

THE EVIDENCE SPEAKS

Will you listen?

“The Evidence Speaks” Season 01 Episode 01 – PEGGY – Transcript

00:00:05 CENSULLO

This story starts at what many people thought was the end.

00:00:10 SCHRADER

Again, thank you for coming out today and your attention to this matter.

00:00:16 CENSULLO

It was a press conference in 2020 announcing that a suspect had been named in a 57-year-old cold case. The sexual assault and murder of Margaret Elizabeth "Peggy" Beck at a secluded Girl Scout camp in the Colorado Mountains in 1963.

00:00:37 SCHRADER

An arrest warrant was applied for and obtained for James Raymond Taylor, date of birth: December 22nd of 1939.

00:00:48 CENSULLO

But for me, that announcement marked the beginning. This story is far from over. And that's because it was also announced that the murder suspect disappeared in 1976.

00:01:03 ALBERTI

I do not know that he's still alive. At this point in time, we can't prove that he's deceased either.

00:01:12 CENSULLO

I was left with more questions than answers. Why did he vanish that year, 13 years after the murder? Where did he go? What else did he do and how has he managed to fly under the radar for more than half a century? I felt compelled to try to fill in some of the blanks and go beyond the headlines, if you will.

You see, I'm a reporter by trade. I spent more than 20 years in TV news, but I also love a good true crime story. So much so that I went back to school and trained to be a crime scene investigator. That means

I'm nosy by nature and an unfinished mystery is, well, frustrating. Why not provide the whole story and maybe jog someone's memory about this case and the others tied to it?

I'm Meredyth Censullo and this is "The Evidence Speaks," part 1: Peggy.

00:02:26 SCHRADER

Peggy was a beautiful young girl who loved life. She was loving and protective of her family and we will cherish the memories we have of her forever.

00:02:37 CENSULLO

That's Jefferson County, Colorado Sheriff Jeff Schrader reading a statement from the surviving sisters of Peggy Beck at the press conference in 2020, which was live streamed because of the pandemic. The sheriff acknowledged that the new development in Peggy's case opened up old wounds for her sisters and how could it not? Their big sister had gone away to camp and never returned.

Her full name was Margaret Elizabeth, but she preferred the nickname Peggy. Peggy was a baby boomer born November 22nd, 1946. Her parents, Vincent and Myrna, got married in Los Angeles earlier that year, and that's probably where they met. Vince had recently been discharged from the Navy after World War Two and Myrna's father was still in the service. Not long after the marriage, the couple moved to Denver, Vince's hometown and Peggy was born. Soon, three younger sisters would come along. The family of 6 shared an 800-square-foot 1920s bungalow on Decatur St in the Sunnyside neighborhood. Located on the northwest side of Denver, Vince went to work as an accountant and Myrna stayed home with the girls. There are only a few photos of Peggy released to the public by the Beck family, and she looked like a sweet girl with brown hair, brown eyes and a shy smile. Peggy had joined the Girl Scouts when she was nine, and perhaps she liked being a Girl Scout because of her mom. Myrna had been a member of her high school reserves program and that was a Girls Club that offered everything from crafting to philanthropic endeavors. So, it was basically the Girl Scouts. Peggy was still a Girl Scout as she prepared for the 1963-64 school year. In a matter of months, she'd be a High School graduate. But first there was the summer to look forward to.

00:04:59 SCHRADER

At the age of 16 she was very excited when she got the opportunity to go to the Mile High Girl Scout counselors camp because it was the first time that she was going as a counselor.

00:05:09 CENSULLO

In mid-August, Peggy packed up her camping gear and a spare sleeping bag and said goodbye to her parents and sisters. She was heading to the Girl Scout camp at the Flying G Ranch an hour and a half drive South of Denver. She was expected back on Sunday, August 18th. She wouldn't return. In her place would be the worst possible news parents can receive.

00:05:36 SCHRADER

It was later that day when Peggy family returned home from church that they learned what happened to Peggy.

00:05:48 CENSULLO

The Flying G was owned by the Girl Scouts from 1945 until 2006. The ranch is in the South Platte watershed, tucked between the Pike and San Isabel National Forests near the unincorporated community of Deckers, which even today isn't much more than a one block long collection of shops that serve tourists mainly fishermen. In fact, there have been times in recent history when the population of Deckers was just one.

00:06:22 MORRISSEY

The way I remember it as a kid, it was a place where there were a bunch of signs that pointed you in different directions in a gas station.

00:06:30 CENSULLO

That's Mitch Morrissey. He is a key player in this story. In fact, he was at that press conference in 2020.

00:06:38 MORRISSEY

I want to thank the Sheriff for including me in this press conference. I want to also thank the Sheriff...

00:06:44 CENSULLO

Mitch was a three-time Denver District Attorney, and while he's been out of office since 2017, he has never stopped trying to catch bad guys. His startup forensic company, United Data Connect, helps law enforcement agencies use advanced DNA techniques to develop leads and hopefully close cases. Mitch knows the area around the Flying G well.

00:07:11 MORRISSEY

'Cause my daughter went there for a weekend, I think it was. She hated it.

00:07:16 CENSULLO

I get it. Summer camp isn't for everyone. I did not like the camp that I insisted my parents send me to in the 80s, deciding that I preferred a spider free bed and a real bathroom, but the flying G was tremendously popular with local troops and it's still a summer camp, but not one used by the Girl Scouts. Like the village of Deckers, the Flying G Ranch hasn't changed much over the past couple of decades, including the single route that leads to its entrance.

Do you remember if there was just one main access road into that camp? Like did you have to take this specific road to get to the camp?

00:08:00 MORRISSEY

Yeah, yeah there was one road to the camp. You went down the road and eventually like I said if I remember it turning into a dirt road.

00:08:12 CENSULLO

In '63, that single lane dirt Forest Service road was a bumpy 9 miles long. There is no way you could miss the Flying G Ranch. It was marked by an arched wood gate featuring iron letters that let you know you'd arrived at the right spot. Or maybe the wrong spot in this case. There was a split rail fence and a roll of barbed wire marking the property's perimeter beyond the fence. The ranch covered 360 acres. It was a

combination of forests and meadows connected by unpaved roads and trails. In 1963, the accommodations were tents, large enough for a max of four cots that sat on top of wooden platforms, which had gotten an upgrade the year before, thanks to Girl Scout cookie sales. Mountain fed streams ran through the center of the camp. Many believe this place inspired a favorite Girl Scouts campfire song.

00:09:16 [SINGING]

00:09:22 CENSULLO

The Flying G seemed like a place of serenity and seclusion, so it probably felt safe. But the weekend of August 18th, it wasn't.

00:09:35 LOTHRIDGE

In '63 we didn't lock our doors on our house, so why would we expect to apply today's security and somewhat cautiousness that we instill in people that we didn't instill back then?

00:09:47 CENSULLO

That's Kevin Lothridge, a forensic science expert and executive director of the National Forensic Science Technology Center at Florida International University.

August 17th, a Saturday was the last night of camp. I checked the forecast for that night, it was dry and pleasant. There was a little light from a waning Crescent moon. It was the perfect night for a campfire singalong. The Girl Scouts stayed up late. It was, after all, their final opportunity to be together. According to all accounts of those who had been at the camp that night, Peggy decided to head to bed around midnight. She'd said goodnight and began the walk to her tent alone. That wasn't normal. All week she'd shared a tent with another teen, Claudia, who was also a Girl Scout program aide. But Claudia had a bad cold and it was decided that she would sleep more comfortably in the camp's Infirmary. The last time any of the girls saw Peggy alive, she was retreating from the campfire into the dark.

00:11:20 ALBERTI

Peggy failed to show up for breakfast and her tent mate grew concerned for her and went to check on her.

00:11:29 CENSULLO

Jefferson County Detective Elias Alberti took on Peggy's case in 2019. He's since left the Sheriff's Office. But according to an arrest warrant prepared by Alberti in 2020, the morning unfolded like this.

Claudia went to look for Peggy and headed to their tent. She needed to pack up her things anyway. She entered the tent and saw that Peggy was still sleeping. She was lying on her back on her cot with her sleeping bag zipped up around her. Claudia tried waking Peggy up. But when she couldn't, she ran to an adult counselor for help, but there wasn't anything that could be done. Peggy was dead. As if the unexpected death of a teenager at a girls camp wasn't disturbing enough, what happened next is mind boggling. No one alerted law enforcement that a Girl Scout was found dead in her tent. Instead, an adult

at the camp called the Jefferson County Coroner's office. I asked Mitch why on Earth that was the response from the camp.

00:12:48 MORRISSEY

They assumed she died of natural causes, which I think is ridiculous.

00:12:54 CENSULLO

Especially ridiculous, considering that everyone reported Peggy had been just fine the night before at the campfire singalong. But that was just the first of many mistakes made at the Flying G Ranch.

00:13:13 MORRISSEY

I'm sure somebody sat down and said, what do we do? And somebody said, let's get, you know just leave it the way it is or clean it up and let the other girl get her stuff out and let's get these kids out of here and call the sheriff. But the last thing in the world they want is the sheriff sitting there when the parents are picking up these kids.

00:13:37 CENSULLO

That's exactly what happened. A 1963 news article published by the Greeley Daily Tribune described what happened after Peggy was discovered by Claudia. The adult camp leaders, many of them mothers of the campers, tried to keep the news of Peggy's death from the younger girls, all 12 to 14 years old. Kevin points out there was probably a lot of confusion about how to appropriately respond, and likely some shock too.

00:14:09 LOTH RIDGE

They're probably called, well, who are they going to call? Because it's not like cell phones either, right? You're dialing the, a line to talk to somebody, well, who is; not a lot of forensic science on TV in 1963, so I think what you're really looking at is they were taking their time to figure out what to do. And then they realize we better call the police or somebody told them to call the police because typically now you would dial 911 first and ask questions later.

00:14:36 CENSULLO

But in 1963, 911 didn't exist and it might not have occurred to the camp counselors that this was a crime scene, although that's hard to believe. But I have got to remind myself that things were very different than. Nonetheless, there was at least one person who realized something terrible had happened. Here's Mitch.

00:15:03 MORRISSEY

The coroner got there probably took one look at her neck and said, uh, call the sheriff.

00:15:12 CENSULLO

Doctor John Hunt with the Jefferson County Coroner's office was the one called to examine Peggy, who was still zipped inside of her sleeping bag. He unzipped the sleeping bag and while lifting it, he noticed

marks on the girl's neck, later clarified during her autopsy as a thumb mark and finger impressions on her throat.

And there was more evidence that a horrific attack had taken place, revealed as the coroner continued to unzip the sleeping bag from around Peggy's body. It appeared she might not have had time to change for bed following that smoky campfire singalong. She was still wearing her sweater and bra, but they had been pulled up above her breasts. Her stretch pants, underwear and sanitary belt were pulled below her knees. The Jefferson County Coroner's office arrived and after a short investigation realized that Peggy had been murdered. There were marks on her neck. The coroner notified the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. And eight hours after Peggy's body was discovered in her tent, investigators arrived on scene.

00:16:34 SCHRADER

This homicide investigation was initially extensive and included efforts by a newly-appointed sheriff at that time, Harold Bray, who was involved in the case as well as other investigators and staff from the Sheriff's Office at the time.

00:16:55 CENSULLO

Harold Bray had taken the helm of the Sheriff's Office the year before after serving as the agency's captain of investigations. He had several high-profile cases under his belt, including the kidnap and murder of Adolph Coors III, the heir to the Coors Brewing Company empire in 1960. But despite having experienced investigators on Peggy's case, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was already behind the 8 ball.

In a typical investigation, the first responding officer secures the access points to and from the crime scene and protects any evidence that might easily be lost or destroyed before crime scene investigators arrive. And of course, CSIs will look for anything that appears to be unusual or out of place, document the scene and collect evidence. But that day there was nothing, and I mean nothing, to be discovered by investigators dispatched to the Girl Scout camp.

Sheriff Bray told reporters that reconstructing the crime scene at the Flying G Ranch was a challenge. And that's my word, not his. Specifically, Bray's comment was that were this a typical case, the crime scene could have been reconstructed in an hour. But in Peggy's case, countless people had come and gone from the tent. And even worse, cleaned the scene up. Yes, you heard that right: after the Coroner's Office removed Peggy's body, her clothing and camping gear were packed up. The tent was tidied up as if nothing ever happened, and counselors even swept the wooden platform clear of debris.

I talked to Mitch and Kevin about the damage done to the crime scene and how that impacted the work of investigators.

00:19:02 MORRISSEY

You're looking for footprints in the dirt around the tent, potential blood drops. But all of that would have been probably destroyed by the time that anybody investigating the case would have gotten there. Anything that was out there, I don't think in the summer here you're really worried about too much, you know? You're thinking, early morning, of course they wait eight hours, it gets dark. It's hard to see

outdoor evidence, but you know, you just need to isolate it off so people aren't walking through your crime scene.

00:19:38 LOTHBRIDGE

They probably straightened up the inside of the tent, so you've taken away any sign of a struggle, if there was one.

00:19:42 MORRISSEY

There was.

00:19:43 LOTHBRIDGE

You could probably taken away if they set up, let's say the other girls caught was knocked over 'cause he tripped backwards. You know, he didn't set that back up, so there's certain things there, but by the time they got there, they were all hair on fire, worried about what's going on.

00:19:59 LOTHBRIDGE

I think Mitch is absolutely right as far as dilatory change from weather conditions. If it's raining snowing winds blowing or there's a fire. Yeah, that stuff that stuff all destroys the evidence. Here, it was mainly about the fact that we let people in there for 8 hours and trampled down the evidence.

00:20:18 CENSULLO

Another possible source of clues might have been the murderer's hiding place. Assuming he had one, but considering no one heard screams, it's likely the perp was out of sight.

00:20:31 LOTHBRIDGE

Could you have worked backwards, like we would in a crime scene now, to see if you could find the line of sight where he was watching this from, right? Because you might have found more things there.

00:20:40 MORRISSEY

That makes a great point when you talk about an outdoor scene, somebody thinking about you know, OK, this guy had to walk in here and be somewhere watching it. Can we find that location, his observation point? You'd be looking for litter. You'd be looking for, you know, this guy's out here for four hours or six hours. You know, what did he do while he sat there? And what did he leave when he left? So yeah, that observation, try to figure out where he was in hiding before he attacked, went down to the tent and attacked this girl. Today, you might find something there that had DNA on it. Then, you know, I don't know how much it would have led to trying to figure out who he was unless the guy left his ID or something.

00:21:27 CENSULLO

So where do you even begin?

00:21:39 ALBERTI

The Sheriff's Office that day in 1963 aggressively followed up on this case, and a lot of investigators were assigned to bring the killer to justice. They followed up on the 17 adult staffs that were there, interviewed over 105 Girl Scouts that were at the camp during that timeframe, along with ten other teenage counselors.

00:22:07 CENSULLO

Most of those interviewed were long gone from the camp and had to be tracked down, but none of the girls or adult counselors reported hearing or seeing anything unusual the night Peggy was killed.

00:22:21 ALBERTI

There is a timeline. The people were asleep. Nobody actually heard anything that that would have alerted them to this crime being committed or anything like that.

00:22:34 CENSULLO

The camp as I've said was vast. Tents were spaced out, giving campers the experience of roughing it alone in the woods. Various news reports in the days following Peggy murder noted that the nearest tent was up to 75 feet away. Not to mention, tents were surrounded by forest, inhabited by all sorts of creatures, from chipmunks to bears. A slight rustling in the trees or snapping of twigs under a foot wouldn't have seemed out of place. It was probably retrospectively disturbing. Anyone who had someone break into their car or their home or witnessed a random criminal act might understand, although on a much smaller scale. But I'm talking about the realization that it wasn't just the Girl Scouts in that camp that night. That the secluded getaway that felt safe simply because of how remote it was wasn't safe at all.

I wonder how easy would it have been to sneak into that camp and to not be seen?

00:23:50 MORRISSEY

It would have been easy to do, but you would have to be doing it intentionally. There's no way that you just wandered across this situation. You would have had to go through or over barbed wire fences at some point.

00:24:05 CENSULLO

Now consider that the attack happened in the middle of the night. Peggy was killed sometime between midnight and 8:00 AM. Was the killer inside of the Flying G Ranch before night fell, or was he merely adept at navigating around the thin layer of protection, nothing more than a row of barbed wire from outsiders?

00:24:29 MORRISSEY

He used the cover of darkness, and he would have had to leave under the cover of darkness.

00:24:35 LOTHBRIDGE

This person had to walk a distance or go in a distance, and surveil the only tent with a single female in it. So it was not a crime of opportunity. He had to know the way to get back out.

00:24:55 CENSULLO

Let me expand a little bit on what Kevin said. This wasn't a crime of opportunity because the attacker created the opportunity by entering the Flying G Ranch property. But, Peggy was a victim of opportunity because she was alone. It's reasonable to believe that any of the girls could have been targets if they'd been spotted alone, and especially if they'd been alone in a tent. It's also possible he'd been there on other nights. Kevin says that's pretty typical with sex crimes.

00:25:32 LOTHDRIDGE

Or how many times was he there and then kept going back because he had other things that he was doing while he was there, which is common for these types of crimes while they are just, you know, peeking at that point in time. Because something converted this person from just watching to doing in this case.

00:25:57 CENSULLO

Within a day of Peggy's murder her cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation due to strangulation and it was confirmed she'd been sexually assaulted. The Sheriff's Office also told the media that there were signs of a struggle. Peggy had broken fingernails, an indication she tried to fight off her attacker. Or, as Sheriff Bray put it, "she scratched the hell out of somebody."

The sheriff was also sure that there would be good breaks in the case within a day or two. In reality there wouldn't be any good breaks in his lifetime. Bray served as Sheriff until 1991, and died in 1998. But there were leads coming in about the "Sex Slayer," as one report referred to Peggy's killer.

There were reports of break ends at other camp sites in the area and complaints that campers had been bothered by someone snooping around their camps and cabins. A woman reported that a man attempted to get into her car near the Wigwam Campground, miles away from the Flying G Ranch. She said the guy tried to climb into her car as she drove away. The Sheriff's Office later said investigators couldn't contact the woman who'd called in the tip. A county Highway Department employee said he followed tracks leading away from another campground but found nothing. A posse on horseback and in Jeeps scoured the pine-covered mountains near the Flying G Ranch for days on end to no avail. Heavy rain would eventually halt the search. A local businessman pledged a reward of \$600 for information leading to an arrest, an amount that more than doubled within a few days.

The most promising lead seemed to come from bus station employees in nearby Canyon City, Colorado about 2 hours South of the Flying G. The tip came in 11 days after Peggy's murder. Bus station employees called the local Police Department after a passenger noticed another passenger with scratches on his face. The 38-year-old man was taken off of the bus and questioned telling police that he'd boarded the bus in Kansas and was heading to Oregon. He was questioned and released.

For decades reporting on Peggy's case has focused on the girl's broken fingernails and whether the debris and possible flesh beneath them could point to the man who committed the crime. The headlines tell the story: "Scratched Killer is Sought," "Officers Hunt Scratched Killer of Girl Scout," and, "Girl Scratched Killer."

00:29:01 LOTHDRIDGE

If you had a mark on your face and they thought it was a fingernail scraping, they're going to get the baddest people around. They never looked at the people who were nondescript for this. But back in the '60s that was good. That could have potentially been the best evidence they had, like an eyewitness.

00:29:18 CENSULLO

But while a person with scratches on him might have a target on his back for a few weeks, the reality is that Peggy fingernails have nothing to do with what ultimately led to a suspect. According to newspaper reports from 1963, fingernail scrapings believed to contain skin from Peggy's attacker were taken and sent to the FBI lab for analysis. Today, scrapings are analyzed for DNA. But in the '60s, if there was enough tissue under the victim's fingernails, it might have been possible to determine the suspects blood type: A, B, or O. By the time cold case investigators began reviewing Peggy's case in the 2000s, those scrapings didn't hold any value as far as evidence goes.

00:30:12 LOTHBRIDGE

While they could have yielded material, they were probably looked at by multiple people in the '60s, there may have been nothing left.

00:30:18 MORRISSEY

No, I don't think they were.

00:30:20 LOTHBRIDGE

I would be extremely surprised, Meredyth.

00:30:23 MORRISSEY

There was nothing left for them to test with my understanding.

00:30:26 CENSULLO

Not to mention fingernail scrapings and the now outdated fingernail clippings aren't as useful as they seem because they often result in mixed DNA samples. And I think the fingernail thing, probably, it was something that was just regurgitated over and over in media reports, so I think maybe that was just something that was passed down.

00:30:52 LOTHBRIDGE

Look at the popular press. We've romanticized fingernail clippings as being the end-all be-all of evidence types.

00:30:58 CENSULLO

There's a hierarchy when it comes to evidence. Biological samples are much more desirable evidence and investigators had it.

According to a report that I obtained, and that Mitch and Kevin reviewed, the forensic pathologist who performed Peggy's autopsy utilized an early version of what we now refer to as a Sexual Assault Kit. Cotton was packed into Peggy vaginal cavity, left there for 45 minutes, removed, packaged, and taken to an analyst.

00:31:33 LOTHBRIDGE

Because there was no standard rape kits with cotton swabs and a protocol, that was probably one that, from a medical standpoint, they used cotton to absorb things. In surgery and everything back then, and there wasn't a lot of synthetic materials. They probably used this to just see if there was material in there. Actually, I thought it was a great practice. I had never heard of it before. Mitch, had you heard of it before this case?

00:31:57 MORRISSEY

I never had.

00:31:59 LOTHBRIDGE

And I've never heard of it since, but the interesting thing was if you think about it, the surface area of a cotton ball is greater than a swab, so if you went up there and retrieved it, you're probably collecting a really good sample and I wish we would have had those cotton balls just to test, because I think that's really, because it came from inside the body, that tells you a whole other level of, this was removed from the individual decedent's body.

00:32:26 CENSULLO

But there's no indication that they held onto those. They just discarded those.

00:32:29 LOTHBRIDGE

Well, it ended up at the FBI and I think the FBI consumed them in analysis, and that's why they got back the empty wrapper is what I deduce. Mitch? Is that what you're tracking as well?

00:32:38 MORRISSEY

I know the FBI confirmed there was sperm on them and that's all I can say. How they get lost in transit, I don't know.

00:32:47 LOTHBRIDGE

But again, we've talked a lot about practice. They may have taken all the cotton balls, extracted, you know, done a wash on them to make a slide to look at under a microscope, and then they had no way to say because they've washed them out. They figured they consumed them so they just put it back in the evidence. Now, we would know that we're not going to take all of those. We would take a portion of those, see if we can get a test so that further testing can be done. But at that time, that was the concluding test. ABO and sperm was all we had, so once you had tested all that, there was no reason to keep anymore of it.

00:33:21 CENSULLO

There was one other piece of physical evidence, though never disclosed in 1963, nor in 2020.

00:33:31 ALBERTI

Yeah, so the question is getting people in here is can we talk about where the DNA evidence was located in on what items? And no.

00:33:38 CENSULLO

But that information is in the public record. Fair game for anyone who bothers to request it. That evidence was collected there at the Flying G Ranch, sort of.

00:33:56 LOTHBRIDGE

While it was 1963 and some of the things happened by the non-trained camp counselors, at least after the time the coroner was called, and the Sheriff's Office was called, they did keep the evidence so that we could test it in current time.

00:34:18 CENSULLO

The Jefferson County Coroner transported Peggy's body from the Flying G to their office in her sleeping bag and then handed that sleeping bag over to investigators.

00:34:31 MORRISSEY

The only thing that saved this case was that she was basically in a cocoon. She was in a sleeping bag and that sleeping bag, you know, collected the evidence that we needed.

00:34:45 LOTHBRIDGE

The best thing they could have done was leave her there for 8 hours in that sleeping bag.

00:34:50 CENSULLO

Four days after Peggy was killed, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office sent Peggy's sleeping bag to the FBI. Right? Two weeks later, lab results confirmed that seminal stains containing sperm were found inside of it. Fortunately, the sleeping bag was returned to the Sheriff's Office, where it was stored in evidence. At the time there wasn't anything else that could be done with the evidence. It would be decades before forensic investigators would unlock the secrets of the sleeping bag. However, the original Jefferson County investigators now had three things to work with: evidence that Peggy struggled with a man who she'd likely scratched, the man's blood type, and confirmation that she'd been sexually assaulted. Now, all they needed was a suspect, and they zeroed in on an elderly man, a grandpa who happened to be entertaining family, including this man, the night of the murder.

00:35:57 STEWART

It it? I mean I my mother said that she thought this just killed him. Not to compare this in any way with what the Becks went through. I mean my God that's horrible, but. This thing, really he was never the same after this.

00:36:13 CENSULLO

The 2020 announcement of a suspect mainly cleared the name of the man investigators zeroed in on from the start: the caretaker of the Flying G Ranch believed to have been the only male at the camp. But that wasn't true. There was the caretaker, the killer, and the grandson who I found in the unlikeliest of places, a few miles away from my house in Florida.

00:36:45 STEWART

If he was the only male employee there, I'm the only other male that night.

00:36:57 CENSULLO

This season on "The Evidence Speaks," you'll meet the woman who helped turn this case around.

00:37:06 JOAN

With all of these cases, I just wonder these did this guy go out there, rape and murder somebody, and then say, "oh, I'm glad I got that out of my system," and never do it again? I don't, I can't believe that.

00:37:22 CENSULLO

But is it too late? The suspect went off the grid more than 40 years ago and most likely lived another life as someone else. That's after he attacked more young women.

00:37:38 MORRISSEY

Two of them jumped out and then the third one was stuck with him and then she jumped out, too. I, boy, I'll tell you, that's full-blown kidnap in my view.

00:37:49 CENSULLO

And the perp had a family and the family has a pretty checkered history, too.

00:37:56 [REPORTER]

The string of unsolved murders of women in San Diego County reached 25.

00:38:03 DUFFIN

The Evidence Speaks is a production of the Global Forensic and Justice Center. Meredyth Censullo is responsible for the research, writing, and editing. Our subject matter experts are Kevin Lothridge, Director of the GFJC and Mitch Morrissey from United Data connect.

If you have any tips regarding the whereabouts of James Raymond Taylor, we ask that you contact the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.



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