

1

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

The End

2

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

Tonight on Unsolved Mysteries

3

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:14,000

Hope Grove, Kentucky had a dirty little secret.

4

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

A house of ill repute which allegedly operated with a full

5

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

knowledge and protection of the police.

6

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

Then two prostitutes were murdered and the brewing scandal

7

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

boiled over.

8

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

24 years old, blonde, pretty, an Olympic hopeful,

9

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

and missing for 18 months.

10

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

Could her husband have masterminded Amy Bechtel's

11

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

disappearance?

12

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

Mississippi River, 1947.

13

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:46,000

Mary Green piloted the riverboat Delta Queen for two years

14

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

before she passed away.

15

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

Some crew members are convinced that she never left her post.

16

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

When she was only 14, Margie Hamilton was forced to marry

17

00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:00,000

a man four times her age, then forced to give up their first

18

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

born for adoption.

19

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:07,000

Perhaps you can help create a mother and son reunion.

20

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

For every mystery there is someone, somewhere who knows

21

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

the truth.

22

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:14,000

Perhaps it's you.

23

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Join me for another edition of Unsolved Mysteries.

24

00:01:48,000 --> 00:02:06,000

A brutal double murder, allegations of police corruption,

25

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:11,000

a house of ill repute, and a madam who refuses to keep quiet.

26

00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:13,000

It has all the elements.

27

00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:16,000

It's a kind of case guaranteed to rip a small town apart.

28

00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:25,000

September 20, 1994, 3 AM.

29

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

It was called a New Light Massage Parter,

30

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:29,000

but everyone in Oak Grove, Kentucky,

31

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,000

knew the girls were prostitutes.

32

00:02:31,000 --> 00:02:34,000

This night, customers were scarce.

33

00:02:34,000 --> 00:02:36,000

Gloria, I'm going to go ahead and take Sarah home.

34

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:38,000

And then Mary and I are going to grab some drinks.

35

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:39,000

You want to go with us?

36

00:02:39,000 --> 00:02:40,000

No, no thanks.

37

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:41,000

You sure?

38

00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:42,000

Yeah, I think I'll just.

39

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:46,000

22-year-old Candy Belt was a single mother working to support

40

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:48,000

two young children.

41

00:02:48,000 --> 00:02:51,000

18-year-old Gloria Ross had been married less than a year

42

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:53,000

and had a six-week-old daughter.

43

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Two young women, perhaps a bit desperate,

44

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:59,000

just trying to pay the bills.

45

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:01,000

Within the hour, both of them would be dead,

46

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

shot execution style, their throats slashed.

47

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:11,000

I felt some responsibility for their deaths, at least.

48

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

Tammy Papler ran the New Light Massage Parter.

49

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:19,000

You know, it's kind of like I'm, I'm like their mom

50

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:21,000

and I'm responsible.

51

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:23,000

And I'm supposed to see this through.

52

00:03:27,000 --> 00:03:31,000

Almost three years went by and the case remained unsolved.

53

00:03:31,000 --> 00:03:34,000

Then Tammy Papler went public with stunning accusations

54

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

about the police department, accusations that

55

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

have been widely disputed.

56

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

I don't think the murders were ever meant to be solved.

57

00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

They thought if it got solved, it would be a really big

58

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

embarrassment to have two police officers arrested

59

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

for killing two prostitutes.

60

00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Bring somebody the proof and the evidence needed

61

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:57,000

for indictments or convictions.

62

00:03:57,000 --> 00:04:01,000

I will assist any agency in their apprehension.

63

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

Until then, I'm not going to point fingers at anybody.

64

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Hi.

65

00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Tammy Papler opened the New Light Massage Parter in 1992.

66

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

Like the tiny town of Oak Grove, its main business

67

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,000

was serving the soldiers at the Army's Fort Campbell

68

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,000

a half mile down the road.

69

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

According to Tammy Papler, the police didn't shut her down

70

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

because they stood to benefit in a big way.

71

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,000

She says New Light Massage Parter became City Hall's

72

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Golden Goose.

73

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:35,000

The police department would pick out specific things

74

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

for us to buy and they would order them.

75

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:41,000

I know there were lights for just about every car,

76

00:04:41,000 --> 00:04:47,000

shoes, uniforms, canine t-shirts, Christmas parties,

77

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

Christmas bonuses.

78

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

They get basically what they want.

79

00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:54,000

Those little seven or eight police officers in the mayor

80

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:56,000

run the whole town.

81

00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:03,000

Hi Ed.

82

00:05:03,000 --> 00:05:04,000

Hi Tammy.

83

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

Papler says one Oak Grove police officer took excessive

84

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

advantage, a patrolman named Ed Carter.

85

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:14,000

Carter has denied the accusations you're about to hear.

86

00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:16,000

So what can we do for you today Ed?

87

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:18,000

Oh well, it's just in the neighborhood.

88

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

Ed Carter would ask a lot more than the other officers would.

89

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,000

He wanted services and it was like, well I know what's going on.

90

00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:27,000

You know, I'm a police officer.

91

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:28,000

Who are they going to believe?

92

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

You or me?

93

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:30,000

He had the gun.

94

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:31,000

I didn't.

95

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

Someone asked me for money and they have a gun.

96

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:36,000

I'm going to give it, especially one that I know can put me in jail.

97

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:39,000

And that's exactly how everything got started.

98

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:45,000

According to Tammy Papler, once Carter got started he didn't stop.

99

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:49,000

He insisted that she contract with him for janitorial services,

100

00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:53,000

services that he reportedly intended his own wife to perform.

101

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Papler claims Carter soon became a fixture at New Life.

102

00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:03,000

When she went on vacation, Papler says Ed Carter virtually took control

103

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

of the massage parlor.

104

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

Ed, what are you doing?

105

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:10,000

Hold up, just making sure I'm-

106

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:11,000

You're telling my money Ed.

107

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:12,000

No, I'm down.

108

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:13,000

What's going on?

109

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Hey, I'm just taking care of business.

110

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

How long has he been here for?

111

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Ever since you've been gone.

112

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:18,000

It was like he was the madam.

113

00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:19,000

I wasn't the madam anymore.

114

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:21,000

It was actually like he was.

115

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:23,000

He was the one who was in charge of the parlor.

116

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:24,000

He was running it.

117

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:25,000

Ed, put down my money.

118

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:26,000

Look, I've helped you from day one.

119

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Ed, how much money have mine been taken?

120

00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:30,000

I was furious with him.

121

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:32,000

I didn't want him around my business anymore.

122

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:34,000

I didn't want him around the girls.

123

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

I informed the girls you keep the door locked.

124

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

If he comes in you just shake your head no.

125

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

Don't allow him to come inside this business.

126

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:42,000

Get out of here!

127

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:45,000

I told him don't ever come around here again.

128

00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:47,000

You stay away.

129

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

And I made sure we had had a meeting

130

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

and I informed each and every one of them this.

131

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:53,000

You do not allow him around here anymore.

132

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

It's the end of it.

133

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,000

A few weeks later, the murders.

134

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:01,000

Oak Grove police were on the scene

135

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

minutes after the bodies were discovered.

136

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:08,000

Please, I only want to see uniformed officers in this building.

137

00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:10,000

By the time Major Billy Glouyde of the Christian County

138

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Sheriff's Department was called in to assist,

139

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:16,000

the crime scene had been severely compromised.

140

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:19,000

I want to see only uniformed officers in here, sir.

141

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:20,000

Outside now.

142

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,000

The Oak Grove officer in charge was Detective Leslie Duncan.

143

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:26,000

According to Tammy Papler, he was well known to her.

144

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:29,000

Duncan was also Ed Carter's former roommate.

145

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:32,000

I feel like Ed Carter killed them.

146

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:34,000

I honestly do.

147

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

I feel like he is the one who actually pulled the trigger.

148

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

Mr. Carter's never run.

149

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:41,000

He's never fled the area.

150

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:43,000

He's never left the area.

151

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:45,000

Whenever he was questioned, he always cooperated.

152

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:48,000

And I find it troubling that after three years,

153

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

that there are no closer to making an arrest

154

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

of anybody, much less Mr. Carter.

155

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

Three years is a long time.

156

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:57,000

Memories fade.

157

00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:59,000

Evidence disappears.

158

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:01,000

And the only thing that's the same here is these bare,

159

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:06,000

unsupported allegations that are being made by the Pat Paplers.

160

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

And I just question the motive.

161

00:08:09,000 --> 00:08:12,000

I question their interest in this thing.

162

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:15,000

Good evening, ladies.

163

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Slow night, huh?

164

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:19,000

According to the Sheriff's Department,

165

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Ed Carter freely admitted he stopped by the massage parter

166

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:26,000

that night, but claimed he went home to his wife at 3 AM

167

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

before the murders occurred.

168

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Carter and his wife have since gone through a divorce.

169

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:35,000

She disputes her ex-husband's alleged account.

170

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:38,000

He came in a few minutes after four.

171

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:42,000

I made it a habit of looking up at the clock when he came in.

172

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:48,000

The two women were shot with a small caliber gun.

173

00:08:48,000 --> 00:08:52,000

The police say Ed Carter told them he owned no such weapon.

174

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Again, his ex-wife disagrees.

175

00:08:56,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Ed did own a small caliber gun.

176

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

He kept it under the mattress for my protection.

177

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:07,000

It was not there that night.

178

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

I had not seen it from the Christmas

179

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

before the shootings.

180

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,000

Ed Carter voluntarily took a polygraph exam

181

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:19,000

a few weeks after the murders.

182

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:24,000

I can't tell you whether or not he passed or failed his polygraph.

183

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:27,000

The only thing I can tell you is that he did resign

184

00:09:27,000 --> 00:09:30,000

from the police department and that he did secure

185

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,000

an attorney after the polygraph.

186

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Soon after, Ed Carter moved to another part of Kentucky.

187

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:43,000

A year later, Leslie Duncan also voluntarily resigned.

188

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Despite Tammy Papler's efforts, the murder investigation languished.

189

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Finally claiming she was fed up,

190

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:53,000

Tammy decided to make a public stink.

191

00:09:53,000 --> 00:09:55,000

State your name, please.

192

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:56,000

Tammy Papler.

193

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:01,000

She chose a city council meeting on July 15, 1997.

194

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:04,000

There were two girls killed in the massage parlor.

195

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:07,000

I feel like they don't think these lives were important.

196

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:09,000

That these girls were as important as if,

197

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:12,000

I don't know, maybe if there was a deputies daughter

198

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

or a mayor's daughter.

199

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:17,000

But I just feel like they felt they didn't have to investigate it

200

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

because no one's going to ask any questions.

201

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

They were just two dead prostitutes

202

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:25,000

and no one's going to care about it.

203

00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:26,000

I have returned.

204

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:29,000

But at least one person at City Hall did care.

205

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:34,000

The one person who said she could verify some aspects of Papler's story

206

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:37,000

and her city councilwoman, Patty Ballou,

207

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:41,000

once known as Harley, one of Tammy's girls.

208

00:10:41,000 --> 00:10:45,000

I announced to everybody that her allegations of police corruption

209

00:10:45,000 --> 00:10:48,000

and things of that nature were true.

210

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:50,000

I'd known about them, about them coming in the parlor.

211

00:10:50,000 --> 00:10:54,000

And the reason I know about that's because I used to work there.

212

00:10:54,000 --> 00:11:00,000

Patty Ballou had worked at the New Life Massage Parlor for two years.

213

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

She claimed she knew Ed Carter and some of his friends.

214

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:08,000

I always felt that the police officers were involved.

215

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:10,000

They were there all the time.

216

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:12,000

They knew the routine.

217

00:11:12,000 --> 00:11:14,000

They knew everything.

218

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:17,000

They knew the ins and the outs about the place.

219

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:24,000

There's so many things that just kept pointing towards them.

220

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

Ed Carter did not commit these murders.

221

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Yes, Ed Carter did work at this facility as a janitor.

222

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:33,000

But Ed Carter did not commit these murders.

223

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:36,000

He wants to have this matter as far as he's concerned.

224

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,000

Brought to closure.

225

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

He wants to see the final chapter written where it can be stated.

226

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Without a doubt that Ed Carter had absolutely nothing to do with the murders

227

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:50,000

that occurred in the city of Oak Grove.

228

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:53,000

Two young women dead.

229

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:55,000

Two families destroyed.

230

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:57,000

And a killer walking free.

231

00:11:57,000 --> 00:12:01,000

The controversy makes it all too easy to forget.

232

00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:07,000

I hope that justice will be served.

233

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:10,000

I hope that they charge the police officers.

234

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:13,000

I hope they clean up the corruption.

235

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:15,000

And I hope they start the town all on you.

236

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:20,000

Because that's the only way that it can honestly be cleaned up and brought.

237

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:26,000

But most of all, I want Gloria and Candy to know that we fought for them.

238

00:12:26,000 --> 00:12:30,000

And that we're going to see justice as served one.

239

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:34,000

Coming up.

240

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:37,000

In Wyoming, a marathon runner mysteriously disappears.

241

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:40,000

Could her husband have been involved?

242

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:50,000

Late afternoon.

243

00:12:50,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Late summer.

244

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:55,000

A runner moves easily along the mountain switchbacks

245

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

high above the small town of Lander, Wyoming.

246

00:12:59,000 --> 00:13:02,000

Her stride is strong, smooth.

247

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:04,000

That of a dedicated athlete.

248

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:06,000

An Olympic hopeful.

249

00:13:06,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Her name is Amy Roe Bechtel.

250

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

She is 24 years old.

251

00:13:11,000 --> 00:13:16,000

On this day she runs into the tall trees of the Shoshone National Forest.

252

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:18,000

And disappears.

253

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:26,000

Hi, Annie.

254

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:27,000

Sam and I are going to do boys.

255

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Earlier that same day, it was a typical day for Amy and her husband, Steve.

256

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:35,000

I'm going to have the phone turn on in the new place today.

257

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:36,000

Okay.

258

00:13:36,000 --> 00:13:37,000

Bye.

259

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:38,000

Bye.

260

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:40,000

Steve was going rock climbing with a friend.

261

00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

And Amy was going to teach a fitness class.

262

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:50,000

Amy and Steve Bechtel have been married for a little more than a year.

263

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:52,000

Both were competitive athletes.

264

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:55,000

Running for Amy, climbing for Steve.

265

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:01,000

They moved to Lander because this rugged terrain made it a perfect training ground.

266

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:06,000

Amy is always really fond of saying, you know, let's retire now and then we'll work when we're old.

267

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:12,000

Yeah, we have some debts and we have to work some odd jobs and things like that.

268

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

But basically every day we live the way we want to.

269

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Amy and Steve had recently bought a home of their own.

270

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:23,000

They plan to move in over the next few days.

271

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:32,000

The night before Amy disappeared, I went over with Steve and Amy to see their new house and to help them move a load of stuff over there.

272

00:14:32,000 --> 00:14:37,000

And Amy showed me where she was going to have her sewing room and where Steve was going to have his gym.

273

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:40,000

And they were just really excited about the house.

274

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Amy had a long list of errands that day.

275

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:45,000

Call the phone company.

276

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Get the gas turned on.

277

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:48,000

Buy home insurance.

278

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:52,000

Once those tasks were done, she turned to something fun.

279

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Planning a route for a 10K mountain run.

280

00:14:58,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Hey man, what you find?

281

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:00,000

Hey Todd.

282

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:02,000

Found a nice friction climb.

283

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:03,000

How tough.

284

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:09,000

When Steve returned from his all day climbing trip, Amy wasn't home yet.

285

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:14,000

He was just talking casually and he asked about Amy.

286

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

And I said, I don't know, she's up somewhere, she goes, okay, no problem.

287

00:15:18,000 --> 00:15:19,000

Hey guys.

288

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:20,000

Hi Steve.

289

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,000

Early evening, Steve stopped by the neighbors.

290

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Todd and his wife Amy were making dinner.

291

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

Amy Bechtel still wasn't home.

292

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

I think he was getting more and more worried at this time.

293

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

She usually leaves a note.

294

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:38,000

I'm sure she'll be back soon.

295

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:44,000

He wasn't panicking by any means because it was still light and still, you know, she could have been out doing something.

296

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:48,000

It was not an, an, an, an, an ordinary day for Amy.

297

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:52,000

So we didn't think it was unusual that she was gone.

298

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:56,000

But when we got back from the movie, I was really worried.

299

00:15:58,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Amy's not back yet.

300

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:01,000

She's not back?

301

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:02,000

No.

302

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:03,000

I haven't heard anything from her.

303

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:04,000

I called the police, they're out looking for her.

304

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Todd and Amy searched Rose where Amy Bechtel most likely went running.

305

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Steve stayed behind, hoping his wife would call.

306

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:17,000

Todd and I had been driving on the loop road for about an hour or so.

307

00:16:17,000 --> 00:16:24,000

And right around one o'clock, we glimpsed Amy's car up, pulled off the side of the road.

308

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

Look Todd, there it is.

309

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

Okay.

310

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:28,000

That's her car.

311

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:31,000

We saw her car there and it was like, you know, we were relieved.

312

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:34,000

It's like, oh man, we thought we'd found her.

313

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:39,000

So I walked up, it's completely expecting for her to be in the car.

314

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:41,000

She's not in there.

315

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:47,000

Like, and had run out of gas or not been able to start it or a dead battery or who knows what the heck.

316

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:49,000

I'll go call the sheriff.

317

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Amy!

318

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:56,000

At that point it was relief, you know, and concern because, you know, her car's still up there

319

00:16:56,000 --> 00:17:02,000

and it's, you know, after midnight and, you know, she's probably cold and maybe has a twisted ankle.

320

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:03,000

Amy!

321

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:06,000

But Amy was nowhere to be found.

322

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:10,000

Not in a few minutes, not even a few hours.

323

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:12,000

Amy!

324

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

By morning, the search for Amy had expanded dramatically.

325

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

Soon dozens of volunteers were scouring the mountains.

326

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Eventually more than 500 people covered a 20 mile radius.

327

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Not a single clue was found.

328

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:35,000

We should have found Amy Bechtel if she were a runner up there and nothing else entered the picture.

329

00:17:35,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Could she still be there?

330

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:37,000

Yes.

331

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Given the circumstances, the lack of clues.

332

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:42,000

I don't think she is.

333

00:17:43,000 --> 00:17:48,000

After eight days, the massive search was called off.

334

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Where was Amy Bechtel?

335

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:57,000

Her sunglasses, car keys and a dualist are on the seat of her car, apparently just as she had left them.

336

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:59,000

Only her wallet was missing.

337

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:03,000

If she wasn't injured, it's something terrible happened to her.

338

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:06,000

Had she been kidnapped, even murdered.

339

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Sheriff's investigators soon tested a theory, some found shocking.

340

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

Steve, you know what this is?

341

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:16,000

No.

342

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:20,000

This is evidence that ties you directly to Amy's disappearance.

343

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:25,000

I can't believe this is happening.

344

00:18:25,000 --> 00:18:27,000

I was pretty blown away, you know, and I turned to Dave.

345

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:29,000

I was like, you know, Dave, what's going on here?

346

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:32,000

And then this is not cool.

347

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:35,000

He was floored, basically.

348

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:37,000

He slumped down in the chair.

349

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:40,000

We have some serious questions about you and your wife's relationship.

350

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:43,000

The best thing you can do right now is cooperate.

351

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:47,000

The guy says, look, if you take a polygraph test, we'll get this cleared up right now.

352

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:51,000

And I was like, wait a minute, you know, if you guys are accusing me of something I didn't do,

353

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:54,000

I'm going to want to talk to the legal counsel here.

354

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:57,000

I wouldn't let any client take a lie detector test.

355

00:18:57,000 --> 00:18:59,000

They're completely inaccurate.

356

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:03,000

They come in about one third of the time as a false positive.

357

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:09,000

And it would be a terrible injustice to Steve if he fell within that one third false positive

358

00:19:09,000 --> 00:19:12,000

and it was used wrongly against him.

359

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:17,000

So Steve Bechtel did not take a lie detector test.

360

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

Deputies armed with a warrant searched his home.

361

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Among the items he confiscated were a series of journals Steve had been keeping since high school.

362

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:31,000

Journals investigators found potentially incriminating.

363

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:37,000

We've obtained many pages of writings, journals if you will, of Steve Bechtel's.

364

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Those are somewhat disturbing.

365

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:48,000

There are song lyrics in there and there are writings about power and death, some about killing people.

366

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Sheriff's investigators asked Amy's family and friends to read excerpts.

367

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:56,000

Did you see that?

368

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:59,000

I was floored.

369

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

At that point my wife and I, we both thought, you know, there are some things that we've seen in the past

370

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:08,000

that maybe somebody should be aware of.

371

00:20:08,000 --> 00:20:15,000

There was one night, for instance, on Nell's row and his wife had Amy and Steve over for dinner.

372

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Did you get that bruise?

373

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:19,000

It's nothing, it's just a bruise.

374

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

Just a bruise?

375

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

Just a bruise.

376

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,000

You know, Steve can get a little rough sometimes.

377

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:32,000

Amy just laughed it off, would not let me in the eye and I said, that is not a normal reaction, particularly for Amy.

378

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Deputies also found a camper who claimed that on the day Amy disappeared,

379

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:44,000

she had seen a blue pickup driving fast on the mountain roads near where Amy's car was found.

380

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:49,000

A man was at the wheel, a blonde woman in the passenger seat.

381

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:54,000

The next day, the camper saw the same truck at the search site.

382

00:20:54,000 --> 00:21:02,000

Based on that information we showed her pictures of Steve Bechtel's truck and she concluded that that was the same truck she had seen.

383

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:08,000

Evidence seemed to be mounting against Steve Bechtel, but was that evidence accurate?

384

00:21:08,000 --> 00:21:10,000

Statistically he did it.

385

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:14,000

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying he did.

386

00:21:14,000 --> 00:21:23,000

The first person we have to eliminate in a case where there may be a foul play involved in one's disappearance is the person closest to that person.

387

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:33,000

Sheriff's investigators believe there were vital gaps in Steve's activities that day, time when he could have harmed Amy.

388

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:43,000

He was with people all that afternoon and evening, so I don't have any question about that, he just didn't have the time.

389

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:49,000

But what about the camper who said she saw what might have been Steve's truck?

390

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:57,000

According to phone records, Steve made a call from his house at 4.43 that afternoon.

391

00:21:57,000 --> 00:21:59,000

Johnny, hey it's Steve.

392

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:09,000

That's about the same time the camper saw what she alleged was his truck on the mountain road, a 45 minute drive from the Bechtel's home.

393

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:16,000

I don't see how Steve ever had the time to get up to where Amy's car was and back.

394

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:20,000

And what about Motive?

395

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:27,000

Investigators believe Steve's journals show a desire for power and control that may have led to murder.

396

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Steve and Amy's friend Todd Skinner strongly disagrees. He thinks Steve is innocent.

397

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:39,000

A psychologist can read anything into any writing that you can ever wish to put in there.

398

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:49,000

And to me I've never seen more innocuous writing taken out of context more heavily to a worse result.

399

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:57,000

This year, runners competed in the run for Amy in her hometown of Douglas, Wyoming.

400

00:22:57,000 --> 00:23:03,000

Amy's family and friends were there to honor her memory, but they still want answers.

401

00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:06,000

They want Steve to take a polygraph test.

402

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:13,000

I don't feel like me going in and getting attacked is going to solve any problems.

403

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:19,000

I feel like, you know, I went and I tried to work with Dave and it didn't work out.

404

00:23:19,000 --> 00:23:24,000

And, you know, things need to get solved a different way now.

405

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:27,000

Did Steve Buchtel murder his wife?

406

00:23:27,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Steve and his family believe a stranger could have kidnapped her.

407

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:36,000

Or a motorist could have accidentally struck Amy in a panic disposed of her body.

408

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

Next, meet a young man and woman whose lives have been changed forever by a riverboat captain who some call the matchmaker ghost.

409

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:57,000

The Delta Queen, a national treasure, was built in the 1820s.

410

00:23:57,000 --> 00:24:01,000

During World War II, she transported wounded soldiers to hospitals.

411

00:24:01,000 --> 00:24:05,000

Then the vessel was refurbished to carry vacationers.

412

00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:10,000

She is one of the last living monuments of the Romantic era when steamboats plied the Mississippi.

413

00:24:10,000 --> 00:24:17,000

But there is another side to the Delta Queen, a rather scary side.

414

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

It was a stormy December night in New Orleans.

415

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

The Delta Queen rested impatiently for repairs.

416

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:33,000

Her first mate, a single man named Mike Williams, was the only person on board.

417

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:43,000

I was quite exhausted and was sleeping a very deep, solid sleep when I was awakened by a sound.

418

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:47,000

As if someone had said, psst, next to my ear.

419

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:56,000

I was quite startled because I couldn't understand how someone could have gotten in my room and out so quickly without me hearing the door open and close.

420

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:06,000

There was a very loud slamming of a door back in the after cabin lounge area.

421

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:12,000

I had personally made sure that every one of those doors was locked before I had retired.

422

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:18,000

There was not supposed to be anyone on the vessel.

423

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

I proceeded down several doors until I arrived at cabin 109 and it swung open in my hand.

424

00:25:29,000 --> 00:25:34,000

I was a little frightened and intimidated. I took a flashlight and looked in the room.

425

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:37,000

There was no one there.

426

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Mike had heard stories that the steamboat was haunted. He had always brushed them off.

427

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:52,000

But how could a door that was locked suddenly slam shut? That's what drew him to cabin 109.

428

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:56,000

That moment for the sceptical Mike Williams was clearly frightening.

429

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:01,000

Indeed, it would be the first incident in a chain of events that would change him forever.

430

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:07,000

Two women would soon come into his life. One was a co-worker on the Delta Queen.

431

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:12,000

The other was also a worker on the ship but had died 40 years earlier.

432

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Mary Green had been one of a handful of women to ever pilot a steamboat.

433

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:23,000

She was in charge of the Delta Queen from the time it was purchased in 1947.

434

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

Mary was 79.

435

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:32,000

She oversaw a lot of the day-to-day operations, financial, even navigating the boat,

436

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:37,000

managing deckhands, painting the paddle wheel, supervising food preparations and everything.

437

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:40,000

She really doted on this boat. She loved it.

438

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:45,000

Sadly, after only two years of piloting the boat, Mary died.

439

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:48,000

Where? Where else?

440

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:53,000

Cabin 109, the same cabin that was mysteriously unlocked that night.

441

00:26:57,000 --> 00:27:03,000

Much of what Mary Green did when she was alive, Mike Williams does now.

442

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:11,000

But Mike had no idea that Mary's unearthly connection to him would transform his life in a very surprising way.

443

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:21,000

Another night on the Delta Queen, this one in June 1985.

444

00:27:22,000 --> 00:27:25,000

Hello?

445

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:31,000

An attractive young woman named Myra Fruget, a new Delta Queen employee, was working late.

446

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:41,000

I received a call from an elderly lady in a cabin and she stated that she was cold and she was very uncomfortable.

447

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:44,000

And could I please send someone?

448

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:53,000

At this particular evening, Mike Williams was the mate and I called up there and he answered and I told him the situation.

449

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:00,000

Hello? It's the mate. Does someone need help?

450

00:28:00,000 --> 00:28:03,000

Myra had sent him to cabin 109.

451

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:13,000

The beds were made, little mints on the pillows. The room was obviously unoccupied that cruise.

452

00:28:14,000 --> 00:28:27,000

It was around this time that had this feeling that somebody was behind me or looking at me and certainly through the window I saw this little round, benevolent face.

453

00:28:27,000 --> 00:28:33,000

But something was eerie about it. I thought, well, perhaps that's the lady who needs assistance.

454

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:39,000

So I walked out of the Persia's office to see if I could catch up with her and talk to her.

455

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:43,000

And she wasn't there. There was no one outside on the decks.

456

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:49,000

I was, you know, a little shook up and I went back into the Persia's office.

457

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Yeah, come in.

458

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:59,000

Miss Fruget, I just came from room 109. There's nobody there. You're sure it was 109?

459

00:28:59,000 --> 00:29:01,000

Absolutely.

460

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:08,000

No passenger was registered for cabin 109. Mike held his tongue about who had once occupied the room.

461

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:15,000

But Myra told him about her odd experience. She was so upset by it that Mike offered to walk her back to her cabin.

462

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:22,000

Wait. That's the woman I saw.

463

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:25,000

The woman in the portrait was Mary Green.

464

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:33,000

It was very, very scary at first. Surprising too because I just saw her on the deck.

465

00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:44,000

But for me, it was kind of exhilarating. I began to suspect that someone was trying to introduce me to this young lady.

466

00:29:46,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Myra and I became very close. We just clicked. Each one of us had something that the other needed.

467

00:29:53,000 --> 00:30:01,000

Captain Mary and life had become matchmaker Mary and death. Mike and Myra fell in love and got married.

468

00:30:02,000 --> 00:30:06,000

We stayed together, a newlywed couple in a tiny cabin on board the vessel.

469

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:10,000

And that is where our beautiful daughter Heather was conceived.

470

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:20,000

I certainly believe in him. Very thankful for that nice spirit in our life, Mary Green, who brought

us together.

471

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:33,000

I believe sincerely that so long as I care for this vessel in some way, that the Captain Mary Green's spirit will protect our family and guide us as she has.

472

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:44,000

Myra and Mike are living happily ever after. Mary, meanwhile, lives happily in the hereafter, watching over them and the Delta Queen.

473

00:30:51,000 --> 00:31:04,000

America's highways are becoming a war zone. Forget to signal when you switch lanes or dare to play the radio too loud, and you could find yourself under attack.

474

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:08,000

It's a modern madness, road rage.

475

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:15,000

People have been upset on the highway as long as there have been highways. The problem today is we've got more crowdedness.

476

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:21,000

We've got more cars and less room, and we're a little impatient today than we were in the past.

477

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

The smallest thing can get us going. You're in my way. I'm trying to get to my destination. I feel frustrated, and frustration leads to aggression.

478

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:40,000

February 5, 1997. It started as a minor fender bender, hardly worth reporting.

479

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Geez, I don't freaking believe it.

480

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:45,000

I was in my own lane due in the speed limit. You apparently hit me.

481

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:46,000

What are you telling me?

482

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:47,000

Hey, just settle down.

483

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:51,000

First you got me off the highway, and now you pull this self-righteous crap? You piece of garbage.

484

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Hey, you haven't got the right to talk to me like that. Let me see your license.

485

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:55,000

Yeah, you want to see my license?

486

00:31:55,000 --> 00:31:56,000

Yes, I...

487

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:07,000

47-year-old Richard Adderson had been shot once in the chest. What you're about to hear is a desperate plea for help.

488

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:11,000

State police, second 911.

489

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:13,000

I did an ad for his under-shadow.

490

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:15,000

What's your name, sir?

491

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:20,000

Richard Adderson. I'm his son. He pulled the gun and shot me. Please help me.

492

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:22,000

OK, we have an ambulance, anyway.

493

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:27,000

We had an accident, and Richard deserved it. He pulled out a gun, he shot me.

494

00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:30,000

All police help me. He worked last year.

495

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

I couldn't believe that he had been shot.

496

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:38,000

You live in an area that you think is safe.

497

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:43,000

We came from New York City. We moved north.

498

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:47,000

I couldn't believe that something like that could happen here.

499

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:50,000

When I heard the 911 tape,

500

00:32:52,000 --> 00:33:02,000

I had an overwhelming sense of Richard's pain and his fear.

501

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:10,000

I think his fear was for his family and his children.

502

00:33:12,000 --> 00:33:16,000

Richard Adderson, beloved family man, respected educator,

503

00:33:16,000 --> 00:33:21,000

died less than an hour after making his feudal call to 911.

504

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:29,000

The incident occurred during a rush hour accident on eastbound I-84 in Fishkill, New York,

505

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

about two miles past the Newburgh Beacon Toll Plaza.

506

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

Evidence indicates Richard Adderson was side-swiped by the other driver,

507

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:39,000

and both men pulled over to the shoulder.

508

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:45,000

I have never come across another crime that parallels this one.

509

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:49,000

We're speaking here about a minor property damage automobile accident

510

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:54,000

that escalates into an argument and results in the death of one of the individuals.

511

00:33:56,000 --> 00:34:00,000

Though no one saw the accident or the shooting, there were witnesses to the argument.

512

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:04,000

A gunman was middle-aged, balding, and wore glasses.

513

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:09,000

Richard Adderson added another detail. His assailant had a beard.

514

00:34:10,000 --> 00:34:15,000

The gunman drove a green 1997 Jeep Cherokee with New Hampshire plates.

515

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Though the shooting occurred in Fishkill, New York, state troopers are naturally tracing

516

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:23,000

all such vehicles registered in New Hampshire.

517

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:28,000

In the meantime, Richard Adderson's family and friends mourn his passing.

518

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:31,000

Still unable to understand why.

519

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:36,000

I don't think we are dealing with it. I don't think that you can deal with this.

520

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:40,000

My youngest son this morning told me when I came here,

521

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:44,000

how long are you going to be? You have to be really careful in the car.

522

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,000

Something could happen to you. Those are the fears that he has,

523

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:50,000

because I'm his only parent that's left.

524

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:54,000

My two older daughters can't even speak about this.

525

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:59,000

It's unfathomable to have to experience this.

526

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Next, two families search for their long lost children.

527

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Perhaps your help can lead to a reunion like this.

528

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:18,000

In this next segment, we hope you'll be able to reunite two more families.

529

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:22,000

Both lost loved ones many years ago.

530

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Their most cherished hope is to find them before it is too late.

531

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:30,000

I take thee as my wedded husband.

532

00:35:31,000 --> 00:35:33,000

I take thee as my wedded husband.

533

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

To have and to hold.

534

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:37,000

To have and to hold.

535

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:40,000

Imagine you were a young girl, barely fourteen.

536

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:43,000

Your mother is dying.

537

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:48,000

In desperation, she begs you to marry a man she hopes will care for you.

538

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:52,000

A man more than four times your age.

539

00:35:57,000 --> 00:36:01,000

That's exactly what happened to Margie Elizabeth Hamilton in May of 1932.

540

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:06,000

Over the years, she told the story to her daughter many times.

541

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:10,000

The pain as vivid as if it had happened yesterday.

542

00:36:11,000 --> 00:36:14,000

My mother didn't really want to marry because she was a child.

543

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:17,000

And she wasn't happy about it.

544

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:20,000

And she told her mother that she didn't want to marry him.

545

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:23,000

But my grandmother was afraid that there wouldn't be anyone to take care of her.

546

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:26,000

And she would be left in them alone.

547

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:33,000

Margie's new husband was James Austin Baker, a lumberyard worker in Atlanta, Georgia.

548

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:41,000

Within a year or so of their marriage, Margie gave birth to a son, Benjamin Austin Baker, Benny for short.

549

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:45,000

To her, he was a doll.

550

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:47,000

You know, it was her doll.

551

00:36:48,000 --> 00:36:52,000

And she just was really, really happy with him because she's a very loving mother.

552

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:57,000

Her husband, however, was not pleased.

553

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,000

He already had three grown children from a previous marriage.

554

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

He didn't want more.

555

00:37:06,000 --> 00:37:08,000

When Benny was 18 months old, he became ill.

556

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:12,000

So ill that Margie had to leave him in the hospital for three days.

557

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:16,000

When she returned, her baby was gone.

558

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:22,000

She was hysterical and trying to find out where to go to try to get him back.

559

00:37:23,000 --> 00:37:25,000

And no one would give her any information.

560

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:27,000

How could that be?

561

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:31,000

Behind her back, her husband had given Benny up for adoption.

562

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Why did my husband do this to me? Is my son blamed?

563

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:42,000

There was nothing she could do. Benny was gone.

564

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:49,000

And I said to her, Mama, why did you stay with him after he did this?

565

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:55,000

And she said he always promised me that he would sign the paper so that I could get Benny back.

566

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

And that's the reason that I stayed with him.

567

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Three years later, Margie gave birth to a daughter, Naomi.

568

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Three years after that, her second daughter, Lois.

569

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:14,000

He tried the same thing to get rid of us, too, my sister and myself.

570

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:20,000

And we were in California at the time, and the laws were different, and that was in the 40s.

571

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:27,000

So he couldn't, and by that time my mother had learned to read and write, so they didn't take us away from her.

572

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:31,000

In 1944, James Baker died.

573

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:36,000

Finally, Margie was free to search for Benny.

574

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:44,000

But when she went back to the Orphanage in Atlanta, she was given only a photo taken when Benny was about seven years old.

575

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:51,000

They told her the wreckers were sealed to forget she had ever had a son.

576

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:59,000

She gave up at that point, but she just figured that she would never see him again.

577

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:06,000

But her main thing was she always wanted him to know that she didn't give him away, that he was literally stolen from her.

578

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Lois knows there may not be much time left for a reunion, but she clings to the hope that she can give her mother, now 80, one last precious gift.

579

00:39:23,000 --> 00:39:28,000

It would be so wonderful to be able to say, mama, here's Benny, here's your son.

580

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:33,000

Mama, here's your son.

581

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:36,000

Hopefully Lois will get a chance to say those words.

582

00:39:38,000 --> 00:39:43,000

Another family is also eager to have that opportunity, and their search is equally heart-wrenching.

583

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

This time for two sons.

584

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:55,000

January 23, 1950, twin boys, Jerry and Terry, were born to the Robinson family in upstate New York.

585

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:59,000

They were the youngest of six children, welcomed and well-loved.

586

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

But Terry had health problems, and their father was out of work.

587

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Times were very hard.

588

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:11,000

Gail Robinson, the oldest child, still remembers how they struggled to make ends meet.

589

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:18,000

I don't think there was enough to go around for all of us, that's for certain.

590

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:23,000

And so I think that's when it became apparent they had to do something.

591

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

The twins were just eight months old. Gail was six.

592

00:40:30,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Honey, I know this is going to be hard for you to understand,

593

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:38,000

but the babies are going to be a little bit more difficult for you to understand.

594

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:41,000

But the babies are going to go away today.

595

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:44,000

They're going to go live with another family.

596

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:47,000

And Terry, he's going to see the doctor.

597

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:50,000

The doctor's going to make him all better.

598

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:53,000

And we'll get to see him again one day.

599

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:55,000

I promise.

600

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,000

Okay?

601

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:01,000

A local minister said he would find the twins a good home.

602

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:06,000

He also promised that the boys would be kept together, and would be given college education.

603

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:11,000

And at the age of 18, they would be told about their birth parents.

604

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

I promise. I'll see you again.

605

00:41:22,000 --> 00:41:27,000

After that day, the Robinsons never heard another word about their twin boys.

606

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:33,000

They never knew if the conditions had been kept, if they had ever been told that their birth family still mourned their loss.

607

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

Nine years later, Gail's father became fatally ill.

608

00:41:43,000 --> 00:41:44,000

I promise.

609

00:41:45,000 --> 00:41:46,000

I'll find the twins.

610

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:55,000

My mother is now 76 years of age.

611

00:41:56,000 --> 00:42:02,000

That it really would be something that would give her some peace of mind if she knew what would happen to them.

612

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:05,000

That's the twin mother's page.

613

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:08,000

Over the years, the Robinsons tried their best.

614

00:42:09,000 --> 00:42:11,000

But all these turned out to be dead ends.

615

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:17,000

They have now built a website that features photos of the twins as babies and their siblings at various ages.

616

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:22,000

Both boys may bear a strong resemblance to their brothers, Alan and Ron.

617

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:29,000

Part of the genetic history that runs in our family is that my father and his three sisters all died of colon cancer.

618

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:32,000

And colon cancer is very high rated in males.

619

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:36,000

And my brother and I have to take care of ourselves and be checked up for that.

620

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:39,000

And we feel very strongly that our brothers should know that as well.

621

00:42:41,000 --> 00:42:44,000

Jerry and Terry Robinson would now be 48 years old.

622

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:47,000

They were adopted in upstate New York in 1950.

623

00:42:48,000 --> 00:42:50,000

Terry may have had operations on his ears and feet.

624

00:42:54,000 --> 00:42:55,000

Update

625

00:42:55,000 --> 00:43:02,000

Within minutes of our broadcast, a viewer contacted our phone center to tell us that Benjamin Austin Baker once lived as a foster child in his home.

626

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:09,000

With this information, Lois Baker Lane was able to locate her long lost brother in Everton, Washington.

627

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:15,000

We will bring you the emotional reunion of Benny Baker with his long lost mother and sister on a future program.

628

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:28,000

Join me next time. Perhaps you may be able to help solve a mystery.