 00:09:13,620

the aura of the smell.

133

00:09:13,620 --> 00:09:15,660

Whenever you walked and you got close to you,

134

00:09:15,660 --> 00:09:16,820

you could smell this.

135

00:09:16,820 --> 00:09:19,100

Not bad showers wouldn't take it out.

136

00:09:19,100 --> 00:09:20,980

That lasted for weeks.

137

00:09:20,980 --> 00:09:24,500

I remember seeing him in bed constantly,

138

00:09:24,500 --> 00:09:27,660

tired, nauseous, headachey, not feeling well,

139

00:09:27,660 --> 00:09:30,660

losing a lot of weight.

140

00:09:30,660 --> 00:09:34,100

Stephen Michalak was tested for radiation poisoning.

141

00:09:34,100 --> 00:09:36,420

The results were negative, yet no one

142

00:09:36,420 --> 00:09:41,700

could explain the source of the strange burns on his torso.

143

00:09:41,700 --> 00:09:45,060

The physicians were actually unable to determine many

144

00:09:45,060 --> 00:09:46,380

of Michalak's ailments.

145

00:09:46,380 --> 00:09:49,900

They knew, for example, he was physically thermally burned.

146

00:09:49,900 --> 00:09:52,780

His chest was burned and singed.

147

00:09:52,780 --> 00:09:55,460

But the pattern lower down on his chest

148

00:09:55,460 --> 00:09:57,100

was very, very unusual.

149

00:09:57,100 --> 00:09:59,660

It was eventually determined that it was a chemical burn,

150

00:09:59,660 --> 00:10:01,620

not a radiation burn, although he

151

00:10:01,620 --> 00:10:03,540

did have some symptoms that might have suggested

152

00:10:03,540 --> 00:10:06,340

that some people had some sort of radiation effects

153

00:10:06,340 --> 00:10:07,260

might have been involved.

154

00:10:11,340 --> 00:10:14,220

On June 30, six weeks after the encounter,

155

00:10:14,220 --> 00:10:16,420

Stephen and a friend went looking for the site.

156

00:10:16,940 --> 00:10:18,020

Bob, come.

157

00:10:18,020 --> 00:10:20,540

After several hours, they found a burned out circle

158

00:10:20,540 --> 00:10:23,020

with a radius of more than 15 feet.

159

00:10:23,020 --> 00:10:23,980

This is it.

160

00:10:23,980 --> 00:10:24,940

I knew it.

161

00:10:24,940 --> 00:10:26,420

I told you.

162

00:10:26,420 --> 00:10:30,500

On this barren patch of rock was a circular, roughly circular,

163

00:10:30,500 --> 00:10:35,500

ring of vegetation, dead pine needles, dirt, leaves,

164

00:10:35,500 --> 00:10:36,660

that sort of thing.

165

00:10:36,660 --> 00:10:40,100

The rock had been swept clean except for this ring, which

166

00:10:40,100 --> 00:10:42,420

was surrounding this area.

167

00:10:42,420 --> 00:10:43,780

They also noticed that the rock had been

168

00:10:43,780 --> 00:10:46,020

swept clean except for this area.

169

00:10:46,020 --> 00:10:49,060

They also noticed that a few of the trees

170

00:10:49,060 --> 00:10:53,020

appeared to have dead branches, as if something had either

171

00:10:53,020 --> 00:10:56,060

come in and touched them or brushed by them

172

00:10:56,060 --> 00:10:58,260

with an intense heat or some other effects.

173

00:11:01,620 --> 00:11:04,740

Within days, a team of experts from the United States

174

00:11:04,740 --> 00:11:07,580

working in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Air Force

175

00:11:07,580 --> 00:11:09,780

converged on the site.

176

00:11:09,780 --> 00:11:12,420

They took measurements, cataloged soil samples,

177

00:11:12,660 --> 00:11:16,060

and found that the rock had been swept clean.

178

00:11:16,060 --> 00:11:18,060

The levels appeared alarmingly high,

179

00:11:18,060 --> 00:11:19,740

and the health department considered

180

00:11:19,740 --> 00:11:21,820

quarantining the area.

181

00:11:21,820 --> 00:11:24,100

Later, however, they discovered that the high levels

182

00:11:24,100 --> 00:11:29,740

were caused by a vein of radium which ran under the entire region.

183

00:11:29,740 --> 00:11:32,820

Mr. Nicolay, this is my colleague, Dr. Shaw.

184

00:11:32,820 --> 00:11:33,820

Dr. Shaw.

185

00:11:33,820 --> 00:11:35,260

He's a radiologist.

186

00:11:35,260 --> 00:11:37,700

Meanwhile, Stevens Burns, who should have appeared to be

187

00:11:37,700 --> 00:11:39,860

healing, suddenly flared up again.

188

00:11:39,860 --> 00:11:42,380

I want to examine these burns.

189

00:11:42,380 --> 00:11:44,380

The years remained mystified.

190

00:11:44,380 --> 00:11:46,380

He's not suffering from radiation.

191

00:11:46,380 --> 00:11:52,380

After every three months, my burns from legs and here

192

00:11:52,380 --> 00:11:56,380

were coming back, showing up again and burning,

193

00:11:56,380 --> 00:11:58,380

and burning and vomiting.

194

00:11:58,380 --> 00:12:01,380

Anything I eat, bingo, goes.

195

00:12:02,380 --> 00:12:04,380

To this day, you can, if you let you,

196

00:12:04,380 --> 00:12:08,380

compress into his skin and feel subcutaneous scar tissue

197

00:12:08,380 --> 00:12:11,380

in the form of those burns on his chest,

198

00:12:11,380 --> 00:12:14,380

which he playfully calls his buttons,

199

00:12:14,380 --> 00:12:16,380

and it's there.

200

00:12:16,380 --> 00:12:17,380

You cannot deny this.

201

00:12:17,380 --> 00:12:18,380

This is there.

202

00:12:18,380 --> 00:12:20,380

Look at these cracks.

203

00:12:21,380 --> 00:12:25,380

On May 19, 1968, one year after Steven

204

00:12:25,380 --> 00:12:29,380

Nicolay's close encounter, he and a friend returned to the site.

205

00:12:31,380 --> 00:12:34,380

Just about center, a little north of center,

206

00:12:34,380 --> 00:12:38,380

the Geiger counter rose very, very dramatically.

207

00:12:39,380 --> 00:12:43,380

At that point, within an 18-inch section of the crack,

208

00:12:43,380 --> 00:12:49,380

they scooped out a whole, almost half a jar full of what

209

00:12:49,380 --> 00:12:52,380

appeared to be molten rock or molten metal of some sort,

210

00:12:52,380 --> 00:12:54,380

subsequently found out what it was.

211

00:12:54,380 --> 00:12:56,380

But at that time, it was unclear,

212

00:12:56,380 --> 00:12:58,380

but it was quite radioactive.

213

00:12:59,380 --> 00:13:03,380

According to Ed Barker, an analysis revealed that the

214

00:13:03,380 --> 00:13:05,380

material was an extremely pure grade of silver

215

00:13:05,380 --> 00:13:07,380

that is difficult to obtain.

216

00:13:07,380 --> 00:13:09,380

It had been coated with pitch blendor,

217

00:13:09,380 --> 00:13:12,380

which contains both uranium and radium.

218

00:13:14,380 --> 00:13:19,380

This is what we found, three identical bars of what appear

219

00:13:19,380 --> 00:13:23,380

at first glance to be silver alloy of some sort.

220

00:13:24,380 --> 00:13:28,380

They were obviously manufactured somehow.

221

00:13:29,380 --> 00:13:31,380

It was considerably radioactive.

222

00:13:31,380 --> 00:13:34,380

Now, it's perfectly safe to handle.

223

00:13:35,380 --> 00:13:38,380

This is one of the biggest mysteries and one of the biggest

224

00:13:38,380 --> 00:13:41,380

puzzles, and skeptics have pointed to this as the reason

225

00:13:41,380 --> 00:13:43,380

why the case should be discounted.

226

00:13:43,380 --> 00:13:48,380

Why would particles and metal fragments of this size

227

00:13:48,380 --> 00:13:52,380

and radioactivity have been missed by all previous investigators?

228

00:13:52,380 --> 00:13:55,380

And this is one mystery that we don't have definite answers

229

00:13:55,380 --> 00:13:56,380

to this day.

230

00:13:57,380 --> 00:14:00,380

Ed Barker believes the silver was planted by someone

231

00:14:00,380 --> 00:14:04,380

who may have wanted to lend credence to Steven Micolack's story.

232

00:14:04,380 --> 00:14:06,380

Planted on the site.

233

00:14:06,380 --> 00:14:13,380

Saying that, I do not believe Michelac did have anything to do

234

00:14:13,380 --> 00:14:19,380

with this, but I do believe that it was planted.

235

00:14:20,380 --> 00:14:24,380

I'd like to think that one day we'll get a letter from the

236

00:14:24,380 --> 00:14:26,380

U.S. government and it'll say,

237

00:14:26,380 --> 00:14:28,380

we have the two crafty in our hangar over here,

238

00:14:28,380 --> 00:14:30,380

and we were experimenting with them at the time.

239

00:14:30,380 --> 00:14:31,380

Sorry.

240

00:14:31,380 --> 00:14:33,380

And I'd want to go and see them.

241

00:14:33,380 --> 00:14:36,380

And I'm sure Dad would too, and that would be great.

242

00:14:36,380 --> 00:14:39,380

What would be worse is to have this thing drag to a point

243

00:14:39,380 --> 00:14:42,380

and drag on where it's never explained.

244

00:14:45,380 --> 00:14:48,380

Today, Steven Micolack is 76 years old.

245

00:14:48,380 --> 00:14:51,380

He and his wife continue to live in Manitoba.

246

00:14:52,380 --> 00:14:56,380

Steven still is not sure what it was he saw back in 1967.

247

00:14:56,380 --> 00:15:00,380

He says doctors have never been able to explain the burns on his

248

00:15:00,380 --> 00:15:04,380

chest or the mysterious symptoms which resembled radiation poisoning.

249

00:15:06,380 --> 00:15:09,380

Since no other explanation is forthcoming,

250

00:15:09,380 --> 00:15:12,380

Steven Micolack is willing to entertain the notion,

251

00:15:12,380 --> 00:15:16,380

no matter how far-fetched, that he saw something not of this Earth.

252

00:15:21,380 --> 00:15:25,380

When we return, allegations of murder and cover-up inside one

253

00:15:25,380 --> 00:15:28,380

of America's largest prisons for women.

254

00:15:39,380 --> 00:15:43,380

Frontera Prison, 45 miles south of Los Angeles, California,

255

00:15:43,380 --> 00:15:46,380

one of the largest women's penitentiaries in America.

256

00:15:48,380 --> 00:15:51,380

Frontera's maximum security wing houses some of California's

257

00:15:51,380 --> 00:15:54,380

most dangerous female offenders.

258

00:15:54,380 --> 00:15:57,380

Yet it is the alleged criminal activities of some guards

259

00:15:57,380 --> 00:16:01,380

and administrators that have shoved Frontera into the public spotlight.

260

00:16:03,380 --> 00:16:07,380

In recent years, former prison employees have made sensational

261

00:16:07,380 --> 00:16:10,380

allegations of widespread drug trafficking at the prison.

262

00:16:11,380 --> 00:16:14,380

They have tied these charges of corruption to a pair of seemingly

263

00:16:14,380 --> 00:16:16,380

isolated incidents.

264

00:16:17,380 --> 00:16:20,380

The disappearance and subsequent murder of a Frontera guard

265

00:16:20,380 --> 00:16:24,380

was just some rich in 1984 and the controversial death of an

266

00:16:24,380 --> 00:16:27,380

inmate named Terry Lucas three years later.

267

00:16:30,380 --> 00:16:35,380

In November of 1987, Lucas was found dead in Frontera's infirmary,

268

00:16:35,380 --> 00:16:38,380

where she was recovering from a cancer biopsy.

269

00:16:38,380 --> 00:16:42,380

To some, the incident appeared highly questionable.

270

00:16:42,380 --> 00:16:45,380

According to former Frontera guard Betty Thompson,

271

00:16:45,380 --> 00:16:49,380

an officer from another wing of the prison had approached Terry Lucas

272

00:16:49,380 --> 00:16:51,380

shortly before she died.

273

00:16:51,380 --> 00:16:55,380

The unauthorized visit apparently terrified the 25-year-old Lucas.

274

00:16:56,380 --> 00:17:02,380

This was an inmate that came off as tough and mean and mouthy,

275

00:17:02,380 --> 00:17:06,380

but when she saw the officer walking down the hall,

276

00:17:06,380 --> 00:17:08,380

her whole demeanor changed.

277

00:17:08,380 --> 00:17:12,380

She was absolutely devastated by his presence.

278

00:17:14,380 --> 00:17:18,380

Thompson claims that the officer was determined to unlock Terry Lucas' cell.

279

00:17:19,380 --> 00:17:22,380

He retreated only when Thompson threatened to report him.

280

00:17:22,380 --> 00:17:24,380

You just can't come into an area where you're not allowed.

281

00:17:24,380 --> 00:17:27,380

Most of the time, officers back officers.

282

00:17:27,380 --> 00:17:32,380

We don't back inmates, but in this particular instance,

283

00:17:32,380 --> 00:17:37,380

it was just almost automatic that I would stand in front of the door

284

00:17:37,380 --> 00:17:39,380

and not let him in there.

285

00:17:41,380 --> 00:17:45,380

After this officer left the area, I keyed the door and went in

286

00:17:45,380 --> 00:17:48,380

to talk to Terry Lucas in her cell.

287

00:17:49,380 --> 00:17:52,380

She said the officer scared her,

288

00:17:52,380 --> 00:17:56,380

and the reason he scared her is because it was to make her be quiet.

289

00:17:56,380 --> 00:17:58,380

Oh, respectable in the past.

290

00:17:58,380 --> 00:18:02,380

And she tells me that she's got information, she's got evidence.

291

00:18:02,380 --> 00:18:06,380

She knows who was involved in the disappearance of Jesslyn Rich.

292

00:18:06,380 --> 00:18:09,380

I can tell you who, I can tell you what.

293

00:18:09,380 --> 00:18:10,380

I got all the stuff.

294

00:18:10,380 --> 00:18:13,380

I can give you all the evidence you need.

295

00:18:14,380 --> 00:18:16,380

Betty Thompson was stunned by Lucas' revelation

296

00:18:16,380 --> 00:18:19,380

that she knew the fate of Jesslyn Rich,

297

00:18:19,380 --> 00:18:24,380

the frontera God who had disappeared under strange circumstances in 1984.

298

00:18:26,380 --> 00:18:29,380

Jesslyn Rich was a 35-year-old divorced mother of two.

299

00:18:29,380 --> 00:18:31,380

While working at frontera,

300

00:18:31,380 --> 00:18:35,380

she had maintained a straight A average in criminology classes at night school.

301

00:18:36,380 --> 00:18:38,380

At the time of her disappearance,

302

00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:43,380

Jesslyn had reportedly grown concerned about drug dealing inside frontera.

303

00:18:47,380 --> 00:18:48,380

You want to dance?

304

00:18:49,380 --> 00:18:52,380

Jesslyn Rich was last seen on November 11th, 1984

305

00:18:52,380 --> 00:18:56,380

at a country western bar where she and a friend Marilyn Alt

306

00:18:56,380 --> 00:18:58,380

were joined by two male acquaintances.

307

00:18:58,380 --> 00:18:59,380

Work and school.

308

00:18:59,380 --> 00:19:00,380

So that's your problem.

309

00:19:00,380 --> 00:19:02,380

You gotta get out more and live life.

310

00:19:02,380 --> 00:19:03,380

That's what it's all about there.

311

00:19:03,380 --> 00:19:05,380

And all of a sudden she sits very still

312

00:19:05,380 --> 00:19:08,380

and looks almost past me to the front door.

313

00:19:09,380 --> 00:19:11,380

Jesslyn, you okay?

314

00:19:11,380 --> 00:19:17,380

And I look at her and her eyes drew wide and fearful looking.

315

00:19:20,380 --> 00:19:22,380

But I didn't look to the door.

316

00:19:22,380 --> 00:19:24,380

I just, for some reason, just didn't turn around.

317

00:19:24,380 --> 00:19:28,380

And then she came back into the conversation.

318

00:19:30,380 --> 00:19:31,380

I'll be right back.

319

00:19:31,380 --> 00:19:32,380

Excuse me.

320

00:19:33,380 --> 00:19:34,380

Jesslyn, I'll keep you seat.

321

00:19:34,380 --> 00:19:35,380

Okay.

322

00:19:36,380 --> 00:19:41,380

As she turns around the corner to go down the hallway to the bathroom,

323

00:19:41,380 --> 00:19:46,380

a gentleman appears to me out of the side of my eye

324

00:19:46,380 --> 00:19:48,380

going directly behind her.

325

00:19:50,380 --> 00:19:54,380

And that's the last I see her, ever.

326

00:19:56,380 --> 00:19:59,380

Jesslyn Rich literally vanished without a trace.

327

00:20:01,380 --> 00:20:04,380

Her family and friends launched an all out search.

328

00:20:05,380 --> 00:20:07,380

To them it seemed harshly out of character

329

00:20:07,380 --> 00:20:09,380

for Jesslyn to abandon her children

330

00:20:09,380 --> 00:20:11,380

and scrap her career aspirations.

331

00:20:11,380 --> 00:20:14,380

But police investigators said they had no evidence

332

00:20:14,380 --> 00:20:17,380

to support the family's belief that Jesslyn had been kidnapped

333

00:20:17,380 --> 00:20:19,380

and possibly murdered.

334

00:20:22,380 --> 00:20:26,380

They made light of it, called us just distraught relatives,

335

00:20:26,380 --> 00:20:30,380

suggested that my sister had just ran off on a fling with some person,

336

00:20:30,380 --> 00:20:34,380

which is totally absurd, given her work record of only being late once.

337

00:20:34,380 --> 00:20:39,380

And a 4.0 grade point average student, it just was unheard of.

338

00:20:41,380 --> 00:20:43,380

Gary Montz tore apart his sister's house,

339

00:20:43,380 --> 00:20:46,380

searching for clues a police might have overlooked.

340

00:20:46,380 --> 00:20:49,380

When he sifted through Jesslyn's trash,

341

00:20:49,380 --> 00:20:52,380

he found evidence that her knowledge of illegal activities at the prison

342

00:20:52,380 --> 00:20:54,380

had put her life in danger.

343

00:20:57,380 --> 00:20:59,380

And inside in the plastic bag,

344

00:20:59,380 --> 00:21:03,380

were there are many, many pieces of paper torn up very, very small.

345

00:21:03,380 --> 00:21:07,380

I picked up a few of these and I could tell that it was my sister's writing or printing.

346

00:21:09,380 --> 00:21:15,380

And they were apparently notes or letters to a friend of hers, a co-worker.

347

00:21:15,380 --> 00:21:19,380

And I figured that I would take them home and sort them out later.

348

00:21:21,380 --> 00:21:24,380

The letter had been written to another guard at Frontera.

349

00:21:24,380 --> 00:21:28,380

Scrawled on the margin of the last page was Jesslyn's haunting recital

350

00:21:28,380 --> 00:21:31,380

of an apparent threat she had received from a co-worker.

351

00:21:31,380 --> 00:21:35,380

That anyone interfering with his drug activities would be taken care of.

352

00:21:38,380 --> 00:21:41,380

At the time, this letter was the only concrete evidence

353

00:21:41,380 --> 00:21:44,380

indicating that Jesslyn had met with foul play.

354

00:21:47,380 --> 00:21:50,380

Three years later, the case had faded from public view.

355

00:21:50,380 --> 00:21:55,380

Then in 1987, the mystery was suddenly thrust back on a center stage

356

00:21:55,380 --> 00:22:00,380

when Terry Lucas told Betty Thompson she knew what happened to Jesslyn Rich.

357

00:22:01,380 --> 00:22:03,380

I don't know what you're talking about, Jesslyn.

358

00:22:04,380 --> 00:22:07,380

The morning after extraordinary conversation with Lucas,

359

00:22:07,380 --> 00:22:10,380

Officer Thompson returned to the prison infirmary.

360

00:22:13,380 --> 00:22:17,380

When I walked over to touch her, I noticed that Terry was dead.

361

00:22:22,380 --> 00:22:26,380

I went out of the cell and I went down to the nurses station

362

00:22:26,380 --> 00:22:29,380

and I told them what I had seen and what I knew.

363

00:22:29,380 --> 00:22:34,380

And the coldness of the room, that she was not covered, her eyes were open.

364

00:22:34,380 --> 00:22:37,380

Her breakfast tray had not been touched.

365

00:22:37,380 --> 00:22:40,380

And the nurses told me they would take care of it.

366

00:22:43,380 --> 00:22:47,380

Incredibly, Betty Thompson claims that the inmates body

367

00:22:47,380 --> 00:22:49,380

remained in the cell for a full three days

368

00:22:49,380 --> 00:22:52,380

before the county coroner's office was called.

369

00:22:52,380 --> 00:22:59,380

According to Thompson, an official from the coroner's office

370

00:22:59,380 --> 00:23:02,380

was initially mystified by what he found.

371

00:23:02,380 --> 00:23:05,380

Betty claims there were blades of grass in Lucas' hair

372

00:23:05,380 --> 00:23:09,380

and multiple bruises on her face, ears, neck and lower arms.

373

00:23:09,380 --> 00:23:12,380

Her right arm appeared to be broken.

374

00:23:13,380 --> 00:23:15,380

He asked, who killed this inmate?

375

00:23:15,380 --> 00:23:17,380

And he's saying that this inmate was murdered.

376

00:23:17,380 --> 00:23:20,380

He is saying that he sees it as a murder.

377

00:23:20,380 --> 00:23:23,380

He is saying that he sees evidence that she was suffocated

378

00:23:23,380 --> 00:23:28,380

with the pillow that had been under her arm that appeared to be broken.

379

00:23:30,380 --> 00:23:34,380

Betty Thompson says that after the official met with high level prison administrators

380

00:23:34,380 --> 00:23:37,380

in Lucas' cell, he had a sudden change of heart.

381

00:23:39,380 --> 00:23:42,380

And he told me that we were not going to call it murder

382

00:23:42,380 --> 00:23:46,380

and we were not going to say that she was laying there dead for three days.

383

00:23:46,380 --> 00:23:51,380

We were going to in fact say that she was actually laying there only two hours

384

00:23:51,380 --> 00:23:57,380

and that the cause of death was actually complications due to diabetes.

385

00:23:58,380 --> 00:24:01,380

Betty Thompson says as she refused to go along.

386

00:24:01,380 --> 00:24:03,380

How many times do I have to tell you Thompson,

387

00:24:03,380 --> 00:24:07,380

you can't put this information in your report.

388

00:24:08,380 --> 00:24:11,380

Now you know what you're supposed to write, just do it.

389

00:24:11,380 --> 00:24:15,380

Thompson maintains that one of her superiors demanded that she change her report

390

00:24:15,380 --> 00:24:17,380

on Terry Lucas' death.

391

00:24:18,380 --> 00:24:22,380

You are not leaving this institution until you do as you are told.

392

00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:26,380

According to Thompson, she was subjected to threats and intimidation

393

00:24:26,380 --> 00:24:28,380

for six grueling hours.

394

00:24:28,380 --> 00:24:30,380

You can kiss your career with a Department of Corrections.

395

00:24:30,380 --> 00:24:34,380

There was one high administrator that even made the comment

396

00:24:34,380 --> 00:24:38,380

that the same thing that happened to Jesslyn Rich could easily happen to me.

397

00:24:38,380 --> 00:24:41,380

At that point in time, I broke down and cried.

398

00:24:45,380 --> 00:24:49,380

That's what this was all about and I hadn't told anything what Terry Lucas had said.

399

00:24:49,380 --> 00:24:52,380

I hadn't told them anything about that part.

400

00:24:52,380 --> 00:24:57,380

And for him to bring up Jesslyn Rich and her disappearance,

401

00:24:57,380 --> 00:25:00,380

it said why Terry Lucas had died.

402

00:25:00,380 --> 00:25:03,380

It definitely had something to do with that.

403

00:25:07,380 --> 00:25:12,380

Thompson says she finally gave in and signed a false report that was typed for her.

404

00:25:13,380 --> 00:25:18,380

But I added on the bottom that I had signed the document under duress

405

00:25:18,380 --> 00:25:21,380

and the document was untrue.

406

00:25:22,380 --> 00:25:26,380

To my knowledge, that document was ripped up.

407

00:25:26,380 --> 00:25:31,380

Another one was retyped saying the similar things that were on the first document

408

00:25:31,380 --> 00:25:34,380

and that my signature was forged.

409

00:25:35,380 --> 00:25:39,380

Eddie Thompson claims there were further attempts at intimidation.

410

00:25:39,380 --> 00:25:43,380

They began on her next shift with an anonymous phone call.

411

00:25:43,380 --> 00:25:45,380

Informery Officer Thompson.

412

00:25:45,380 --> 00:25:49,380

Thompson, if you don't learn how to do things in the proper manner,

413

00:25:49,380 --> 00:25:53,380

you'll end up dead alongside some muddy ditch.

414

00:25:57,380 --> 00:26:01,380

The following day, Thompson had an unnerving encounter.

415

00:26:01,380 --> 00:26:04,380

Hey, have you been receiving threatening phone calls?

416

00:26:04,380 --> 00:26:06,380

What are you talking about?

417

00:26:06,380 --> 00:26:09,380

Like you might be found dead in a ditch one night?

418

00:26:09,380 --> 00:26:12,380

At this point in time, the hair on the back of my neck just stood straight up.

419

00:26:12,380 --> 00:26:18,380

I was absolutely petrified because I knew that she knew what they were saying to me

420

00:26:18,380 --> 00:26:22,380

and that she was part of whoever was threatening me.

421

00:26:23,380 --> 00:26:27,380

Thompson says a menacing cause and harassment continued for seven months.

422

00:26:27,380 --> 00:26:32,380

Finally in June of 1988, the threats turned to violence.

423

00:26:36,380 --> 00:26:41,380

Betty Thompson immediately called the police who arrived at her home moments later.

424

00:26:42,380 --> 00:26:47,380

As I was upstairs filing a police report about this, the shooting,

425

00:26:47,380 --> 00:26:51,380

a phone call came in and I picked up the phone.

426

00:26:51,380 --> 00:26:55,380

It was a male voice and he said, next time we won't miss.

427

00:26:55,380 --> 00:26:59,380

The police officer saw my face and saw how upset I was.

428

00:26:59,380 --> 00:27:02,380

He included that in his report.

429

00:27:03,380 --> 00:27:08,380

In 1990, the brewing scandal at Frontera was the subject of a series of front page

430

00:27:08,380 --> 00:27:11,380

special reports in the Orange County Register.

431

00:27:11,380 --> 00:27:16,380

The article supported insider accounts of drug dealing and corruption.

432

00:27:17,380 --> 00:27:22,380

That same year, Betty Thompson and five other guards testified before State Senate hearings

433

00:27:22,380 --> 00:27:26,380

on the alleged offenses at Frontera Prison.

434

00:27:27,380 --> 00:27:30,380

Prison officials declined to be interviewed for this story.

435

00:27:30,380 --> 00:27:34,380

However, Tip Kendall, spokesman for the California Department of Corrections,

436

00:27:34,380 --> 00:27:37,380

told an unsolved mysteries researcher, quote,

437

00:27:37,380 --> 00:27:41,380

I'm not saying the things people are alleging didn't happen.

438

00:27:41,380 --> 00:27:44,380

There's just no evidence to support them.

439

00:27:44,380 --> 00:27:46,380

End quote.

440

00:27:49,380 --> 00:27:53,380

Next, thanks to our viewers, a woman framed by her stepfather

441

00:27:53,380 --> 00:27:56,380

has been reunited with a former deputy sheriff

442

00:27:56,380 --> 00:27:59,380

who came to a rescue when all else seemed lost.

443

00:28:01,380 --> 00:28:07,380

Recently, we brought you the poignant story of a woman named Kathy Williams Loving,

444

00:28:07,380 --> 00:28:09,380

who grew up in Chicago.

445

00:28:09,380 --> 00:28:11,380

Let me out!

446

00:28:11,380 --> 00:28:14,380

In 1961, when she was 14 years old,

447

00:28:14,380 --> 00:28:18,380

Kathy fell prey to the abusive sexual advances of her stepfather,

448

00:28:18,380 --> 00:28:21,380

a detective with a Chicago police.

449

00:28:21,380 --> 00:28:24,380

In 1961, when she was 14 years old,

450

00:28:24,380 --> 00:28:28,380

Kathy fell prey to the abusive sexual advances of her stepfather,

451

00:28:29,380 --> 00:28:32,380

Kathy finally went to the authorities for help,

452

00:28:32,380 --> 00:28:35,380

but she was labeled incorrigible and detained,

453

00:28:35,380 --> 00:28:38,380

apparently because of her stepfather's influence.

454

00:28:41,380 --> 00:28:44,380

Four months later, by order of a juvenile court,

455

00:28:44,380 --> 00:28:47,380

Kathy was remanded to a state training school.

456

00:28:47,380 --> 00:28:52,380

She was placed in the custody of a Cook County deputy sheriff to be transported.

457

00:28:52,380 --> 00:28:57,380

Kathy had no idea that this ride would become a remarkable turn of fortune.

458

00:28:58,380 --> 00:29:00,380

When they put me in the back of that paddy wagon,

459

00:29:00,380 --> 00:29:02,380

I just started boo-hooing.

460

00:29:02,380 --> 00:29:05,380

It dawned on me then, nobody knows where I'm going.

461

00:29:05,380 --> 00:29:07,380

I don't know where I'm going.

462

00:29:07,380 --> 00:29:09,380

This has to be hell.

463

00:29:09,380 --> 00:29:11,380

I didn't do anything wrong.

464

00:29:11,380 --> 00:29:13,380

Yeah, I heard that story before.

465

00:29:13,380 --> 00:29:18,380

Alone and scared to death, Kathy began to blurt out her story.

466

00:29:18,380 --> 00:29:21,380

I'm here because my stepfather was messing with me.

467

00:29:21,380 --> 00:29:22,380

Your stepfather?

468

00:29:22,380 --> 00:29:24,380

Yes, he was messing with me.

469

00:29:24,380 --> 00:29:25,380

Messing with you how?

470

00:29:25,380 --> 00:29:27,380

Touching me the way a man touches a woman.

471

00:29:28,380 --> 00:29:30,380

By the time they arrived at the reform school,

472

00:29:30,380 --> 00:29:35,380

the deputy was convinced that the system had made a terrible mistake.

473

00:29:35,380 --> 00:29:37,380

He offered to help Kathy,

474

00:29:37,380 --> 00:29:42,380

and she gave him the names of two friends, Louise Gordon and Maisie Bell.

475

00:29:42,380 --> 00:29:45,380

They brought the case to the attention of state social workers.

476

00:29:45,380 --> 00:29:49,380

Who was that you said you wanted me to call?

477

00:29:49,380 --> 00:29:52,380

Ultimately, Kathy was declared an emancipated minor

478

00:29:52,380 --> 00:29:54,380

and released from the reformatory.

479

00:29:54,380 --> 00:29:57,380

But Kathy never forgot the unknown deputy,

480

00:29:57,380 --> 00:30:02,380

who let a helping hand when no one else would.

481

00:30:02,380 --> 00:30:05,380

If I could find him, I just want to say to him

482

00:30:05,380 --> 00:30:08,380

that many people reach out for help,

483

00:30:08,380 --> 00:30:10,380

and many are refused help.

484

00:30:10,380 --> 00:30:13,380

But because of the fact that I reached out to him

485

00:30:13,380 --> 00:30:17,380

and he acknowledged me and gave me the help that I needed,

486

00:30:17,380 --> 00:30:20,380

he gave me my life.

487

00:30:20,380 --> 00:30:23,380

On the night we last broadcast this story,

488

00:30:23,380 --> 00:30:26,380

Kathy-loving search for her unknown benefactor finally came to an end.

489

00:30:26,380 --> 00:30:30,380

When former deputy sheriff Fred Lyle of Chicago called our telecenter,

490

00:30:30,380 --> 00:30:34,380

Lyle said he had watched the story on unsolved mysteries

491

00:30:34,380 --> 00:30:36,380

and remembered the incident vividly.

492

00:30:36,380 --> 00:30:40,380

That evening, Fred Lyle and an overjoyed Kathy-loving

493

00:30:40,380 --> 00:30:46,380

spoke on the telephone and made plans to meet as soon as possible.

494

00:30:46,380 --> 00:30:50,380

Today, Kathy lives in a well-appointed suburb of Atlanta, Georgia.

495

00:30:50,380 --> 00:30:54,380

On July 18, 1992, Kathy and several friends

496

00:30:54,380 --> 00:30:58,380

gathered to await the arrival of Fred Lyle and one of his daughters.

497

00:30:58,380 --> 00:31:01,380

For Kathy, it was a special occasion,

498

00:31:01,380 --> 00:31:04,380

which afforded her the opportunity to finally say,

499

00:31:04,380 --> 00:31:07,380

thank you.

500

00:31:07,380 --> 00:31:11,380

Oh, my God.

501

00:31:11,380 --> 00:31:14,380

The first thing on my mouth was I said, I love you.

502

00:31:14,380 --> 00:31:18,380

I said, I have been waiting all these years to tell you that I love you,

503

00:31:18,380 --> 00:31:20,380

and I wanted to say thank you.

504

00:31:20,380 --> 00:31:22,380

So I knew that was him.

505

00:31:23,380 --> 00:31:26,380

The celebration culminated with a homemade feast

506

00:31:26,380 --> 00:31:30,380

prepared by Kathy, which included Fred's favorite dishes.

507

00:31:30,380 --> 00:31:34,380

And I want to thank all my friends for helping me cook and prepare this meal,

508

00:31:34,380 --> 00:31:37,380

and thank you for the food, Amy.

509

00:31:37,380 --> 00:31:40,380

Very good.

510

00:31:40,380 --> 00:31:41,380

Now it's time to start eating them.

511

00:31:41,380 --> 00:31:43,380

Eat macaroni and cheese first, because they told me that.

512

00:31:43,380 --> 00:31:44,380

I did. I see you started eating.

513

00:31:44,380 --> 00:31:48,380

I want to see what your face looks like when you bite down on them.

514

00:31:48,380 --> 00:31:50,380

Let me see that smile.

515

00:31:50,380 --> 00:31:53,380

Fred Lyle left the Sheriff's Department in 1965.

516

00:31:53,380 --> 00:31:56,380

He has four children and eight grandchildren.

517

00:31:56,380 --> 00:32:01,380

And meeting Kathy was like welcoming a new member to the family.

518

00:32:01,380 --> 00:32:03,380

It's just something special.

519

00:32:03,380 --> 00:32:05,380

Something never happened to me before.

520

00:32:05,380 --> 00:32:08,380

You know, \$1 would never happen again.

521

00:32:08,380 --> 00:32:10,380

But I can remember this one time.

522

00:32:10,380 --> 00:32:12,380

That's why I came down here.

523

00:32:12,380 --> 00:32:15,380

I just wanted to say thank you for finding me,

524

00:32:15,380 --> 00:32:17,380

because it did something to me inside.

525

00:32:17,380 --> 00:32:19,380

To know that somebody somewhere down the line

526

00:32:19,380 --> 00:32:21,380

appreciated some of the things I did for them.

527

00:32:21,380 --> 00:32:25,380

Strangely, you really finally have a daughter who can cook.

528

00:32:25,380 --> 00:32:28,380

The only one, too.

529

00:32:28,380 --> 00:32:33,380

The lesson I learned with Fred was that when all else has failed,

530

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

don't give up.

531

00:32:35,380 --> 00:32:38,380

Not just not to give up, but there's always a way.

532

00:32:38,380 --> 00:32:41,380

And Fred Douglas Lyle was my way.

533

00:32:41,380 --> 00:32:44,380

Again, I can't say enough times.

534

00:32:44,380 --> 00:32:45,380

He was my hero.

535

00:32:45,380 --> 00:32:49,380

I reached out one more time, I thought.

536

00:32:49,380 --> 00:32:52,380

And he reached back.

537

00:32:52,380 --> 00:32:54,380

And he is my light.

538

00:32:54,380 --> 00:32:55,380

And he is my rainbow.

539

00:32:55,380 --> 00:32:57,380

That's what I've been waiting for.

540

00:32:57,380 --> 00:32:59,380

And another one, too.

541

00:33:03,380 --> 00:33:06,380

Next, a small town businessman vanishes

542

00:33:06,380 --> 00:33:08,380

under mysterious circumstances.

543

00:33:16,380 --> 00:33:19,380

Homa, Louisiana, population 31,000,

544

00:33:19,380 --> 00:33:22,380

lies in the heart of Cajun country,

545

00:33:22,380 --> 00:33:24,380

steeped in the romance of backwater bayous

546

00:33:24,380 --> 00:33:26,380

and sweeping magnolias.

547

00:33:26,380 --> 00:33:28,380

A.J. Bro was a fixture in Homa.

548

00:33:28,380 --> 00:33:30,380

He had lived in town his entire life,

549

00:33:30,380 --> 00:33:31,380

raised three daughters,

550

00:33:31,380 --> 00:33:34,380

and worked in the same clothing store for more than 30 years.

551

00:33:34,380 --> 00:33:36,380

He was a very good man.

552

00:33:36,380 --> 00:33:38,380

He was a very good man.

553

00:33:38,380 --> 00:33:40,380

He was a very good man.

554

00:33:40,380 --> 00:33:42,380

He was a very good man.

555

00:33:42,380 --> 00:33:45,380

He worked in the same clothing store for more than 30 years.

556

00:33:45,380 --> 00:33:48,380

Everyone in Homa knew that A.J. Bro was a man

557

00:33:48,380 --> 00:33:50,380

you could depend on.

558

00:33:50,380 --> 00:33:53,380

My dad came off as being very friendly.

559

00:33:53,380 --> 00:33:55,380

He was extremely nice.

560

00:33:55,380 --> 00:33:58,380

Anybody and everybody that knew him

561

00:33:58,380 --> 00:34:00,380

knew that if they needed something,

562

00:34:00,380 --> 00:34:03,380

that he was there to help him.

563

00:34:03,380 --> 00:34:06,380

A.J. had not come by his reputation easily.

564

00:34:06,380 --> 00:34:09,380

For years, he had battled a drinking problem,

565

00:34:09,380 --> 00:34:12,380

a problem which eventually led to his arrest for drunk driving

566

00:34:12,380 --> 00:34:15,380

and contributed to the breakup of his marriage.

567

00:34:15,380 --> 00:34:19,380

However, by 1991, A.J. had conquered his demons

568

00:34:19,380 --> 00:34:22,380

and been sober for eight years.

569

00:34:22,380 --> 00:34:27,380

Nearly every evening, A.J. could be found at the Easy Doze Club,

570

00:34:27,380 --> 00:34:30,380

a support group for people with drinking problems.

571

00:34:30,380 --> 00:34:32,380

A.J. was dedicated to sobriety

572

00:34:32,380 --> 00:34:34,380

and was available at any hour of the day or night

573

00:34:34,380 --> 00:34:38,380

to assist those who were in desperate need of help.

574

00:34:38,380 --> 00:34:41,380

Once he got involved with the program,

575

00:34:41,380 --> 00:34:43,380

it changed his whole life.

576

00:34:43,380 --> 00:34:48,380

He became even more responsible and more dependable

577

00:34:48,380 --> 00:34:51,380

and more trustworthy and more of a friend

578

00:34:51,380 --> 00:34:55,380

because he was involved with more people.

579

00:34:55,380 --> 00:34:59,380

The Easy Doze Club was headquartered in an old warehouse.

580

00:34:59,380 --> 00:35:03,380

On Wednesday, August 28, 1991, A.J. left the club

581

00:35:03,380 --> 00:35:06,380

at approximately 8.30 p.m.

582

00:35:06,380 --> 00:35:09,380

Hello, A.J. How you doing?

583

00:35:09,380 --> 00:35:12,380

A half an hour later, A.J. stopped at a convenience store

584

00:35:12,380 --> 00:35:14,380

to buy a quart of milk.

585

00:35:14,380 --> 00:35:16,380

He told the cashier that he was on his way home

586

00:35:16,380 --> 00:35:18,380

for he lived with one of his daughters.

587

00:35:18,380 --> 00:35:20,380

He never arrived.

588

00:35:20,380 --> 00:35:22,380

OK, I'll see you later.

589

00:35:22,380 --> 00:35:26,380

Two days later, A.J.'s car was found abandoned in a park

590

00:35:26,380 --> 00:35:28,380

across the street from the club.

591

00:35:28,380 --> 00:35:32,380

His three daughters immediately drove to the scene.

592

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

When we got there,

593

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

I had already called the police department to meet us.

594

00:35:38,380 --> 00:35:41,380

The car was locked so we couldn't get in.

595

00:35:41,380 --> 00:35:45,380

And our immediate reaction was tears.

596

00:35:45,380 --> 00:35:48,380

We were very emotional, very scared,

597

00:35:48,380 --> 00:35:51,380

and Detective Nakian, the detective working on the case,

598

00:35:51,380 --> 00:35:53,380

had appeared.

599

00:35:53,380 --> 00:35:55,380

When he got out of the car, we told him that we knew

600

00:35:55,380 --> 00:35:57,380

it was my dad's car because he had a cracked

601

00:35:57,380 --> 00:35:59,380

blinker plate in the front.

602

00:36:00,380 --> 00:36:03,380

Are y'all sure this is your father's car?

603

00:36:03,380 --> 00:36:05,380

This is it.

604

00:36:05,380 --> 00:36:07,380

My instinct told me that he was in the trunk dead.

605

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

Detective Nakian, you think we could check the trunk?

606

00:36:09,380 --> 00:36:11,380

I think he might be in here.

607

00:36:11,380 --> 00:36:14,380

I immediately thought foul play because it just wouldn't be

608

00:36:14,380 --> 00:36:18,380

like him to park his car where everybody could find it

609

00:36:18,380 --> 00:36:21,380

and everybody knows him and disappear.

610

00:36:21,380 --> 00:36:24,380

But apparently that is just what A.J. Bro did.

611

00:36:24,380 --> 00:36:26,380

His body was not in the trunk.

612

00:36:26,380 --> 00:36:29,380

There was no sign of foul play, and a search of the park

613

00:36:29,380 --> 00:36:31,380

turned up nothing.

614

00:36:31,380 --> 00:36:33,380

The only clues were A.J.'s wallet and checkbook,

615

00:36:33,380 --> 00:36:36,380

which were found tucked beneath the front seat of his car.

616

00:36:39,380 --> 00:36:42,380

The entire town was mystified.

617

00:36:42,380 --> 00:36:46,380

A.J. Bro seemed the least likely person in Homer to disappear.

618

00:36:46,380 --> 00:36:48,380

Authorities launched an immediate investigation

619

00:36:48,380 --> 00:36:52,380

and distributed missing persons' flyers throughout the state.

620

00:36:52,380 --> 00:36:55,380

Soon a number of witnesses came forward.

621

00:36:55,380 --> 00:36:58,380

Witnesses who told intriguing tales of seeing A.J. Bro

622

00:36:58,380 --> 00:37:00,380

after he disappeared.

623

00:37:03,380 --> 00:37:07,380

On Friday, August 30th, the same day that A.J.'s car was found,

624

00:37:07,380 --> 00:37:10,380

a local resident named Kenneth Pellegrin claims that he ran

625

00:37:10,380 --> 00:37:14,380

into A.J. outside of a convenience store in Homer.

626

00:37:14,380 --> 00:37:16,380

Hey, A.J., how's it going?

627

00:37:16,380 --> 00:37:17,380

OK.

628

00:37:17,380 --> 00:37:20,380

It was a strange situation for me to see him then

629

00:37:20,380 --> 00:37:24,380

because he just didn't look the same as he always did.

630

00:37:24,380 --> 00:37:26,380

He was wearing like a flannel shirt, something

631

00:37:26,380 --> 00:37:28,380

like a lumberjack style.

632

00:37:28,380 --> 00:37:31,380

And the pants were loose-fitting, brown, very loose-fitting.

633

00:37:31,380 --> 00:37:33,380

There wasn't nothing neat.

634

00:37:33,380 --> 00:37:35,380

And he was wearing some old tennis shoes.

635

00:37:35,380 --> 00:37:38,380

So that struck me as wrong because all the times I've known him

636

00:37:38,380 --> 00:37:42,380

since seven years old, I've never seen him with his hair out

637

00:37:42,380 --> 00:37:46,380

of place or not dressed up neat.

638

00:37:46,380 --> 00:37:47,380

A.J. was nervous.

639

00:37:47,380 --> 00:37:50,380

It was like he was being watched.

640

00:37:50,380 --> 00:37:54,380

Kenneth Pellegrin also observed a red compact car parked

641

00:37:54,380 --> 00:37:56,380

in front.

642

00:37:56,380 --> 00:37:58,380

I noticed the car and there were three guys still

643

00:37:58,380 --> 00:37:59,380

sitting in it.

644

00:37:59,380 --> 00:38:01,380

But the engine was running and he was on the phone

645

00:38:01,380 --> 00:38:04,380

looking towards their way.

646

00:38:04,380 --> 00:38:08,380

And when I came back out, A.J. was gone, the car was gone.

647

00:38:11,380 --> 00:38:14,380

Had I known he had been missing, he would have been found then

648

00:38:14,380 --> 00:38:16,380

because I knew who he was.

649

00:38:16,380 --> 00:38:18,380

Soon after Kenneth Pellegrin called the office,

650

00:38:18,380 --> 00:38:22,380

I received another call from a witness who said that he saw A.J.

651

00:38:22,380 --> 00:38:24,380

in a car with three other gentlemen.

652

00:38:24,380 --> 00:38:28,380

It was a red, small, compact car on a roll route

653

00:38:28,380 --> 00:38:31,380

about eight miles out of town.

654

00:38:31,380 --> 00:38:34,380

He waved to A.J. Bro, but A.J. Bro did not wave back

655

00:38:34,380 --> 00:38:38,380

and that's very uncharacteristic of A.J. not to wave back.

656

00:38:38,380 --> 00:38:42,380

So he didn't think of anything of it because A.J. wasn't,

657

00:38:42,380 --> 00:38:45,380

he didn't know A.J. was missing.

658

00:38:45,380 --> 00:38:49,380

It makes me think that definitely somebody knows something.

659

00:38:49,380 --> 00:38:52,380

If both of these gentlemen who know him from a good while back,

660

00:38:52,380 --> 00:38:56,380

one a lot longer than the other, have seen him,

661

00:38:56,380 --> 00:38:58,380

we know that they know what he looks like.

662

00:38:58,380 --> 00:39:03,380

And they both saw him in the same color car with three men in it.

663

00:39:03,380 --> 00:39:08,380

I'm pretty much convinced that somebody somewhere knows something.

664

00:39:10,380 --> 00:39:13,380

For the next two weeks, there were no further sightings

665

00:39:13,380 --> 00:39:16,380

and no clues to A.J.'s disappearance.

666

00:39:16,380 --> 00:39:20,380

Then a chilling, handwritten note came into the police station.

667

00:39:20,380 --> 00:39:24,380

It read, A.J. Bro, he was drunk at the time,

668

00:39:24,380 --> 00:39:28,380

self-inflicted gunshot wound, stomach,

669

00:39:28,380 --> 00:39:32,380

drawstring cotton sack, put in by friend,

670

00:39:32,380 --> 00:39:36,380

rolled over steep, grassy Bayou bank, near Dam.

671

00:39:36,380 --> 00:39:39,380

The note was signed, Hulane.

672

00:39:39,380 --> 00:39:42,380

The note painted a bizarre scenario in which A.J. had been drinking

673

00:39:42,380 --> 00:39:44,380

and accidentally shot himself.

674

00:39:44,380 --> 00:39:49,380

Then someone, for some unknown reason, dumped his body in the bayou.

675

00:39:49,380 --> 00:39:55,380

It just so happened where we found a car that described that area.

676

00:39:55,380 --> 00:39:58,380

So we called the Sheriff's office, water patrol units in,

677

00:39:58,380 --> 00:40:02,380

and they dredged both sides of the dam on three different occasions,

678

00:40:02,380 --> 00:40:04,380

but weren't able to find anything.

679

00:40:05,380 --> 00:40:08,380

Soon the case took another strange twist.

680

00:40:08,380 --> 00:40:11,380

Authorities received a surprising report

681

00:40:11,380 --> 00:40:14,380

which indicated that A.J. Bro might still be alive.

682

00:40:16,380 --> 00:40:20,380

On September 28, four weeks after A.J. disappeared,

683

00:40:20,380 --> 00:40:23,380

a woman named Christy Boudreau was sitting on the front porch

684

00:40:23,380 --> 00:40:27,380

of her home in Lockport, Louisiana, 30 miles northeast of Houma.

685

00:40:28,380 --> 00:40:31,380

I saw a van pass up and down the street two times,

686

00:40:31,380 --> 00:40:34,380

so I forget whoever was in the van was evidently lost.

687

00:40:34,380 --> 00:40:40,380

Then I saw him reach over the driver's seat into the middle of the van,

688

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

and he picked up a bag.

689

00:40:42,380 --> 00:40:45,380

I didn't know what was in it, so he got to my porch,

690

00:40:45,380 --> 00:40:49,380

and as he walked to me, he looked really nervous, and he was shaking.

691

00:40:52,380 --> 00:40:54,380

He wanted to know if I wanted to buy some frozen fish,

692

00:40:54,380 --> 00:40:58,380

and I told him no, and I smelled alcohol on his breath,

693

00:40:58,380 --> 00:41:01,380

and he looked homeless, kind of straggly.

694

00:41:01,380 --> 00:41:03,380

Okay. Thanks anyway.

695

00:41:04,380 --> 00:41:07,380

And as he got, I'd say, ten feet from me,

696

00:41:07,380 --> 00:41:10,380

he turned around and glanced at me,

697

00:41:10,380 --> 00:41:15,380

and that's when it hit me that I saw that man on a missing person flower

698

00:41:15,380 --> 00:41:17,380

in the post office.

699

00:41:19,380 --> 00:41:23,380

Christy, I have a picture here I'd like you to look of A.J. Bro.

700

00:41:23,380 --> 00:41:26,380

I met with Christy, and I showed her some photographs of A.J.

701

00:41:26,380 --> 00:41:30,380

One was a photograph of the flyer that was being distributed,

702

00:41:30,380 --> 00:41:33,380

and she wasn't too sure about that one.

703

00:41:33,380 --> 00:41:36,380

Then I showed her a photograph of a mugshot that we had of A.J.

704

00:41:36,380 --> 00:41:40,380

from when he was drinking, and she was almost certain that was A.J. Bro then.

705

00:41:40,380 --> 00:41:44,380

I mean, he was older, but he was skinnier, like in this picture.

706

00:41:44,380 --> 00:41:48,380

I was almost certain that that was the man that had approached me

707

00:41:48,380 --> 00:41:51,380

while I was on my porch, and that's what I told the detective,

708

00:41:51,380 --> 00:41:56,380

that I was 99.9% sure that that was Mr. Bro.

709

00:41:56,380 --> 00:42:00,380

A.J. Bro is a recovering alcoholic,

710

00:42:00,380 --> 00:42:03,380

and if he did start drinking again,

711

00:42:03,380 --> 00:42:06,380

and there's all sorts of things that could have happened,

712

00:42:06,380 --> 00:42:09,380

he could have had a blackout, and I remember who he is.

713

00:42:09,380 --> 00:42:14,380

A.J.'s family, however, refuses to believe that he has turned to alcohol once again

714

00:42:14,380 --> 00:42:18,380

and disappeared by choice, because A.J.'s wallet and checkbook

715

00:42:18,380 --> 00:42:22,380

were found in his car. They are convinced that he was abducted.

716

00:42:22,380 --> 00:42:27,380

When I think back to what happened or why things may have happened,

717

00:42:27,380 --> 00:42:32,380

in my mind I go back to the fact that his car was found at the park,

718

00:42:32,380 --> 00:42:35,380

what happened when he got there, I'm not sure,

719

00:42:35,380 --> 00:42:39,380

but I'm wondering if he may have seen something

720

00:42:39,380 --> 00:42:43,380

or heard something that he wasn't supposed to see or hear.

721

00:42:43,380 --> 00:42:46,380

A few days after A.J.'s disappearance,

722

00:42:46,380 --> 00:42:50,380

a golf course maintenance worker had called the city police.

723

00:42:50,380 --> 00:42:55,380

He reported that he had seen three men forcing a fourth man into a white automobile

724

00:42:55,380 --> 00:42:58,380

and the park or A.J.'s car was found,

725

00:42:58,380 --> 00:43:02,380

but the details were sketchy and nothing ever came of it.

726

00:43:06,380 --> 00:43:09,380

What really happened to A.J.'s bro?

727

00:43:09,380 --> 00:43:12,380

While there is some evidence that he may have been abducted,

728

00:43:12,380 --> 00:43:15,380

there is no indication as to why someone would kidnap him,

729

00:43:15,380 --> 00:43:20,380

and authorities now suspect that the note detailing A.J.'s accidental suicide

730

00:43:20,380 --> 00:43:23,380

was a mean spirited prank.

731

00:43:23,380 --> 00:43:27,380

A.J.'s bro at this time is still listed as a missing person.

732

00:43:27,380 --> 00:43:30,380

We have no evidence of foul play,

733

00:43:30,380 --> 00:43:33,380

but of course we have no evidence that he just got up in the left either,

734

00:43:33,380 --> 00:43:36,380

so we really don't know what happened to A.J.'s.

735

00:43:36,380 --> 00:43:41,380

It's not like him to disappear and not notify us.

736

00:43:43,380 --> 00:43:47,380

The last year it's been about a year since my dad's been missing,

737

00:43:47,380 --> 00:43:51,380

and it's been a very long year. It feels like forever.

738

00:43:52,380 --> 00:43:59,380

It's been torture, very hard, and we want it to end.

739

00:44:00,380 --> 00:44:02,380

A.J.'s bro is 51 years old.

740

00:44:02,380 --> 00:44:07,380

He is 5'11" tall and weighs approximately 155 pounds.

741

00:44:07,380 --> 00:44:09,380

He has brown eyes and brown hair.

742

00:44:09,380 --> 00:44:13,380

A.J.'s was last seen on August 28, 1991.

743

00:44:22,380 --> 00:44:27,380

On our next Unsolved Mysteries,

744

00:44:27,380 --> 00:44:31,380

as a POW during the Vietnam War,

745

00:44:31,380 --> 00:44:36,380

Colonel Charles Shelton's legendary resistance earned the respect of even his captors.

746

00:44:36,380 --> 00:44:41,380

Back home in America, his family's persistence has been no less inspiring.

747

00:44:41,380 --> 00:44:46,380

For more than 25 years, they have fought to prove that Charles Shelton was still alive

748

00:44:46,380 --> 00:44:48,380

long after the war was over.

749

00:44:48,380 --> 00:44:53,380

Because of their efforts, Colonel Shelton is the only remaining POW,

750

00:44:53,380 --> 00:44:56,380

not presumed dead by our government.

751

00:44:57,380 --> 00:45:00,380

Join us next week for this timely and heart-rending story

752

00:45:00,380 --> 00:45:04,380

as we commemorate Veterans Day on Unsolved Mysteries.

753

00:45:18,380 --> 00:45:20,380

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754

00:45:20,380 --> 00:45:23,380

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755

00:45:23,380 --> 00:45:25,380

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