

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,680

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:03,680 --> 00:00:06,280

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

00:00:06,280 --> 00:00:09,280

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,280 --> 00:00:12,280

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

5

00:00:16,280 --> 00:00:19,880

On the surface, Reggie DiPama was a caring and dedicated

6

00:00:19,880 --> 00:00:21,280

fireman.

7

00:00:21,280 --> 00:00:25,160

In reality, DiPama was a cynical manipulator who used his

8

00:00:25,160 --> 00:00:27,160

position as a scout for the fire.

9

00:00:27,160 --> 00:00:30,720

For years, a woman named Miriam was haunted by erratic

10

00:00:30,720 --> 00:00:33,760

frightening images from a life she barely remembered.

11

00:00:33,760 --> 00:00:37,360

In time, a fragmented portrait emerged of two very special

12

00:00:37,360 --> 00:00:40,240

people who Miriam believes helped her survive a

13

00:00:40,240 --> 00:00:43,600

troubled, traumatic childhood.

14

00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:46,520

Based on his own confession, Michael South of Webster,

15

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

Texas was convicted of murdering two teenage girls.

16

00:00:50,520 --> 00:00:53,120

The murderers were also accused of murdering two

17

00:00:53,520 --> 00:00:57,000

Texas was convicted of murdering two teenage girls.

18

00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:59,800

The self has always maintained that he is innocent and that

19

00:00:59,800 --> 00:01:03,960

the confession was coerced by a sadistic police chief.

20

00:01:03,960 --> 00:01:07,560

Surprisingly, both a local sheriff and a state prosecutor

21

00:01:07,560 --> 00:01:11,120

believe Michael South's story is true.

22

00:01:11,120 --> 00:01:14,600

And from the annals of World War II, the fascinating legend

23

00:01:14,600 --> 00:01:19,720

of the ghost blimp, in 1942, a US Navy airship crashed to

24

00:01:19,800 --> 00:01:22,800

Earth in California with no one on board.

25

00:01:22,800 --> 00:01:27,920

To this day, the fate of its crew remains an unsolved mystery.

26

00:01:27,920 --> 00:01:28,920

Join me.

27

00:01:28,920 --> 00:01:30,720

Perhaps you may solve a mystery.

28

00:02:19,720 --> 00:02:28,600

Her name is Miriam.

29

00:02:28,600 --> 00:02:30,920

She is 50 years old, lives in New York,

30

00:02:30,920 --> 00:02:33,080

and has one grown daughter.

31

00:02:33,080 --> 00:02:35,720

Miriam's husband died in 1984.

32

00:02:35,720 --> 00:02:37,920

And she now does extensive volunteer work

33

00:02:37,920 --> 00:02:41,720

with other widows and widowers.

34

00:02:41,720 --> 00:02:44,400

I have this vague feeling that, uh,

35

00:02:44,400 --> 00:02:48,520

In July of 1982, Miriam was seeing a psychologist.

36

00:02:48,520 --> 00:02:51,160

Therapy led her down a frightening path,

37

00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:53,640

filled with confusing fragmented images,

38

00:02:53,640 --> 00:02:56,120

which appeared to spring from the depths of her memory.

39

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

Oh, my god.

40

00:03:01,120 --> 00:03:04,640

I had this image like a mummy was the only thing

41

00:03:04,640 --> 00:03:05,880

I could like in it, too.

42

00:03:08,440 --> 00:03:11,040

It was so terrifying and so frightening.

43

00:03:11,960 --> 00:03:17,080

And I became so petrified by it.

44

00:03:17,080 --> 00:03:20,800

I didn't know what was happening.

45

00:03:20,800 --> 00:03:25,800

I didn't understand what was going on.

46

00:03:25,800 --> 00:03:28,920

The human mind is a vast, uncharted universe.

47

00:03:28,920 --> 00:03:32,600

But thoughts and moments and memories lurk randomly.

48

00:03:32,600 --> 00:03:34,840

For 10 years, Miriam has been piecing together

49

00:03:34,840 --> 00:03:37,960

the events of her childhood, attempting to understand

50

00:03:37,960 --> 00:03:39,960

what is real and what is not.

51

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:42,840

Wondering if things happen as she remembers them.

52

00:03:42,840 --> 00:03:45,520

Her doctors are convinced they did.



53

00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:48,000

In any case, Miriam is now embarked

54

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:50,280

on a search for two people whom she recalls

55

00:03:50,280 --> 00:03:52,160

with love and compassion.

56

00:03:56,520 --> 00:04:00,320

Miriam's journey into her past began in 1983.

57

00:04:00,320 --> 00:04:03,320

Once her disconnected memory started to break through,

58

00:04:03,320 --> 00:04:05,320

they simply refused to go away.

59

00:04:06,320 --> 00:04:10,680

I found myself getting up at night and sitting on the floor

60

00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:13,240

in the bathroom.

61

00:04:13,240 --> 00:04:18,040

And all of these memories started

62

00:04:18,040 --> 00:04:21,720

coming back of my father attacking me,

63

00:04:21,720 --> 00:04:26,840

of my father being subdued by the police.

64

00:04:26,840 --> 00:04:29,280

I really allowed the images.

65

00:04:29,280 --> 00:04:31,120

I worked at it.

66

00:04:31,120 --> 00:04:34,120

I let them come and I tried to figure out what I was seeing

67

00:04:34,120 --> 00:04:36,680

and try to understand what was happening to me.

68

00:04:36,680 --> 00:04:40,120

What would happen is that she began to become subject

69

00:04:40,120 --> 00:04:42,120

to what she called flashbacks.

70

00:04:42,120 --> 00:04:46,120

These would be images that would suddenly come out of nowhere

71

00:04:46,120 --> 00:04:50,120

and grab her in such a way that she would just be paralyzed

72

00:04:50,120 --> 00:04:52,120

for the instant that it occurred.

73

00:04:52,120 --> 00:04:56,120

Those flashbacks indicated that there was a certain amount

74

00:04:56,120 --> 00:04:58,120

of abuse that was going on.

75

00:04:58,120 --> 00:05:01,120

Those flashbacks indicated that there was a certain amount

76

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

of abuse that went on very early in life

77

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

that she did not have a handle on.

78

00:05:07,120 --> 00:05:11,120

And there was a big part of her that did not want to deal with it.

79

00:05:13,120 --> 00:05:17,120

I only remembered good things about my father.

80

00:05:17,120 --> 00:05:25,120

And to suddenly have a whole new side of him revealed to me

81

00:05:25,120 --> 00:05:27,120

that he was a terrible shock.

82

00:05:27,120 --> 00:05:30,120

And I remember saying in therapy,

83

00:05:30,120 --> 00:05:33,120

I don't want this to be true.

84

00:05:33,120 --> 00:05:36,120

I don't want to believe this about my father.

85

00:05:36,120 --> 00:05:39,120

Miriam was an only child.

86

00:05:39,120 --> 00:05:42,120

Her father, Harry, died in 1984,

87

00:05:42,120 --> 00:05:45,120

two years into Miriam's psychotherapy.

88

00:05:45,120 --> 00:05:48,120

Although he had often exhibited erratic behavior,

89

00:05:48,120 --> 00:05:52,120

Miriam's conscious memories of him had always been happy ones.

90

00:05:52,120 --> 00:05:55,120

Now, however, the years between her third and fifth birthdays

91

00:05:55,120 --> 00:05:58,120

began to haunt her.

92

00:05:58,120 --> 00:06:01,120

At the time, Miriam lived with her mother and father

93

00:06:01,120 --> 00:06:03,120

in Miami Beach.

94

00:06:03,120 --> 00:06:05,120

The detailed recreations you are about to see

95

00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:07,120

are based solely on Miriam's memories.

96

00:06:07,120 --> 00:06:09,120

I don't need a ride, honey.

97

00:06:09,120 --> 00:06:10,120

Janet's going to pick me up.

98

00:06:10,120 --> 00:06:12,120

All right.

99

00:06:12,120 --> 00:06:14,120

I'll see you later, Miriam.

100

00:06:14,120 --> 00:06:15,120

Bye.

101

00:06:17,120 --> 00:06:19,120

I have to go to the clinic.

102

00:06:19,120 --> 00:06:21,120

I don't see why not.

103

00:06:22,120 --> 00:06:24,120

Honey, I don't think that coconut's right yet.

104

00:06:24,120 --> 00:06:26,120

Honey, what are you talking about?



105

00:06:26,120 --> 00:06:28,120

A coconut is right when it falls off the tree.

106

00:06:28,120 --> 00:06:30,120

That's fine.

107

00:06:30,120 --> 00:06:32,120

Miriam, would you rather have some crackers?

108

00:06:32,120 --> 00:06:34,120

Crackers? She said she wanted a coconut.

109

00:06:34,120 --> 00:06:36,120

What does that even feel?

110

00:06:36,120 --> 00:06:38,120

Oh, not with that knife.

111

00:06:39,120 --> 00:06:42,120

So now your mommy's an expert on coconuts, huh?

112

00:06:42,120 --> 00:06:44,120

Yes.

113

00:06:51,120 --> 00:06:53,120

What?

114

00:06:53,120 --> 00:06:55,120

Just...

115

00:06:55,120 --> 00:06:57,120

Why are you going to be like that?

116

00:06:57,120 --> 00:07:00,120

I remembered that when he grabbed me

117

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

and my father was attacking me.

118

00:07:02,120 --> 00:07:04,120

I don't want you!

119

00:07:04,120 --> 00:07:09,120

And somehow, I guess I kicked him enough to hurt him

120

00:07:09,120 --> 00:07:13,120

and he'd put me down or drop me or whatever.

121

00:07:13,120 --> 00:07:17,120

And I ran and wanted to hide from him.

122

00:07:18,120 --> 00:07:21,120

I remember watching from a hiding place

123

00:07:21,120 --> 00:07:23,120

where he finally left me alone.

124

00:07:25,120 --> 00:07:28,120

He was calling me a dog and a cat.

125

00:07:28,120 --> 00:07:30,120

He was calling me an animal.

126

00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:32,120

I mean, he didn't know it was me anymore.

127

00:07:37,120 --> 00:07:40,120

Somehow policemen were there.

128

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

My father, I mean, he was ranting.

129

00:07:42,120 --> 00:07:44,120

He had no idea there was anybody there.

130

00:07:45,120 --> 00:07:48,120

Miriam says that she remembers hospital orderlies

131

00:07:48,120 --> 00:07:51,120

with the policemen trying to subdue her father.

132

00:07:51,120 --> 00:07:54,120

She assumes they were called by her mother.

133

00:07:56,120 --> 00:08:01,120

I was terrified beyond anything I can possibly relate to you.

134

00:08:01,120 --> 00:08:04,120

I don't know how to tell you the terror that I felt.

135

00:08:04,120 --> 00:08:07,120

Miriam has come to believe that her father

136

00:08:07,120 --> 00:08:10,120

suffered from severe mental illness.

137

00:08:10,120 --> 00:08:13,120

She now feels certain that while her mother tried to cope,

138

00:08:13,120 --> 00:08:15,120

Miriam herself was taken away.

139

00:08:20,120 --> 00:08:22,120

When I started having these flashbacks,

140

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

I started thinking about mommy and daddy.

141

00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:30,120

And the images that went with my parents

142

00:08:30,120 --> 00:08:32,120

weren't the images that were popping in my mind

143

00:08:32,120 --> 00:08:34,120

and I didn't know who these people were.

144

00:08:34,120 --> 00:08:37,120

I suddenly realized there were people in my life

145

00:08:37,120 --> 00:08:42,120

that were important to me and I didn't know who they were.

146

00:08:44,120 --> 00:08:46,120

I brought you something to eat.

147

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

I'm really afraid. It's all right.

148

00:08:50,120 --> 00:08:56,120

I remember I was absolutely frightened out of my mind.

149

00:08:59,120 --> 00:09:03,120

Slowly I realized that this was a safe place,

150

00:09:03,120 --> 00:09:08,120

that these people were kind and they weren't going to hurt me

151

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

and they were loving and I was very happy there.

152

00:09:15,120 --> 00:09:17,120

What are you coloring, sweetheart?

153

00:09:19,120 --> 00:09:21,120

As the gates of repressed memory opened,

154

00:09:21,120 --> 00:09:25,120

Miriam began to believe she had once been placed with foster parents.

155

00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:29,120

She was inundated with images of warmth and love.

156

00:09:29,120 --> 00:09:34,120

My foster father had white hair and he was a young man.



157

00:09:34,120 --> 00:09:36,120

It was very striking.

158

00:09:36,120 --> 00:09:38,120

I remember his hands.

159

00:09:38,120 --> 00:09:46,120

I remember that they were strong and powerful hands

160

00:09:46,120 --> 00:09:48,120

that made me feel very safe.

161

00:09:52,120 --> 00:09:54,120

Miriam believes she called her foster parents

162

00:09:54,120 --> 00:09:56,120

Mommy, Pat and Daddy, Mike.

163

00:09:56,120 --> 00:10:00,120

Mike was a fireman and Pat sang her to sleep

164

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

with Irish lullabies.

165

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

I remember a song called Tura Lura Lura.

166

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

All my life I've known this lullaby was sung to me.

167

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

I just remember being hugged and kissed

168

00:10:20,120 --> 00:10:24,120

and just playing with Mommy Pat's ringlets

169

00:10:24,120 --> 00:10:27,120

and the overwhelming sense of being loved.

170

00:10:30,120 --> 00:10:34,120

They thought I was the most wonderful child in the world.

171

00:10:35,120 --> 00:10:37,120

And I really delighted in that.

172

00:10:38,120 --> 00:10:40,120

We have to talk to you.

173

00:10:41,120 --> 00:10:43,120

There's some people who think it might be...

174

00:10:43,120 --> 00:10:46,120

But unhappy memories soon intruded.

175

00:10:46,120 --> 00:10:49,120

First a serious discussion with Mike and Pat.

176

00:10:49,120 --> 00:10:52,120

Miriam sensed that she was about to lose them.

177

00:10:52,120 --> 00:10:55,120

Baby, what's important is that we love you.

178

00:10:56,120 --> 00:10:58,120

You always love you.

179

00:10:59,120 --> 00:11:01,120

Always love you.

180

00:11:04,120 --> 00:11:07,120

After hearing the testimony of all the parties...

181

00:11:07,120 --> 00:11:09,120

Miriam then saw herself in a courtroom

182

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

sitting with a social worker.

183

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

Her real parents as well as Pat and Mike were also there.

184

00:11:15,120 --> 00:11:17,120

Clearly Miriam Parton's foster parents

185

00:11:17,120 --> 00:11:20,120

have provided a good home during a difficult period.

186

00:11:21,120 --> 00:11:23,120

However, in cases like this

187

00:11:23,120 --> 00:11:25,120

we must consider first and foremost

188

00:11:25,120 --> 00:11:27,120

the best interest of the child.

189

00:11:28,120 --> 00:11:31,120

Since the original reasons for placement in the foster home

190

00:11:31,120 --> 00:11:33,120

no longer exist

191

00:11:33,120 --> 00:11:36,120

it's the decision of this court

192

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

that Miriam Parton be returned to the

193

00:11:39,120 --> 00:11:42,120

physical custody of her natural parents.

194

00:11:44,120 --> 00:11:46,120

Court is adjourned.

195

00:11:49,120 --> 00:11:53,120

I was very, very distraught.

196

00:11:54,120 --> 00:11:57,120

I did not want to leave them.

197

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

As far as I was concerned

198

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

these are the people I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

199

00:12:16,120 --> 00:12:21,120

I really didn't remember about that kiss for a very long time.

200

00:12:21,120 --> 00:12:24,120

Actually it didn't come until almost

201

00:12:25,120 --> 00:12:27,120

the very, very end of all my memories

202

00:12:27,120 --> 00:12:31,120

in fact that was probably one of the very last flashbacks I had.

203

00:12:31,120 --> 00:12:34,120

And until I had that memory

204

00:12:34,120 --> 00:12:38,120

I really felt at a loss.

205

00:12:39,120 --> 00:12:41,120

And somehow

206

00:12:42,120 --> 00:12:44,120

that I love you

207

00:12:44,120 --> 00:12:48,120

that came across in that kiss

208

00:12:48,120 --> 00:12:51,120

has been enough for me



209

00:12:51,120 --> 00:12:54,120

to make peace with the loss

210

00:12:54,120 --> 00:12:56,120

and to go on with my life

211

00:12:56,120 --> 00:13:00,120

and just keep their memory in my soul and in my heart.

212

00:13:00,120 --> 00:13:02,120

Miriam lived with her natural parents

213

00:13:02,120 --> 00:13:05,120

until she married at the age of 21.

214

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

At the age of 47 she began her search for Mike and Pat.

215

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

Their names were Pat and Mike

216

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

and I think their last name was McGuire.

217

00:13:17,120 --> 00:13:19,120

According to Miriam

218

00:13:19,120 --> 00:13:22,120

her mother admits that Miriam's father had emotional problems

219

00:13:22,120 --> 00:13:24,120

and life was often difficult.

220

00:13:24,120 --> 00:13:26,120

However Miriam says her mother denies

221

00:13:26,120 --> 00:13:28,120

that she was ever placed in foster care

222

00:13:28,120 --> 00:13:30,120

which has prompted suggestions

223

00:13:30,120 --> 00:13:33,120

that Miriam might suffer from false memory syndrome

224

00:13:33,120 --> 00:13:37,120

and that Mike and Pat might never have existed.

225

00:13:37,120 --> 00:13:40,120

The question of whether this is made up

226

00:13:40,120 --> 00:13:43,120

certainly arises because it's hard to believe

227

00:13:43,120 --> 00:13:45,120

that people could be this way.

228

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:47,120

All right.

229

00:13:47,120 --> 00:13:49,120

But I can't help but believe

230

00:13:49,120 --> 00:13:51,120

that this is the absolute truth.

231

00:13:53,120 --> 00:13:56,120

There may be a certain amount of condensation

232

00:13:56,120 --> 00:13:58,120

and distortion around the edges

233

00:13:58,120 --> 00:14:01,120

but essentially I think that the story is accurate

234

00:14:01,120 --> 00:14:04,120

and it was relayed in a truthful manner

235

00:14:04,120 --> 00:14:08,120

especially since all during the relation of this tale

236

00:14:08,120 --> 00:14:11,120

Miriam was wanting to get out of the treatment.

237

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

Her emotional reactions

238

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

to the pieces and to the whole

239

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

were consistent with a real event

240

00:14:20,120 --> 00:14:23,120

and not with a fantasy.

241

00:14:25,120 --> 00:14:28,120

And in repeated flashbacks

242

00:14:28,120 --> 00:14:31,120

we got the beautiful picture

243

00:14:31,120 --> 00:14:36,120

of these marvelous foster parents

244

00:14:36,120 --> 00:14:39,120

and without these months

245

00:14:39,120 --> 00:14:41,120

with two loving parents

246

00:14:41,120 --> 00:14:44,120

she might not have survived.

247

00:14:45,120 --> 00:14:48,120

They gave me a lot.

248

00:14:48,120 --> 00:14:52,120

They saved me from despair

249

00:14:52,120 --> 00:14:54,120

and I would like them to know

250

00:14:54,120 --> 00:14:57,120

that there was a good outcome.

251

00:14:57,120 --> 00:15:02,120

I just pray that their lives are wonderful

252

00:15:02,120 --> 00:15:04,120

and that they've had happiness

253

00:15:04,120 --> 00:15:07,120

and I hope that I'll get a chance

254

00:15:07,120 --> 00:15:09,120

to be reunited with them

255

00:15:09,120 --> 00:15:11,120

and share with them the good things

256

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

that I have in my life.

257

00:15:17,120 --> 00:15:19,120

Miriam believes that she lived with her foster parents

258

00:15:19,120 --> 00:15:21,120

in 1945 or 1946

259

00:15:21,120 --> 00:15:24,120

when she was between three and four years old.

260

00:15:24,120 --> 00:15:27,120

She remembers her last name as Maguire.



261

00:15:27,120 --> 00:15:29,120

Neither records of a court hearing

262

00:15:29,120 --> 00:15:32,120

nor records of foster care for Miriam had been found.

263

00:15:32,120 --> 00:15:34,120

However, the Dade County Clerk's office

264

00:15:34,120 --> 00:15:36,120

says it was not unusual in Florida

265

00:15:36,120 --> 00:15:39,120

during the period right after World War II.

266

00:15:41,120 --> 00:15:43,120

The Dade County Clerk's office

267

00:15:43,120 --> 00:15:46,120

was the only place where the Dade County Clerk's office

268

00:15:46,120 --> 00:15:48,120

was found.

269

00:15:48,120 --> 00:15:50,120

The Dade County Clerk's office

270

00:15:50,120 --> 00:15:53,120

was the only place where the Dade County Clerk's office

271

00:15:53,120 --> 00:15:55,120

was found.

272

00:15:55,120 --> 00:15:57,120

The Dade County Clerk's office

273

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

was the only place where the Dade County Clerk's office

274

00:16:00,120 --> 00:16:02,120

was found.

275

00:16:02,120 --> 00:16:04,120

The Dade County Clerk's office

276

00:16:04,120 --> 00:16:07,120

was the only place where the Dade County Clerk's office

277

00:16:07,120 --> 00:16:09,120

was found.

278

00:16:10,120 --> 00:16:12,120

Along the Pacific Coast,

279

00:16:12,120 --> 00:16:14,120

the hunt is on for the Jap submarine

280

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

that brought the war to US soil.

281

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

In 1942, the final outcome of World War II

282

00:16:19,120 --> 00:16:21,120

was still very much in doubt.

283

00:16:21,120 --> 00:16:24,120

The United States had every reason to fear

284

00:16:24,120 --> 00:16:27,120

a Japanese invasion of its western shores.

285

00:16:27,120 --> 00:16:29,120

There were known to be Japanese submarines

286

00:16:29,120 --> 00:16:31,120

operating off the coast.

287

00:16:31,120 --> 00:16:34,120

There had been an attack on an oil refinery

288

00:16:34,120 --> 00:16:36,120

down near Santa Monica.

289

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

Los Angeles.

290

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

There was great fear that there would be

291

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

more attacks.

292

00:16:43,120 --> 00:16:45,120

One response to the threat

293

00:16:45,120 --> 00:16:47,120

was unusual to say the least.

294

00:16:49,120 --> 00:16:51,120

The Navy assembled an unlikely fleet

295

00:16:51,120 --> 00:16:53,120

of 12 odd-sized blimps to monitor

296

00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:55,120

possible enemy activity

297

00:16:55,120 --> 00:16:57,120

along the California coastline.

298

00:16:59,120 --> 00:17:01,120

The mission of Airship Squadron 32,

299

00:17:01,120 --> 00:17:03,120

though critical, was launched

300

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

in 1932, until August 16, 1942.

301

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

That day, an airship on its regular patrol

302

00:17:16,120 --> 00:17:18,120

made a spectacular descent

303

00:17:18,120 --> 00:17:21,120

and crashed to Earth with no one on board.

304

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

Incredibly, its two-man crew had vanished

305

00:17:24,120 --> 00:17:27,120

and no trace of them was ever found.

306

00:17:27,120 --> 00:17:30,120

The legend of the ghost blimp had been born.

307

00:17:31,120 --> 00:17:33,120

It was almost impossible for the Hamdatu

308

00:17:33,120 --> 00:17:35,120

to have been seen by somebody,

309

00:17:35,120 --> 00:17:39,120

but nobody saw them go, nobody saw them jump,

310

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

and there's no relics of them at all.

311

00:17:42,120 --> 00:17:44,120

A real puzzle.

312

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

It was perhaps a strangest home front incident



313

00:17:51,120 --> 00:17:53,120

of the Second World War.

314

00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:56,120

So strange that many remember as if it happened

315

00:17:56,120 --> 00:17:58,120

only yesterday.

316

00:17:58,120 --> 00:18:01,120

Throughout the entire war, Airship Squadron 32

317

00:18:01,120 --> 00:18:04,120

lost only the two men who disappeared on that patrol.

318

00:18:04,120 --> 00:18:07,120

50 years later, their exact fate is still unknown,

319

00:18:07,120 --> 00:18:10,120

and the mystery surrounding the ghost blimp

320

00:18:10,120 --> 00:18:13,120

remains a subject of endless fascination.

321

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

Sunday, August 16, 1942,

322

00:18:19,120 --> 00:18:22,120

the flight of the ghost blimp began like hundreds of others had.

323

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

Just after 6 a.m.,

324

00:18:24,120 --> 00:18:27,120

a blimp-designated Flight 101 prepared to take off.

325

00:18:30,120 --> 00:18:34,120

Flight 101's pilots were 27-year-old Lieutenant Ernest DeWitt Cote

326

00:18:34,120 --> 00:18:37,120

and 34-year-old Ensign Charles Ellis Adams.

327

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

Both were experienced and reliable,

328

00:18:40,120 --> 00:18:43,120

all the more reason to wonder about what would occur

329

00:18:43,120 --> 00:18:45,120

over the next five hours.

330

00:18:45,120 --> 00:18:48,120

Lieutenant Cote was a thoroughly experienced pilot.

331

00:18:48,120 --> 00:18:52,120

He had many, many hours in this particular type of an aircraft.

332

00:18:52,120 --> 00:18:56,120

He was called a very cool, determined,

333

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

if somewhat taciturn officer.

334

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

Adams had flown in the large dirigibles

335

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

and was thoroughly checked out,

336

00:19:04,120 --> 00:19:07,120

but he had never flown in the small blimps,

337

00:19:07,120 --> 00:19:11,120

and this was an indoctrination flight for him that Sunday morning.

338

00:19:12,120 --> 00:19:14,120

Aviation Machinist mate Riley Hill

339

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

was assigned a crew for Adams and Cote that morning.

340

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

But just before departure,

341

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

Hill was inexplicably ordered to leave the ship.

342

00:19:23,120 --> 00:19:25,120

No need for you to go, Riley.

343

00:19:25,120 --> 00:19:27,120

Adams and I will take it. Yes, sir.

344

00:19:27,120 --> 00:19:29,120

Hill now believes heavy moisture in the air

345

00:19:29,120 --> 00:19:31,120

was weighing the blimp down,

346

00:19:31,120 --> 00:19:35,120

making it unwise to take off with three men aboard.

347

00:19:35,120 --> 00:19:39,120

So I got out, shut the door, and locked it, closed,

348

00:19:39,120 --> 00:19:41,120

and they took off.

349

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

The flight plan called for the 101 to depart Treasure Island,

350

00:19:48,120 --> 00:19:50,120

pass over the Golden Gate Bridge,

351

00:19:50,120 --> 00:19:54,120

then head to the Farallon Islands 25 miles off the coast.

352

00:19:54,120 --> 00:19:57,120

From there, the patrol will continue north the Point Reyes

353

00:19:57,120 --> 00:19:59,120

and south along the coastline.

354

00:20:03,120 --> 00:20:06,120

The first leg proceeded without incident.

355

00:20:07,120 --> 00:20:10,120

An hour and a half after takeoff at 7.38 a.m.,

356

00:20:10,120 --> 00:20:14,120

Lieutenant Cody at Radio Squadron headquarters at Moffett Field,

357

00:20:14,120 --> 00:20:18,120

positioned four miles east of the Farallons, stand by.

358

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

Four minutes later, Cody called again.

359

00:20:24,120 --> 00:20:27,120

Investigating suspicious oil sling, stand by.

360

00:20:28,120 --> 00:20:30,120

Go 101.

361

00:20:30,120 --> 00:20:34,120

Those were the last words ever received from Flight 101.

362

00:20:34,120 --> 00:20:36,120

Go 101.

363

00:20:37,120 --> 00:20:42,120

When it came time for further explanation,

364

00:20:43,120 --> 00:20:46,120

and we didn't get it, we just assumed, well, that was negative,



365

00:20:46,120 --> 00:20:49,120

and they went on their way.

366

00:20:49,120 --> 00:20:51,120

Then it came time for the hourly position report,

367

00:20:51,120 --> 00:20:55,120

and that didn't come in, and the second one didn't come in.

368

00:20:55,120 --> 00:20:59,120

And that's when we began to feel that something was grossly wrong,

369

00:20:59,120 --> 00:21:02,120

and we just could not believe that our radios weren't working

370

00:21:02,120 --> 00:21:07,120

because we had good radio crew and the machinery was working.

371

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

After more than three hours of radio silence,

372

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

personnel at Moffett Field grew increasingly alarmed.

373

00:21:14,120 --> 00:21:17,120

Fraddyk attempts to contact the blimp when unanswered.

374

00:21:17,120 --> 00:21:18,120

Any word yet?

375

00:21:18,120 --> 00:21:19,120

No, sir.

376

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

No communications from the crew since the report at 7.42.

377

00:21:22,120 --> 00:21:25,120

I'm investigating suspicious oil sling.

378

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

Yes, sir.

379

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

Flight 101.

380

00:21:28,120 --> 00:21:32,120

Finally, a message was received, but not from Flight 101.

381

00:21:32,120 --> 00:21:34,120

San Francisco short patrol.

382

00:21:34,120 --> 00:21:36,120

One blimp crossed the beach at playland,

383

00:21:36,120 --> 00:21:39,120

crashed into the golf course, and dropped the depth charge,

384

00:21:39,120 --> 00:21:41,120

peeled it off.

385

00:21:41,120 --> 00:21:44,120

Let's get a team over there right away.

386

00:21:44,120 --> 00:21:47,120

The blimp had come ashore just south of San Francisco.

387

00:21:47,120 --> 00:21:53,120

Flight 101 had inexplicably drifted eight miles off course.

388

00:21:53,120 --> 00:21:57,120

There was a swimmer there, a man called Mr. Capovia,

389

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

who was standing ready to go into the water,

390

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

and all of a sudden he saw this huge gray mass just coming right at him.

391

00:22:05,120 --> 00:22:10,120

Remember, this thing is 47 feet wide, and it wasn't too high off the water.

392

00:22:10,120 --> 00:22:12,120

And he watched it come in.

393

00:22:12,120 --> 00:22:15,120

It dragged its wheel along the sand at the water's edge,

394

00:22:15,120 --> 00:22:17,120

then hit a little sand knoll.

395

00:22:17,120 --> 00:22:21,120

It bounced up into the air and then slid up a little bit of a canyon,

396

00:22:21,120 --> 00:22:25,120

and then hit rather heavily on the side of the canyon,

397

00:22:25,120 --> 00:22:29,120

and this knocked off what turned out to be depth charge.

398

00:22:30,120 --> 00:22:35,120

Relieved of the weight, the L8 then soared up into the overcast again,

399

00:22:35,120 --> 00:22:38,120

and out of sight of this Mr. Capovia,

400

00:22:38,120 --> 00:22:43,120

and began to drift inland, I guess, with the winds over Daly City.

401

00:22:45,120 --> 00:22:49,120

The rapidly deflating blimp was seen by hundreds of people.

402

00:22:49,120 --> 00:22:53,120

Bunny Gillespie was 16 years old at the time.

403

00:22:53,120 --> 00:22:55,120

I was on the way home from Sunday school,

404

00:22:55,120 --> 00:23:00,120

and I saw this big gray thing coming in over

405

00:23:00,120 --> 00:23:03,120

what I thought was going to be right over Templeton Avenue.

406

00:23:04,120 --> 00:23:07,120

When I saw this thing coming in through the sky,

407

00:23:07,120 --> 00:23:10,120

I was very surprised, as were a lot of other people,

408

00:23:10,120 --> 00:23:13,120

because things like that just didn't happen in Daly City.

409

00:23:14,120 --> 00:23:17,120

Flight 101 was quickly losing altitude

410

00:23:17,120 --> 00:23:20,120

and in danger of becoming entangled in power lines.

411

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

The blimp was on a collision course with the steep hills in Daly City.

412

00:23:28,120 --> 00:23:32,120

One woman's house almost became the point of impact.

413

00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:35,120

It was a Mrs. Appleton.

414

00:23:35,120 --> 00:23:40,120

She said that all of a sudden this huge behemoth had settled

415

00:23:40,120 --> 00:23:42,120

and scraped across the top of her roof,

416

00:23:42,120 --> 00:23:45,120

and she said it sounded like chains dragging.



417

00:23:46,120 --> 00:23:51,120

But the entire house was blacked out because of the size of this thing,

418

00:23:51,120 --> 00:23:55,120

and she raised to the front window, wondering what the world was going on,

419

00:23:55,120 --> 00:23:59,120

and she saw the rest of it, the gondola hit the crossarm,

420

00:23:59,120 --> 00:24:03,120

break off part of the mechanism there,

421

00:24:03,120 --> 00:24:06,120

and gradually settled down to the ground.

422

00:24:06,120 --> 00:24:08,120

I missed the actual landing of the thing,

423

00:24:08,120 --> 00:24:12,120

but when I got there it was just like a big gray monster

424

00:24:12,120 --> 00:24:17,120

with the gondola jutting up towards the tops of the houses.

425

00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:18,120

It was huge.

426

00:24:19,120 --> 00:24:21,120

Miraculously no one was injured

427

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

as a blimp came to rest in the middle of the street.

428

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

Almost immediately, Daly City officials were on the scene.

429

00:24:30,120 --> 00:24:31,120

When Navy personnel arrived,

430

00:24:31,120 --> 00:24:36,120

they were stunned to discover that there was no sign of Lieutenant Cody or Ensign Adams.

431

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

Apparently the blimp had piloted itself

432

00:24:40,120 --> 00:24:43,120

straight into downtown Daly City.

433

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

A search of the gondola left investigators perplexed.

434

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

The door was latched open, a highly unusual in-flight position.

435

00:24:56,120 --> 00:25:01,120

The safety bar, normally used to block the doorway, was no longer in place.

436

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

A microphone hooked to an external loudspeaker dangled out of the gondola.

437

00:25:08,120 --> 00:25:11,120

The ignition switches were still on.

438

00:25:12,120 --> 00:25:15,120

The radio was still on and working.

439

00:25:16,120 --> 00:25:19,120

Nobody had touched my fuel valves.

440

00:25:19,120 --> 00:25:23,120

They were set up just exactly the way that I'd left them.

441

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

We still had another six hours of fuel.

442

00:25:28,120 --> 00:25:33,120

Two lifejackets out of the three that were normally carried aboard were missing,

443

00:25:33,120 --> 00:25:37,120

but there was no other equipment that was gone.

444

00:25:38,120 --> 00:25:42,120

The machine gun was still there, the other flares,

445

00:25:42,120 --> 00:25:44,120

there were three other flares were still there.

446

00:25:44,120 --> 00:25:51,120

The expandable life raft was there and one more lifejacket.

447

00:25:51,120 --> 00:25:53,120

There was nothing missing.

448

00:25:54,120 --> 00:25:57,120

Lieutenant Cody's cap lay on the instrument panel.

449

00:25:57,120 --> 00:26:01,120

The missing lifejackets indicated the crew had put them on before takeoff

450

00:26:01,120 --> 00:26:04,120

as regulations required.

451

00:26:06,120 --> 00:26:11,120

A locked and heavily weighted briefcase containing top secret codes was still in place.

452

00:26:13,120 --> 00:26:18,120

It was as if Cody and Adams had opened the door and simply stepped out into thin air.

453

00:26:22,120 --> 00:26:27,120

The Navy investigation revealed that Flight 101 had been seen by several ships and planes

454

00:26:27,120 --> 00:26:29,120

between 7 and 11 a.m.

455

00:26:29,120 --> 00:26:34,120

Some of the eyewitnesses reported being close enough to make out Cody and Adams in the gondola.

456

00:26:34,120 --> 00:26:39,120

In each instance, everything about Flight 101 seemed normal.

457

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

Speculation on the fate of the two Navy airmen ran rampant.

458

00:26:46,120 --> 00:26:50,120

Some people believe that Cody and Adams had spotted an enemy submarine.

459

00:26:50,120 --> 00:26:54,120

When they descended to investigate, they were taken prisoner.

460

00:26:55,120 --> 00:27:02,120

One outrageous rumor suggested that the pirates were involved in a lover's triangle with an unknown woman.

461

00:27:02,120 --> 00:27:09,120

One had murdered the other in a jealous rage the story went and then fled when the LA reached land.

462

00:27:11,120 --> 00:27:14,120

The Navy finally settled on the most plausible theory.

463

00:27:14,120 --> 00:27:19,120

There had been an accident on board, perhaps caused by mechanical malfunction.

464

00:27:19,120 --> 00:27:25,120

Presumably one of the men had climbed outside the gondola to correct the problem and had run into trouble.

465

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

When the second man tried to come to his aid, both fell to their doom.

466

00:27:33,120 --> 00:27:42,120

A year later, on August 17, 1943, Lieutenant Ernest DeWitt Cody and Ensign Charles Ellis Adams were officially declared dead

467

00:27:42,120 --> 00:27:46,120

and the mystery of Flight 101 passed into legend.

468

00:27:50,120 --> 00:27:57,120



After the crash, the L-8 was patched up and put back into service by the Navy.

469

00:27:57,120 --> 00:28:05,120

Ultimately, the blimp became part of the Goodyear fleet and during the 1960s and 70s, it was seen by millions of sporting events.

470

00:28:05,120 --> 00:28:12,120

Few of them had any idea that the stately craft circling overhead was a fabled ghost blimp.

471

00:28:13,120 --> 00:28:21,120

Next, a respected community leader goes into hiding after he is convicted of statutory rape and sexual assault.

472

00:28:31,120 --> 00:28:35,120

Perhaps the most disturbing crimes are those that betray the trust of children.

473

00:28:36,120 --> 00:28:43,120

In 1981, a group of teenage girls in Danbury, Connecticut were betrayed by a respected community leader.

474

00:28:43,120 --> 00:28:50,120

Reggie DePama was a 12-year veteran of the Danbury Fire Department and adviser to a local explorer scout post.

475

00:28:50,120 --> 00:28:57,120

But behind the facade of respectability, DePama was a time bomb just waiting to explode.

476

00:28:58,120 --> 00:29:07,120

In 1978, Reggie DePama had organized the explorer post in affiliation with the fire department.

477

00:29:07,120 --> 00:29:15,120

His girlfriend, Connie, was co-leader and the group quickly became a popular after-school activity.

478

00:29:15,120 --> 00:29:23,120

When I first joined the troop, my impression of Reggie and Connie were that they were very nice people.

479

00:29:23,120 --> 00:29:28,120

So it was just never even a question that you would not trust them with anything.

480

00:29:28,120 --> 00:29:36,120

You just tell them confidential things and you would really feel like you would trust them all the

time and go to them if you needed help.

481

00:29:41,120 --> 00:29:47,120

By 1981, the explorer posts had grown to include 15 girls and 10 boys.

482

00:29:47,120 --> 00:29:53,120

They met at the fire station regularly and were drilled in life-saving and rescue techniques.

483

00:29:55,120 --> 00:30:02,120

Reggie was supervisor of Danbury's ambulance service and the scout's training was often interrupted by emergency calls.

484

00:30:08,120 --> 00:30:15,120

The post members idolized Reggie DePama and he soon became a virtual hero, especially to the girls.

485

00:30:18,120 --> 00:30:23,120

It's kind of hard to describe Reggie.

486

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

Reggie was a lot of fun. Reggie and his girlfriend, Connie, they were easygoing people.

487

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

They were easy to talk to. If you had a problem, they really wanted you to open up to them and get close to them.

488

00:30:38,120 --> 00:30:44,120

And, you know, they were good at getting people's trust.

489

00:30:48,120 --> 00:30:54,120

In 1981, the explorers organized a Halloween-haunted house to raise money for an upcoming camping trip.

490

00:30:54,120 --> 00:30:58,120

It was a night which would burn itself into Terry's memory.

491

00:30:59,120 --> 00:31:01,120

So you're 13 and you still don't have a boyfriend?

492

00:31:01,120 --> 00:31:02,120

Yeah.

493

00:31:02,120 --> 00:31:05,120

Have you ever gone all the way with a boy before?

494

00:31:05,120 --> 00:31:06,120

No.

495

00:31:06,120 --> 00:31:11,120

Well, I'd like to teach you about that because I'm your friend. Are you my friend?

496

00:31:11,120 --> 00:31:12,120

Yeah.

497

00:31:14,120 --> 00:31:15,120

Good.

498

00:31:16,120 --> 00:31:24,120

I thought that he was concerned with me and, you know, how I'd, you know, handle it because we were at that age.

499

00:31:24,120 --> 00:31:36,120

And, you know, I took it as like a fatherly concern and, you know, something that, you know, he wanted to not be a part of but help with.

500

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

Hey, are you okay?

501

00:31:40,120 --> 00:31:42,120

Yeah, just something Reggie said.

502

00:31:42,120 --> 00:31:46,120

And, you know, Johnny came up to me and said, you know, we have to go get some things.

503

00:31:46,120 --> 00:31:48,120

You know, why don't you come with me?

504

00:31:48,120 --> 00:31:53,120

And we, you know, promptly went back to the house where Reggie was waiting.

505

00:31:58,120 --> 00:32:04,120

We went back to the apartment and, you know, she said, why don't you go shower and, you know, get some of this makeup off.

506

00:32:04,120 --> 00:32:09,120

So I did. I didn't think anything of it. When I came out, it all happened.

507

00:32:12,120 --> 00:32:13,120

Hey.

508

00:32:20,120 --> 00:32:21,120

Hey.

509

00:32:21,120 --> 00:32:22,120

Hey.

510

00:32:22,120 --> 00:32:23,120

Come on in, honey.

511

00:32:23,120 --> 00:32:25,120

Yeah, we're just watching some TV.

512

00:32:25,120 --> 00:32:30,120

That night, Reggie forced Terry to have sexual intercourse while Connie watched.

513

00:32:33,120 --> 00:32:38,120

Tragically, Terry was not Reggie De Palma's first victim, nor would she be his last.

514

00:32:39,120 --> 00:32:52,120

I was 13 years old and I did not go immediately to my parents or the authorities because at that age, I don't think that you have any understanding even what's going on.

515

00:32:52,120 --> 00:32:59,120

You just feel a terrible amount of humiliation, of guilt. What did I do wrong to cause this to happen?

516

00:32:59,120 --> 00:33:02,120

I don't know what to do. I can't believe he did it to you.

517

00:33:02,120 --> 00:33:08,120

Over the next year, Reggie De Palma continued to sexually abuse girls in the Explorer post.



518

00:33:08,120 --> 00:33:11,120

Finally, they began to confide in one another.

519

00:33:11,120 --> 00:33:14,120

Are you guys going to go back? I mean, if he asks you.

520

00:33:14,120 --> 00:33:18,120

I've been back, but I can't go back anymore.

521

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

One of the girls had gotten upset about something and started talking and it just started snowballing because as soon as she said something, then the next person and everybody started coming forth.

522

00:33:28,120 --> 00:33:34,120

And then we all realized that we weren't alone, that we were all in this group together and that together we could try to stop this.

523

00:33:34,120 --> 00:33:36,120

We have to tell somebody.

524

00:33:36,120 --> 00:33:38,120

Okay.

525

00:33:38,120 --> 00:33:40,120

Are you going to do it?

526

00:33:40,120 --> 00:33:42,120

We'll go with you if you want.

527

00:33:42,120 --> 00:33:43,120

Yeah.

528

00:33:43,120 --> 00:33:44,120

Will you tell?

529

00:33:44,120 --> 00:33:45,120

Yeah.

530

00:33:45,120 --> 00:33:47,120

I'll tell my mom.

531

00:33:49,120 --> 00:33:50,120

Okay.

532

00:33:51,120 --> 00:33:58,120

One of the girls' mothers came to the police station to report what her daughter had told her.

533

00:33:58,120 --> 00:34:07,120

So Detective Benjamin and I were assigned to investigate this and I spoke with all the girls involved and he spoke with all the boys.

534

00:34:07,120 --> 00:34:13,120

At that point, you know, I was still very young in high school trying to deal with all this.

535

00:34:13,120 --> 00:34:17,120

It was not an easy thing to just discuss with someone to tell them.

536

00:34:17,120 --> 00:34:22,120

She was very supportive. She was very nice and helped me through it a lot.

537

00:34:22,120 --> 00:34:29,120

So what I need to know is did you ever have occasion to be alone with Reggie?

538

00:34:29,120 --> 00:34:36,120

Um, yeah. There was one time when I was at his apartment.

539

00:34:36,120 --> 00:34:40,120

Okay. So what happened once you got to the apartment?

540

00:34:40,120 --> 00:34:43,120

He gave me some wine.

541

00:34:43,120 --> 00:34:48,120

Uh-huh. And how much wine did you have?

542

00:34:48,120 --> 00:34:50,120

Three glasses.

543

00:34:50,120 --> 00:34:51,120

Three glasses of wine?

544

00:34:51,120 --> 00:34:52,120

Three.

545

00:34:52,120 --> 00:34:53,120

Okay.

546

00:34:53,120 --> 00:35:04,120

Right off the bat, when I heard the stories that these girls told, I felt myself betrayed and I don't even know Reggie.

547

00:35:04,120 --> 00:35:13,120

These girls were so devastated over what had happened to them that I had nightmares.

548

00:35:13,120 --> 00:35:14,120

To his bedroom.

549

00:35:14,120 --> 00:35:22,120

The details of what they were telling me made me feel such rage towards this man.

550

00:35:22,120 --> 00:35:27,120

I had to get him rested as soon as possible.

551

00:35:27,120 --> 00:35:29,120

Why don't you just tell me what's going on, Russ?

552

00:35:29,120 --> 00:35:32,120

Five counts of child molestation, Reggie.

553

00:35:32,120 --> 00:35:36,120

You have the right to remain silent. You understand?

554

00:35:36,120 --> 00:35:37,120

Yeah.

555

00:35:37,120 --> 00:35:39,120

You have the right to an attorney. You understand?

556

00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:44,120

If you waive that right, anything you say or do will be used against you in a court of law. You understand?

557

00:35:44,120 --> 00:35:45,120

Yeah.

558

00:35:45,120 --> 00:35:50,120

On the same day Reggie was arrested, his girlfriend Connie was questioned.

559

00:35:50,120 --> 00:35:56,120

She believed in him so much she would have done anything for him.

560

00:35:56,120 --> 00:36:08,120

And she felt so insecure about their relationship that she even went this far to do these things with these girls for Reggie.

561

00:36:08,120 --> 00:36:12,120

Ladies and gentlemen, I just have one more set of questions I'd like to ask Terry.

562

00:36:12,120 --> 00:36:22,120

Just over a year after his arrest, Reggie Dupama went to trial on nine counts, including two counts of statutory rape and five counts of risking injury to a minor.

563

00:36:22,120 --> 00:36:31,120

This terrible night, you didn't tell someone about what happened. Why particularly you didn't tell your parents?

564

00:36:31,120 --> 00:36:43,120

I thought that they would think less of me and that maybe it was my fault too. And Reggie had told me not to tell anybody.

565

00:36:43,120 --> 00:36:52,120

Reggie Dupama, the first day during the trial, was obvious that he did not believe the girls had the courage to testify against him.

566

00:36:52,120 --> 00:36:59,120

He felt he still had sufficient sway over them that they would crumble on the witness stand.

567

00:36:59,120 --> 00:37:07,120

After the first witness was able to testify against him, certainly then his conference had to waver.



568

00:37:07,120 --> 00:37:15,120

And of course after the third girl had testified, he must have decided that he would be better in parts unknown.

569

00:37:20,120 --> 00:37:27,120

After the fifth day of the trial, Reggie Dupama, who was out on bail, left Danbury to visit his mother.

570

00:37:27,120 --> 00:37:32,120

She was hospitalized at New Haven, Connecticut, 38 miles away.

571

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

Although his car was found in the hospital parking lot, Dupama never showed up in his mother's room.

572

00:37:37,120 --> 00:37:42,120

A fugitive warrant was issued for his arrest.

573

00:37:42,120 --> 00:37:54,120

The trial continued without him and on October 25, 1983, Reggie Dupama was convicted on seven counts and sentenced in absentia to 21 years in prison.

574

00:37:54,120 --> 00:37:59,120

He is still at large and has never served a single day behind bars.

575

00:37:59,120 --> 00:38:05,120

His victims are now adults, but the chilling effects of abuse linger.

576

00:38:05,120 --> 00:38:13,120

There are times when I'll psych myself out, like if I'm leaving work late or when I was in college,

577

00:38:13,120 --> 00:38:20,120

if I was walking back to the dorms or something late at night, that I was like, you know, he's out there somewhere.

578

00:38:20,120 --> 00:38:23,120

You know, he could be watching me right now.

579

00:38:23,120 --> 00:38:27,120

When I think about the fact that he's still out there somewhere is very upsetting.

580

00:38:27,120 --> 00:38:34,120

The first, of course, to all of us, the injustice that we feel because he is not paying for the crimes that were committed.

581

00:38:34,120 --> 00:38:42,120

And then again, the fear for other people out there that he could be harming individuals all over again and put them all through this living hell.

582

00:38:53,120 --> 00:39:11,120

When we return, a convicted killer claims he is innocent and at least one prosecutor believes he is telling the truth.

583

00:39:24,120 --> 00:39:40,120

In the past, we've presented a number of final appeal cases, dramatic profiles of men and women who claim they have been wrongfully convicted of a crime.

584

00:39:40,120 --> 00:39:46,120

They were saying that they knew that their baby had been poisoned by either me or my husband.

585

00:39:46,120 --> 00:39:49,120

I was devastated. I was blown away.

586

00:39:50,120 --> 00:39:55,120

I just could not believe that they could even think, I mean, Ryan was my world.

587

00:39:55,120 --> 00:40:01,120

In 1989, Patty Stallings was arrested for poisoning her five-month-old son.

588

00:40:01,120 --> 00:40:05,120

When the baby died, she was charged with murder and later convicted.

589

00:40:08,120 --> 00:40:13,120

Unfortunately, we can't undo the suffering that the Stallings have endured.

590

00:40:13,120 --> 00:40:17,120

And I apologize to them, both personally and for the state of Missouri.

591

00:40:17,120 --> 00:40:27,120

After our broadcast, Patty Stallings was released from prison and exonerated when doctors determined that her son, Ryan, had actually suffered from a rare genetic disorder.

592

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

I absolutely did not commit to robbery or the shooting of the police officer. I'm a musician and artist. I'm not a criminal.

593

00:40:39,120 --> 00:40:48,120

Tony Miller spent eight and a half years in prison for robbery and assault. Today, Miller is a free man, and the charges against him have been dropped.

594

00:40:48,120 --> 00:41:02,120

After his story aired, a viewer who had been an eyewitness to the crime contacted the court. Miller's conviction was overturned thanks in part to the witness's sworn statement that Tony was not the guilty party.

595

00:41:03,120 --> 00:41:13,120

I am innocent. It's a phrase that echoes through every cell block in every prison in America. Almost always, it is an empty claim, little more than jailhouse posturing.

596

00:41:13,120 --> 00:41:22,120

But as you've just seen, those three words do sometimes carry the ring of truth. A few cases like our next one deserve a second look.

597

00:41:23,120 --> 00:41:31,120

January 3, 1972. Two boys out fishing on Taylor Bayou near Webster, Texas, found evidence of a tragedy.

598

00:41:31,120 --> 00:41:42,120

What's that right there? That looks like a ball.

599

00:41:43,120 --> 00:41:55,120

It was a skull of a young girl. Six weeks later, police discovered the rest of her bones, along with the remains of another young woman.

600

00:41:55,120 --> 00:42:00,120

Come on in here and get a shot of this.

601

00:42:01,120 --> 00:42:14,120

Dental records identify the two girls as 14-year-old Rhonda Renee Johnson and 15-year-old Sharon Shaw, who'd been missing since a previous summer. The cause of their deaths could not be determined.

602

00:42:14,120 --> 00:42:26,120

Five months after the bones were found, police arrested 23-year-old Michael Self, a gas station attendant with below average intelligence. Self was charged with two counts of murder.

603

00:42:27,120 --> 00:42:33,120

Twenty years later, he is still in prison, convicted of a crime he swears he did not commit.

604

00:42:33,120 --> 00:42:49,120

I did not kill Sharon Shaw and Renee Johnson. It was just all behind politics and a warning of conviction. That was it. Just somebody to play the patsy.

605

00:42:50,120 --> 00:42:58,120

Imagine that you're a jury member in a murder trial. The defendant has confessed twice and you vote to convict him.

606

00:42:58,120 --> 00:43:08,120

Later, you discover that confessions were allegedly coerced by two police officers, used a kind of rough justice, physical and psychological intimidation.

607

00:43:08,120 --> 00:43:19,120

As it turned out, those two police officers were criminals themselves. It may seem incredible, but Michael Self claims that he was a victim of just that scenario.

608

00:43:22,120 --> 00:43:34,120

Rhonda Johnson and Sharon Shaw disappeared on August 4, 1971. They were last seen heading toward the Jericho Surf and Ski Shop in Galveston, Texas, 20 miles south of Rhonda's hometown of Webster.

609

00:43:35,120 --> 00:43:50,120

Police immediately launched an exhaustive investigation. There was a great deal of community pressure to find the girls. Pressure intensified by the fact that Rhonda was a granddaughter of a

prominent Webster City Councilman.

610

00:43:51,120 --> 00:44:08,120

I put in many hours, many hours, night and day, on trying to find out what happened to these girls when they disappeared. But I kept coming up to some loose ends. I was getting close to, I thought, for them then it would disappear. All my leads would disappear.

611

00:44:08,120 --> 00:44:11,120

We're all for luck you have a couple of DPS boys on board.

612

00:44:11,120 --> 00:44:23,120

In late May of 1972, the Webster City Council hired a new police chief, Don Morris. Morris and his assistant chief, Tommy Deal, came from the traffic division of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

613

00:44:23,120 --> 00:44:27,120

Son, I'm glad you're with us. I know I can count on you.

614

00:44:27,120 --> 00:44:28,120

Yes, sir.

615

00:44:28,120 --> 00:44:35,120



The hunt for Rhonda and Sharon had been going on fruitlessly for 10 months, but within three weeks of taking office, Morris got a tip on a suspect.

616

00:44:36,120 --> 00:44:40,120

Seems to me a few years back a boy named Michael Self was...

617

00:44:40,120 --> 00:44:50,120

Glenn Price, another city councilman, suggested Tommy Deal checked known sex offenders and mentioned Michael Self's name. Self had been arrested twice in peeping Tom incidents.

618

00:44:50,120 --> 00:44:52,120

I know you do. Good job, Tommy.

619

00:44:52,120 --> 00:44:53,120

Give it a whirl, Glenn.

620

00:44:53,120 --> 00:44:54,120

Bye.

621

00:44:54,120 --> 00:44:55,120

Bye.

622

00:45:00,120 --> 00:45:10,120

June 9th, 1972, at 5 a.m., assistant chief Tommy Deal and officer Herman Morgan stopped by the gas station where 23-year-old Michael Self worked the night shift.

623

00:45:10,120 --> 00:45:12,120

Say, look here, Mike.

624

00:45:12,120 --> 00:45:13,120

What's up?

625

00:45:13,120 --> 00:45:15,120

You got ESP?

626

00:45:15,120 --> 00:45:17,120

Say it again?

627

00:45:17,120 --> 00:45:18,120

I got ESP.

628

00:45:18,120 --> 00:45:19,120

Is that right?

629

00:45:19,120 --> 00:45:20,120

That's right.

630

00:45:20,120 --> 00:45:25,120

And I can tell you exactly what you're thinking right now.

631

00:45:25,120 --> 00:45:28,120

You're thinking about two girls.

632

00:45:31,120 --> 00:45:34,120

Well, I didn't know what two girls he was talking about.

633

00:45:34,120 --> 00:45:35,120

Well, I don't see what the problem is.

634

00:45:35,120 --> 00:45:37,120

My wife and I had been separated.

635

00:45:37,120 --> 00:45:38,120

Yeah.

636

00:45:38,120 --> 00:45:40,120

And I was dating a girl.

637

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

And I thought that's who he was, you know, talking about. That's the only one I could think of.

638

00:45:46,120 --> 00:45:52,120

Later that morning, Michael Self voluntarily went to the police station.

639

00:45:52,120 --> 00:45:55,120

Police detective, Detective Haines.

640

00:45:55,120 --> 00:45:57,120

I knew I hadn't done anything.

641

00:45:57,120 --> 00:46:00,120

I just went ahead and agreed to meet him there.

642

00:46:00,120 --> 00:46:03,120

Now, Mike, I want you to answer some questions for me.

643

00:46:03,120 --> 00:46:09,120

I want you to tell us if you've ever seen either one of these girls before.

644

00:46:09,120 --> 00:46:12,120

Some said he recognized the girls but did not know them.

645

00:46:12,120 --> 00:46:13,120

Yes.

646

00:46:14,120 --> 00:46:15,120

Renee Johnson.

647

00:46:15,120 --> 00:46:18,120

To his surprise, he was immediately taken into custody.

648

00:46:18,120 --> 00:46:19,120

Sharon Shaw.

649

00:46:19,120 --> 00:46:20,120

That's right.

650

00:46:20,120 --> 00:46:21,120

Cuffing.

651

00:46:21,120 --> 00:46:22,120

Why?

652

00:46:22,120 --> 00:46:23,120

We are putting you under arrest.

653

00:46:23,120 --> 00:46:24,120

Right here, son.

654

00:46:24,120 --> 00:46:26,120

Sit down in that chair.

655

00:46:26,120 --> 00:46:27,120

All right.

656

00:46:29,120 --> 00:46:32,120

Mike, Mike, Mike.

657

00:46:35,120 --> 00:46:37,120

You know, we already know you killed those two girls.

658

00:46:37,120 --> 00:46:39,120

We got the evidence.

659

00:46:39,120 --> 00:46:40,120

Oh, come on.

660

00:46:40,120 --> 00:46:42,120

I didn't have nothing to do with killing no girls.

661

00:46:42,120 --> 00:46:43,120

And you all know that.

662

00:46:43,120 --> 00:46:48,120

While Self was being questioned, another police officer, Jerry Mitchell, stopped by to observe.

663

00:46:48,120 --> 00:46:54,120

Mitchell knew Self and says Self was not at all nervous at that stage of the interrogation.

664

00:46:54,120 --> 00:46:55,120

What happened to somebody?

665

00:46:55,120 --> 00:46:57,120

They get called for doing something like that.

666

00:46:57,120 --> 00:46:58,120

Mike was relaxed.



667

00:46:58,120 --> 00:47:01,120

He was going kind of laid back and grinning.

668

00:47:01,120 --> 00:47:08,120

And I don't know that it ever really sunk into, at that time, what he was being involved in.

669

00:47:08,120 --> 00:47:10,120

You got something to tell us?

670

00:47:10,120 --> 00:47:13,120

Well, like I say, I ain't done nothing.

671

00:47:13,120 --> 00:47:15,120

I ain't broke no law.

672

00:47:17,120 --> 00:47:19,120

Don't you need to be on patrol?

673

00:47:19,120 --> 00:47:21,120

Mitchell left the room.

674

00:47:21,120 --> 00:47:28,120

According to Self, Chief Don Morris then took personal charge of the interrogation and the tone changed radically.

675

00:47:28,120 --> 00:47:29,120

No, Don, we're not.

676

00:47:29,120 --> 00:47:31,120

What, is he innocent?

677

00:47:31,120 --> 00:47:35,120

You ain't a Saint Michael?

678

00:47:35,120 --> 00:47:36,120

Yes, sir.

679

00:47:36,120 --> 00:47:38,120

They were down, weren't you?

680

00:47:38,120 --> 00:47:40,120

Go home and take a nap and let me in?

681

00:47:40,120 --> 00:47:44,120

What you were about to see is based on Michael Self's recollection.

682

00:47:44,120 --> 00:47:46,120

Yeah, Michael.

683

00:47:46,120 --> 00:47:52,120

Don Morris started asking me questions of why I killed these girls.

684

00:47:52,120 --> 00:47:56,120

I told him I didn't know what he was talking about.

685

00:47:56,120 --> 00:47:59,120

I've seen a lot of innocent people, Michael.

686

00:47:59,120 --> 00:48:02,120

You don't look like one of them.

687

00:48:02,120 --> 00:48:04,120

Tell me about the girls.

688

00:48:04,120 --> 00:48:08,120

Don't really know what you want me to tell you about the girls, sir.

689

00:48:08,120 --> 00:48:14,120

He said that he wanted a confession I wasn't going to leave until he got one.

690

00:48:14,120 --> 00:48:17,120

Tell me about the girls.

691

00:48:17,120 --> 00:48:20,120

I don't know nothing about no girls, I done told you.

692

00:48:20,120 --> 00:48:24,120

I think I go around to some stray dogs.

693

00:48:24,120 --> 00:48:26,120

Hey, be careful out there.

694

00:48:27,120 --> 00:48:32,120

I said, don't you ever guilty conscience for doing this,

695

00:48:32,120 --> 00:48:36,120

having to look Roy Johnson in the face.

696

00:48:36,120 --> 00:48:40,120

And I'd tell him that I didn't know what he was talking about.

697

00:48:40,120 --> 00:48:44,120

He had him against the wall.

698

00:48:44,120 --> 00:48:46,120

My hands were behind my back.

699

00:48:46,120 --> 00:48:54,120

And he's poking this night stick in my stomp and said he was going to get a confession.

700

00:48:55,120 --> 00:49:01,120

You tell him he was more or less a mad man about it.

701

00:49:01,120 --> 00:49:04,120

You getting tired of this, Michael?

702

00:49:04,120 --> 00:49:06,120

I'm pretty tired of it myself.

703

00:49:06,120 --> 00:49:09,120

I was crying, I was upset.

704

00:49:09,120 --> 00:49:20,120

He took his gun, opens the cylinder and takes five bullets and stands him on end, where I can see him.

705

00:49:20,120 --> 00:49:24,120

I want you to tell me where you picked him up.

706

00:49:24,120 --> 00:49:26,120

I told you sir.

707

00:49:26,120 --> 00:49:28,120

I was most scared.

708

00:49:28,120 --> 00:49:32,120

I didn't know what was going on, I didn't know what to say.

709

00:49:32,120 --> 00:49:34,120

Because I will blow your head off.

710

00:49:34,120 --> 00:49:36,120

No!

711

00:49:36,120 --> 00:49:38,120

Tell me about the girls.

712

00:49:38,120 --> 00:49:44,120

He closed it, he spun the chamber and he points his gun like this

713

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

and says he's going to blow my brains out if I don't sign the confession.

714

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

Okay, okay, okay.

715

00:49:52,120 --> 00:49:59,120

Now, I want you to write down everything you remember about that day.

716

00:49:59,120 --> 00:50:02,120

He had already beaten up half to death.

717

00:50:02,120 --> 00:50:07,120

He poke him in the stomach and I can see that he was meant what he said.

718

00:50:07,120 --> 00:50:11,120



And I ask him, what do you want me to sign?

719

00:50:11,120 --> 00:50:17,120

He tells me that he'll tell me what to write.

720

00:50:17,120 --> 00:50:21,120

You were drinking beer while you were riding around, didn't that the way it happened?

721

00:50:21,120 --> 00:50:23,120

Yes, sir.

722

00:50:23,120 --> 00:50:26,120

Less than an hour after Jerry Mitchell left the room, he returned.

723

00:50:26,120 --> 00:50:29,120

Self now seemed upset and visibly shaken.

724

00:50:29,120 --> 00:50:31,120

Let me see what you wrote down.

725

00:50:31,120 --> 00:50:39,120

My opinion kind of being led in the sequence of events is how they wanted it written.

726

00:50:39,120 --> 00:50:44,120

I had seen you at about half a page of writing on there by the time it was all over with.

727

00:50:44,120 --> 00:50:48,120

I think they had to rewrite that when something wasn't right in it.

728

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

I want you to write some truth. Now let's start again.

729

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

Not being part of the investigation, I really wasn't privy to all the details of it.

730

00:50:55,120 --> 00:50:57,120

The why's and the wherefores.

731

00:50:57,120 --> 00:51:01,120

But I do know that they re-wrote the confessions several times.

732

00:51:01,120 --> 00:51:05,120

Self's confession, however, did not fit the known facts of the girl's disappearance.

733

00:51:05,120 --> 00:51:07,120

One glaring instance.

734

00:51:07,120 --> 00:51:11,120

The confession said self dumped the bodies at a place called El Largo

735

00:51:11,120 --> 00:51:15,120

20 miles from the Taylor Bayou where the bodies are actually found.

736

00:51:15,120 --> 00:51:21,120

Self's appellate attorney, Jerry Bernberg, points out other discrepancies.

737

00:51:21,120 --> 00:51:26,120

There's the statement in here that what he did was, in essence, he choked one of the two girls.

738

00:51:26,120 --> 00:51:31,120

There was no evidence of the breaking of some very tender bones in the neck

739

00:51:31,120 --> 00:51:37,120

that necessarily would have been damaged if, in fact, he had choked one of the girls to death.

740

00:51:37,120 --> 00:51:42,120

There is this claim that he went to Sharon Shaw's house.

741

00:51:42,120 --> 00:51:48,120

Well, Sharon Shaw's family contradicts that, so she wasn't home that day. That didn't occur.

742

00:51:48,120 --> 00:51:52,120

There's the statement that the girls were hanging out of the window and hollering

743

00:51:52,120 --> 00:51:54,120

as they were all driving in the car.

744

00:51:54,120 --> 00:51:58,120

And yet Dave Colburn did this very thorough investigation

745

00:51:58,120 --> 00:52:05,120

and nobody saw the two girls that night or anybody else driving down the road, hollering, waving and screaming.

746

00:52:05,120 --> 00:52:11,120

I had statements from two girls signed by their parents as a witness

747

00:52:11,120 --> 00:52:18,120

that they talked to Sharon Shaw and Ray Johnson in Galveston between 8 and 9 o'clock.

748

00:52:18,120 --> 00:52:25,120

There's no conceivable way that Sharon Shaw and Ray Johnson could have got another ride and been in Webster

749

00:52:25,120 --> 00:52:30,120

riding around with Michael O'odself at the time that they've gotten this confession.

750

00:52:31,120 --> 00:52:35,120

Three days after Michael O'odself's arrest, he went against his original attorney's advice

751

00:52:35,120 --> 00:52:38,120

and agreed to take a lie detector test.

752

00:52:38,120 --> 00:52:41,120

Is your first name Michael?

753

00:52:41,120 --> 00:52:43,120

Yes, sir.

754

00:52:43,120 --> 00:52:48,120

According to Jerry Bernberg, police asked self about more area murders.

755

00:52:48,120 --> 00:52:55,120

Between July 1971 and February 1972, seven other young girls and one young boy

756

00:52:55,120 --> 00:52:59,120

had been found murdered in a four-cowdy area that included Webster.

757

00:52:59,120 --> 00:53:03,120

Do you know who caused the death of the two girls?

758

00:53:03,120 --> 00:53:05,120

Yes.

759

00:53:05,120 --> 00:53:07,120

In the course of giving him the polygraph exam, they say,

760

00:53:07,120 --> 00:53:10,120

well, now we've got this statement that you gave last Friday

761

00:53:10,120 --> 00:53:12,120

where you confessed to killing these two girls.

762

00:53:12,120 --> 00:53:13,120

Is it true?

763

00:53:13,120 --> 00:53:14,120

And he says, yeah.

764

00:53:14,120 --> 00:53:16,120

And the lie detector says, no, it's not.

765

00:53:16,120 --> 00:53:18,120

It's not true at all.

766

00:53:18,120 --> 00:53:20,120

Yes, sir.

767

00:53:20,120 --> 00:53:24,120

After taking the polygraph, self says he was still so afraid of Chief Morris

768

00:53:24,120 --> 00:53:27,120

that he agreed to sign a second confession.

769

00:53:27,120 --> 00:53:29,120

It did not mention any of the other murders,

770



00:53:29,120 --> 00:53:35,120

but did contain a new version of the deaths of Rhonda and Sharon.

771

00:53:35,120 --> 00:53:39,120

In the first confession, self said he struck Sharon Shaw with his fist

772

00:53:39,120 --> 00:53:42,120

and shoved the girls' bodies into a culvert.

773

00:53:42,120 --> 00:53:46,120

In the second, self claimed he hit Shaw with a coke bottle

774

00:53:46,120 --> 00:53:48,120

and dumped their bodies in the bayou.

775

00:53:48,120 --> 00:53:52,120

The second confession also says self stripped the murdered girls of their clothing

776

00:53:52,120 --> 00:53:55,120

and tossed it out along the highway.

777

00:53:55,120 --> 00:53:58,120

However, clothing was found with the remains,

778

00:53:58,120 --> 00:54:01,120

along with an unidentified set of car keys

779

00:54:01,120 --> 00:54:06,120

and a crucifix worn by Sharon Shaw.

780

00:54:06,120 --> 00:54:10,120

There was a slight difference in the two written confessions.

781

00:54:10,120 --> 00:54:17,120

But all I had to do was offer in evidence the confession I wanted to go with.

782

00:54:17,120 --> 00:54:21,120

And if the facts, the outlying facts,

783

00:54:21,120 --> 00:54:25,120

tended to support the elements of this confession,

784

00:54:25,120 --> 00:54:29,120

that's all I needed if the jury believed it.

785

00:54:29,120 --> 00:54:32,120

You were out driving around around 9 or 10 o'clock, weren't you?

786

00:54:32,120 --> 00:54:33,120

Yes, sir.

787

00:54:33,120 --> 00:54:35,120

Two weeks after self's arrest,

788

00:54:35,120 --> 00:54:38,120

two Harris County Sheriff's deputies checked him out of jail

789

00:54:38,120 --> 00:54:41,120

in the pretext of buying him a hamburger.

790

00:54:41,120 --> 00:54:45,120

Afterwards, they drove him to places mentioned in the confessions

791

00:54:45,120 --> 00:54:48,120

and took pictures of him at each location.

792

00:54:48,120 --> 00:54:52,120

It was presented in court as a third confession.

793

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

He didn't confess a third time.

794

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

He went on a ride with two police officers

795

00:54:56,120 --> 00:54:59,120

who had illegally checked him out of the jail

796

00:54:59,120 --> 00:55:02,120

to drive him around to take pictures to get evidence for a trial.

797

00:55:02,120 --> 00:55:04,120

They didn't discover anything new.

798

00:55:09,120 --> 00:55:11,120

While self was awaiting trial,

799

00:55:11,120 --> 00:55:13,120

he was visited by Dave Coburn,

800

00:55:13,120 --> 00:55:16,120

who was by then chief of police in nearby Cleveland, Texas.

801

00:55:17,120 --> 00:55:18,120

How you doing, Mr. Coburn?

802

00:55:18,120 --> 00:55:19,120

Fine, how are you doing?

803

00:55:19,120 --> 00:55:21,120

Well, not too good.

804

00:55:21,120 --> 00:55:25,120

At the time, he looked very depressed and very distraught,

805

00:55:25,120 --> 00:55:26,120

you know, when I walked in.

806

00:55:26,120 --> 00:55:27,120

Oh, that's a good...

807

00:55:27,120 --> 00:55:29,120

And I asked him, he said he didn't do it,

808

00:55:29,120 --> 00:55:31,120

and I asked him what had happened.

809

00:55:31,120 --> 00:55:36,120

And he had told me about Don Morris

810

00:55:36,120 --> 00:55:39,120

threatening him with this Billy Club and poking him.

811

00:55:39,120 --> 00:55:41,120

He pulled out his gun.

812

00:55:41,120 --> 00:55:42,120

Yes.

813

00:55:42,120 --> 00:55:44,120

When he made that statement to me,

814

00:55:44,120 --> 00:55:46,120

I knew what had to come down,

815

00:55:46,120 --> 00:55:53,120

because a year prior, I witnessed Don Morris

816

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

taking one shell out of his revolver,

817

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

hiding it, placing five shells in front of a prisoner,

818

00:55:59,120 --> 00:56:02,120

and playing Russian roulette with that prisoner, threatening him.

819

00:56:02,120 --> 00:56:04,120

And there's no doubt in my mind

820

00:56:04,120 --> 00:56:06,120

that he did that to Michael O'Leary.

821

00:56:06,120 --> 00:56:08,120

He was a very good man.

822



00:56:08,120 --> 00:56:10,120

He was a very good man.

823

00:56:10,120 --> 00:56:14,120

I had no doubt in my mind that he did that to Michael O'Leary.

824

00:56:14,120 --> 00:56:16,120

And when he came to the trial,

825

00:56:16,120 --> 00:56:19,120

I was prepared to go in and make statements,

826

00:56:19,120 --> 00:56:21,120

and I was never caught.

827

00:56:21,120 --> 00:56:25,120

I don't know whether he did the Russian roulette number.

828

00:56:25,120 --> 00:56:28,120

Bottom line, all three confessions are consistent.

829

00:56:28,120 --> 00:56:31,120

I killed the girls.

830

00:56:31,120 --> 00:56:35,120

All of them are consistent.

831

00:56:35,120 --> 00:56:39,120

On May 15, 1973, Michael O'Leary was convicted of murder

832

00:56:39,120 --> 00:56:43,120

and sentenced to life in prison.

833

00:56:43,120 --> 00:56:46,120

Three years later, the town of Webster was shocked

834

00:56:46,120 --> 00:56:50,120

when Don Morris and Tommy Deal were arrested for bank robbery.

835

00:56:50,120 --> 00:56:52,120

They were members of a gang of robbers

836

00:56:52,120 --> 00:56:55,120

that had been sticking up banks as far back as 1972,

837

00:56:55,120 --> 00:57:00,120

five months before Michael's self was arrested.

838

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

In early 1976, Don Morris was sentenced to 55 years.

839

00:57:04,120 --> 00:57:07,120

Tommy Deal to 30 years.

840

00:57:07,120 --> 00:57:09,120

Both were eventually paroled,

841

00:57:09,120 --> 00:57:11,120

but Tommy Deal returned to robbing banks

842

00:57:11,120 --> 00:57:15,120

and is now back in federal prison.

843

00:57:15,120 --> 00:57:19,120

Jerry Bernberg petitioned the court to get Michael's self a new trial.

844

00:57:19,120 --> 00:57:21,120

After an extensive evidentiary hearing

845

00:57:21,120 --> 00:57:24,120

and just nine days before oral arguments,

846

00:57:24,120 --> 00:57:27,120

the defense got what looked like a gift from heaven.

847

00:57:27,120 --> 00:57:29,120

It's been bugging me for a long time.

848

00:57:29,120 --> 00:57:31,120

I just wanted to get it off my chest.

849

00:57:31,120 --> 00:57:33,120

It was Sharon Shaw and Renee Johnson.

850

00:57:33,120 --> 00:57:35,120

I'm the one that killed them.

851

00:57:35,120 --> 00:57:38,120

In the second 1980, a man walked into the police station

852

00:57:38,120 --> 00:57:40,120

in Tainer Lake, Texas.

853

00:57:40,120 --> 00:57:43,120

He told George Carrum and state prosecutor Douglas O'Brien

854

00:57:43,120 --> 00:57:47,120

that he, not Michael's self, had murdered Rhonda Johnson

855

00:57:47,120 --> 00:57:49,120

and Sharon Shaw.

856

00:57:49,120 --> 00:57:51,120

What did you use to kill them with?

857

00:57:51,120 --> 00:57:53,120

I don't remember exactly.

858

00:57:53,120 --> 00:57:55,120

Douglas O'Brien represented the state

859

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

when self-appealed as conviction,

860

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

but now believes self is innocent.

861

00:57:59,120 --> 00:58:01,120

What did you do with their bodies after you killed them?

862

00:58:01,120 --> 00:58:03,120

I basically got the impression from him

863

00:58:03,120 --> 00:58:05,120

that I was trying to get it off his chest

864

00:58:05,120 --> 00:58:08,120

and confess to the fact that he didn't kill the girls,

865

00:58:08,120 --> 00:58:10,120

but at the same time not give information

866

00:58:10,120 --> 00:58:13,120

which would allow prosecution of him.

867

00:58:13,120 --> 00:58:16,120

Where'd you put their bodies in the water?

868

00:58:16,120 --> 00:58:18,120

I don't know. It was beside where the car was.

869

00:58:18,120 --> 00:58:20,120

I mean, they didn't want to go through with it on a date,

870

00:58:20,120 --> 00:58:23,120

and it was like I tied them up with this black cord

871

00:58:23,120 --> 00:58:26,120

and I tied them up and I just put them in the water.

872

00:58:26,120 --> 00:58:28,120

His account of how he killed them

873

00:58:28,120 --> 00:58:30,120

or whatever was very vague and disjointed,

874



00:58:30,120 --> 00:58:32,120

but he did mention that he used a cord

875

00:58:32,120 --> 00:58:35,120

in which to tie the girls' bodies down

876

00:58:35,120 --> 00:58:37,120

when he put them into the water.

877

00:58:37,120 --> 00:58:39,120

The statement by this individual

878

00:58:39,120 --> 00:58:42,120

indicated that he had tied their feet with black cord.

879

00:58:42,120 --> 00:58:44,120

Something Michael Self had never mentioned.

880

00:58:44,120 --> 00:58:47,120

Not found in any statement by Michael Self.

881

00:58:47,120 --> 00:58:49,120

That was the secret fact

882

00:58:49,120 --> 00:58:52,120

that the police had held back all these years.

883

00:58:52,120 --> 00:58:54,120

This guy knew it.

884

00:58:54,120 --> 00:58:57,120

That guy was out of his cord.

885

00:58:58,120 --> 00:59:01,120

He was... I don't know why he came forward.

886

00:59:01,120 --> 00:59:04,120

I think he was unbalanced.

887

00:59:04,120 --> 00:59:06,120

I don't remember exactly what I did.

888

00:59:06,120 --> 00:59:08,120

All right? I don't remember exactly.

889

00:59:08,120 --> 00:59:10,120

What he talked about was anything

890

00:59:10,120 --> 00:59:12,120

that could have been picked out of the newspaper.

891

00:59:12,120 --> 00:59:14,120

And even then he had it right.

892

00:59:14,120 --> 00:59:16,120

There's no question by my mind

893

00:59:16,120 --> 00:59:19,120

that this person who came forward

894

00:59:19,120 --> 00:59:23,120

was just one of these people who like to confess to crimes.

895

00:59:23,120 --> 00:59:26,120

The individual was clearly a very troubled person

896

00:59:26,120 --> 00:59:29,120

with some flights to psychosis,

897

00:59:29,120 --> 00:59:32,120

but he knew the girls.

898

00:59:32,120 --> 00:59:36,120

He lived in the same apartment complex with one of them.

899

00:59:36,120 --> 00:59:38,120

And the most important thing of all,

900

00:59:38,120 --> 00:59:40,120

he knew about the black cord.

901

00:59:41,120 --> 00:59:43,120

Despite the surprise confession

902

00:59:43,120 --> 00:59:45,120

and the credibility gap created

903

00:59:45,120 --> 00:59:47,120

by the criminal activities of Morrison Deal,

904

00:59:47,120 --> 00:59:50,120

Michael Self's conviction was upheld.

905

00:59:51,120 --> 00:59:54,120

They have no quabring evidence whatsoever.

906

00:59:54,120 --> 00:59:57,120

Nothing to tie him to any murders

907

00:59:57,120 --> 01:00:00,120

or to even being seen with these girls except this.

908

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

Which is not worth the paper's rogown.

909

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

Legally speaking, he's innocent just from a standpoint

910

01:00:09,120 --> 01:00:11,120

that, number one, I don't think his confessions

911

01:00:11,120 --> 01:00:13,120

were voluntarily entered.

912

01:00:13,120 --> 01:00:15,120

Number two, I don't think there's any corroborating evidence

913

01:00:15,120 --> 01:00:17,120

concerning those confessions.

914

01:00:17,120 --> 01:00:21,120

He was the type of personality

915

01:00:21,120 --> 01:00:24,120

that was easy prey for Don Morris,

916

01:00:24,120 --> 01:00:27,120

that was easy prey for Tommy Deal.

917

01:00:27,120 --> 01:00:31,120

It's easy prey for bank robbers parading as police officers.

918

01:00:31,120 --> 01:00:33,120

And that's what happened.

919

01:00:33,120 --> 01:00:35,120

If he would try today,

920

01:00:36,120 --> 01:00:39,120

naturally some of these areas would be clarified.

921

01:00:39,120 --> 01:00:42,120

These particular points we're talking about.

922

01:00:42,120 --> 01:00:46,120

We go back and spend more time

923

01:00:46,120 --> 01:00:49,120

and send better investigators out.

924

01:00:49,120 --> 01:00:54,120

And make our decision as to whether to prosecute or not.

925

01:01:20,120 --> 01:01:24,120

Next Wednesday on the season premiere of Unsolved Mysteries.

926



01:01:24,120 --> 01:01:27,120

For five years, Bruce Kelly has been haunted

927

01:01:27,120 --> 01:01:30,120

by fragmented images of a life not his own.

928

01:01:30,120 --> 01:01:33,120

The life that apparently ended on a doomed submarine

929

01:01:33,120 --> 01:01:35,120

during World War II.

930

01:01:35,120 --> 01:01:38,120

Is Kelly's story a remarkable case of reincarnation?

931

01:01:38,120 --> 01:01:41,120

Or is there another, more rational explanation?

932

01:01:42,120 --> 01:01:46,120

In Chicago, a young boy was victimized by a hit-and-run driver.

933

01:01:46,120 --> 01:01:51,120

His family needs your help to find the man they believe was responsible.

934

01:01:51,120 --> 01:01:54,120

And thanks to tips from you, our viewers,

935

01:01:54,120 --> 01:01:58,120

a fugitive cult leader wanted on criminal charges in Missouri

936

01:01:58,120 --> 01:02:00,120

has been arrested.

937

01:02:01,120 --> 01:02:03,120

Join me next Wednesday

938

01:02:03,120 --> 01:02:07,120

for the dramatic season premiere of Unsolved Mysteries.

939

01:02:46,120 --> 01:02:51,120

Unolved Mysteries