

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 --> 00:00:20,720

Frank and Teresa Wilson were married for 34 happy years.

6

00:00:20,720 --> 00:00:24,360

Then in 1960, Frank's death separated them forever,

7

00:00:24,360 --> 00:00:25,960

or so it seemed.

8

00:00:25,960 --> 00:00:28,040

Until the day of the murder, the police

9

00:00:28,480 --> 00:00:30,880

and the family members were separated for the first time

10

00:00:30,880 --> 00:00:32,840

until Teresa's 80th birthday approached.

11

00:00:32,840 --> 00:00:35,440

Many in the Wilson family believe that Frank's spirit

12

00:00:35,440 --> 00:00:40,840

chose that occasion to make a special visit from beyond the grave.

13

00:00:40,840 --> 00:00:44,280

To his neighbors in Ohio, Neil Gott seemed perfectly ordinary,

14

00:00:44,280 --> 00:00:47,000

the proverbial nice guy next door.

15

00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:49,160

Then an FBI raid revealed that Gott

16

00:00:49,160 --> 00:00:51,880

was running a million-dollar drug operation.

17

00:00:51,880 --> 00:00:54,920

Perhaps you can help find him.

18

00:00:54,920 --> 00:00:57,040

When he was 19 years old, Kurt Borton

19

00:00:57,040 --> 00:00:59,840

was declared missing in action in Vietnam.

20

00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:03,000

Today, his name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

21

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:04,920

in Washington, DC.

22

00:01:04,920 --> 00:01:07,000

But incredibly, Kurt's family believes

23

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:09,080

that Kurt is not only still alive,

24

00:01:09,080 --> 00:01:11,120

but that he has returned to the United States

25

00:01:11,120 --> 00:01:13,920

with a new identity.

26

00:01:13,920 --> 00:01:16,240

While the army maintains that Kurt is dead,

27

00:01:16,240 --> 00:01:18,600

his family has accumulated just enough evidence

28

00:01:18,600 --> 00:01:22,280

to sustain their hopes that they'll yet find their son.

29

00:01:22,280 --> 00:01:25,800

Join me for this intriguing edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

30

00:01:52,280 --> 00:02:21,360

Most of us have a certain image of big-time criminals.

31

00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:24,040

There were three pea suits, slick back their hair,

32

00:02:24,040 --> 00:02:27,320

drive fancy cars, and wear fancy jewelry.

33

00:02:27,320 --> 00:02:30,520

That's the image we see in the movies and on television.

34

00:02:30,520 --> 00:02:33,440

In real life, a criminal can be anyone,

35

00:02:33,440 --> 00:02:35,000

even your next-door neighbor.

36

00:02:38,680 --> 00:02:41,920

Neil Gott certainly seemed normal enough.

37

00:02:41,920 --> 00:02:44,240

He and his wife, Terry, had moved to the small town

38

00:02:44,240 --> 00:02:47,560

of North Benton, Ohio in 1986.

39

00:02:47,560 --> 00:02:50,040

Neil opened an auto repair shop, and business

40

00:02:50,040 --> 00:02:51,920

appeared to be thriving.

41

00:02:51,920 --> 00:02:54,800

When a baby girl came along in 1989,

42

00:02:54,800 --> 00:02:56,920

the happy family picture was complete.

43

00:03:00,160 --> 00:03:02,240

The gods on the surface appeared to be

44

00:03:02,240 --> 00:03:04,200

a very legitimate couple.

45

00:03:04,200 --> 00:03:08,520

He was a mechanic who had a place called Lake Park Auto.

46

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

She had a cleaning business where she cleaned houses.

47

00:03:11,960 --> 00:03:13,760

They had a two-year-old daughter, Heather Gott.

48

00:03:13,760 --> 00:03:16,360

It was a very attractive, blonde-headed little girl.

49

00:03:16,360 --> 00:03:18,280

And everything appeared to be normal.

50

00:03:18,280 --> 00:03:20,280

Unless you lived in the community

51

00:03:20,280 --> 00:03:22,080

and had heard some of the rumors,

52

00:03:22,080 --> 00:03:24,040

or unless you were an FBI agent,

53

00:03:24,040 --> 00:03:27,960

and you knew you had access to what we knew.

54

00:03:27,960 --> 00:03:29,000

Hey, what are you doing?

55

00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Just talking on the phone.

56

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:33,760

What the FBI knew was that Neil Gott was making

57

00:03:33,760 --> 00:03:37,920

an awful lot of phone calls to a drug dealer in Akron.

58

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:40,040

I'll bring my thing of mine, too, at the same time.

59

00:03:40,040 --> 00:03:43,520

Maybe we can just flip around, you know what I mean?

60

00:03:43,520 --> 00:03:44,760

Probably.

61

00:03:44,760 --> 00:03:47,960

The FBI listened in for a month, gathering information

62

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:49,880

and biding their time.

63

00:03:49,880 --> 00:03:52,760

Finally, on December 15, 1990, Gott

64

00:03:52,760 --> 00:03:55,600

put in a substantial order for the next day,

65

00:03:55,600 --> 00:03:58,280

eight ounces of cocaine.

66

00:03:58,280 --> 00:04:00,400

Probably bring eight or so.

67

00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:01,840

Eight of them?

68

00:04:01,840 --> 00:04:03,440

Yeah, give me an eight pack.

69

00:04:03,440 --> 00:04:04,440

No kidding.

70

00:04:06,920 --> 00:04:09,760

When Neil Gott made the buy, the FBI was waiting.

71

00:04:09,760 --> 00:04:11,560

FBI, go move.

72

00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:14,040

Step back away from the vehicle.

73

00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:15,720

Come on, step aside.

74

00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:17,760

Your hand's on the truck.

75

00:04:17,760 --> 00:04:18,560

We're at the FBI.

76

00:04:18,560 --> 00:04:20,240

Do you have any weapons on you anywhere?

77

00:04:20,240 --> 00:04:22,640

No.

78

00:04:22,640 --> 00:04:24,960

OK, go ahead and turn around.

79

00:04:24,960 --> 00:04:28,000

The agents did not take Neil Gott into custody.

80

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,240

They had decided on a risky strategy.

81

00:04:32,240 --> 00:04:34,280

We wanted the cocaine, but we were not

82

00:04:34,280 --> 00:04:36,480

going to arrest Neil Gott because we wanted

83

00:04:36,480 --> 00:04:39,720

to continue our investigation until we got everybody

84

00:04:39,720 --> 00:04:42,680

in his network.

85

00:04:42,680 --> 00:04:46,320

Neil Gott, the good neighbor, did not disappoint.

86

00:04:46,320 --> 00:04:48,520

He went straight home and called his buyers

87

00:04:48,520 --> 00:04:50,360

to tell them the bad news.

88

00:04:50,360 --> 00:04:52,720

There would be no cocaine.

89

00:04:52,720 --> 00:04:56,360

Now the FBI had the names of Gott's cohorts.

90

00:04:56,360 --> 00:04:59,160

But the authorities had already begun to suspect

91

00:04:59,160 --> 00:05:04,320

that Gott was more than a small-time cocaine middleman.

92

00:05:04,320 --> 00:05:07,960

We became suspicious of other areas of Neil Gott's activities.

93

00:05:07,960 --> 00:05:11,880

For instance, he had rented a barn in Homeworth, Ohio.

94

00:05:11,880 --> 00:05:13,960

And in this barn, which was supposedly

95

00:05:13,960 --> 00:05:16,920

empty or being used for occasional auto repairs,

96

00:05:16,920 --> 00:05:20,280

we looked at electric bills in the neighborhood of \$1,800

97

00:05:20,280 --> 00:05:22,160

to \$1,900 a month.

98

00:05:22,160 --> 00:05:24,880

Whereas in that type of building, the electric bill

99

00:05:24,880 --> 00:05:26,160

shouldn't be over \$50.

100

00:05:26,160 --> 00:05:28,400

And that was our clue that there were probably

101

00:05:28,400 --> 00:05:30,960

growing marijuana hydroponically in that property.

102

00:05:33,840 --> 00:05:35,680

The FBI moved again.

103

00:05:35,680 --> 00:05:37,600

This time they carried a federal search

104

00:05:37,600 --> 00:05:41,080

warrant for Neil and Terry Gott's house and for their barn.

105

00:05:44,800 --> 00:05:47,320

His indoor growing operation was everything we expected

106

00:05:47,320 --> 00:05:48,360

and much more.

107

00:05:48,360 --> 00:05:50,920

It was a very sophisticated operation

108

00:05:50,920 --> 00:05:54,520

with expensive strobe lights, which are heating lamps,

109

00:05:54,520 --> 00:05:59,120

expensive timers, irrigation piping and tubing

110

00:05:59,120 --> 00:06:02,920

to all these various plants, grow packs, everything,

111

00:06:02,920 --> 00:06:05,960

a successful marijuana operation for an indoor growth

112

00:06:05,960 --> 00:06:08,800

needed Neil Gott had.

113

00:06:08,800 --> 00:06:10,800

Inside, with that kind of equipment,

114

00:06:11,640 --> 00:06:14,640

in normal cases, you can harvest at a minimum four times

115

00:06:14,640 --> 00:06:15,640

a year.

116

00:06:15,640 --> 00:06:17,960

Your minimum harvest would be in the neighborhood of \$75,000

117

00:06:17,960 --> 00:06:20,960

to \$100,000.

118

00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:23,480

In addition to the marijuana, agents

119

00:06:23,480 --> 00:06:26,440

also found a trove of weapons when they searched the house,

120

00:06:26,440 --> 00:06:31,080

including high-powered rifles, handguns, and explosives.

121

00:06:31,080 --> 00:06:33,600

Terry Gott was at the barn, but she

122

00:06:33,600 --> 00:06:35,640

denied any knowledge of drug dealing.

123

00:06:36,400 --> 00:06:38,400

This time, however, Neil Gott was arrested.

124

00:06:41,600 --> 00:06:43,840

After he was arrested, Mr. Gott's bail

125

00:06:43,840 --> 00:06:47,920

was set at \$25,000 cash and a \$200,000 bond, which

126

00:06:47,920 --> 00:06:49,760

was signed by his parents.

127

00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:51,400

And he immediately, of course, made bail

128

00:06:51,400 --> 00:06:55,400

and was back out on the street.

129

00:06:55,400 --> 00:06:58,720

In the meantime, the FBI had Neil Gott's entire distribution

130

00:06:58,720 --> 00:07:01,560

network, as well as several other other organizations

131

00:07:01,560 --> 00:07:03,600

that were involved in the crime.

132

00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:07,240

The distribution network, as well as several other drug dealers.

133

00:07:07,240 --> 00:07:11,640

In all, 22 people were indicted on March 7, 1991,

134

00:07:11,640 --> 00:07:14,200

including Neil and Terry Gott.

135

00:07:14,200 --> 00:07:17,160

Most of the defendants were in court for the arraignment.

136

00:07:17,160 --> 00:07:18,840

The Gott's never showed.

137

00:07:23,920 --> 00:07:27,240

When the FBI went to the Gott's house, it was empty.

138

00:07:27,240 --> 00:07:31,160

In the backyard, they found a dead dog chained to a tree.

139

00:07:31,160 --> 00:07:33,440

The only sign of life was a neighbor

140

00:07:33,440 --> 00:07:35,840

who wandered over to see what was going on.

141

00:07:35,840 --> 00:07:37,360

Brian Smith, FBI.

142

00:07:37,360 --> 00:07:39,240

Oh, have you seen Neil or Terry Gott?

143

00:07:39,240 --> 00:07:41,600

No, I'm watching their dog.

144

00:07:41,600 --> 00:07:42,760

You're watching their dog?

145

00:07:42,760 --> 00:07:43,920

Yeah.

146

00:07:43,920 --> 00:07:45,160

For how long?

147

00:07:45,160 --> 00:07:48,480

I don't know, about a week.

148

00:07:48,480 --> 00:07:51,040

We started interviewing people, and we interviewed

149

00:07:51,040 --> 00:07:55,320

a lady who had rented a U-Haul trailer for the Gott's.

150

00:07:55,320 --> 00:07:57,200

Had put it in her name.

151

00:07:57,200 --> 00:08:00,800

And we were also able to decide from talking to people

152

00:08:00,800 --> 00:08:04,000

that on the evening of March 6, the Gott's had loaded

153

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:06,640

all their personal belongings into this U-Haul trailer

154

00:08:06,640 --> 00:08:07,240

and had left.

155

00:08:10,920 --> 00:08:13,280

Neil Gott ended up in Florida.

156

00:08:13,280 --> 00:08:17,440

At least that's where he dropped the U-Haul truck.

157

00:08:17,440 --> 00:08:20,480

We believe the Gott's are still in the United States.

158

00:08:20,480 --> 00:08:23,560

Neil Gott is a powerboat enthusiast, the kind of cigarette

159

00:08:23,560 --> 00:08:26,000

type boats that were on Miami Vice.

160

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:28,000

He enjoys that kind of activity.

161

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:29,680

So we feel wherever he is, he's probably

162

00:08:29,680 --> 00:08:31,000

engaging in that.

163

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:34,480

He's a truck driver, and he's also an accomplished mechanic.

164

00:08:34,480 --> 00:08:38,120

But what Neil Gott does best is he grows dope marijuana

165

00:08:38,120 --> 00:08:38,720

specifically.

166

00:08:38,720 --> 00:08:43,120

So we definitely feel he's engaged in that activity.

167

00:08:43,120 --> 00:08:48,360

Neil Gott is 44 years old, six feet tall, and weighs 180 pounds.

168

00:08:48,360 --> 00:08:51,760

He has prematurely gray hair, which he may have dyed brown

169

00:08:51,760 --> 00:08:53,320

and blue eyes.

170

00:08:53,320 --> 00:08:56,040

Gott sometimes uses the alias John Hughes

171

00:08:56,040 --> 00:08:58,600

and should be considered armed and dangerous.

172

00:08:58,600 --> 00:09:22,160

When we return, the poignant ghost story

173

00:09:22,160 --> 00:09:24,160

of a love that transcended the grave.

174

00:09:34,640 --> 00:09:39,400

It has long been said that love conquers all.

175

00:09:39,400 --> 00:09:42,840

Consider the romance of Frank and Teresa Wilson,

176

00:09:42,840 --> 00:09:50,240

joined in marriage 1926, separated by Frank's death 1960.

177

00:09:50,280 --> 00:09:52,400

Incredibly, Teresa and her family

178

00:09:52,400 --> 00:09:55,080

believe that Frank is expressed as continuing love

179

00:09:55,080 --> 00:09:59,200

and devotion from beyond the grave.

180

00:09:59,200 --> 00:10:03,440

I can't believe it's been 34 years.

181

00:10:03,440 --> 00:10:07,040

34 years married, and 34 years he's gone.

182

00:10:07,040 --> 00:10:12,920

I have a feeling that he's here all the time around me.

183

00:10:12,920 --> 00:10:16,160

I really do.

184

00:10:16,160 --> 00:10:19,920

The 1930s and 40s were busy years for Teresa and Frank

185

00:10:19,960 --> 00:10:24,600

as they raised seven children, three girls, and four boys.

186

00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:26,720

Money was scarce, but the Wilson's

187

00:10:26,720 --> 00:10:31,240

were content with the simple joys of marriage and family.

188

00:10:31,240 --> 00:10:36,240

A red letter day was April 3, 1950, Frank's 50th birthday.

189

00:10:36,240 --> 00:10:38,560

Teresa proudly presented him with the money

190

00:10:38,560 --> 00:10:41,840

she had carefully saved to buy their first TV set.

191

00:10:50,920 --> 00:10:51,920

Frank?

192

00:10:51,920 --> 00:10:54,960

The last time I saw Frank, we got up at our usual time,

193

00:10:54,960 --> 00:11:00,320

6 o'clock, and went to the door, like I always did,

194

00:11:00,320 --> 00:11:01,800

to kiss him goodbye.

195

00:11:01,800 --> 00:11:02,800

Surprise me.

196

00:11:02,800 --> 00:11:03,600

Oh, right.

197

00:11:06,600 --> 00:11:07,600

Goodbye, sweetheart.

198

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:15,200

And that was his last words when he said goodbye, sweetheart.

199

00:11:16,200 --> 00:11:20,480

Frank Faye Wilson, beloved husband and father of seven,

200

00:11:20,480 --> 00:11:23,240

died of a heart attack on his way to work.

201

00:11:23,240 --> 00:11:24,880

He was 59 years old.

202

00:11:27,920 --> 00:11:29,800

Teresa's family, which eventually

203

00:11:29,800 --> 00:11:32,360

grew to include more than two dozen grandchildren

204

00:11:32,360 --> 00:11:34,320

and 40 great grandchildren, helped

205

00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:37,960

to fill the painful void left by Frank's death.

206

00:11:37,960 --> 00:11:41,920

In 1982, as Teresa approached her 80th birthday,

207

00:11:41,920 --> 00:11:44,800

her children planned a special celebration.

208

00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:50,360

They never imagined just how special it would turn out to be.

209

00:11:50,360 --> 00:11:53,400

More than a year in advance, Teresa's daughter, Margaret

210

00:11:53,400 --> 00:11:57,920

Locke, began working on a unique and intimate gift.

211

00:11:57,920 --> 00:12:01,960

I wanted to put together a memory book with letters

212

00:12:01,960 --> 00:12:04,800

from all the relatives and the children and grandchildren

213

00:12:04,800 --> 00:12:07,560

and people all across the states,

214

00:12:07,560 --> 00:12:10,480

just writing her a letter and telling her how they felt

215

00:12:10,480 --> 00:12:14,600

about her and remembering things that they had done in the past.

216

00:12:14,600 --> 00:12:17,280

And it took a long time, and it was a lot of work,

217

00:12:17,280 --> 00:12:19,640

but it was worth it.

218

00:12:19,640 --> 00:12:21,680

According to Margaret, one letter

219

00:12:21,680 --> 00:12:24,440

was delivered in the most extraordinary fashion

220

00:12:24,440 --> 00:12:27,840

in the midst of a sleepless night.

221

00:12:27,840 --> 00:12:31,800

I sensed that there was someone in the door,

222

00:12:31,800 --> 00:12:35,960

and I looked over, and there was a man standing there.

223

00:12:35,960 --> 00:12:39,440

And it just came to me that it was my father.

224

00:12:40,080 --> 00:12:43,480

He was white, and it was just it glowed.

225

00:12:43,480 --> 00:12:45,320

It actually glowed.

226

00:12:45,320 --> 00:12:48,440

I don't know how else to describe it.

227

00:12:48,440 --> 00:12:53,680

Margaret, I'm here because I want you to take a letter.

228

00:12:53,680 --> 00:12:55,880

Letter?

229

00:12:55,880 --> 00:12:59,720

You mean a letter from mom's book?

230

00:12:59,720 --> 00:13:01,680

Margaret says she grabbed her journal

231

00:13:01,680 --> 00:13:04,680

and hurriedly began to scribble.

232

00:13:04,680 --> 00:13:08,120

Dear Tress, as you know,

233

00:13:09,120 --> 00:13:12,520

as you celebrate your 80th birthday,

234

00:13:12,520 --> 00:13:16,480

I want you to know I'll be at your side

235

00:13:16,480 --> 00:13:19,840

as you blow out the candles on your cake.

236

00:13:19,840 --> 00:13:24,200

Happy birthday, sweetheart.

237

00:13:24,200 --> 00:13:28,760

When he was done, I looked up at him again, and he smiled,

238

00:13:28,760 --> 00:13:30,360

and he was gone.

239

00:13:30,360 --> 00:13:33,920

He just vanished.

240

00:13:33,920 --> 00:13:38,240

And I just was so stunned.

241

00:13:38,240 --> 00:13:43,440

And I laid down and took a long time,

242

00:13:43,440 --> 00:13:46,000

and I finally fell asleep, and I woke up the next morning,

243

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:48,560

and I thought, what a dream.

244

00:13:48,560 --> 00:13:51,320

What a dream I had.

245

00:13:51,320 --> 00:13:54,320

Margaret says she began to believe it wasn't a dream

246

00:13:54,320 --> 00:13:57,480

when she read the love letter the next day.

247

00:13:57,480 --> 00:14:02,880

If I were really here, I would shower you with sapphires,

248

00:14:02,920 --> 00:14:07,080

as blue as the ocean to match your eyes.

249

00:14:07,080 --> 00:14:08,920

My father was always like that.

250

00:14:08,920 --> 00:14:12,120

I mean, when my mother's regular birthdays came around,

251

00:14:12,120 --> 00:14:16,080

he was so, sometimes they didn't have enough money

252

00:14:16,080 --> 00:14:18,240

to buy her a gift.

253

00:14:18,240 --> 00:14:21,280

But he always had something special for her,

254

00:14:21,280 --> 00:14:23,520

and I really think this was the most special thing

255

00:14:23,520 --> 00:14:27,480

he had in all her years.

256

00:14:27,480 --> 00:14:30,200

September 19, 1982.

257

00:14:30,240 --> 00:14:34,400

At last, the night of the party had arrived.

258

00:14:34,400 --> 00:14:35,400

Surprise!

259

00:14:40,400 --> 00:14:43,800

It turned out we had quite a few people at the party,

260

00:14:43,800 --> 00:14:48,680

and my mother kind of got wind of it before the party.

261

00:14:48,680 --> 00:14:50,480

So when she walked in there, I think

262

00:14:50,480 --> 00:14:52,520

she kind of suspected what was going on.

263

00:14:52,520 --> 00:14:55,200

But she was still so gracious, and she just

264

00:14:55,200 --> 00:14:59,560

acted like she was just as surprised and pleased as punch.

265

00:14:59,560 --> 00:15:02,360

Well, when they took me there, it was a haul,

266

00:15:02,360 --> 00:15:05,680

and I knew it was going to be a party.

267

00:15:05,680 --> 00:15:10,240

And it was my birthday, so I figured that's it.

268

00:15:10,240 --> 00:15:12,960

Teresa had guessed correctly about the party,

269

00:15:12,960 --> 00:15:16,360

but she had absolutely no idea what was in store for her

270

00:15:16,360 --> 00:15:20,000

as she opened the book of letters.

271

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:22,880

She opened the first page, and inside was the invitation,

272

00:15:22,880 --> 00:15:24,880

which, oh, it's nice.

273

00:15:24,880 --> 00:15:26,440

And then she opened it up, and there

274

00:15:26,440 --> 00:15:29,200

was a picture of her and my dad that my nephew had drawn.

275

00:15:29,840 --> 00:15:30,920

And then there was the letter.

276

00:15:35,840 --> 00:15:38,920

Dear Tress.

277

00:15:38,920 --> 00:15:41,440

I just couldn't control myself.

278

00:15:41,440 --> 00:15:44,360

I just started to cry.

279

00:15:44,360 --> 00:15:46,160

Initially, Teresa thought Margaret

280

00:15:46,160 --> 00:15:48,200

had written the letter as a way of including

281

00:15:48,200 --> 00:15:50,360

Frank and the celebration.

282

00:15:50,360 --> 00:15:54,240

But then she began to wonder.

283

00:15:54,240 --> 00:15:58,440

When I said, dear Tress, everybody else called me Teresa,

284

00:15:58,440 --> 00:16:01,120

but he called me Tress.

285

00:16:01,120 --> 00:16:05,360

Happy birthday, sweetheart Frank.

286

00:16:12,560 --> 00:16:16,040

I think I'll read these later.

287

00:16:16,040 --> 00:16:18,640

I couldn't get past the first page.

288

00:16:18,640 --> 00:16:20,640

I was in tears.

289

00:16:20,640 --> 00:16:24,160

Then everybody started coming up and congratulating me

290

00:16:24,160 --> 00:16:25,400

and giving me presents.

291

00:16:25,400 --> 00:16:30,640

And after that, it was a real nice evening.

292

00:16:30,640 --> 00:16:33,440

How did you know what he called me?

293

00:16:33,440 --> 00:16:34,640

What do you mean?

294

00:16:34,640 --> 00:16:36,960

Sweetheart.

295

00:16:36,960 --> 00:16:37,480

I didn't.

296

00:16:37,480 --> 00:16:39,680

I just wrote what he said.

297

00:16:39,680 --> 00:16:41,720

I couldn't believe it.

298

00:16:41,720 --> 00:16:44,680

I said, oh, no, it's just a dream.

299

00:16:44,680 --> 00:16:48,440

But then when she told me that she never knew about him

300

00:16:48,440 --> 00:16:52,040

calling me sweetheart, and she said, that's what he signed it.

301

00:16:52,040 --> 00:16:53,800

She told me to sign it.

302

00:16:53,800 --> 00:16:57,480

And then I believed it.

303

00:16:57,480 --> 00:17:00,800

But I wish she'd come to me like that.

304

00:17:03,920 --> 00:17:06,920

More than a decade has passed for Teresa.

305

00:17:06,920 --> 00:17:12,760

The letter remains a tangible link to her one true love.

306

00:17:12,760 --> 00:17:15,600

Well, I read his letter and I can just hear him say it,

307

00:17:15,600 --> 00:17:18,600

just like he was right there.

308

00:17:18,600 --> 00:17:21,680

I love you more as each day brings us closer

309

00:17:21,720 --> 00:17:23,560

together.

310

00:17:23,560 --> 00:17:25,640

Stay a while, though.

311

00:17:25,640 --> 00:17:28,080

I'll wait forever.

312

00:17:28,080 --> 00:17:30,320

I love that part of it.

313

00:17:30,320 --> 00:17:33,000

He doesn't want me to leave yet.

314

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:36,320

And I guess my kids don't want me to leave either.

315

00:17:36,320 --> 00:17:41,720

But it gave me a good feeling to know that when I go,

316

00:17:41,720 --> 00:17:45,480

I'll have, they shouldn't feel bad because I'll

317

00:17:45,480 --> 00:17:48,800

have somebody waiting for me.

318

00:17:48,800 --> 00:17:50,280

Here we go, everybody.

319

00:17:50,640 --> 00:17:52,960

Happy birthday.

320

00:17:52,960 --> 00:17:55,600

In September of 1994, our cameras

321

00:17:55,600 --> 00:18:00,560

were on hand as Teresa Wilson celebrated her 92nd birthday.

322

00:18:00,560 --> 00:18:04,360

Gathered around her were family members from four generations.

323

00:18:04,360 --> 00:18:07,960

And perhaps, just perhaps, the spirit of the man

324

00:18:07,960 --> 00:18:11,800

she will always love, her sweetheart, Frank Wilson.

325

00:18:12,520 --> 00:18:16,400

Next, a woman claims to have seen her brother.

326

00:18:16,400 --> 00:18:19,200

More than 25 years after, the government declared

327

00:18:19,200 --> 00:18:21,440

him missing in action in Vietnam.

328

00:18:31,600 --> 00:18:38,280

The images are as stark today as they were in the 1980s.

329

00:18:39,040 --> 00:18:43,760

The images are as stark today as they were in the 1960s and 70s.

330

00:18:43,760 --> 00:18:46,800

It seems hard to believe, but it's been more than 20 years

331

00:18:46,800 --> 00:18:49,520

since American forces were fighting and dying

332

00:18:49,520 --> 00:18:53,600

in the distant jungles of Southeast Asia.

333

00:18:53,600 --> 00:18:56,640

Along with the 58,000 who lost their lives,

334

00:18:56,640 --> 00:18:58,720

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial also

335

00:18:58,720 --> 00:19:00,920

carries the names of hundreds of GIs

336

00:19:00,920 --> 00:19:05,000

who were officially unaccounted for.

337

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:07,560

A few families hold onto the faint glimmer of hope

338

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:10,840

that the men will one day return home.

339

00:19:10,840 --> 00:19:14,080

Tonight, you will meet the family of Robert C. Borton, Jr.,

340

00:19:14,080 --> 00:19:17,200

known as Kurt.

341

00:19:17,200 --> 00:19:19,160

The Bortons believe Kurt's name should never

342

00:19:19,160 --> 00:19:21,800

have been inscribed on the wall in the first place,

343

00:19:21,800 --> 00:19:25,040

that he is not missing in action, nor was he killed.

344

00:19:25,040 --> 00:19:28,040

They are convinced that Kurt is not only still alive,

345

00:19:28,040 --> 00:19:30,200

but that he has come back to the United States

346

00:19:30,200 --> 00:19:32,680

with a new identity.

347

00:19:32,680 --> 00:19:35,600

I know my brother Kurt's alive.

348

00:19:35,600 --> 00:19:40,240

I've seen him on three separate occasions in Washington, DC,

349

00:19:40,240 --> 00:19:42,360

and I have not one doubt in my mind

350

00:19:42,360 --> 00:19:44,640

that that was my brother, and he's very much

351

00:19:44,640 --> 00:19:47,880

alive to this day.

352

00:19:47,880 --> 00:19:50,480

While it's understandable that the Borton family might not

353

00:19:50,480 --> 00:19:54,120

want to accept the harsh reality that Kurt has died,

354

00:19:54,120 --> 00:19:55,800

they have collected just enough evidence

355

00:19:55,800 --> 00:19:58,400

to give credence to their theory.

356

00:19:58,400 --> 00:20:01,840

When Kurt enlisted in the Marines, he was 19 years old.

357

00:20:01,840 --> 00:20:06,040

Eight months later, just 19 days after arriving in Vietnam,

358

00:20:06,040 --> 00:20:09,640

he found himself on night patrol near the city of Da Nang.

359

00:20:09,640 --> 00:20:12,840

It was not long after that that Robert Borton received

360

00:20:12,840 --> 00:20:15,160

the visit that every father dreads.

361

00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:22,960

Yes?

362

00:20:22,960 --> 00:20:24,480

Mr. Robert Borton?

363

00:20:24,480 --> 00:20:25,520

Yes.

364

00:20:25,520 --> 00:20:26,400

Captain Victor's.

365

00:20:26,400 --> 00:20:28,760

This is Lieutenant Jeffries, casualty office

366

00:20:28,760 --> 00:20:30,280

United States Marine Corps.

367

00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:31,920

Is this about Kurt?

368

00:20:31,920 --> 00:20:32,840

Yes, sir.

369

00:20:32,840 --> 00:20:35,880

I'm afraid we do have some bad news about your son.

370

00:20:35,880 --> 00:20:38,320

He has been reported missing in action.

371

00:20:38,320 --> 00:20:40,120

I don't know what to think.

372

00:20:40,120 --> 00:20:41,880

He really hit me hard.

373

00:20:41,880 --> 00:20:43,040

They said he was missing in action,

374

00:20:43,040 --> 00:20:46,920

so I had to hope they'd find him right away.

375

00:20:46,920 --> 00:20:48,200

He was missing in the news all the time,

376

00:20:48,200 --> 00:20:50,080

hoping something would come up where they'd found him,

377

00:20:50,080 --> 00:20:52,080

but never did.

378

00:20:52,080 --> 00:20:52,760

Never happened.

379

00:20:56,360 --> 00:20:59,680

Two years passed when not a single word about Kurt's fate,

380

00:20:59,680 --> 00:21:02,640

still the Bortons prayed for a miracle.

381

00:21:02,640 --> 00:21:08,680

And in September of 1968, they believe one was delivered.

382

00:21:08,680 --> 00:21:09,960

Robert?

383

00:21:09,960 --> 00:21:10,760

Yeah.

384

00:21:10,760 --> 00:21:12,400

Come here a minute.

385

00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:14,800

We subscribed to the Leatherneck magazine,

386

00:21:14,800 --> 00:21:16,720

the Marine magazine.

387

00:21:16,720 --> 00:21:18,600

And I was just going through it.

388

00:21:18,600 --> 00:21:20,480

And all of a sudden, I see this picture,

389

00:21:20,480 --> 00:21:24,960

and it just jumped at me like, there's our son.

390

00:21:24,960 --> 00:21:28,560

I wasn't expecting to see a picture of him.

391

00:21:28,560 --> 00:21:30,600

So it was him.

392

00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:35,640

And I seemed to, I said right then, there's my boy.

393

00:21:35,640 --> 00:21:37,240

I ain't no doubt about his face.

394

00:21:37,240 --> 00:21:40,920

It is his picture of him.

395

00:21:40,920 --> 00:21:43,560

The photograph had been taken in the Kwong Tree province

396

00:21:43,560 --> 00:21:49,240

in 1967, a full year after Kurt had been reported missing.

397

00:21:49,240 --> 00:21:52,520

The Bortons are convinced that this soldier is their son.

398

00:21:53,520 --> 00:21:57,280

We took it down to the Marine Casualty Office.

399

00:21:57,280 --> 00:22:01,040

And then we got a letter back saying that it couldn't be him

400

00:22:01,040 --> 00:22:03,200

because it's just in the match in that and something

401

00:22:03,200 --> 00:22:03,680

else.

402

00:22:03,680 --> 00:22:08,800

In other words, they claimed it was not our son.

403

00:22:08,800 --> 00:22:12,040

A few years later, the Bortons came across what they believe

404

00:22:12,040 --> 00:22:13,560

is additional evidence.

405

00:22:13,560 --> 00:22:17,400

This is a frame from a 16 millimeter film shot in a Viet Cong

406

00:22:17,400 --> 00:22:20,080

prison camp in 1968.

407

00:22:20,120 --> 00:22:23,120

The Bortons have identified this prisoner as Kurt.

408

00:22:28,080 --> 00:22:30,120

I seen that there and as soon as I seen it,

409

00:22:30,120 --> 00:22:32,440

I said there's my boy again right there.

410

00:22:32,440 --> 00:22:33,240

I'm like him.

411

00:22:33,240 --> 00:22:35,240

There's our son again.

412

00:22:35,240 --> 00:22:36,240

No doubt.

413

00:22:36,240 --> 00:22:41,840

I mean, you know your children when you see them.

414

00:22:41,840 --> 00:22:45,280

Major Dave Greco, a spokesperson for the Marine Corps,

415

00:22:45,280 --> 00:22:47,240

says the Bortons are mistaken.

416

00:22:47,280 --> 00:22:49,840

Each of the service members in that photograph

417

00:22:49,840 --> 00:22:51,920

have been positively identified.

418

00:22:51,920 --> 00:22:54,480

We've spoken to each one of them and none of them

419

00:22:54,480 --> 00:22:55,840

is Robert Borden.

420

00:22:58,920 --> 00:23:01,080

If it had ended with the two photographs,

421

00:23:01,080 --> 00:23:04,080

Kurt's family might have dropped the entire matter.

422

00:23:04,080 --> 00:23:06,960

But the Bortons say there is more, much more.

423

00:23:10,600 --> 00:23:13,920

In the summer of 1976, Robert says he was approached by

424

00:23:13,960 --> 00:23:15,760

two strangers who claim to be agents

425

00:23:15,760 --> 00:23:17,760

with the Department of Defense.

426

00:23:17,760 --> 00:23:19,360

You're Kurt Borden's father.

427

00:23:19,360 --> 00:23:20,360

Is that right?

428

00:23:20,360 --> 00:23:21,160

Yeah.

429

00:23:21,160 --> 00:23:22,160

You got information about him?

430

00:23:22,160 --> 00:23:23,080

No.

431

00:23:23,080 --> 00:23:24,080

We have no information we can give you.

432

00:23:24,080 --> 00:23:26,480

But we do have a letter we need you to sign for us.

433

00:23:26,480 --> 00:23:27,760

What's this about?

434

00:23:27,760 --> 00:23:29,360

Well, basically it changes his status

435

00:23:29,360 --> 00:23:32,160

from missing in action to killed.

436

00:23:32,160 --> 00:23:33,160

What do you mean killed?

437

00:23:33,160 --> 00:23:36,760

I want to know if my son's own personal safety.

438

00:23:36,760 --> 00:23:38,360

I declare him dead.

439

00:23:38,360 --> 00:23:40,760

I said, no, I won't do that.

440

00:23:40,760 --> 00:23:42,160

I'm not going to kill him.

441

00:23:42,200 --> 00:23:44,600

I said, no, I won't do that.

442

00:23:44,600 --> 00:23:46,520

They told me I'd get large sum of money.

443

00:23:46,520 --> 00:23:49,120

And I said, I'm not concerned about the money of my boy.

444

00:23:49,120 --> 00:23:50,720

And I told them, no, I would not.

445

00:23:50,720 --> 00:23:51,800

What's going on?

446

00:23:51,800 --> 00:23:53,800

But I'm not signing any letter.

447

00:23:53,800 --> 00:23:56,880

Now, just stay away from me, OK?

448

00:23:56,880 --> 00:23:59,280

They got in the car and left.

449

00:23:59,280 --> 00:24:01,200

And they said, do not tell nobody.

450

00:24:01,200 --> 00:24:03,720

Nobody, nobody about it.

451

00:24:03,720 --> 00:24:06,200

And so I didn't even tell her about it.

452

00:24:06,200 --> 00:24:07,280

We don't work that way.

453

00:24:07,280 --> 00:24:09,960

We do things in a very professional manner.

454

00:24:09,960 --> 00:24:12,920

We would not approach someone and solicit them

455

00:24:12,920 --> 00:24:14,560

to change their son's status.

456

00:24:14,560 --> 00:24:17,320

In a public parking lot of a shopping mall,

457

00:24:17,320 --> 00:24:22,320

it would have been done in uniform in the family's home.

458

00:24:22,320 --> 00:24:25,880

And would not have been solicited to have that done.

459

00:24:25,880 --> 00:24:28,440

I feel like I should talk to a lawyer before I sign this.

460

00:24:28,440 --> 00:24:31,040

Robert claims that the two men pursued him aggressively

461

00:24:31,040 --> 00:24:33,600

over a period of weeks, always confronting him

462

00:24:33,600 --> 00:24:35,600

in a public place.

463

00:24:35,600 --> 00:24:37,560

Robert is functionally illiterate.

464

00:24:37,560 --> 00:24:39,640

And eventually, he signed the document

465

00:24:39,680 --> 00:24:41,120

without knowing what it said.

466

00:24:43,760 --> 00:24:47,920

And so I agreed to clear him dead for his own safety.

467

00:24:47,920 --> 00:24:50,280

They kept saying that every once in a while, for his own safety.

468

00:24:54,600 --> 00:24:55,100

Right.

469

00:24:55,100 --> 00:24:57,800

They never told me that he was alive or anything like that.

470

00:24:57,800 --> 00:25:00,240

But when they told me for his own safety,

471

00:25:00,240 --> 00:25:03,600

and then I knew he was alive then.

472

00:25:03,840 --> 00:25:13,080

In the end, Robert Borton received a check for \$43,000.

473

00:25:13,080 --> 00:25:15,960

10 years went by before Robert told his family

474

00:25:15,960 --> 00:25:19,240

anything about the episode.

475

00:25:19,240 --> 00:25:21,960

When Diane read the letter that her father had signed,

476

00:25:21,960 --> 00:25:23,920

she discovered that it was not a waiver,

477

00:25:23,920 --> 00:25:27,320

but was typed up as a request by Mr. Borton.

478

00:25:27,320 --> 00:25:30,160

The description killed in action had been x'd out

479

00:25:30,160 --> 00:25:32,440

and replaced with killed in captivity.

480

00:25:34,600 --> 00:25:36,440

It was one more confusing discovery

481

00:25:36,440 --> 00:25:38,720

that made the Bortons wonder what had really happened

482

00:25:38,720 --> 00:25:40,040

to Kurt.

483

00:25:40,040 --> 00:25:43,440

That confusion would grow as a family traveled time and time

484

00:25:43,440 --> 00:25:49,520

again to Washington, DC, to investigate Kurt's case.

485

00:25:49,520 --> 00:25:51,120

On several occasions, the Bortons

486

00:25:51,120 --> 00:25:54,320

were allowed to examine Kurt's official files.

487

00:25:54,320 --> 00:25:57,680

During the early morning hours of an unrecalled day

488

00:25:57,680 --> 00:26:00,960

in March or April 1966.

489

00:26:00,960 --> 00:26:01,880

What?

490

00:26:01,880 --> 00:26:04,800

Diane claims that the entries regarding Kurt's death

491

00:26:04,800 --> 00:26:06,440

kept changing.

492

00:26:06,440 --> 00:26:08,680

Some of these reports are unsubstantiated.

493

00:26:08,680 --> 00:26:11,680

They had him killed in March or April of 1966.

494

00:26:11,680 --> 00:26:15,440

In 1967, they have a story of him being with an engineer

495

00:26:15,440 --> 00:26:18,040

crew and being killed.

496

00:26:18,040 --> 00:26:20,760

They had him killed on paper several times.

497

00:26:20,760 --> 00:26:25,000

And it just amazes me that the audacity of them thinking

498

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:27,120

that we would swallow each one of these stories

499

00:26:27,120 --> 00:26:28,880

and not say anything about it.

500

00:26:28,880 --> 00:26:31,560

I think a lot of what the families read,

501

00:26:31,560 --> 00:26:33,720

they have to understand that what they're reading

502

00:26:33,720 --> 00:26:36,720

is not often government position,

503

00:26:36,720 --> 00:26:41,760

but it may be the report of a witness.

504

00:26:41,760 --> 00:26:43,760

These people, Vietnam villagers,

505

00:26:43,760 --> 00:26:47,320

are remembering things that happened to them 25 years ago

506

00:26:47,320 --> 00:26:50,360

during a traumatic time in their own lives.

507

00:26:50,360 --> 00:26:53,840

So there are often errors in years.

508

00:26:53,840 --> 00:26:56,200

There are often errors in months.

509

00:26:56,200 --> 00:27:00,360

Many times, they only understand things

510

00:27:00,360 --> 00:27:04,880

from the cycles of planning and harvesting their crops.

511

00:27:07,800 --> 00:27:09,920

The Bortons continue to dig for evidence

512

00:27:09,920 --> 00:27:11,960

that Kurt was still alive.

513

00:27:11,960 --> 00:27:14,000

In the process, the family believes

514

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:15,960

that someone was becoming increasingly

515

00:27:15,960 --> 00:27:17,600

curious about them.

516

00:27:17,600 --> 00:27:20,960

Every time I go and check out his file, there's something new.

517

00:27:20,960 --> 00:27:22,240

Like what?

518

00:27:22,240 --> 00:27:25,520

Well, this time I went and did you hear that?

519

00:27:26,400 --> 00:27:28,640

Yeah, it's probably your call waiting.

520

00:27:28,640 --> 00:27:30,840

I don't have call waiting.

521

00:27:30,840 --> 00:27:33,680

Diane and other family members became convinced

522

00:27:33,680 --> 00:27:35,880

that their phones were tapped.

523

00:27:35,880 --> 00:27:38,680

I started having several phone conversations with Diane,

524

00:27:38,680 --> 00:27:41,200

and she was giving me a lot of the information that she had.

525

00:27:41,200 --> 00:27:44,120

One of Diane's cousins is certain that the entire family

526

00:27:44,120 --> 00:27:45,760

was being watched.

527

00:27:45,760 --> 00:27:48,360

He has asked that his identity not be revealed.

528

00:27:48,360 --> 00:27:51,040

About that time frame that I started noticing

529

00:27:51,040 --> 00:27:52,840

that I was being followed to work.

530

00:27:56,200 --> 00:28:00,400

We lived in a house that was inside of a trailer park.

531

00:28:00,400 --> 00:28:04,120

And I started noticing that pretty much every morning,

532

00:28:04,120 --> 00:28:07,760

there would be a car pulled out of the office parking lot.

533

00:28:07,760 --> 00:28:10,640

And they would follow me into work.

534

00:28:10,640 --> 00:28:17,120

And then I'd find them behind me again on my way home.

535

00:28:17,120 --> 00:28:19,760

After about a month and a half, maybe two months

536

00:28:19,760 --> 00:28:23,080

of being followed, I approached the two gentlemen in the car.

537

00:28:27,200 --> 00:28:30,200

Yeah, guys, I'm not going to the company this morning.

538

00:28:30,200 --> 00:28:32,000

I'm going to the gym first.

539

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:33,720

It's right across the street from the company.

540

00:28:33,720 --> 00:28:35,280

I'll be there for two hours.

541

00:28:35,280 --> 00:28:36,760

I'll be back here, take a shower,

542

00:28:36,760 --> 00:28:38,760

then I'm going back to work, OK?

543

00:28:38,760 --> 00:28:41,040

What are you talking about?

544

00:28:41,040 --> 00:28:42,880

You guys have been following me for a while.

545

00:28:42,880 --> 00:28:45,200

I figured I'd let you know where I was just in case you were.

546

00:28:45,200 --> 00:28:48,680

After that, for about a month and a half, two months,

547

00:28:48,680 --> 00:28:50,200

I wasn't followed anymore.

548

00:28:50,200 --> 00:28:52,200

And then we started noticing them again.

549

00:28:56,280 --> 00:28:58,440

As part of his job in a security company,

550

00:28:58,440 --> 00:29:01,840

Diane's cousin often ran routine credit checks.

551

00:29:01,840 --> 00:29:05,120

At Diane's request, he entered Kurt's social security number

552

00:29:05,120 --> 00:29:09,200

in the system and made an unsettling discovery.

553

00:29:09,200 --> 00:29:11,960

I entered it into the computer, and it came back

554

00:29:11,960 --> 00:29:15,200

invalid entry.

555

00:29:15,200 --> 00:29:18,280

At that time, I went and got my employer,

556

00:29:18,280 --> 00:29:21,600

and I told him I'm trying to run this credit application.

557

00:29:21,600 --> 00:29:24,680

And I think I'm doing something wrong.

558

00:29:24,680 --> 00:29:27,720

And he said, whoever filled out that credit application

559

00:29:27,720 --> 00:29:29,800

is trying to feed you a line.

560

00:29:29,800 --> 00:29:31,080

That number's never been issued.

561

00:29:33,760 --> 00:29:37,040

That same day, I had left work, was headed home,

562

00:29:37,040 --> 00:29:39,720

and I was approached by someone they very pleasantly

563

00:29:39,720 --> 00:29:40,760

called me by my name.

564

00:29:40,760 --> 00:29:42,040

Hi, how are you doing?

565

00:29:42,040 --> 00:29:45,040

Listen, what you did today was really stupid.

566

00:29:45,040 --> 00:29:46,120

What are you talking about?

567

00:29:46,120 --> 00:29:47,600

You know what I'm talking about.

568

00:29:47,600 --> 00:29:49,880

That would be you and your family's best interest,

569

00:29:49,880 --> 00:29:51,000

not to do it again.

570

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:52,720

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

571

00:29:52,720 --> 00:29:53,600

Yes, you do.

572

00:29:53,600 --> 00:29:56,360

I'll leave it alone.

573

00:29:56,360 --> 00:29:58,440

Diane's cousin believes that he was threatened

574

00:29:58,440 --> 00:30:00,360

because he had stumbled upon evidence

575

00:30:00,360 --> 00:30:03,680

that Kurt might still be alive.

576

00:30:03,680 --> 00:30:06,480

It would seem to fit together that maybe he

577

00:30:06,480 --> 00:30:09,800

had been used for covert operations.

578

00:30:09,800 --> 00:30:13,640

And in order to keep him from talking

579

00:30:13,640 --> 00:30:16,360

about these covert operations, he

580

00:30:16,360 --> 00:30:21,480

was given a new identity and instructions not to contact

581

00:30:21,480 --> 00:30:22,720

anyone from his past.

582

00:30:26,680 --> 00:30:29,640

In 1990, a full 24 years after Kurt

583

00:30:29,640 --> 00:30:32,040

Morton supposedly died in Vietnam,

584

00:30:32,040 --> 00:30:35,960

his sister Diane moved to a suburb of Washington, DC.

585

00:30:35,960 --> 00:30:38,640

Soon after, Diane had a chance encounter

586

00:30:38,640 --> 00:30:41,520

that finally convinced her that all of the scenarios

587

00:30:41,520 --> 00:30:45,640

about her brother might in fact be true.

588

00:30:45,640 --> 00:30:49,120

I went down to gas up the van, and a car pulled in behind me.

589

00:30:49,120 --> 00:30:50,400

It was a red car.

590

00:30:50,440 --> 00:30:53,880

And whoever it was, they must pump their gas pass

591

00:30:53,880 --> 00:30:57,600

because I see him run across and pay for theirs.

592

00:30:57,600 --> 00:30:59,240

And I walked across, paid for mine.

593

00:30:59,240 --> 00:31:01,040

And when I came back across, the person

594

00:31:01,040 --> 00:31:03,560

was standing there outside his car.

595

00:31:06,360 --> 00:31:10,600

It looks like it's going to snow, doesn't it?

596

00:31:10,600 --> 00:31:11,240

I was stunned.

597

00:31:11,240 --> 00:31:13,840

It was my brother.

598

00:31:13,840 --> 00:31:16,320

I didn't even have time to react because as soon as he said

599

00:31:16,320 --> 00:31:18,520

that, he got in and took off.

600

00:31:18,520 --> 00:31:20,320

There was a real pretty girl in front.

601

00:31:20,320 --> 00:31:23,440

See, she had long, blonde hair.

602

00:31:23,440 --> 00:31:24,800

It didn't look like it was going to snow.

603

00:31:24,800 --> 00:31:25,600

It was October.

604

00:31:25,600 --> 00:31:28,360

It was clear skies.

605

00:31:28,360 --> 00:31:30,040

And that's the only thing he said to me.

606

00:31:33,600 --> 00:31:36,640

The next April, Diane claims she saw Kurt again.

607

00:31:39,320 --> 00:31:43,560

We were headed down 395, and a red car pulled up beside us.

608

00:31:43,560 --> 00:31:47,320

I looked over and it was my brother.

609

00:31:47,320 --> 00:31:50,280

It was the same red car I'd seen at the gas station.

610

00:31:50,280 --> 00:31:52,040

The blonde girl was in the car with him.

611

00:31:52,040 --> 00:31:52,880

You could see her.

612

00:31:52,880 --> 00:31:55,320

And he looked at me and he grinned.

613

00:31:55,320 --> 00:31:57,240

And then he took a shot in front of us

614

00:31:57,240 --> 00:31:59,160

and slowed down a little bit.

615

00:31:59,160 --> 00:32:02,080

And I wrote down the license number.

616

00:32:02,080 --> 00:32:04,360

And he sped up and zipped over in the other lane

617

00:32:04,360 --> 00:32:06,600

and zipped off the exit, which was

618

00:32:06,600 --> 00:32:09,360

that was at Quantico Marine Station.

619

00:32:09,360 --> 00:32:10,680

And we were going too fast.

620

00:32:10,680 --> 00:32:13,600

We couldn't follow him.

621

00:32:13,600 --> 00:32:15,440

Diane traced the license plate number

622

00:32:15,440 --> 00:32:17,280

to a man who lived in Virginia.

623

00:32:17,280 --> 00:32:19,440

But he claimed to know nothing about Kurt.

624

00:32:23,800 --> 00:32:26,600

A few months later, in July of 1991,

625

00:32:26,600 --> 00:32:30,240

Diane says Kurt made another mysterious appearance.

626

00:32:30,240 --> 00:32:33,640

By this time, Diane says that at least one war buddy of Kurt's

627

00:32:33,640 --> 00:32:36,480

had confirmed that Kurt was alive.

628

00:32:36,480 --> 00:32:38,880

However, that vets had Kurt had come home

629

00:32:38,880 --> 00:32:40,920

a disturbed and dangerous man.

630

00:32:41,920 --> 00:32:47,800

I spent many, many hours down at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

631

00:32:47,800 --> 00:32:50,320

I had my two daughters with me.

632

00:32:50,320 --> 00:32:53,880

And there's a little hill with some woods.

633

00:32:53,880 --> 00:32:55,560

And on the other side is the restrooms.

634

00:32:55,560 --> 00:32:59,320

We went over to the restroom, went in, used the restroom.

635

00:32:59,320 --> 00:33:01,040

When we came out of the restroom, my brother

636

00:33:01,040 --> 00:33:02,840

was leaning against the wall.

637

00:33:02,840 --> 00:33:05,920

And my oldest daughter, she recognized him.

638

00:33:05,920 --> 00:33:07,360

Mom, that's Kurt.

639

00:33:07,360 --> 00:33:08,360

Come on. Come on.

640

00:33:08,360 --> 00:33:09,360

Mom, he's right there.

641

00:33:09,400 --> 00:33:10,400

Come on. Let's go.

642

00:33:10,400 --> 00:33:11,400

Mom, he's right there.

643

00:33:11,400 --> 00:33:12,400

Let's go home.

644

00:33:12,400 --> 00:33:15,400

Mom, please talk to him.

645

00:33:15,400 --> 00:33:17,560

I had been told from other sources

646

00:33:17,560 --> 00:33:19,920

that he was potentially dangerous.

647

00:33:19,920 --> 00:33:21,280

I had my two children with me.

648

00:33:21,280 --> 00:33:23,720

And I just couldn't take that chance

649

00:33:23,720 --> 00:33:28,640

that he could possibly be dangerous and harm my children.

650

00:33:28,640 --> 00:33:30,480

I know now that was a mistake.

651

00:33:30,480 --> 00:33:32,800

If I had it all to do over again,

652

00:33:32,800 --> 00:33:34,400

I would have turned around.

653

00:33:34,400 --> 00:33:35,640

I would have faced him.

654

00:33:35,640 --> 00:33:36,760

I would have talked to him.

655

00:33:36,760 --> 00:33:39,560

I would have threw my arms around him and hugged him.

656

00:33:39,560 --> 00:33:40,600

But I was afraid.

657

00:33:40,600 --> 00:33:41,500

I was afraid.

658

00:33:41,500 --> 00:33:42,000

[? He's ?]

659

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:42,500

[? He's ?]

660

00:33:42,500 --> 00:33:43,000

[? He's ?]

661

00:33:43,000 --> 00:33:43,500

[? He's ?]

662

00:33:43,500 --> 00:33:44,000

[? He's ?]

663

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:49,360

In 1992, another disturbing event.

664

00:33:49,360 --> 00:33:50,360

Hello?

665

00:33:50,360 --> 00:33:52,160

Is this Robert Gordon?

666

00:33:52,160 --> 00:33:53,720

Yes, who's this?

667

00:33:53,720 --> 00:33:55,120

I can't mention any names.

668

00:33:55,120 --> 00:33:55,920

No names.

669

00:33:55,920 --> 00:33:58,280

The caller asked a question which could only

670

00:33:58,280 --> 00:34:00,640

be answered by two people.

671

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

Your son had a blonde-haired babysitter.

672

00:34:02,640 --> 00:34:04,160

What was her name?

673

00:34:04,160 --> 00:34:05,600

Frieda Smith.

674

00:34:05,600 --> 00:34:06,280

Frieda Smith.

675

00:34:06,320 --> 00:34:07,760

Yeah?

676

00:34:07,760 --> 00:34:08,320

Is that my son?

677

00:34:08,320 --> 00:34:09,280

Is he there?

678

00:34:09,280 --> 00:34:10,720

So I knew right then it's him by.

679

00:34:10,720 --> 00:34:12,960

He must be in the background.

680

00:34:12,960 --> 00:34:15,280

And then they made a statement that he'd be seeing me soon.

681

00:34:15,280 --> 00:34:16,440

He's seeing me soon.

682

00:34:16,440 --> 00:34:19,120

I can't tell you anything more, but he'll be seeing you soon.

683

00:34:19,120 --> 00:34:21,320

Don't tell anyone.

684

00:34:21,320 --> 00:34:22,200

Wait, hello?

685

00:34:22,200 --> 00:34:23,100

Hello?

686

00:34:23,100 --> 00:34:24,000

I haven't heard another word from him.

687

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:25,400

I figured he'd probably get in touch with him.

688

00:34:25,400 --> 00:34:26,300

I haven't heard no more.

689

00:34:26,300 --> 00:34:28,120

And I hope I didn't jeopardize his life or anything,

690

00:34:28,120 --> 00:34:28,960

but tell anybody.

691

00:34:32,880 --> 00:34:36,080

In August of 1993, the boarders were notified

692

00:34:36,080 --> 00:34:39,760

that a new set of documents concerning MIAs and POWs

693

00:34:39,760 --> 00:34:42,640

had been declassified by the government.

694

00:34:42,640 --> 00:34:45,040

When they met with officials at Marine headquarters,

695

00:34:45,040 --> 00:34:49,200

the boarders were shocked by what they learned.

696

00:34:49,200 --> 00:34:52,880

We have discovered some remains that we believe belonged

697

00:34:52,880 --> 00:34:53,840

to Kurt.

698

00:34:53,840 --> 00:34:54,520

What?

699

00:34:54,520 --> 00:34:56,240

What did you find?

700

00:34:56,240 --> 00:34:59,720

We found 11 teeth in a gravesite.

701

00:34:59,720 --> 00:35:02,320

Where did you find them?

702

00:35:02,320 --> 00:35:04,400

One report told of four US soldiers

703

00:35:04,440 --> 00:35:08,560

who were killed by the Viet Cong in 1966.

704

00:35:08,560 --> 00:35:12,040

Vietnamese eyewitnesses said that the bodies were buried

705

00:35:12,040 --> 00:35:16,600

and then later moved to another gravesite.

706

00:35:16,600 --> 00:35:18,920

Although the actual dates are in dispute,

707

00:35:18,920 --> 00:35:21,740

the government believed that the discovery of Kurt's teeth

708

00:35:21,740 --> 00:35:24,080

and another set of dog tags at the gravesite

709

00:35:24,080 --> 00:35:28,680

provided reasonable certainty that Kurt was killed in Vietnam.

710

00:35:28,680 --> 00:35:30,480

However, the teeth found in the grave

711

00:35:30,480 --> 00:35:33,360

were compared with X-rays provided by the military,

712

00:35:33,400 --> 00:35:36,440

not by Kurt's family.

713

00:35:36,440 --> 00:35:39,120

I asked him, I says, where's the rest of his body?

714

00:35:39,120 --> 00:35:40,640

All he had was teeth.

715

00:35:40,640 --> 00:35:43,680

They says, well, there was grave robbers.

716

00:35:43,680 --> 00:35:46,680

And they came and they robbed the grave and took the body.

717

00:35:49,680 --> 00:35:53,960

And I'm thinking, well, this is kind of dumb.

718

00:35:53,960 --> 00:35:56,080

What, did they just leave the teeth?

719

00:35:56,080 --> 00:35:59,040

We know that there is remains trade in Vietnam,

720

00:35:59,040 --> 00:36:05,920

where remains are buried, dug up and moved to another place,

721

00:36:05,920 --> 00:36:09,840

dug up again, and sold to remains traders.

722

00:36:09,840 --> 00:36:11,840

So they miss many of the smaller pieces.

723

00:36:11,840 --> 00:36:15,800

So often we find only teeth.

724

00:36:15,800 --> 00:36:19,040

Forensic experts tell us that these teeth were

725

00:36:19,040 --> 00:36:24,040

from a deceased person and that the teeth do match Robert

726

00:36:24,040 --> 00:36:25,800

Borton.

727

00:36:25,800 --> 00:36:28,160

It looks like it's going to snow, doesn't it?

728

00:36:28,200 --> 00:36:30,200

Today, the Borton family believes that Kurt

729

00:36:30,200 --> 00:36:33,000

is part of a secret government operation.

730

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:35,720

Diane in particular feels that her brother has attempted

731

00:36:35,720 --> 00:36:39,640

to contact the family in order to let them know that he is alive

732

00:36:39,640 --> 00:36:44,440

without endangering himself by exposing his new identity.

733

00:36:44,440 --> 00:36:49,960

I talked to a man who claims to be a secret attorney.

734

00:36:49,960 --> 00:36:55,160

He said that they were allowed to come back as long

735

00:36:55,160 --> 00:36:57,520

as they didn't contact their families

736

00:36:57,520 --> 00:37:00,320

or let anybody know they're back.

737

00:37:00,320 --> 00:37:04,200

The official status that was taken on these men

738

00:37:04,200 --> 00:37:08,640

was that there were no more live POWs in Southeast Asia.

739

00:37:08,640 --> 00:37:10,480

And they couldn't bring back live POWs

740

00:37:10,480 --> 00:37:13,120

when they've already taken the stand that all the POWs are

741

00:37:13,120 --> 00:37:15,360

home or dead.

742

00:37:15,360 --> 00:37:20,640

There's no such program to bring servicemen back after Vietnam

743

00:37:20,640 --> 00:37:22,640

and give them new identities.

744

00:37:22,640 --> 00:37:26,080

Robert Borton would not be a candidate for any type

745

00:37:26,080 --> 00:37:28,360

of secret mission.

746

00:37:28,360 --> 00:37:30,360

He was a very young man.

747

00:37:30,360 --> 00:37:33,600

He was in the Marine Corps just over six months.

748

00:37:33,600 --> 00:37:35,320

He did not have any special skills.

749

00:37:35,320 --> 00:37:37,200

He did not have a security clearance

750

00:37:37,200 --> 00:37:41,160

or any linguistic skills that would have been needed

751

00:37:41,160 --> 00:37:44,760

for some type of a covert operation.

752

00:37:44,760 --> 00:37:46,080

They're lying to us.

753

00:37:46,080 --> 00:37:50,840

And there's lots of families out there like us

754

00:37:50,840 --> 00:37:53,360

that are suffering because of it.

755

00:37:53,360 --> 00:37:55,960

And that's what's hard for me to handle,

756

00:37:55,960 --> 00:37:57,720

is knowing what I've went through and knowing

757

00:37:57,720 --> 00:38:01,440

there's other families out there going through the same thing.

758

00:38:01,440 --> 00:38:02,240

They're not knowing.

759

00:38:06,320 --> 00:38:08,360

What happened to Kurt Borton?

760

00:38:08,360 --> 00:38:11,840

Did he die in the jungles of Vietnam as the government says?

761

00:38:11,840 --> 00:38:14,560

Or did he somehow manage to survive?

762

00:38:14,560 --> 00:38:16,880

Despite the official record, the Borton family

763

00:38:16,880 --> 00:38:19,880

remains convinced that Kurt is very much alive

764

00:38:19,880 --> 00:38:22,120

and that one day he will come home.

765

00:38:37,360 --> 00:38:40,280

Recently, we told you the story of Soon Van Nguyen, who

766

00:38:40,280 --> 00:38:44,920

immigrated to America from Vietnam with his family in 1993.

767

00:38:44,920 --> 00:38:47,160

Soon had come not only to start a new life,

768

00:38:47,160 --> 00:38:49,040

but to complete a chapter from his own.

769

00:38:52,440 --> 00:38:55,760

In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War,

770

00:38:55,760 --> 00:38:58,440

Soon was among hundreds of South Vietnamese officers

771

00:38:58,440 --> 00:39:01,480

dispatched to a US Air Force base in Louisiana

772

00:39:01,480 --> 00:39:05,200

for jet pilot training.

773

00:39:05,200 --> 00:39:07,520

Within weeks, Soon had fallen in love

774

00:39:07,520 --> 00:39:12,280

with an American woman named Gwendolyn Lofton.

775

00:39:12,280 --> 00:39:14,840

But inevitably, the war intervened.

776

00:39:14,840 --> 00:39:17,040

Soon was sent back to Vietnam to fight

777

00:39:17,040 --> 00:39:19,720

for his country.

778

00:39:19,720 --> 00:39:22,240

A few months after his return, he received a letter

779

00:39:22,240 --> 00:39:23,520

from America.

780

00:39:23,520 --> 00:39:24,680

Gwendolyn was pregnant.

781

00:39:35,920 --> 00:39:40,560

Coming back from a tense mission and hearing the good news,

782

00:39:40,560 --> 00:39:45,360

I was so happy at that moment.

783

00:39:45,400 --> 00:39:48,440

Five years later, Soon was dispatched to Louisiana once

784

00:39:48,440 --> 00:39:49,320

again.

785

00:39:49,320 --> 00:39:51,800

He met his daughter Kimberly for the first time.

786

00:39:55,200 --> 00:39:57,760

And I looked at her and knew right away

787

00:39:57,760 --> 00:40:01,280

that this was my child.

788

00:40:01,280 --> 00:40:04,160

Kimberly, this is Soon.

789

00:40:04,160 --> 00:40:04,640

Soon?

790

00:40:07,520 --> 00:40:10,320

Soon was able to spend an entire month with Kimberly

791

00:40:10,320 --> 00:40:12,880

before he had to return to Vietnam and the war.

792

00:40:16,360 --> 00:40:18,720

After the war ended, Soon was incarcerated

793

00:40:18,720 --> 00:40:21,880

for nearly 10 years in a reeducation camp,

794

00:40:21,880 --> 00:40:26,280

another 10 years passed before he finally made it to America.

795

00:40:26,280 --> 00:40:28,440

But Soon never stopped thinking of the little girl

796

00:40:28,440 --> 00:40:30,760

he had left behind so long ago.

797

00:40:30,760 --> 00:40:33,760

And on our broadcast, he asked if someone in our audience

798

00:40:33,760 --> 00:40:34,960

could help reunite them.

799

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:39,960

That night, the switchboard in our phone

800

00:40:39,960 --> 00:40:43,480

center lit up with calls from Kimberly's friends and family.

801

00:40:43,520 --> 00:40:45,760

Kimberly, who lives in Pineville, Louisiana,

802

00:40:45,760 --> 00:40:48,800

was thrilled to learn that Soon was looking for her.

803

00:40:48,800 --> 00:40:51,120

Over the years, Kimberly had searched for Soon,

804

00:40:51,120 --> 00:40:53,680

but had always run into dead ends.

805

00:40:53,680 --> 00:40:56,200

Now she was anxious to be with her father again.

806

00:40:58,760 --> 00:41:01,680

A few days later, Soon and his American sponsor

807

00:41:01,680 --> 00:41:05,520

traveled to Louisiana for an emotional reunion with Kimberly.

808

00:41:05,520 --> 00:41:08,480

It was her first time together in more than 20 years.

809

00:41:08,480 --> 00:41:08,960

Hi.

810

00:41:08,960 --> 00:41:10,360

Hi.

811

00:41:10,360 --> 00:41:10,860

Oh.

812

00:41:13,760 --> 00:41:19,640

Soon was overcome with emotion.

813

00:41:19,640 --> 00:41:24,240

Still, he wanted to convey his feelings in English.

814

00:41:24,240 --> 00:41:32,720

When in Vietnam, I never think I can meet her.

815

00:41:32,720 --> 00:41:35,520

But now, it's my dream to be true.

816

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:41,080

I'm very, very happy.

817

00:41:41,080 --> 00:41:41,580

Soon?

818

00:41:44,360 --> 00:41:46,600

And then we hugged, and then we said hello.

819

00:41:46,600 --> 00:41:51,880

And then it was just, you can't describe the feeling.

820

00:41:51,880 --> 00:41:55,360

It was just like, nice.

821

00:41:55,360 --> 00:41:58,400

It doesn't do the feeling justice,

822

00:41:58,400 --> 00:42:00,920

but it was just incredible, fantastic.

823

00:42:00,920 --> 00:42:02,600

It was great.

824

00:42:05,440 --> 00:42:08,400

Later that day, Soon celebrated with 20 members

825

00:42:08,400 --> 00:42:11,560

of Kimberly's family, including her mother, Wondland.

826

00:42:11,680 --> 00:42:12,560

I'm kind of a top-end.

827

00:42:12,560 --> 00:42:15,240

I said she likes pineapple.

828

00:42:15,240 --> 00:42:19,280

To see them together is just a dream come true.

829

00:42:22,080 --> 00:42:26,320

A fairy tale that had had some bad detours,

830

00:42:26,320 --> 00:42:29,400

but it came to a happy ending.

831

00:42:29,400 --> 00:42:31,160

Oh, this is a big day.

832

00:42:31,160 --> 00:42:33,640

A happy day.

833

00:42:33,640 --> 00:42:37,480

I think I cannot forget it.

834

00:42:37,480 --> 00:42:38,480

Me, it's OK.

835

00:42:38,480 --> 00:42:39,960

Oh, no.

836

00:42:40,440 --> 00:42:41,240

That's not fair.

837

00:42:41,240 --> 00:42:42,800

OK, then I want to enter.

838

00:42:42,800 --> 00:42:47,640

I knew that wherever he was, that he loved me.

839

00:42:47,640 --> 00:42:49,920

And I was always starting in my heart

840

00:42:49,920 --> 00:42:51,960

that one day we would be back together.

841

00:42:51,960 --> 00:42:54,080

We want to go to Krak, you enjoy it.

842

00:42:54,080 --> 00:42:56,080

I love you.

843

00:42:56,080 --> 00:42:58,840

For Soon and Kimberly, the end of their long search

844

00:42:58,840 --> 00:43:02,720

marked the beginning of a new life for both of them.

845

00:43:10,560 --> 00:43:13,920

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, for more than 60 years,

846

00:43:13,920 --> 00:43:16,600

a mysterious light has appeared above a stretch of railroad

847

00:43:16,600 --> 00:43:18,240

tracks in Arkansas.

848

00:43:18,240 --> 00:43:21,080

Some say there is a scientific explanation.

849

00:43:21,080 --> 00:43:22,680

Others believe the light has nothing

850

00:43:22,680 --> 00:43:24,840

less than the ghost of a murdered railroad

851

00:43:24,840 --> 00:43:29,160

foreman, perhaps still searching for his killer.

852

00:43:29,160 --> 00:43:32,760

And the final appeal of Stuart Heaton, DNA tests

853

00:43:32,760 --> 00:43:35,520

were the primary evidence that convicted him of a murder he

854

00:43:35,520 --> 00:43:36,840

swear he had committed.

855

00:43:36,840 --> 00:43:39,800

But how accurate were the tests?

856

00:43:39,800 --> 00:43:41,440

Heaton may spend the rest of his life

857

00:43:41,440 --> 00:43:43,280

behind bars, waiting to find out.

858

00:43:46,600 --> 00:43:50,120

Join me next Friday for another intriguing edition

859

00:43:50,120 --> 00:43:51,600

of Unsolved Mysteries.