



THE MESILLA FILES

STARTER ARCHIVE

RECOVERED RECORDS – PUBLIC RELEASE 001

"The records have been preserved. The myteries remain open."

www.themesillafiles.com

[YouTube.com/@MesillaFiles](https://www.youtube.com/@MesillaFiles)

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THE MESILLA FILES



WELCOME

★ THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE INVESTIGATION.

You are now part of an ongoing effort to uncover the truth behind some of the most enduring mysteries in our region.

For more than one hundred years, people have reported things they could not explain—things that defy logic, science, and conventional understanding.

Those reports became The Mesilla Files.

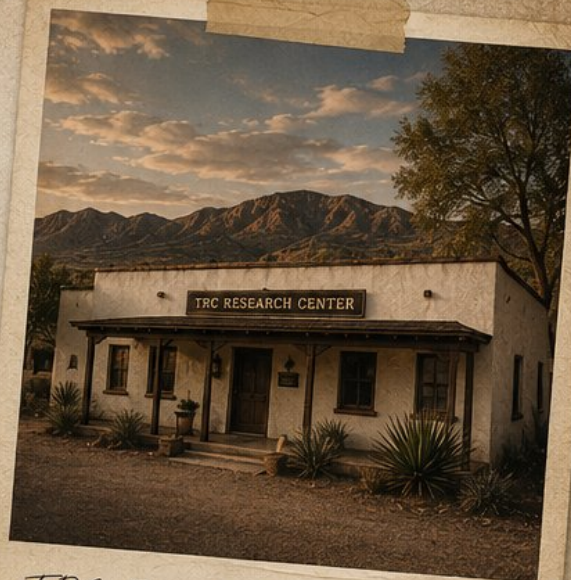
This Starter Archive is the first step in sharing a small portion of what we have recovered, preserved, and verified so far.

★ WHAT YOU ARE RECEIVING

This Starter Archive contains a curated selection of documents, reports, images, and research summaries related to core events, people, and locations connected to The Mesilla Files.

Inside you will find:

- ★ Historical records and timelines
- ★ Witness accounts and early reports
- ★ Profiles of key individuals
- ★ Maps, symbols, and research notes
- ★ An overview of the TRC Research Center
- ★ A list of restricted files under review



*TRC Research Center
Mesilla, New Mexico*



OUR PROMISE

We do not claim to have all the answers.

We promise to remain committed to:

- ★ Preserving the records
- ★ Following the evidence
- ★ Asking the hard questions
- ★ Sharing what we can—when we can
- ★ Never stop the investigation

★
THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE.
THE RECORDS ARE HERE.
★



★ YOU ARE INVITED ★

The investigation is far from over. New leads will be discovered. New files will be released. And with your help, the story will continue to unfold.

Stay curious. Stay critical.
Stay with us.

THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

NEXT ARCHIVE RELEASE

#002

COMING SOON



Dylan Carrillo

Dylan Carrillo
Director of Archive Operations
TRC Research Center



Spencer Clifton

Spencer Clifton
Director of Field Research
TRC Research Center



THE ARCHIVE DOES NOT CLAIM TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.
IT EXISTS SO THE QUESTIONS WILL NEVER BE LOST.

PUBLIC RELEASE 001
TRC-ARCHIVE-DIVISION



WHAT ARE THE MESILLA FILES?



The Mesilla Files is the name given to a growing collection of reports, documents, recordings, photographs, maps, and personal accounts related to unusual and unexplained events centered in and around **Mesilla, New Mexico**, and the greater Old Desert.

These records span more than a century—from the late 1800s to the present—and come from law enforcement, ranchers, researchers, travelers, military personnel, and ordinary witnesses whose experiences defy easy explanation.



*Mesilla, New Mexico
circa 1890*



OLD MESILLA

Founded in the 1850s, Mesilla sits at the crossroads of history, culture, and conflict. Its past is rich with stories—some well documented, others nearly forgotten.



THE OLD DESERT

Stretching beyond the Rio Grande Valley, the Old Desert is vast, remote, and largely unchanged. Many reports originate in this harsh landscape where isolation, extremes, and strange occurrences are common themes.



THE ENCLOSURE

A region within the Old Desert that witnesses and records describe as "different." Time behaves unpredictably. Tools fail. Compass readings drift. And those who enter are never quite the same when they return.



A CENTURY OF RECORDS

1880s-1890s	Early rancher accounts, missing time incidents, unexplained lights.
1900s-1930s	Law enforcement reports, strange symbols, and witness statements.
1940s-1960s	Military interest, aerial observations, and classified documentation.
1970s-Present	Researchers, archivists, and independent investigators continue to add to the record.

WHY DO RESEARCHERS DISAGREE?



Some believe the events have natural explanations we have not yet discovered.



Some believe the stories are folklore, misunderstandings, or exaggerations.



Some believe we are dealing with phenomena beyond current scientific understanding.



And some believe the truth is intentionally hidden from the public.



ONE THING IS CERTAIN:

THE PATTERNS ARE REAL.
THE QUESTIONS ARE REAL.
AND THE RECORDS KEEP COMING.

THE MESILLA FILES DO NOT CLAIM TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS.
THEY EXIST SO THAT THE TRUTH CAN BE FOUND.



NEXT:

The Mesilla Veil - An enduring mystery in the Old Desert.

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ARCHIVE



THE MESILLA VEIL

AN ENDURING MYSTERY IN THE OLD DESERT

ARCHIVE SUMMARY

The Mesilla Veil is a phenomenon described in hundreds of reports dating back more than a century. Eyewitnesses speak of a translucent barrier—visible at times, invisible at others—that appears in the skies and across the desert floor. Those who have approached it report disorientation, memory gaps, missing time, and an overwhelming sense that they are being watched.

No scientific explanation has yet been accepted. The Veil remains one of the central mysteries within The Mesilla Files.

KEY QUESTION:

What is the Veil, and what lies on the other side?



EARLIEST REFERENCES

- 1830s Local oral histories speak of a "curtain" in the sky that warned travelers to turn back.
- 1850s Military survey notes describe a "visible distortion" near the Organ Mountains.
- 1891 Sheriff Tomas Ortega documented multiple reports of the Veil near what is now known as The Enclosure.
- 1912 Father Miguel Serrano wrote of the Veil as a "boundary set between realms."

FATHER SERRANO'S OBSERVATIONS

"The Veil is not merely a curtain of light or mist. It is as if the very air forgets what lies beyond it."

— Father Miguel Serrano
Journal Entry
March 17, 1912



THEORIES REGARDING THE VEIL



NATURAL PHENOMENON

Atmospheric conditions, refraction, or rare weather events.



DIMENSIONAL BOUNDARY

A threshold between places, times, or states of existence.



PROTECTIVE BARRIER

An ancient mechanism designed to keep something in-or out.



UNKNOWN ORIGIN

The Veil does not fit any known scientific or historical model.

WHY IT REMAINS ONE OF THE CENTRAL MYSTERIES

- It appears unpredictably.
- It affects people in ways science cannot explain.
- It has been seen across generations and by people who had no connection.
- It may be connected to other events in the Old Desert.

THE VEIL TIMELINE

- 1830s First oral accounts of a curtain in the sky.
- 1850s Survey notes mention visual distortion.
- 1891 Ortega's reports near The Enclosure.
- 1912 Father Serrano documents the Veil in his journal.
- 1940s Increased reports from ranchers and travelers.
- 1970s Scientists and researchers attempt to study the Veil.
- PRESENT The Veil continues to appear without warning.

TRC RESEARCH NOTE

Every time the Veil is mentioned, the same phrase appears in the accounts—"it was not meant to be crossed. Why?"

— E.V.



THE ARCHIVE DOES NOT CLAIM TO HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS. IT EXISTS SO THE QUESTIONS WILL NEVER BE LOST.

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CASE FILE 001

THE MARK ON THE WRIST

AN UNEXPLAINED SYMBOL.
AN UNANSWERED QUESTION.

OVERVIEW

The Mark on the Wrist is a symbol reported by dozens of individuals across multiple decades.

It appears suddenly.
It causes no pain.
It leaves no physical trace beyond the skin.
And its meaning remains unknown.



WITNESS ACCOUNTS

"I woke up with it. There was no pain, just... pressure. Like I had been touched."

- Ranch hand, Organ Mountains, 1891

"He said the mark came after the lights in the valley. Said he couldn't explain it."

- Sheriff Tomas Ortega, 1891

"Three of the men had it. All saw the same thing in the sky."

- Anonymous Witness, 1947

"It appeared after the dream. That's all I remember."

- College Student, Las Cruces, 2003



REPORTED BY OVER 60 INDIVIDUALS
ACROSS THREE CENTURIES.

KNOWN REPORTS

- 1891 - First documented occurrence in sheriff reports near The Enclosure.
- 1930s - Several cases reported in and around the Old Desert.
- 1947 - College students report mark after a night of unusual lights.
- 2000s - Isolated modern cases continue.
- Common factor: Many report dreams, lights, or time loss prior to appearance.

NO MEDICAL OR SCIENTIFIC
EXPLANATION CONFIRMED.

ARCHIVE



FIRST REPORTED: 1891
LOCATION: Mesilla, NM
CASE STATUS: OPEN
LAST UPDATED: May 12, 2024

THE SYMBOL



ORIGIN: UNKNOWN
MEANING: UNKNOWN

Not a tribal
mark.

Not a brand.

Not a known
military or
religious
insignia.

REDACTED NOTES - ORTEGA FILES

June 17, 1891

"The mark is real. I have
seen it with my own eyes.

██████████. "The men

██████████ saw the light.

██████████ They do not speak
of what happened after.

I fear what this means
for the valley.

- T.O.

CONFIDENTIAL



THE MARK IS NOT THE ANSWER.
IT IS THE FIRST QUESTION.
THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

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PERSON OF INTEREST

THEODORE RAY
MERCER (TRM)

POI PROFILE

KNOWN ALIASES: TRM, T. R. Mercer, "The Collector"
STATUS: ASSOCIATED RESEARCHER
AFFILIATION: TRC Research Center
ROLE: Senior Historical Consultant
FIRST DOCUMENTED: 1964 - NMSU Student Records
CURRENT LOCATION: Las Cruces, New Mexico

BACKGROUND

Theodore Ray Mercer began collecting reports, documents, and personal accounts related to unusual events in and around Mesilla and the Old Desert while a student at New Mexico State University in the early 1960s.

What began as a personal project soon became a life's work.

Over the next six decades, TRM built one of the largest private collections of Mesilla-related materials known to exist.

His archive includes journals, letters, photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, field notes, recordings, and firsthand accounts dating back to the late 1800s.

TRM joined the TRC Research Center as a consultant to help authenticate, catalog, and contextualize historical materials.

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Donated the "Ortega Trunk" collection - 1987
- Provided early Veil references from 1890s mission records
- Discovered correspondence between unknown parties referencing "the Enclosure" - 1922
- Identified early maps of the Old Desert region
- Assisted in verifying Captain Voss references in multiple documents

RELATED FILES

Ortega Journals
Mission Reports
Old Desert Expeditions
TRM Personal Interviews

SECURITY LEVEL

GREEN

PUBLIC INFORMATION



"I've spent sixty years collecting stories. The problem is some of them appear to be true."
- TRM

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Historical Documentation
- Early Mesilla Records
- Witness Testimonies
- Old Desert Expeditions
- Symbolism & Anomalies
- Archive Preservation

NOTES FROM TRC

TRM has provided thousands of documents to the archive. Many remain unverified. His knowledge of early records is unmatched.



ARCHIVIST NOTE:

If TRM says it's important, we pay attention.

- E.V.

TRC ARCHIVE

SOME PEOPLE COLLECT THINGS.
TRM COLLECTS HISTORY.

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PERSON OF INTEREST

RAFAEL "RAFE" MONTTOYA

BARTENDER. STORYTELLER. WITNESS.
SOME SAY, KEEPER OF SECRETS.

BACKGROUND

Rafe has tended bar at El Patio for more than thirty years. In that time, he has heard confessions, tall tales, and everything in between from ranchers, researchers, veterans, students, and strangers just passing through.

He knows more about what's happened in this valley than he lets on—and he tells just enough to keep people coming back.

Many investigators consider Rafe one of the few locals who truly understands the history and the people behind The Mesilla Files.



*Rafael "Rafe" Montoya
El Patio Bar, Old Mesilla*

*"The stories are free.
The truth costs extra."*
— Rafe

KNOWN ASSOCIATIONS

- Trusted by multiple long-time residents
- Regular contact with TRC investigators
- Knows ranch families, local historians, and old-timers
- Has knowledge of undocumented events in the Old Desert
- Occasionally transports messages, items, or records

INVESTIGATOR NOTE:

*Rafe doesn't keep records.
He keeps people.
And people remember things
that never make it
into the archives.*

— S.C.

RAFE BY THE NUMBERS

	YEARS AT EL PATIO 30+
	STORIES HE'S TOLD COUNTLESS
	DRINKS POURED THOUSANDS
	SECRETS KEPT MANY

WHY HE MATTERS

Rafe connects the dots between places, people, and events that rarely appear in official records. While he may not have proof, his knowledge has guided investigators to leads that proved to be true.

In a place where silence is common, Rafe chooses what to share—and what to protect.

EL PATIO
OLD MESILLA



POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF:

- ★ Unreported disappearances
- ★ Strange lights and symbols
- ★ Old ranch tunnels and paths
- ★ The Enclosure
- ★ Individuals connected to Captain Voss
- ★ More than he's willing to say



RAFE DOESN'T FOLLOW THE INVESTIGATION.
HE WATCHES IT. AND SOMETIMES,
HE GUIDES IT.

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RESEARCH REPORT

SYMBOLS
IN THE SAND

PATTERNS. MARKINGS. SOMETHING MORE.

Across the Old Desert, witnesses have reported discovering strange symbols etched into the sand, rock, and canyon walls—often appearing overnight and vanishing just as quickly.

Some believe they are messages. Others believe they are warnings. No one agrees on their origin.

EVIDENCE SUMMARY

- ★ Over 200+ symbol reports since 1890
- ★ Multiple forms and variations
- ★ Appearing in clusters near ranch properties and old trails
- ★ No consistent direction or orientation
- ★ Often found near water sources or at ridge lines
- ★ Disappear within hours or days for unknown reasons

SELECT TIMELINE OF REPORTS

- 1891 Sheriff reports odd markings near The Enclosure.
- 1932 Rancher family finds symbols in horse corral – gone by dawn.
- 1947 College students document cluster on Ortiz Mesa.
- 1978 Military personnel file unexplained observations.
- 2012 Modern investigator captures overnight formation on camera.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

- ✓ WHO CREATES THE SYMBOLS?
- ✓ WHY DO THEY RETURN TO THE SAME AREAS?
- ✓ ARE THEY MEANT TO BE SEEN?
- ✓ WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

UNDER
INVESTIGATION

SOMETIMES THE DESERT SPEAKS
IN SYMBOLS INSTEAD OF WORDS."
WE JUST HAVEN'T LEARNED THE LANGUAGE YET."

- TRC

TRC

ARCHIVE



Reported location: North of The Enclosure
Recovered photo – Investigator S.C., 2018

COMMON VARIATIONS RECORDED



Dozens of other variations documented.
None match known tribal markings.

“They don't look like
anything man would
make... but they're
definitely made.”

— JEREMIAH “JEB” CROW
FIELD NOTES, 2012

REPORTED LOCATIONS



FILE STATUS:

OPEN

MORE ANALYSIS NEEDED

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PERSON OF INTEREST

JEREMIAH "JEB" CROW

THE DESERT CROW.
FINDER OF THINGS THAT SHOULD
STAY BURIED.



*Jeremiah "Jeb" Crow
Near Ortega Canyon, 2019*

Jeb has spent most of his life in the Old Desert. He knows its **canyons**, mines, and forgotten trails better than anyone alive.

Formerly a field hand and prospector, Jeb gained the attention of investigators after he began bringing in unusual artifacts and documents recovered from remote locations.

He works with and reports to Captain Adrian Voss, providing leads, excavation support, and, on occasion, materials that defy explanation.

*"The desert keeps secrets.
Voss just knows where
they're buried."*

— Jeb

BACKGROUND

- ★ Born and raised in southern New Mexico
- ★ Worked as a ranch hand, miner, and guide
- ★ Extensive knowledge of the Old Desert
- ★ Located and reported numerous unusual artefacts and sites
- ★ Operates independently but aligns with TRC objectives



NOTED FINDS

- Inscribed metal plates
- Strange symbols carved in stone
- Old maps showing unknown tunnels
- Sealed containers with unknown contents
- Audio recordings from remote sites
- Journals with redacted pages

INVESTIGATOR NOTE:

*Jeb often finds what
others can't—or won't—
He doesn't ask many
questions.
He just brings it in.*

— D.C.

ASSOCIATION: CAPTAIN ADRIAN VOSS



Captain Voss relies on Jeb for field support and as an informant on unusual activity across the Old Desert.

Jeb trusts Voss. Few others.

KNOWN LOCATIONS

- 📍 Ortega Canyon
- 📍 North Ridge
- 📍 The Enclosure perimeter
- 📍 Old mine shafts (unnamed)
- 📍 Abandoned ranch sites
- 📍 Dry washes and hidden draws

FIELD ASSET
HANDLE WITH CAUTION



POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF:

- ★ Tunnel network origins
- ★ Captain Voss expeditions
- ★ The Jackson disappearances
- ★ Unexplained lights and markings
- ★ The true purpose of The Enclosure



THE DESERT REMEMBERS EVERYTHING.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN—
OR KNOW WHERE TO DIG.

— JEB



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THE TRC RESEARCH CENTER

TRUTH. PATIENCE. PURPOSE.

The TRC Research Center is an independent organization dedicated to investigating unusual, unexplained, and underreported phenomena across the Old Desert and beyond.

Founded on the belief that the pursuit of truth serves the greater good, TRC operates at the crossroads of research, preservation, and public service.

We document the stories that would otherwise be lost.
We follow the leads others ignore.
We ask the questions that matter.

OUR CORE VALUES



INTEGRITY

We seek truth above all else.
No story is too small. No lead is too strange.



DISCRETION

We protect our sources, our research, and the communities we serve.



PRESERVATION

We safeguard documents, artifacts, and testimony for future generations.



SERVICE

We share what we learn to help others understand—and to empower them to decide for themselves.

“

*The truth isn't
always comfortable,
but it's always
worth finding.*

— TRC



TRC Research Center
Mesilla, New Mexico



OUR MISSION

To uncover, preserve, and share the truth behind the world's most enduring mysteries—no matter how difficult, dangerous, or unbelievable.

We exist to serve curiosity, protect the records, and honor the people whose stories deserve to be remembered.

WHAT WE DO



INVESTIGATE Field investigations, site surveys, and witness interviews.



DOCUMENT Collect, catalog, and preserve records and artifacts.



ANALYZE Research, cross-reference, and search for patterns.



PUBLISH Share verified information through reports and releases.



EDUCATE Offer events, resources, and tools for public understanding.

OUR DEPARTMENTS



FIELD INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION - On-site research & lead development



ARCHIVE DIVISION - Records management & historical preservation



ANALYTICS DIVISION - Data review, mapping, & pattern analysis



OUTREACH DIVISION - Public education & community engagement



SECURITY & OPERATIONS - Safety, logistics, & asset protection

VISIT US



TRC Research Center
101 Research Way
Mesilla, New Mexico 88046



The TRC Research Center is not affiliated with any government agency.
We rely on public support to continue our work.
Consider supporting the mission.

SUPPORT TRC
DONATE • VOLUNTEER • SHARE



KNOWLEDGE IS A RESPONSIBILITY.
THE TRC RESEARCH CENTER EXISTS
BECAUSE SOME TRUTHS MATTER.
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE SEARCH.

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ARCHIVE NOTICE

RESTRICTIVE ARCHIVE NOTICE

**RESTRICTED
ARCHIVE**

ACCESS LEVEL: RESTRICTED

★

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ARCHIVE IS SENSITIVE, UNVERIFIED, AND IN SOME CASES, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

Access to The Mesilla Files is granted for research and investigative purposes only. The contents may include uncorroborated reports, witness accounts, speculation, and materials that could cause fear, confusion, or harm if misused.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS



AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

This archive is restricted to vetted investigators, researchers, and approved affiliates.



NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

No portion of this archive may be shared, published, or reproduced without explicit written authorization from TRC.



HANDLE WITH CAUTION

Treat all materials as potentially sensitive. Protect identities, locations, and sources.



CONSIDER THE IMPACT

Some truths are hard to find.
Some are harder to carry.
Proceed with discretion.

ACCESS GRANTED TO:

Name / Alias: _____

Role / Affiliation: _____

Authorization Code: _____

Date Granted: _____

Authorized By: _____



WARNING

The information within this archive may challenge what you believe to be true. It may place you in unfamiliar or uncomfortable situations.

**NOT EVERYTHING IS EXPLAINABLE.
NOT EVERYTHING SHOULD BE IGNORED.**



If you experience distress, confusion, or fear while reviewing these files, seek support. You are not alone.



CAUTION

SOME CONTENT MAY BE DISTURBING
OR EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGING.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
DOCUMENT IT.

IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING,
REPORT IT.

IF YOU UNDERSTAND SOMETHING,
SHARE IT WISELY.



“

The truth doesn't ask for permission. It just asks to be found.

— TRC



PROTECT THE ARCHIVE. PROTECT EACH OTHER.
PROTECT THE TRUTH.

PUBLIC RELEASE 001
TRC-ARCHIVE-DIVISION



SOME FILES ARE MEANT TO BE FOUND. OTHERS ARE MEANT TO FIND YOU.



FINAL PAGE

END OF THE STARTER ARCHIVE

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

★
You've reached the end of the Starter Archive.
But the Mesilla Files are far from over.
The desert keeps its secrets well.
It always has.

What you've read here is only a glimpse—
a starting point. A map with blank spaces.
The real work begins now.
Out there.

Listen. Look. Question.
Some answers are found in records.
Others are found in the wind.
The more you pay attention,
the more the desert will reveal.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE



EXPLORE

Visit the locations. Walk the land.
Observe. Take notes.



RESEARCH

Dig deeper into stories, archives,
and patterns.



CONNECT

Share findings. Build community.
Compare leads.



QUESTION

Stay curious. Doubt assumptions.
Follow what doesn't add up.



LISTEN

Pay attention to the small things.
The desert speaks in whispers.



THE MORE YOU SEEK,
THE MORE YOU'LL FIND
— IF YOU KNOW
WHERE TO LOOK.



*The desert doesn't reveal
itself all at once.
It gives a little.
Then it waits to see
if you're paying attention.*

— Jeb Crow

★ REMEMBER ★

You are not just a reader.
You are part of the search.
You are the next witness.

The truth needs people
willing to look for it.

Thank you for being part
of the mission.



STAY SAFE. STAY CURIOUS. STAY TRUE.



THE OLD DESERT HOLDS MANY STORIES.
SOME ARE FORGOTTEN. SOME ARE HIDDEN.
SOME ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

See you out there.

— TRC

THANK YOU

Your curiosity helps keep the search alive.
Keep exploring. Keep asking. Keep the truth moving forward.



★ THE SEARCH CONTINUES ★
YOU ARE THE NEXT CHAPTER.



STARTER ARCHIVE
COMPLETE



IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION, LEADS, OR QUESTIONS,
REACH OUT TO TRC RESEARCH CENTER.

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TRC-ARCHIVE-DIVISION

IN THE DESERT, NOTHING IS EVER LOST FOREVER.
SOMEONE JUST HASN'T FOUND IT YET.