

1

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

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

2

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

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

3

00:00:13,680 --> 00:00:20,640

to see is not a news broadcast.

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00:00:20,640 --> 00:00:25,480

In New Mexico, a frantic emergency call to the police gives hope to a desperate mother

5

00:00:25,640 --> 00:00:31,640

that her daughter, kidnapped almost seven years ago, is still alive. Several years ago,

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00:00:31,640 --> 00:00:37,400

a retired couple in Florida offered food and comfort to a poor itinerant stranger. Later,

7

00:00:37,400 --> 00:00:42,840

in the midst of their own hard times, their good deed was rewarded by a generous, unknown benefactor.

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00:00:44,280 --> 00:00:49,640

Just before Christmas in 1982, seven-year-old Chucky McGibber is stricken with a rare,

9

00:00:49,640 --> 00:00:56,120

often fatal illness. But in a coma, Chucky is visited by a mysterious boy and given the gift

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00:00:56,120 --> 00:01:02,600

of a Christmas miracle. Join me for these stories which capture the spirit of the season

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00:01:02,600 --> 00:01:19,480

on our special holiday edition, Unsolved Mysteries.

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00:01:50,120 --> 00:02:05,240

Even at Christmas time, it is easy to doubt the possibility of miracles unless you believe you

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00:02:05,240 --> 00:02:10,840

have experienced one. The McGivron family of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania never imagined that

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00:02:10,840 --> 00:02:15,960

they would be chosen to receive such a gift. Their remarkable story began during the Christmas

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00:02:16,440 --> 00:02:21,320

season ten years ago. On the day, seven-year-old Chucky McGivron came home early from school with

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00:02:21,320 --> 00:02:30,040

a case of the chicken pox. Three days later, Chucky's brother frantically called his parents upstairs.

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00:02:32,120 --> 00:02:38,040

Chucky had taken a sudden terrifying turn for the worse. He had lost consciousness and slipped

18

00:02:38,120 --> 00:02:43,720

into a coma. Chucky, honey, it's ice cold. I'm going to call the doctor.

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00:02:46,200 --> 00:02:50,360

Chucky was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, his brain dangerously swollen.

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00:02:52,520 --> 00:02:56,040

His parents waited for an hour while doctors stabilized his condition.

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00:03:02,120 --> 00:03:07,320

The doctor warned me when I went in there. He says when you say him, he's going to look like he's dead.

22

00:03:08,440 --> 00:03:15,080

His skin was so hard and cold and pure white and he had all these, he had a bolt sewn into his head.

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00:03:15,080 --> 00:03:22,440

He had tubes in his kidneys and in his, uh, up his nose. The main thing was the bolt that was in his

24

00:03:22,440 --> 00:03:29,080

head and just his liver. Everything was just hooked up to everything and I was shocked. I was really shocked.

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00:03:30,600 --> 00:03:36,360

Chucky's diagnosis was grim. He had RISE syndrome, a rare disease of the nervous system,

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00:03:36,360 --> 00:03:40,360

brain and liver that is virtually unique to children and often fatal.

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00:03:42,840 --> 00:03:50,360

How is he? I have to be honest with you. Your son is very ill. But he's going to be all right.

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00:03:51,400 --> 00:03:57,320

At this point, we're not sure. What exactly are his chances? They're not promising.

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00:03:59,080 --> 00:04:03,480

Even if he does recover, in severe cases of RISE syndrome, there's a possibility of brain damage.

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00:04:04,440 --> 00:04:08,760

I'm sorry, but I think it's best that you know exactly where we stand.

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00:04:11,400 --> 00:04:13,400

Thank you, doctor. Sure.

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00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:21,080

Despite the bleak prognosis, Nancy and Chuck McGivin refused to give up hope.

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00:04:21,880 --> 00:04:24,440

They moved into the hospital to be closer to their son.

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00:04:25,160 --> 00:04:30,920

They were soon joined in the vigil by other family members who brought religious medals for comfort and healing.

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00:04:31,160 --> 00:04:35,640

Nancy's cousin, Jerry, gave her a particularly unique ornament,

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00:04:36,280 --> 00:04:40,680

a relic from the robe of Saint John Newman, the patron saint of vocations.

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00:04:40,680 --> 00:04:45,080

You remember when I was in that car crash in Italy? I should have been dead, but

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00:04:45,880 --> 00:04:51,560

this was in my pocket and I swear it saved my life. I think it might help Chucky too.

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00:04:53,800 --> 00:04:57,560

John Newman came to the United States from Bohemia in 1836.

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00:04:58,360 --> 00:05:03,640

He was known as a simple, tireless priest who'd ultimately become the fourth bishop of Philadelphia.

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00:05:04,600 --> 00:05:11,560

In 1860, Bishop Newman died. Almost immediately, people began praying to him for favors and blessings.

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00:05:12,440 --> 00:05:18,360

In 1923, a young girl was cured of peritonitis when a picture of the bishop was placed on her abdomen.

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00:05:19,960 --> 00:05:23,480

Before long, a number of miracles had been attributed to Newman.

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00:05:24,200 --> 00:05:30,040

In 1977, John Newman was canonized and declared the first American male saint.

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00:05:33,640 --> 00:05:39,000

Grasping at anything that could offer hope, Nancy McGivin pinned the relics to Chucky's pillow.

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00:05:40,760 --> 00:05:46,920

Rice syndrome is a build-up of pressure on the brain and that's why I wanted those metals next to his head.

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00:05:48,040 --> 00:05:53,080

The metals made me feel stronger and gave us more hope.

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00:05:54,280 --> 00:05:57,720

Hey, go, Chucky. I'll take good care of you, babe.

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00:06:02,120 --> 00:06:06,920

The McGivins had never been especially religious. In fact, they had not been to church in years,

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00:06:07,720 --> 00:06:12,920

but now they found themselves turning to God, praying that their youngest son would not die.

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00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:22,520

I've never prayed that hard in my life. Never. I mean, I was praying so hard that only blood

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00:06:22,520 --> 00:06:26,120

was sweating down my forehead. Anything but your kid.

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00:06:30,200 --> 00:06:33,560

Despite the prayers of his family and the efforts of his doctors,

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00:06:33,560 --> 00:06:36,120

Chucky's condition continued to deteriorate.

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00:06:38,280 --> 00:06:40,920

After a day or two, like, his lungs collapsed,

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00:06:41,880 --> 00:06:48,120

pneumonia set in and there was two nurses and they didn't know I was there. In the room,

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00:06:48,200 --> 00:06:53,400

they were behind this door there and they had an x-ray set up right in his room

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00:06:53,400 --> 00:06:56,440

and when I came in, I heard them say he's not going to make it.

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00:06:58,280 --> 00:07:03,960

Chucky's parents could only wait and hope. Little did they know that over the next 48 hours,

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

something truly remarkable was going to occur.

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00:07:10,120 --> 00:07:14,920

I noticed that the St. John Newman metal was turned face down on his pillow.

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00:07:15,720 --> 00:07:20,840

So in order to turn this relic back around, I had to unpin it,

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00:07:21,560 --> 00:07:26,840

take off the other ones and put, turn the St. John Newman metal around, put it back

64

00:07:26,840 --> 00:07:31,000

under the pin and put the other ones back on again in order for it to be face up.

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00:07:33,800 --> 00:07:38,680

Next time I came back, it was face down again. Like, somebody came and kept switching it as

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00:07:38,680 --> 00:07:44,200

I'm putting it up. Somebody was coming in and putting it down. And that's what it was just like.

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00:07:44,200 --> 00:07:45,640

And I thought I was going crazy.

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00:07:48,840 --> 00:07:54,280

That evening, another intriguing mystery. Someone taped a picture of St. John Newman

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00:07:54,280 --> 00:08:00,600

in Chucky's room. Nancy asked around, but no one knew where it had come from or who had put it there.

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00:08:04,840 --> 00:08:09,400

The next morning, Chucky's father had an odd encounter in the hospital waiting room.

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00:08:09,640 --> 00:08:13,160

It was like 11 o'clock or something like that.

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00:08:14,120 --> 00:08:18,840

And I was watching TV and all of a sudden this little boy walks in.

73

00:08:20,840 --> 00:08:24,520

He looks at everybody in the room. He looks at my wife and he looks, stares at me.

74

00:08:26,520 --> 00:08:30,120

I'm staring at him thinking, you know, let me, his parents are going to come in next.

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00:08:30,120 --> 00:08:33,400

And I'm wondering why, like, why is he by himself or, you know,

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00:08:34,360 --> 00:08:38,120

so that he just looked around, he looked at me again and he just walked out.

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00:08:39,960 --> 00:08:46,120

So later that day, the nurse comes up and says, so he had a little incident.

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00:08:46,120 --> 00:08:50,520

We don't want you to get worried, but a little boy came to visit Chucky.

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00:08:53,400 --> 00:08:56,840

I came to see Chucky. How did you get in here?

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00:08:57,800 --> 00:09:02,520

I, I only wanted to see Chucky. Wait, wait, come back here. Wait, wait a second. Excuse me.

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00:09:09,640 --> 00:09:19,080

Later that day, Chucky received another unexpected visitor,

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00:09:19,640 --> 00:09:24,360

Father Robert Ronkes. He had heard about Chucky's plight and felt compelled to

83

00:09:24,360 --> 00:09:27,320

administer what is commonly known as the last rites.

84

00:09:29,960 --> 00:09:34,680

There's something inside me was saying he needs to be anointed. He needs to receive

85

00:09:34,760 --> 00:09:40,840

the sacrament of the sick. It was an overwhelming feeling that I just had to go down and do this.

86

00:09:40,840 --> 00:09:46,440

And I left immediately. I went right down that day, right at that moment to go down to anoint him.

87

00:09:55,320 --> 00:10:01,400

And I do remember when I was anointing Chucky that I could feel that something definitely was

88

00:10:01,400 --> 00:10:07,560

happening. I could feel an overwhelming presence of the spirit and I could feel that he in some way

89

00:10:07,560 --> 00:10:17,320

was receiving grace and strength from God.

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00:10:17,880 --> 00:10:19,240

Chucky.

91

00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:33,240

Less than an hour later, the unimaginable happened.

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00:10:38,840 --> 00:10:41,720

Chucky. Chucky.

93

00:10:42,680 --> 00:10:46,760

Within hours, Chucky would be off of life support and sitting up in bed.

94

00:10:47,320 --> 00:10:50,200

To his parents, a miracle had come to pass.

95

00:10:56,200 --> 00:11:03,080

From being very low where you think, well, my son might die to he came through it was like great.

96

00:11:03,080 --> 00:11:07,480

I mean, we were calling everybody on the phone that he was getting better and you know,

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00:11:07,480 --> 00:11:09,720

but he got better so fast. It was unbelievable.

98

00:11:10,120 --> 00:11:11,320

There you go, Chucky.

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00:11:11,320 --> 00:11:15,240

Chucky began telling his parents about a bizarre dream he had while unconscious.

100

00:11:16,120 --> 00:11:21,720

Incredibly, he described the same young boy that his father and his doctor had seen in the hospital.

101

00:11:21,720 --> 00:11:23,160

What presence on it?

102

00:11:23,160 --> 00:11:28,840

Well, there were lots of kids in the room giving me presents and you and dad were here too.

103

00:11:29,720 --> 00:11:37,320

I remember when I got up, I was sort of confused because I didn't understand if that was all a

104

00:11:37,320 --> 00:11:39,320

dream or did that actually happen?

105

00:11:41,320 --> 00:11:47,320

And all these Asian kids would surround me coming in and out giving presents of all sorts.

106

00:11:47,320 --> 00:11:52,040

But there was one boy particular who was a stay by my bedside.

107

00:11:57,320 --> 00:12:05,480

This boy, my dream was my best friend and he was like the strength for me at all times when I wasn't

108

00:12:06,280 --> 00:12:10,680

feeling like in the stream when I wasn't maybe not feeling so good.

109

00:12:10,680 --> 00:12:12,840

He was there to make sure everything was all right.

110

00:12:13,640 --> 00:12:19,000

And he was I guess he was just like symbolized of the best friend I would have even outside of dream.

111

00:12:21,320 --> 00:12:25,480

One week after he had lapsed into a coma and a week before Christmas,

112

00:12:25,480 --> 00:12:27,960

Chucky McGivin was released from the hospital.

113

00:12:29,240 --> 00:12:34,520

The doctor said they never had anybody so gravely ill recover so fast.

114

00:12:35,640 --> 00:12:39,720

And three months later we went back and they went through everything and

115

00:12:40,360 --> 00:12:44,600

he came out like he was never sick is what the doctor said like nothing ever happened to him.

116

00:12:48,920 --> 00:12:54,200

Two weeks after Chucky left the hospital, his parents took him to the shrine of St. John Newman

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00:12:54,200 --> 00:12:55,000

in Philadelphia.

118

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:58,760

They have right here the real body of St. John Newman.

119

00:12:59,480 --> 00:13:05,960

When he died as Bishop of Philadelphia in 1860, he was brought to St. Peter's Church here to be

120

00:13:05,960 --> 00:13:12,040

buried and for many years he was under like a stone roof in a crib.

121

00:13:26,440 --> 00:13:27,240

What is it honey?

122

00:13:27,960 --> 00:13:30,760

That was my best friend in my dream in the hospital.

123

00:13:32,120 --> 00:13:32,840

Are you sure?

124

00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:35,480

Yeah I'm sure that's him.

125

00:13:37,400 --> 00:13:42,600

The McGivins were startled when they realized that the portrait was of St. John Newman as a boy.

126

00:13:45,800 --> 00:13:52,440

I was said taken back. I then I started thinking it really hit me that something happened here

127

00:13:53,240 --> 00:13:59,400

that St. John Newman interceded for him in some way there was some kind of a connection there.

128

00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:07,160

It's hard to believe I don't know why even now I don't know because he's he's just like any other

129

00:14:07,160 --> 00:14:13,480

person he's just like any other kid at his age but there must be a reason for it I don't know.

130

00:14:14,520 --> 00:14:20,760

The reason why St. John Newman came to my aid I had no idea. I saw him I'll never never be able

131

00:14:20,760 --> 00:14:27,080

to explain but I I know like St. John will always like be there for me which is always good

132

00:14:27,080 --> 00:14:29,640

you know I know I'll always be like near my side.

133

00:14:35,080 --> 00:14:40,200

Did the McGivin family actually experience a Christmas miracle or were they the recipients

134

00:14:40,200 --> 00:14:47,000

of incredible good luck? Perhaps it doesn't really matter. In the case of this unsolved mystery

135

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:49,560

a rational explanation is hardly necessary.

136

00:15:04,840 --> 00:15:12,120

Sunday February 28th 1988 9 p.m. firefighters in Odessa Texas were called to the scene of an

137

00:15:12,120 --> 00:15:19,080

untended trash fire in the parking lot of an abandoned bar. Within minutes they discovered

138

00:15:19,080 --> 00:15:24,520

that in reality they had been called to the scene of a grisly murder. Buried in the ashes was a

139

00:15:24,520 --> 00:15:29,720

charred body of a man who had been beaten and shot twice in the back before being set afire.

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00:15:36,040 --> 00:15:41,720

The victim was identified as 59 year old Neil Jennings an RV dealer from Dallas who dabbled

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00:15:41,720 --> 00:15:49,400

in restoring classic cars. As the Odessa police began to look into the death of Neil Jennings

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00:15:49,400 --> 00:15:54,520

a macabre scenario began to unfold and they found themselves faced with one of the most

143

00:15:54,520 --> 00:16:01,240

bizarre homicide cases it ever investigated. The key was a man named Bill Roberts an enigmatic

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00:16:01,240 --> 00:16:05,880

drifter who worked for Neil Jennings and was apparently the last person to see him alive.

145

00:16:06,360 --> 00:16:14,680

On February 26th 1988 Neil Jennings and Bill Roberts stopped off at Neil's brother's house just

146

00:16:14,680 --> 00:16:21,160

outside of Dallas. Neil this car looks great. Bill helped me restore it did a pretty good job.

147

00:16:23,480 --> 00:16:28,280

Eight weeks earlier Neil had hired Bill to do the finished details on his latest project

148

00:16:28,360 --> 00:16:36,280

1959 Ford Thunderbird. Tell me about this new guy you hired. Bill he's okay but I only paid \$50

149

00:16:36,280 --> 00:16:42,200

a week plus we're in the board. You're kidding well that keeps him off the street. In private

150

00:16:42,200 --> 00:16:47,880

Neil let on that he was having financial problems. In fact he could not even pay Bill the \$50

151

00:16:47,880 --> 00:16:53,400

weekly salary he had promised him. Bill glad to have met you. Yeah bye now.

152

00:16:59,080 --> 00:17:04,120

That Friday evening Neil and Bill drove 300 miles across the barren Texas prairie to the

153

00:17:04,120 --> 00:17:11,560

oil town of Odessa. At 8 30 p.m. they checked into a motel at the edge of town. That would be the

154

00:17:11,560 --> 00:17:19,080

last time anyone ever saw Neil Jennings not so Bill Roberts over the next 48 hours he was all over

155

00:17:19,160 --> 00:17:22,440

Odessa engaged in a number of suspicious activities.

156

00:17:26,680 --> 00:17:31,480

An hour after arriving in town Bill Roberts showed up at the home of a man named Jack

157

00:17:31,480 --> 00:17:33,720

who had introduced him to Neil a few months earlier.

158

00:17:36,920 --> 00:17:43,720

Hey Bill come on in. Jack. Jack could not help noticing that Bill was very nervous and sweating

159

00:17:43,800 --> 00:17:49,320

profusely. Jack can I get a glass of water from you. Oh sure you can Bill. Where's Neil?

160

00:17:51,320 --> 00:17:54,280

We just got back in town and dropped him off at his lady friend's house.

161

00:17:55,240 --> 00:18:00,920

Guess they having some dinner or something. Here you go. Thank you. Well you sure look like

162

00:18:00,920 --> 00:18:05,320

you're out of breath. Yeah I had to walk in this little bar down the street about even

163

00:18:05,320 --> 00:18:10,120

with dead in the truck. I was wondering if you'd give me a jump. Well sure I can. Jack agreed to jump

164

00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:15,240

and start the pickup. Bill parked the truck in Jack's backyard and went to sleep in the cab.

165

00:18:17,320 --> 00:18:20,920

The next morning Jack noticed that the truck bed was covered with a tarp.

166

00:18:22,840 --> 00:18:28,040

He also noticed that Bill was circling the vehicle in a strange manner his eyes fixed on the cargo

167

00:18:28,040 --> 00:18:39,320

bed. 10 30 a.m. Saturday Bill stopped at a rundown motel where he attempted to sell Neil's

168

00:18:39,320 --> 00:18:48,040

truck for \$1,200. Well that's a nice truck Bill but \$1,200. When he found no buyer Bill asked the

169

00:18:48,040 --> 00:18:54,040

residents if he could park the truck in the back of the motel hidden from view. All right well I

170

00:18:54,040 --> 00:18:55,320

appreciate that. All right.

171

00:18:59,320 --> 00:19:05,960

About six hours later at 5 p.m. Bill Roberts returned to the motel. Listen I wonder if I might have

172

00:19:05,960 --> 00:19:10,200

a pick in the shovel I could borrow. I need to fix the broken water line for an old lady.

173

00:19:11,560 --> 00:19:14,920

Sorry about that Bill I don't think we have a pick or a shovel around here.

174

00:19:15,640 --> 00:19:20,920

Wish I could help you though. That's okay. Look I'll just see y'all a little later then.

175

00:19:24,760 --> 00:19:29,560

Bill then drove the truck to a convenience store less than a mile away.

176

00:19:31,800 --> 00:19:37,320

I was sitting on the store behind the counter and Bill came in and asked me if he could park the

177

00:19:37,320 --> 00:19:43,240

truck behind because he's the truck was overheating. Thank you I'm just gonna go ahead. No problem.

178

00:19:54,200 --> 00:19:59,880

15 minutes later Saul heard two gunshots in the distance.

179

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:05,720

Another 45 minutes passed and Bill was back.

180

00:20:09,400 --> 00:20:11,960

This time flashing a large wad of cash.

181

00:20:18,280 --> 00:20:23,320

Later Bill was seen back at the motel where he again spent the night in Neil's truck.

182

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:32,520

Saturday night he came back and he said he'd done done the job. He acted real nervous

183

00:20:33,720 --> 00:20:37,400

and he acted especially nervous whenever he went over there to get something out of

184

00:20:38,280 --> 00:20:44,760

the truck that had a tarp on it. All right. The next morning another odd encounter.

185

00:20:45,640 --> 00:20:47,160

Would it be okay if I did some laundry?

186

00:20:48,920 --> 00:20:53,160

And I noticed that blood was on his shirt. Well I didn't think anything about it because you

187

00:20:53,240 --> 00:20:56,520

know it just looked like maybe he cut himself and wiped it off on his shirt.

188

00:20:58,520 --> 00:21:01,880

So I told him okay you know yeah you can use the laundry.

189

00:21:05,960 --> 00:21:11,320

A few minutes later another resident noticed a small amount of blood on the back bumper of Neil's

190

00:21:11,320 --> 00:21:18,920

pickup. Around noon Bill left the motel and never returned.

191

00:21:19,400 --> 00:21:25,400

Eight hours later the police were on the scene of the trash fire.

192

00:21:29,160 --> 00:21:33,800

Our investigation at the scene showed there was two pools of blood.

193

00:21:35,800 --> 00:21:44,920

We found shotgun shells, casings and wadding there at the scene. There was drag marks leading from

194

00:21:45,480 --> 00:21:53,720

the parking lot over to the concrete slab where Neil was was actually found on fire.

195

00:21:55,720 --> 00:22:01,560

There's no doubt in their mind that the fatal shots happened in that parking lot.

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00:22:06,440 --> 00:22:10,680

Sheriff's deputies now believe that Bill Roberts shot Neil Jennings on Saturday night

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00:22:10,680 --> 00:22:17,480

and hid his body in a trash heap. For some unknown reason he waited 24 hours

198

00:22:17,480 --> 00:22:20,040

and then returned to set Neil's body on fire.

199

00:22:28,920 --> 00:22:34,440

Roberts apparent motive to murder Neil Jennings so that he could steal his truck and sell it.

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00:22:35,400 --> 00:22:42,600

The thing that makes this case so strange to us is we know Neil got here Friday night and he was with Bill.

201

00:22:44,280 --> 00:22:52,200

Neil was never seen again after Friday night. Now Saturday morning we've got Bill by himself in the truck.

202

00:22:53,800 --> 00:22:57,480

Saturday evening we've got Saul hearing the gunshots.

203

00:22:58,360 --> 00:23:07,000

And Sunday evening is when the body was actually found due to the fire.

204

00:23:10,520 --> 00:23:16,760

The question is where was where was Neil from Friday night until Sunday?

205

00:23:18,280 --> 00:23:20,280

You know when did the murder actually take place?

206

00:23:22,280 --> 00:23:27,240

In the course of their investigation police learned that Bill Roberts was actually Bill Blackwell.

207

00:23:27,480 --> 00:23:32,840

Who had served time for larceny and theft. He was wanted by the Texas Department of Corrections

208

00:23:32,840 --> 00:23:41,000

on a parole violation. Authorities determined that Bill Blackwell left Odessa within 24 hours

209

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:46,680

of setting the fire. He then drove to Albuquerque, New Mexico where he sold Neil's truck in a flea

210

00:23:46,680 --> 00:23:48,920

market. He has not been seen since.

211

00:23:57,480 --> 00:24:08,200

Next the strange odyssey of a little girl kidnapped in 1986.

212

00:24:19,160 --> 00:24:25,400

Gallup, New Mexico 140 miles west of Albuquerque lies within what was for centuries the territory

213

00:24:25,400 --> 00:24:33,560

of a Navajo Indian nation. On April 6, 1986 this quiet community of 18,000 was rocked by the

214

00:24:33,560 --> 00:24:42,440

mysterious disappearance of a nine-year-old Navajo girl, Antoinette Cayadito. On her mother and

215

00:24:42,440 --> 00:24:47,720

two sisters awoke that morning they were surprised to discover that Antoinette was not in the house.

216

00:24:48,920 --> 00:24:50,920

We went looking for around the house nothing.

217

00:24:51,240 --> 00:24:58,360

Antoinette? I didn't start panicking until we checked with all the neighbors, went to every house

218

00:24:59,560 --> 00:25:04,360

and nobody had no sight seen of her and that's when I panicked.

219

00:25:09,880 --> 00:25:14,280

Penny Cayaditos neighbors fanned out through the surrounding foothills looking for Antoinette.

220

00:25:15,080 --> 00:25:19,640

The three days they searched along with the police but no one found a trace of the little girl.

221

00:25:20,520 --> 00:25:23,240

Authorities were almost certain she had been kidnapped.

222

00:25:25,640 --> 00:25:31,160

The days stretched into weeks then months. Police could offer little to bolster Penny's hopes of

223

00:25:31,160 --> 00:25:36,840

ever finding her daughter alive. Finally after a year had passed and all seemed lost,

224

00:25:36,840 --> 00:25:40,120

a dramatic call for help came into the Gallup police station.

225

00:25:40,120 --> 00:25:43,240

Hello? I'm Antoinette Cayadito.

226

00:25:44,840 --> 00:25:48,840

Excuse me. I'm Antoinette Cayadito and I'm in Albuquerque.

227

00:25:48,840 --> 00:25:50,840

Okay, whereabouts to now the curtain?

228

00:25:51,560 --> 00:25:56,280

Before the girl could answer, the call was abruptly ended by an unidentified man.

229

00:25:56,920 --> 00:25:58,760

Who said you could use a boat? Hello?

230

00:26:01,960 --> 00:26:06,600

Antoinette, where are you? Antoinette? Hello?

231

00:26:11,080 --> 00:26:14,200

Detectives played a recording of the call for Penny Cayadito.

232

00:26:14,920 --> 00:26:19,000

If the voice was indeed her daughter's, it would be an agonizing glimmer of hope.

233

00:26:19,960 --> 00:26:25,000

Hello? I'm Antoinette Cayadito.

234

00:26:26,360 --> 00:26:30,440

What? I'm Antoinette Cayadito and I'm in Albuquerque.

235

00:26:30,440 --> 00:26:32,440

Okay, whereabouts to now the curtain?

236

00:26:34,440 --> 00:26:35,960

Ready to use a boat? Hello?

237

00:26:36,920 --> 00:26:45,880

I listened to that tape over and over and over and just by the way she says her last name

238

00:26:47,080 --> 00:26:53,720

and the way she screamed sent chills all over my body because a mother knows

239

00:26:54,600 --> 00:27:01,560

and I know that was her. She knew that was her daughter's voice on that tape and she just couldn't

240

00:27:01,560 --> 00:27:06,120

figure out who the male's voice was in the background and where Antoinette was at. We know

241

00:27:07,400 --> 00:27:13,320

Antoinette had indicated that she was in Albuquerque but the call was so short that it couldn't even

242

00:27:13,320 --> 00:27:20,520

be traced as to what line it was coming from. The phone call nourished renewed hopes for Antoinette's

243

00:27:20,520 --> 00:27:27,560

safe return. However, four torturous years passed without any further clues. Once again,

244

00:27:27,560 --> 00:27:33,560

authorities began to fear that she would never be found alive. In desperation, the FBI finally

245

00:27:33,560 --> 00:27:39,080

released two computer enhanced photographs showing what Antoinette might look like at the age of 14.

246

00:27:40,520 --> 00:27:46,200

Four months later, the last ditch effort paid off. A possible sighting of Antoinette was reported

247

00:27:46,200 --> 00:27:56,360

in Carson City, Nevada, 870 miles from Gallup. A waitress at a restaurant in Carson City told the

248

00:27:56,360 --> 00:28:02,520

Carson City police about a strange incident that she had witnessed that particular day.

249

00:28:05,240 --> 00:28:13,000

Okay, three cheeseburgers. She waited on a table at which sat a male and a female,

250

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:21,960

rather unkempt, and a small girl about the age of 14 or 15. The little girl would deliberately

251

00:28:21,960 --> 00:28:26,920

drop a utensil on the floor. The waitress put the utensil back on the table and the little girl

252

00:28:26,920 --> 00:28:33,080

grabbed her hand and squeezed it hard. The waitress thought nothing of it and went about her business.

253

00:28:34,520 --> 00:28:40,920

The threesome left the restaurant and the waitress went and back to the table and began to bust the

254

00:28:40,920 --> 00:28:47,000

table. She lifted up the plate belonging to the girl and underneath was a napkin that said,

255

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:53,080

please help me call the police. By the time she realized what had happened, the couple and the

256

00:28:53,080 --> 00:29:00,120

girl were gone. One month after the Carson City sighting, detect has re-interviewed

257

00:29:00,120 --> 00:29:04,520

Antoinette's younger sister Wendy, who was five years old when Antoinette disappeared.

258

00:29:05,240 --> 00:29:14,280

Now 10, Wendy made a stunning revelation. We went to Wendy's school with the intention of just

259

00:29:14,280 --> 00:29:17,800

talking to her about what her recollections were of that particular night.

260

00:29:19,080 --> 00:29:26,440

There was a knock at the door and then Antoinette went to go answer and then I followed her.

261

00:29:34,840 --> 00:29:41,640

Who's there? Open up. Who's there? Uncle Joe. Open up. She goes, who is that? And then they say,

262

00:29:41,640 --> 00:29:48,520

Uncle Joe. So she opened the door and they grabbed her. She started kicking and she goes, let me go,

263

00:29:48,520 --> 00:29:56,120

let me go. And then they took her to a van, a brown van. Did you see what these guys looked like?

264

00:29:56,120 --> 00:30:00,920

No, I didn't see the faces. Wendy, why didn't you tell anybody about what you saw that night?

265

00:30:02,680 --> 00:30:07,960

Because I thought since my mom was crying and everything, I thought I was getting in trouble.

266

00:30:08,840 --> 00:30:15,000

I strongly believe that she was fearful in that people would think that for a five-year-old,

267

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:21,640

she's just making stories up. I don't believe she's making this up. I strongly feel that she's

268

00:30:21,640 --> 00:30:29,080

telling us the truth with that. Uncle Joe at that time in 1986 was Penny's brother-in-law.

269

00:30:29,080 --> 00:30:37,320

He was married to Penny's sister. We recently interviewed him and he provided an alibi and

270

00:30:37,320 --> 00:30:45,560

a witness corroborating his alibi and he is not a suspect. I believe that the people that took

271

00:30:45,560 --> 00:30:52,840

Antoinette are not family members but is somebody that is close to the family. Otherwise, Antoinette

272

00:30:52,840 --> 00:31:00,360

would not have opened that door had they not stated that it was her Uncle Joe. I strongly believe that

273

00:31:01,080 --> 00:31:07,640

somebody had to have known who Uncle Joe was and had to have known what to say to get Antoinette to

274

00:31:07,640 --> 00:31:15,640

open up that door. Finally, Penny Cayadito turned to her own Native American heritage in the search

275

00:31:15,640 --> 00:31:22,040

for Antoinette. She and her other daughters visited a respected Navajo medicine woman skilled in

276

00:31:22,040 --> 00:31:30,120

performing traditional tribal ceremonies. Unsolved mysteries was allowed to film portions of the

277

00:31:30,120 --> 00:31:37,080

crystal ritual or as it is called in Navajo, des chi. It is a centuries-old rite with a specific

278

00:31:37,080 --> 00:31:49,480

purpose of contacting the spirit of a missing person. According to the medicine woman,

279

00:31:49,480 --> 00:31:54,840

Antoinette is still alive and may have a child. She is being held against her will by threats of

280

00:31:54,840 --> 00:32:03,240

violence far from any city, somewhere in the southwest. Detectives were amazed that additional

281

00:32:03,240 --> 00:32:08,440

information provided by the medicine woman was consistent with elements of their own investigation.

282

00:32:10,680 --> 00:32:17,720

Going to the medicine lady gives me a lot of strength and it helps me to just know that

283

00:32:17,720 --> 00:32:29,160

she is alive. I want her to be safe wherever she is. No matter who she's with, they got to have some

284

00:32:29,160 --> 00:32:38,680

compassion not to hurt another human being as small as she is. And I pray that God will help guide her

285

00:32:39,560 --> 00:32:46,840

and help guide all of us to keep the strength to go on to find her and bring her home safe.

286

00:32:49,320 --> 00:32:55,640

When we return, a series of anonymous gifts shows a Florida couple that no good deed goes unrewarded.

287

00:32:56,360 --> 00:33:09,160

Around Christmas time, even the most hard-boiled among us seems to soften up.

288

00:33:09,880 --> 00:33:15,560

We'll look for the best in others to give more freely of ourselves. It's a time we'll begin to hope

289

00:33:15,560 --> 00:33:21,560

for little miracles. This is a story of a simple good deed which in a charming and mysterious way

290

00:33:21,560 --> 00:33:27,240

returned itself 500-fold. The setting is not the snow and ice and fir trees of the north,

291

00:33:27,800 --> 00:33:31,960

but rather the palm trees, balmy breezes and blue waters of Florida.

292

00:33:34,920 --> 00:33:40,600

Behind its ritzy facade, Florida harbors a very different subculture of retired couples

293

00:33:40,600 --> 00:33:48,760

living on meager, fixed incomes. Gene and Russell Johnson are just such a couple. Russell, a former

294

00:33:48,760 --> 00:33:54,440

fire chief in Wayne, Michigan, was forced to retire after a severe heart attack. Now Russell

295

00:33:54,440 --> 00:33:59,400

spends most days in his workshop building custom dollhouses and repairing church organs.

296

00:34:02,120 --> 00:34:06,440

Gene is a homemaker who raised four children before she and Russell moved to Florida.

297

00:34:08,440 --> 00:34:13,080

Despite some continuing health problems, the Johnsons are managing to make ends meet

298

00:34:13,080 --> 00:34:17,800

and their lives were routine and uneventful until the winter of 1985.

299

00:34:19,800 --> 00:34:24,920

Well, this day started out about the same as any other day down here. It was in November

300

00:34:26,280 --> 00:34:32,440

and it was unusually warm as I remember it and humid. I was working out in the shop. It was

301

00:34:32,440 --> 00:34:38,600

about 10.30 in the morning. All of a sudden the door of the house came open and Gene came out in

302

00:34:39,160 --> 00:34:45,080

frightened, scared. There's a man outside. He said he wanted some work for some to eat.

303

00:34:45,080 --> 00:34:46,840

He's out here from? Yeah. Okay.

304

00:34:55,320 --> 00:35:00,040

Do you have any work that I could do to get something to eat? I'm really hungry.

305

00:35:01,400 --> 00:35:05,720

You know I don't have any work for you to do. You sure won't leave here hungry.

306

00:35:06,440 --> 00:35:09,960

Do you ever get anything to make sandwich out of? I can make you sandwich.

307

00:35:09,960 --> 00:35:14,440

Well usually we don't have much for lunch, you know, but we just happened to go in to town,

308

00:35:14,440 --> 00:35:20,760

got some lunch meat and so I had lots of stuff to feed them. How about a glass of iced tea cold?

309

00:35:20,760 --> 00:35:26,520

That would taste real good. Gene, would you bring a glass of iced tea? Make it two glasses. I have

310

00:35:26,520 --> 00:35:32,600

one with them. You look tired. Would you like to cheers it out? Yes. The stranger had asked for

311

00:35:32,680 --> 00:35:38,680

help from a couple who had very little themselves. Russell had recently undergone open heart surgery

312

00:35:38,680 --> 00:35:43,320

and Gene has successfully battled cancer. Their financial resources were depleted.

313

00:35:44,040 --> 00:35:46,760

Nevertheless, they were willing to share what they had.

314

00:35:48,280 --> 00:35:57,800

Tired? Yeah, well, come a long way, you know. I'm from Houston and there are no jobs out there.

315

00:35:58,600 --> 00:36:02,840

Just talking with him, you could tell the man was not a bum.

316

00:36:05,400 --> 00:36:13,000

He was very articulate in his speech, friendly and basically a gentleman.

317

00:36:17,480 --> 00:36:19,960

He may have been down on his luck, but he was no bum.

318

00:36:20,120 --> 00:36:28,120

He ate quite a while. I think probably he had about three sandwiches to begin with.

319

00:36:29,480 --> 00:36:36,840

And then he rested a bit and had some more tea. He was just really too tired to talk,

320

00:36:37,480 --> 00:36:39,720

so he just sat there and kept him company.

321

00:36:44,200 --> 00:36:48,120

After a period of time, oh, I don't know, I would say five minutes or so,

322

00:36:49,080 --> 00:36:53,560

he said, well, he says, I guess I better be on my way. Thank you, sir.

323

00:36:53,560 --> 00:36:59,000

Lots of luck on your job. Thank you. Just a minute. Do you have any money?

324

00:37:00,040 --> 00:37:04,280

First thing in the sense. I reached into my pocket and I had some change

325

00:37:05,320 --> 00:37:11,080

and Gene turned. At that time, went back in the house, hit the hypothetical sugar bowl,

326

00:37:13,560 --> 00:37:17,720

and she came up with some change and another dollar bill and I imagine the man

327

00:37:18,520 --> 00:37:20,360

who probably gave him about five dollars.

328

00:37:24,280 --> 00:37:31,800

As we gave it to him, we noticed his eyes. There was just such a sparkle of life came back into them

329

00:37:32,920 --> 00:37:38,920

and he just reacted so differently. He didn't seem to be the man that he was when we first talked

330

00:37:38,920 --> 00:37:42,840

with him. And that was only a matter of everything within a half an hour.

331

00:37:42,920 --> 00:37:53,560

God bless you. Well, as he said that, the strangest feeling came over Gene and I,

332

00:37:53,560 --> 00:37:57,880

but just feeling of such goodness and love.

333

00:38:01,560 --> 00:38:06,520

Gene and Russell Johnson walked through their house into the garage, then out onto a side porch.

334

00:38:07,400 --> 00:38:09,880

They wanted to wave to their visitor one last time.

335

00:38:10,280 --> 00:38:14,120

Where is he? He was nowhere to be seen.

336

00:38:14,760 --> 00:38:18,680

Are we losing it? We walked back through the garage.

337

00:38:19,880 --> 00:38:26,600

Nobody. We walked out to the street, looked both ways, walked out to the main street in front of

338

00:38:26,600 --> 00:38:33,720

our house. Nobody. The mysterious stranger had vanished as quickly as he appeared, yet the

339

00:38:33,720 --> 00:38:42,280

special warmth Gene and Russell Johnson felt lingered. They began to remark half in jest that

340

00:38:42,280 --> 00:38:48,040

perhaps they had been visited by an angel. Then about 10 days before Christmas, the

341

00:38:48,040 --> 00:38:51,240

Johnson's received an anonymous card. Make some place clean.

342

00:38:55,800 --> 00:39:00,680

Christian friend. The check for five hundred dollars. I can't, I don't believe this.

343

00:39:01,640 --> 00:39:08,600

Five hundred dollars. We don't know any friends that have that kind of money to give away,

344

00:39:09,240 --> 00:39:12,200

especially anonymously. Love your Christian friends.

345

00:39:13,640 --> 00:39:17,080

And that looked at Gene, she was crying. It's a matter. Can't believe it.

346

00:39:17,720 --> 00:39:21,480

It is a very opportune time because we didn't have anything.

347

00:39:23,960 --> 00:39:29,960

And the only remark that I could make at the time was, has to be our angel.

348

00:39:31,640 --> 00:39:33,560

Good morning Russ. Gene, how are you today?

349

00:39:33,560 --> 00:39:38,040

I'm good. How can I help you? Well, we've got a bit of a problem perhaps.

350

00:39:38,680 --> 00:39:42,520

We got this in the mail and we think it might be a practical joke and if we didn't know you,

351

00:39:42,520 --> 00:39:45,640

I don't think we'll even try to cash it. Isn't it any good? Take a look at it.

352

00:39:48,200 --> 00:39:49,720

What is gold Russ? How would you like it?

353

00:39:50,680 --> 00:39:54,280

Something. Put the checking counter in it. I'll do it right now.

354

00:39:54,680 --> 00:40:01,080

We couldn't believe it. We tried to check to see if there's somebody that we knew that could have

355

00:40:01,080 --> 00:40:07,720

sent it. We looked at the postmarks, where it was from. We checked handwritings. We'd say to

356

00:40:07,720 --> 00:40:11,960

everybody, if you sent this, thank you. But nobody, nobody did.

357

00:40:13,560 --> 00:40:17,800

The following Christmas, another anonymous car deride. It was signed,

358

00:40:17,800 --> 00:40:24,680

your friend. It contained another \$500 check. The next three Christmases brought three more checks

359

00:40:24,680 --> 00:40:31,240

and three more cards, all mail from the Orlando area. Gene and Russell Johnson have never been able

360

00:40:31,240 --> 00:40:38,280

to find out who their benefactor is, but they have a pretty good idea. We've often thought back,

361

00:40:39,320 --> 00:40:43,480

we took \$5 that we didn't have and gave to somebody that needs it more.

362

00:40:44,440 --> 00:40:52,200

We don't know if there's any connection, but in return from somewhere, we've gotten \$500

363

00:40:52,760 --> 00:41:00,280

for five years. Could it be from our angel? We don't know. We have no identification,

364

00:41:01,240 --> 00:41:06,840

but we would like to say thank you to somebody. It was a gift well received.

365

00:41:07,080 --> 00:41:15,160

Did the Johnson's experience a Christmas miracle? Perhaps. Or perhaps they simply

366

00:41:15,160 --> 00:41:19,560

experienced the everyday miracle of kindness, which is never out of season.

367

00:41:29,320 --> 00:41:33,880

From all of us at Unsolved Mysteries, I'd like to extend to you and your family our best wishes

368

00:41:33,880 --> 00:41:51,240

for a safe, happy holiday. Join me next time. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.