

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

This program is about unsolved mysteries.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:06,800

Whenever possible, the actual family members and police

3

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

officials have participated in recreating the events.

4

00:00:09,800 --> 00:00:13,000

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

5

00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:20,000

Legend has it they're off the coast of northern California.

6

00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:23,000

Divers have glimpsed the remains of a sunken World War II

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00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:27,000

submarine. But is there more to the story than mere legend?

8

00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:31,000

Several Navy veterans remember seeking a sub near San Francisco

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:35,000

in 1945, and now they fear it might have been one of our own.

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00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:38,000

In Oklahoma, abject poverty forced a couple along with their

11

00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:41,000

six children to set up housekeeping in an old school bus.

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00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:45,000

When that meager shelter was taken away, Leela and Roy Lee

13

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

Stallings were arrested and the children were separated.

14

00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:51,000

Perhaps someone watching can help reunite the story of the

15

00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:54,000

family members and police officers.

16

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:58,000

Perhaps someone watching can help reunite the school bus family.

17

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

And the strange saga of John and Linda Sohas.

18

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:07,000

In 1985, the young couple left their home in a well-to-do

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00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:10,000

Los Angeles suburb for a two-week trip to New York.

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00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:14,000

They never returned. Then this past spring,

21

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:17,000

workmen installing a pool at their former residence were stunned

22

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

by the discovery of a dismembered human skeleton.

23

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,000

Almost overnight, an inactive missing persons case became

24

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:27,000

an intriguing murder mystery.

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:31,000

Join me for these intriguing new stories and more

26

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

on another edition of Unseen Mysteries.

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:37,000

May 1994, San Marino, California, just north of Los Angeles.

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:41,000

Excavation for a backyard swimming pool came to an abrupt halt

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:44,000

when workmen made a grim discovery.

30

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Three plastic bags and a fiberglass box containing dismembered

31

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

sections of a human skeleton.

32

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

We didn't really know who this person was,

33

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:03,000

and we were later told by uniformed officers from San Marino

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00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:07,000

that in 1985, the people that lived in that house had reported

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00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

two people missing.

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00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:15,000

The two missing persons were John Sohas and his wife Linda,

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00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:17,000

both in their late 20s.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:21,000

Their sudden disappearance had mystified everyone who knew them.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

The grizzly discovery was a macabre twist in a nearly

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00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:26,000

10-year-old mystery.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:29,000

It suddenly appeared that either John or Linda Sohas

42

00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:32,000

may have been the victim of foul play.

43

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:37,000

Detectives probing the disappearance and counter-acast

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00:03:37,000 --> 00:03:40,000

the characters that might have been dreamed up by a mystery writer.

45

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

Though married for two years, John and Linda still lived

46

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:48,000

with John's mother, Dee Dee Sohas, by all accounts an alcoholic.

47

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:51,000

However, the most intriguing character would prove to be

48

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:56,000

a mysterious young man who went by the name Christopher Chichester.

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00:03:56,000 --> 00:04:00,000

For about two years, Chichester was a tenant in a guest house

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

in the Sohas property located behind the main house

51

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:06,000

occupied by Dee Dee, John and Linda.

52

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Hi, honey.

53

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

According to friends, John and Linda felt trapped

54

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

living with Dee Dee Sohas and looked forward

55

00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:18,000

to escaping to a place of their own.

56

00:04:18,000 --> 00:04:20,000

That looks great.

57

00:04:20,000 --> 00:04:24,000

John held several part-time computer programming jobs

58

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:27,000

and Linda was beginning to find success as an artist.

59

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:35,000

Linda was happy with her life and John approved of everything

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,000

she had to do and say about life and what she wanted to do

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

and be in life, and I thought that was great for her

62

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:43,000

because she'd never had a supportive man in her life.

63

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,000

Early in 1985, it appeared the young couple had finally gotten

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:49,000

the break they'd been hoping for.

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Linda announces she and John had been asked to interview

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00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:55,000

for important new jobs.

67

00:04:55,000 --> 00:05:01,000

Linda called me and informed me that John had a job with the government

68

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,000

and she couldn't release any information to me.

69

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:06,000

All she could tell me was that he's got a job with the government

70

00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:09,000

and they want us both and we have to go to New York.

71

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

Linda told Sue that the trip was scheduled to last about two weeks.

72

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:19,000

However, the return day came and went.

73

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

No Linda and John.

74

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:26,000

The mystery would deepen in the coming months.

75

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

I think we've gone for about two weeks.

76

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:29,000

I'll uncover it.

77

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:32,000

Prior to the trip, Linda had boarded her six cats

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00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:35,000

at a local kennel and paid in advance for a two-week stay.

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00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:40,000

But at the end of eight weeks, she still had not claimed her pets.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

The kennel owner tracked down Linda's sister, Kathy.

81

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:48,000

I immediately thought that something was wrong.

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00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:53,000

If they were not going to return, they would have taken their pets with them.

83

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:59,000

I feel that inside very strongly that Linda would not have left her animals behind.

84

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:04,000

Kathy telephoned John's mother, Dee Dee Sohas,

85

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

leaving she had an explanation.

86

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:07,000

Hello.

87

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:09,000

Dee Dee, it's Kathy, Linda's sister.

88

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,000

Is Linda back from her trip yet?

89

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:14,000

I'm not supposed to tell you anything.

90

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Tell me what?

91

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:18,000

What can't you tell me?

92

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:20,000

A mission.

93

00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Mission? What mission? What are you talking about?

94

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:27,000

It was very frustrating in all my conversations with Mrs. Sohas

95

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:30,000

to get the same stories, slightly altered,

96

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:34,000

but still the same story about Linda and John being on a secret mission

97

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:37,000

and unable to contact any family members.

98

00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:39,000

Well, that's all I can tell you.

99

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:42,000

It did appear to me as though she had been drinking.

100

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Sometimes it depended on what time of the day you called

101

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:48,000

as to how wild the story became.

102

00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:52,000

April 1985.

103

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Responding to a missing person's report filed by Linda's family,

104

00:06:55,000 --> 00:07:00,000

San Marino police tried their hand at getting information from Dee Dee Sohas.

105

00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:03,000

Did you report on John and Linda Sohas? Do you know where they are?

106

00:07:03,000 --> 00:07:05,000

They're not missing.

107

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:10,000

Everybody keeps asking me and I keep telling them they're on a secret mission.

108

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:14,000

OK. Can you tell us how we can reach them?

109

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:16,000

I have a source.

110

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:18,000

Everyone keeps calling here and I keep telling them...

111

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Dee Dee refused to identify the person she called her source.

112

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:27,000

With no evidence of foul play, the authorities were powerless to investigate further.

113

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Finally, a full three months after the Sohas's had supposedly left,

114

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:37,000

Linda's friend Sue received this picture postcard,

115

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:41,000

but it had not been mailed from New York, far from it.

116

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:48,000

I have no clue as to how going to New York could ever wind up being France.

117

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:51,000

And I read the back of it. I was just like, I can't wait.

118

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:53,000

She's finally going to tell me where she is, what's going on.

119

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:58,000

And all it said was, dear Sue, kind of missed New York.

120

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,000

Oops. But this can be lived with.

121

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:03,000

John and Linda.

122

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Nothing about, I'll call you later, can't talk now.

123

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,000

Nothing. It just didn't sound like her.

124

00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:15,000

Another card was sent from France to Linda's family.

125

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:19,000

My mother received a postcard from Linda.

126

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,000

I believe it to be from Linda.

127

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:28,000

It did not say when she would return or how she had come to be in Paris.

128

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:33,000

If they were planning a trip to Europe, she would have been very excited about going

129

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:39,000

and would certainly have expressed that to my mother and perhaps myself as well.

130

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:43,000

When I first talked to the police, I thought I knew what was going on.

131

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Three months after refusing to help the police,

132

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:49,000

Didi Sokars had an inexplicable change of heart.

133

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:53,000

She too found a missing persons report on John and Linda.

134

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Have you had any contact at all since they left?

135

00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Well, I've been sending their mail through my source.

136

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

The man has been in contact with them.

137

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:04,000

He's been the one telling me what's been happening.

138

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:06,000

We'll need to talk to this individual.

139

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:08,000

You can't.

140

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:10,000

That's why I'm worried.

141

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:11,000

He's gone too.

142

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:13,000

He just disappeared.

143

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:18,000

According to Didi, the mysterious contact was none other than her guest house tenant,

144

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:20,000

Christopher Chichester.

145

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:24,000

However, he had recently moved, leaving no forwarding address.

146

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:28,000

Didi also reported that her son's pickup truck was now missing,

147

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,000

though she could not say when it had disappeared.

148

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:39,000

However, there still was no proof that a crime had been committed and the investigation stalled.

149

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:42,000

If I think of anything else, I'll call you.

150

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Soon after finding her missing person report,

151

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Didi Sokars would sell her house and move to a trailer park.

152

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:52,000

She died in February of 1988.

153

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:55,000

The fate of her son is still a mystery.

154

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:01,000

Nine months later, the case unexpectedly sprang to life.

155

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,000

The Sokars' truck turned up 3,000 miles away in Greenwich, Connecticut.

156

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:12,000

A man calling himself Christopher Crow had tried to sell the pickup to the son of a local minister.

157

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Well, this is it.

158

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:15,000

That's a great looking truck.

159

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:17,000

Yeah, I told you you'd like it.

160

00:10:17,000 --> 00:10:19,000

One thing, though, I don't have the title paper,

161

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:21,000

so you're going to have to get them from the California DMV.

162

00:10:21,000 --> 00:10:23,000

The Reverend's son decided not to purchase the vehicle,

163

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:27,000

based on the fact that there was an outstanding lien on the truck.

164

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:31,000

The San Marino Police Department wanted me to also look for an individual

165

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:34,000

by the name of Christopher Chichester,

166

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:38,000

who ultimately felt had information on the whereabouts of John and Linda Soas.

167

00:10:38,000 --> 00:10:44,000

My continued investigation and attempting to locate Mr. Chichester

168

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:50,000

ultimately ended in me discovering that Mr. Chichester and Mr. Crow were the same individuals.

169

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:55,000

It was a stunning discovery.

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:11:01,000

Crow, Chichester, by any name, the enigmatic ex-tenant seemed to be one person

171

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:05,000

who might be able to shed light on the Sohas' disappearance.

172

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:10,000

But Christopher Crow, alias Christopher Chichester, had vanished again.

173

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:13,000

Consequently, the investigation stalled again,

174

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:18,000

until the dismembered skeleton was uncovered in May of 1994.

175

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:24,000

After extensive analysis, a forensic anthropologist determined

176

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:29,000

that the remains were consistent with physical descriptions of John Sohas.

177

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:33,000

However, a lack of dental records prevented conclusive identification.

178

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:37,000

Police could only speculate about how the body came to be buried

179

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:41,000

in the backyard of the one-time Sohas residents.

180

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:45,000

Nothing about the bones themselves that say there was murder.

181

00:11:45,000 --> 00:11:48,000

There was no bullet holes, anything like that.

182

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:52,000

But the fact that the bones were buried in three separate plastic bags

183

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:58,000

and the head in a separate bag makes one think that there was murder involved.

184

00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:05,000

Detectives hope to learn more in using a controversial chemical called luminol.

185

00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Though it is highly toxic and dangerous to use,

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00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:12,000

luminol will emit a distinctive glow when it comes into contact with blood,

187

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:16,000

even where the stains were wiped away years before.

188

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:22,000

Luminol was applied to the cement floors in the guest house on the former Sohas property.

189

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:28,000

Within moments, it would become apparent if there was evidence of murder.

190

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:35,000

The telltale glow was unmistakable.

191

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Cat, what do you think about that?

192

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Looks like it could be blood.

193

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:42,000

It's all out of blood, Ron.

194

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Although luminol can detect chemicals in other compounds,

195

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:51,000

this was not just a trace element situation.

196

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:56,000

There was a copious amount of something put on that floor.

197

00:12:56,000 --> 00:13:00,000

And in our opinion, that was blood.

198

00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:02,000

But whose blood?

199

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:07,000

Was John Sohas murdered in the guest house and buried in the backyard?

200

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,000

If so, what happened to Linda?

201

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:13,000

Officially, both John and Linda Sohas are still missing,

202

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:17,000

perhaps having the time of their lives gallivanting across Europe.

203

00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:24,000

I believe that it would have been possible for John and Linda to relocate and have a new life

204

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:29,000

and choose not to contact family members.

205

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:33,000

But I do believe that after so many years have passed

206

00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:38,000

that at some point, at least once, Linda would have made contact.

207

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:44,000

There is one curious footnote to this perplexing case.

208

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,000

According to the kennel operator, in June of 1985,

209

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:50,000

a woman showed up and asked for Linda's cats.

210

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

Faced with the alternative of destroying the animals,

211

00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:55,000

a kennel owner complied.

212

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:57,000

She never saw the woman again,

213

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:02,000

and there is no clue to her identity or whether she has any connection to the case.

214

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:10,000

Authorities would like to speak to the young man known as Christopher Chichester.

215

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:15,000

They now know that he is Christian Gerhard Streiter, a native of Germany.

216

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Music

217

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Next, a mystery submarine, sunk during World War II.

218

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Could it have been one of our own, attacked mistakenly?

219

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Music

220

00:14:56,000 --> 00:15:01,000

The 840-mile coastline of California is a treasure trove of natural beauty.

221

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:05,000

Its long stretches of beach, coupled with fabulous rock formations,

222

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:09,000

have made it a haven for deep sea divers.

223

00:15:09,000 --> 00:15:14,000

Over the years, a kind of beach town urban legend has sprung up along the coast.

224

00:15:14,000 --> 00:15:18,000

Rumor has it that divers between Santa Barbara and San Francisco

225

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:21,000

have sighted something very unusual.

226

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:26,000

We're about 15 miles off the point, around a six-pack, we're down about 120 feet.

227

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:29,000

Listen, I got real good visibility, maybe 30 or 40 feet.

228

00:15:29,000 --> 00:15:30,000

Really?

229

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

And sitting off the point there, at the bottom, right on the reef,

230

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:36,000

is what I think a World War II submarine, a U-boat.

231

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:37,000

A submarine?

232

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:38,000

Yeah.

233

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Out here?

234

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Yes.

235

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:42,000

Deck guns, the whole thing in place, right there at the reef.

236

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:43,000

Crystal clear.

237

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:45,000

Today it seems preposterous.

238

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:49,000

The enemy sub, that close to the continental United States.

239

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:55,000

But in World War II, America's coastline was vulnerable to enemy sub-attack.

240

00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:00,000

A German U-boat was sighted off the coast of New England in May of 1945.

241

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Later that year, an oil rig near Santa Barbara, California,

242

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:08,000

was fired upon by a Japanese submarine.

243

00:16:08,000 --> 00:16:11,000

Music

244

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:14,000

Despite the obvious threat that existed 50 years ago,

245

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:18,000

the rumors of a sunken sub-remain, just that, rumors.

246

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:21,000

But in fact, there are a few aging American sailors

247

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:27,000

who remember a submarine hit in 1945, just off the coast of Northern California.

248

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

At the time, of course, he assumed it was the enemy,

249

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:33,000

but curiously, no record of the incident exists.

250

00:16:33,000 --> 00:16:40,000

Now the old sailors are afraid they might inadvertently have sunk one of our own.

251

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:46,000

In 1944 and 1945, the USS Willard Keith was one of a fleet of navy destroyers

252

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:48,000

patrolling the Pacific coast.

253

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:53,000

For the most part, life on board was all practice and drill with a K-guns,

254

00:16:53,000 --> 00:16:55,000

better known as depth charges.

255

00:16:55,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Music

256

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:02,000

Then came March 21st, 1945.

257

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:05,000

The Willard Keith was cruising south of San Francisco

258

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:10,000

when a general quarters alarm sounded, an enemy sub was below.

259

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:16,000

Music

260

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:20,000

Chet Gardner was a 19-year-old seaman on the Willard Keith.

261

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:24,000

His duty set the depth of the explosive charges.

262

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Music

263

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Well, I can see it just playing today as I could the day that it happened.

264

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:34,000

Starboard K-gun ready to fire, sir.

265

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:39,000

It's something I'll never forget because I was probably pretty excited about it.

266

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Music

267

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:55,000

Boy, the water flew everywhere as I thought, my gosh, we made a mistake.

268

00:17:55,000 --> 00:18:00,000

It looked to me like we were going to blow the ship right out of the water that was so shallow.

269

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:10,000

But as we watched then, word came down from the bridge that they had got a hit.

270

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:12,000

There's an oil coming up.

271

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:15,000

It was a tremendous explosion, you know.

272

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:20,000

Eugene Sheridan, then 24 years old, manned a K-gun on the Willard Keith.

273

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:27,000

We see all greenish looking, oilish looking stuff coming to the top of the water

274

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:30,000

and it's not sea water, you're in there all the time.

275

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:33,000

You can tell the difference of color of it.

276

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:39,000

And we made three or four passes around and back and forth and crisscrossed and everything else

277

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:41,000

and we never did pick it up again.

278

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:43,000

Music

279

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:49,000

After we had made our turn and came back, they couldn't pick it up on the sonar anymore.

280

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:51,000

There was no more sound.

281

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:56,000

We assume it was just weighing on the bottom there someplace.

282

00:18:56,000 --> 00:19:03,000

Bill Anderson, a laundryman on the main deck, was just 18 years old.

283

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:10,000

Even then, Bill had his doubts and began to wonder whether in fact the sunken submarine did belong to the enemy.

284

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:15,000

Indeed, Bill felt strongly enough to question a junior officer.

285

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:17,000

Calls her too close to shore Anderson.

286

00:19:17,000 --> 00:19:21,000

But sir, if it was an American submarine, it'd be on the surface.

287

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Not below it.

288

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:25,000

Yes sir.

289

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:27,000

It was kind of a sobering thought, you know.

290

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:35,000

I mean, you had maybe 50, 60 men dying below you at that time or we thought this was the case.

291

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:39,000

Bill Anderson has never been able to shake that haunting image,

292

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:45,000

nor the nagging suspicion of the dying men or his own comrades.

293

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:50,000

He has petitioned the Navy and received the deck log and war diary for the Willard Keith.

294

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:53,000

But there is no record of the submarine hit.

295

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:58,000

The war diary we got doesn't mention any enemy contact,

296

00:19:58,000 --> 00:20:03,000

doesn't mention this depth charge run whatsoever.

297

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:13,000

There didn't seem to be any information in Washington on a submarine being sunk off the coast of California.

298

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:20,000

In 1992, Bill Anderson and a partner pooled the resources and bought a boat called the Echo Hunter.

299

00:20:20,000 --> 00:20:27,000

Using radar, underwater sonar and divers, they are determined to find the sunken submarine.

300

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Just make a circle on that plane.

301

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:38,000

We think the odds are good enough that we've spent most of our money on this project to find it.

302

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:48,000

It's become an obsession with us to find the sub.

303

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:55,000

I say we either sunk it right there or we crippled it bad and it crawled off someplace else.

304

00:20:55,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Maybe got away or maybe who knows.

305

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:05,000

But I definitely do know that we dropped the depth charges on them.

306

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:12,000

The Navy denies that it happened, but it did happen.

307

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Why they say it didn't happen? I don't know.

308

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:28,000

Unless they're covering it up, you know. Unless it is one of our subs and they don't want it known.

309

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Did the USS Willard Keith make a direct hit that day in 1945?

310

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:39,000

If so, regardless of whether the dead are American, Japanese or German,

311

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:44,000

the Willard Keith's Saders hope to turn the sunken submarine into a monument

312

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:53,000

to honor the memory of those who fought and those who died.

313

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:58,000

At our request, the U.S. Navy checked their archives. They gave us the following statement.

314

00:21:58,000 --> 00:22:04,000

We have no record of the USS Willard Keith sinking a submarine in the spring of 1945.

315

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:10,000

Additionally, we have no record of any subsinkings in the eastern Pacific Ocean during that same time frame.

316

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:19,000

Bill Anderson and his comrades remain undaunted. They plan to continue their quest.

317

00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:23,000

Next, the mysterious death of a Cook County, Illinois police captain.

318

00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:28,000

Was it suicide or was it a contract killing?

319

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:45,000

According to those who knew him best, Captain Michael O'Mara of the Cook County, Illinois Sheriff's Police was the straightest of straight arrows.

320

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:52,000

He was a devoted husband and father, the only officer in the Sheriff's Police trained at the FBI Academy.

321

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:59,000

In the 60s, O'Mara became celebrated as a scourge of the Illinois Mafia.

322

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:05,000

By 1988, however, Michael O'Mara had been relegated to a desk job in the records department.

323

00:23:05,000 --> 00:23:15,000

It should have been the gentle twilight of a brilliant career. Should have been, but wasn't.

324

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:22,000

May 30, 1988, shortly after 9 p.m.

325

00:23:22,000 --> 00:23:30,000

At the Cook County Courthouse, the Sheriff's Police patrolman pulled into the private service area to gas up his car.

326

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:38,000

An unmarked police car was parked at the pumps with a gas nozzle in the tank. Yet no officer was in sight.

327

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:48,000

Anybody here?

328

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:58,000

As the patrolman's flashlight played over the lawn around the service area, he caught a glimpse of a gruesome scene.

329

00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Michael O'Mara's body was slumped over a rock in the middle of the lawn. He had been shot once through the head.

330

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:15,000

His wallet and his briefcase had not been touched. Even though there was no sign of a robbery, Michael O'Mara's reputation as a crusader against organized crime

331

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:20,000

made murderers seem a distinct possibility.

332

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:28,000

The approach of death scene is possibly a homicide initially, that, you know, who did this?

333

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:40,000

There was a gun to the right side of the body, near the right hand, and there was a very visible gunshot wound to the forehead.

334

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:48,000

There was a flashlight found next to a rock that we can identify as his flashlight. The gun is his gun.

335

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:54,000

And there was one bullet that was discharged from that cylinder of that weapon.

336

00:24:54,000 --> 00:24:59,000

You've got nothing in any way, shape, or form to say that there was anybody else there.

337

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:05,000

The victims' pockets were intact. His money was intact. His car was intact.

338

00:25:05,000 --> 00:25:15,000

If you were going to weigh this, there would be more weight towards a suicide or an accident than there would be towards a murder.

339

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:23,000

Two weeks after Michael O'Mara died, a Cook County coroner handed down a ruling which confirmed investigator suspicions.

340

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:30,000

The official cause of death was listed as suicide.

341

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:38,000

It all seemed so final, a tragic end to an otherwise spotless career. But it was not the end.

342

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:42,000

Michael O'Mara's friends and family felt there had been a rush to judgment.

343

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:47,000

Despite the coroner's ruling, they were convinced that Mike had been murdered.

344

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:55,000

What they didn't know was who could have done it and why. But they were sure that Michael O'Mara had not killed himself.

345

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:02,000

The last person known to have seen Mike alive was his wife, Barbara.

346

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:09,000

She recalls he left the house at night in good spirits, saying he had to fill his department vehicle with gas.

347

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:16,000

Right before he left, he said he was going to stop on the way back to get yogurt and he asked everybody what flavor they wanted.

348

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:24,000

And of course, it was the day before payday and he didn't have any money in his wallet, so he asked me for some money to go.

349

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:26,000

Barbara, do you have any cash?

350

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:29,000

Yeah, my purse is in the hallway on the table.

351

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Why wouldn't he take my last couple of dollars to get the yogurt if he was planning on not coming back? It doesn't make any sense.

352

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:50,000

In this case, you can take any isolated fact and say it can be consistent with suicide.

353

00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:56,000

The problem is, is the whole scenario, when you look at that, is not that of a suicide.

354

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:07,000

In 1989, Barbara O'Mara hired Dr. DeMio to review the case, including the coroner's findings and the events leading up to Mike O'Mara's death.

355

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:19,000

When I reviewed the background information in this case, it was evident that there was no reason for the individual to have committed suicide.

356

00:27:19,000 --> 00:27:24,000

There was no financial problems, no personal problems, no fatal disease.

357

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:34,000

That does not completely rule out suicide, but it kind of makes the conclusion that a death is suicide a little more difficult.

358

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:39,000

The man is found dead in the field with a flashlight next to him and his gun.

359

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:47,000

His car is parked nearby with the gasoline nozzle inserted into the tank.

360

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:54,000

This does not sound like a suicide unless the man just drove up there and as he was filling his gas tank says,

361

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:59,000

hey gee, I don't have anything else to do, might as well commit suicide. It was kind of bizarre.

362

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:06,000

Based on his investigation, Dr. DeMio has come up with a scenario for murder.

363

00:28:07,000 --> 00:28:16,000

The evidence of the scene suggests that Mr. O'Mara began to fill the tank of his car when he saw or heard something in the field.

364

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:21,000

He then took a gun from his briefcase and went to investigate.

365

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:29,000

When he got into the field, he met somebody or a number of people and he was shot.

366

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:41,000

I think that if someone was screaming that a crime was occurring and he was standing right at his vehicle, I don't know why he wouldn't ask for help first.

367

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:51,000

Also, it's my understanding from reading the file and talking to the investigators that persons who

heard a shot fired did not hear those other things.

368

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:58,000

They didn't hear somebody calling for help. When our investigators went to the scene and they looked in the field,

369

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:06,000

it didn't appear that there was any struggle in the field. If not by him and somebody else, by that quote, a possible offender in a third party,

370

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:10,000

there was no evidence of a struggle.

371

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:20,000

Who would have had a motive to kill Mike O'Mara? Could it have been a long forgotten enemy nursing a vendetta for more than 25 years,

372

00:29:20,000 --> 00:29:30,000

ever since O'Mara and his raiders went after the mafia in the 60s? Or could Mike O'Mara have had an enemy closer to home, perhaps even in the sheriff's police?

373

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:39,000

If anyone knows, he's not saying. But Dr. DeMio points to one additional fact which he believes argues against suicide.

374

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:54,000

When people shoot themselves, they tend to put the gun firmly against the head at the time of discharge. In this case, the muzzle of the weapon was between two and four inches away from the skin.

375

00:29:54,000 --> 00:30:00,000

And you could see that by the powder tattooing on the skin around the entrance wound.

376

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:12,000

He may have chosen to have it not be a contact wound because he did. He taught homicide investigation. I mean, he taught courses and he taught about suicide.

377

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:19,000

So he knows if he wanted to make it look like something other than it was, he may have deliberately done that.

378

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:27,000

Well, I don't think you can really get into someone's head when they're, if they're about to go and do something as drastic as this.

379

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:39,000

He left the house with the intent to get gas. He told his wife, they're going to bring some frozen yogurt home. So he played that scenario out. And he just didn't come home.

380

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:58,000

Based on the information that I have in front of me, in reading the entire case, it tends to be suicide. I don't have any evidence in front of me that would conclude that this was a homicide and we need, and we're looking for the offenders.

381

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:17,000

What happened to Captain Michael O'Mara on the night of May 30th, 1988? Is it possibly chose to end his own life? A life which would have been the envy of any police officer? Or is there a killer still at large, still unidentified, still a danger?

382

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:25,000

Michael O'Mara's friends and family believe the answer is obvious. Michael O'Mara is not a man to commit suicide.

383

00:31:27,000 --> 00:31:35,000

One of the reasons that I don't believe this would have been a suicide, it just wouldn't have been his nature to do something like this, either to his family or to his religious beliefs.

384

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:46,000

It wasn't an accident. He was purposely shot. And why it's being covered up or whether they know or anybody knows, I don't know.

385

00:31:46,000 --> 00:32:06,000

I can't believe it's a suicide at all. Knowing Mike, it was totally foreign to his nature. He was never one to give up on something. It just doesn't fit him. What happened out there, I'll never know. But suicide, I'll never believe.

386

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:27,000

On the evening of October 2, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Betcher and their son, Alan, were leaving Baptist Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida.

387

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:36,000

When Alan ran ahead to the family car, he made a startling discovery. A baby girl had been carefully placed in the back seat.

388

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:48,000

The child became a local celebrity. Newspapers dubbed her Baby Girl X. Within a year, she was adopted by Mary Lou and William Christie of Tallahassee and named Terry.

389

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:59,000

Terry grew up happily, doted on by her parents and an older brother and sister. By the time she was a teenager, however, she began to ask questions.

390

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:12,000

I kind of rebelled and wanted to know. This one went to the library, looked it up, and then I got excited. I was proud, you know.

391

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Together, Terry and her adoptive mother, Mary Lou, searched for clues to the identity of Terry's birth mother.

392

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Let's roll it some more and see what else we see.

393

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:33,000

I believe she had a heart. She put me somewhere safe where I was going to be well taken care of, and I appreciate that.

394

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:40,000

I just want to meet her and see how she is. I would like to find a beginning.

395

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:44,000

Did you see anybody around? No.

396

00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:45,000

No.

397

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:52,000

Thanks to our broadcast, Terry Christie Derby now knows the answers to all of her questions.

398

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:59,000

Sadly, Terry's birth mother, Edith Campbell, died on August 17, 1993, just a few months before our segment aired.

399

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:07,000

But out of this sadness, a happy ending did emerge. Terry was delighted to learn that she had a sister and three brothers.

400

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:12,000

They were delighted as well. None of them had ever known that Terry existed.

401

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:26,000

On July 8, 1994, Terry went to a hotel in Miami, Florida to meet three of her siblings, Phillip, Paul and Cecilia, face to face for the first time.

402

00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:41,000

It was the neatest experience of my life. I walked in and there was everybody I wanted to see.

403

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Next to me giving birth to my own kids, this is the best thing that's ever happened to me. Best thing.

404

00:34:52,000 --> 00:35:04,000

My experience is that there's more than just a biological thing in a family. There's also a karmic sense of underlying destiny that lies underneath the whole thing.

405

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:12,000

And this, you know, you meet somebody, I meet Terry and it's like, she is my sister. I knew it right away, you know? There's no doubt.

406

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:19,000

At the reunion, Terry and her adoptive mother finally saw a picture of Terry's biological mother, Edith Campbell.

407

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:27,000

According to a family member, Edith had given Terry up only because of extreme financial desperation.

408

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:36,000

Knowing what a loving person she was, she cared about nothing but her children, her whole life.

409

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:44,000

And I can only imagine the anguish that she went through when she decided to do this.

410

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:55,000

They make me feel wanted. They make me feel like I'm not an outcast. I kind of felt like I was in the past, but...

411

00:35:56,000 --> 00:36:04,000

I can feel their vibes, love, whatever, you know? It's kind of cool.

412

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Come on, let's go. Let's go.

413

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:13,000

The next day, Terry met her other brother, Chris, who had been called out of town on business on the day of the reunion.

414

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,000

That's right, snuggle up, brothers and sister.

415

00:36:17,000 --> 00:36:20,000

At last, the family circle is complete.

416

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:32,000

When we return, perhaps you can help reunite a family torn apart by poverty and misunderstanding.

417

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:48,000

In the year 1948, a family tragedy began to unfold just north of Tipton, Oklahoma.

418

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:50,000

You coming home after work today?

419

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:55,000

Roy Lee and Leela Stallings, along with their six children, existed on the edge of abject poverty.

420

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:58,000

The Stallings actually lived in an old school bus.

421

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:02,000

Roy Lee worked sporadically as a sharecropper and was rarely at home.

422

00:37:03,000 --> 00:37:06,000

He gambled away what little money he brought in.

423

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:15,000

In his own way, he was fatherly by trying to make a living for us.

424

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:20,000

But as far as being home, he wasn't home that much.

425

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:31,000

The mother was the one that was the disciplinarian to cook and to feed and supply the meals and everything.

426

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:33,000

It was mother's job.

427

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:43,000

In spite of almost insurmountable odds, Leela Stallings struggled to maintain a home life that was as normal as possible.

428

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:46,000

Mary, why don't you take them?

429

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Thank you.

430

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:53,000

We always had something to do.

431

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,000

And we had toys to play with and each other to play with.

432

00:37:57,000 --> 00:38:00,000

So we didn't think of ourselves as being different.

433

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Do you want to hear the story of Noah's Ark again?

434

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:06,000

Okay.

435

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:10,000

One day the Lord told Noah to build an ark.

436

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:15,000

Mother couldn't read and write, but her Bible meant a lot to her.

437

00:38:16,000 --> 00:38:19,000

And she'd see pictures and she'd tell us Bible stories from the pictures.

438

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:23,000

And we grew up with a very direct sense of what was right and wrong.

439

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:31,000

To the children, the old school bus was home, a haven and a safe place.

440

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:36,000

But others, notably Melvin Purdy, a family friend, had different ideas.

441

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:40,000

And Melvin did not hesitate to make his feelings known to Leela Stallings.

442

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:43,000

Melvin, you want to separate our family?

443

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:47,000

Leela, you don't have a prayer over in that old bus with him again.

444

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:49,000

Melvin, I will see you dead before you get my kids.

445

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:51,000

Leela, that's no way where you're gonna act now.

446

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:54,000

I want you to leave and never, never come back here.

447

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:56,000

You're not gonna let me take Leela David Ray tonight.

448

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:58,000

No, you can't have him.

449

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:00,000

Well, I'm gonna take him.

450

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:02,000

I think you ain't gonna have any of him, kid, very long.

451

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:16,000

The only child Melvin wanted to raise himself was four-year-old David Ray, the youngest boy.

452

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:25,000

But Melvin thought all the children were neglected, from the baby two-year-old Norma Ruth, to the eldest, 12-year-old Roy Jr.

453

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:30,000

Mary was then 10, the oldest girl and second mother to the younger ones.

454

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:36,000

Joe was both big brother and role model to six-year-old Ernest Lee.

455

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:42,000

The bus is gone.

456

00:39:43,000 --> 00:39:47,000

The final straw came a few weeks later when the old school bus was taken away.

457

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:51,000

Apparently, Roy Lee Stallings had lost it in a poker game.

458

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Melvin Purdy, along with several others, wasted no time contacting the authorities.

459

00:39:57,000 --> 00:40:00,000

State of Oklahoma versus Lee and Leela Stallings.

460

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:05,000

You've been charged with the crime of admitting to provide for the care of minor children.

461

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:07,000

How do you plead to these charges?

462

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:09,000

Not guilty.

463

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:14,000

Based on evidence presented to this court, there is due cause to have you bound over for trial.

464

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Until further decision, the children are placed in the care of the child welfare department under your supervision.

465

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Yes, Your Honor.

466

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:28,000

Mr. Mrs. Stallings, at this time, you are placed in the custody of the Tillman County Sheriff's Department.

467

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:34,000

I remember seeing them both in handcuffs.

468

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:41,000

And that was the last time I saw Mother as they let her out the side door.

469

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:45,000

And that was something very strange to us.

470

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:52,000

Over the next few days, the Stallings children would all be taken to foster homes.

471

00:40:56,000 --> 00:41:01,000

Mary vividly remembers the last time she saw her three youngest siblings.

472

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:10,000

I put Ernest Lee in the car, told Ernest to get in the car, and I put David in the car.

473

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:14,000

And they, Normie was holding on to me and wouldn't let go.

474

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:17,000

And they pulled her out of my arms and put her in the car.

475

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:22,000

You go in the house.

476

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:29,000

Ernest Lee was pulling at the window. They had rolled the windows up.

477

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:35,000

And that's the last time I saw him.

478

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:42,000

Within a week, the charges against Lila and Roy Lee Stallings were dropped, but the damage had already been done.

479

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:48,000

Lila was told that all of her children, except the oldest, Roy Jr., had been put up for adoption.

480

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:55,000

The Stallings children were taken to foster homes.

481

00:41:56,000 --> 00:41:58,000

And they were taken to foster homes.

482

00:41:59,000 --> 00:42:01,000

And they were taken to foster homes.

483

00:42:02,000 --> 00:42:10,000

Two years later, after Roy Lee and Lila divorced, Mary was allowed to go home and live with her mother.

484

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:13,000

Joe was reunited with them in 1959.

485

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:21,000

Lila passed away in 1989, but Mary and Joe still desperately want to be reunited with their brothers and sisters.

486

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:29,000

We've never given up hope that they are still alive and that we will be able to find them.

487

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:36,000

I'm curious as to what they've grown up like, their family life, what they've made of themselves.

488

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:41,000

And definitely hoping that if I do find them, none of this will ever hurt them.

489

00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:52,000

I have tried every avenue that I have come before me to try and locate these brothers and sisters.

490

00:42:54,000 --> 00:43:00,000

And I'll never quit until the last day of my life.

491

00:43:02,000 --> 00:43:05,000

Unsolved mysteries appeared to be the last hope.

492

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:11,000

And happily the day after our broadcast, 35 years of frustration came to an end for Joe and Mary.

493

00:43:12,000 --> 00:43:15,000

A man named Lee Shulian of Owaso, Oklahoma called our phone center.

494

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:21,000

He identified himself as Ernest Lee Stallings, who was only five when the family was split apart.

495

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:26,000

Lee was thrilled to hear that his brother and sister were looking for him and was anxious to meet them.

496

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:36,000

Three weeks later, Lee arrived at a hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma to be reunited with Joe.

497

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:41,000

The two brothers had not seen each other in nearly half a century.

498

00:43:43,000 --> 00:43:45,000

I've been talking to you on the phone quite a bit.

499

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:51,000

I've been waiting for this moment so much.

500

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:57,000

I don't know how to describe it. It's such a wonderful feeling.

501

00:43:57,000 --> 00:43:59,000

It's about time.

502

00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:02,000

It's definitely time for this.

503

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:09,000

Walking in this morning, we walked in and we met, hugged each other.

504

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:17,000

Nobody can realize the feeling.

505

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:21,000

We've been talking to each other for too many years.

506

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:24,000

Yeah, about 40, 47 years.

507

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:27,000

I really didn't know how I was going to react.

508

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:30,000

We've been separated 46 years.

509

00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:33,000

I felt a lot better than what I thought I might.

510

00:44:34,000 --> 00:44:38,000

I felt real good to hug him.

511

00:44:39,000 --> 00:44:44,000

We've already started making some plans to get together and go fishing.

512

00:44:45,000 --> 00:44:52,000

So we've got a future ahead of us to be together and enjoy each other.

513

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:59,000

Sadly, Joe and Lee's sister, Mary, was unable to attend the reunion.

514

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:05,000

However, she has spoken with Lee on the phone and they plan to get together in the very near future.

515

00:45:06,000 --> 00:45:08,000

Right, yeah.

516

00:45:24,000 --> 00:45:31,000

On our next Unsolved Mysteries, a remarkable story of faith and healing.

517

00:45:32,000 --> 00:45:37,000

When Vera Marie Calandra was two years old, her parents were told that she had just weeks to live.

518

00:45:38,000 --> 00:45:44,000

Vera Marie's mother immediately undertook an arduous journey to Italy to ask for a special blessing from her.

519

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:47,000

Today, Vera Marie Calandra is a normal healthy adult.

520

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:50,000

Was she saved by a miracle?

521

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:55,000

Join me next Friday for this uplifting story and more.

522

00:45:56,000 --> 00:45:59,000

Vera Marie's mother, Mary, was a very young woman.

523

00:46:00,000 --> 00:46:02,000

She was a very young woman.

524

00:46:03,000 --> 00:46:05,000

She was a very young woman.

525

00:46:06,000 --> 00:46:08,000

She was a very young woman.

526

00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:10,000

Was she saved by a miracle?

527

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:17,000

Join me next Friday for this uplifting story and much more on Unsolved Mysteries.