

M: Just tell me about, oh I don't know, yourself. How you got attracted to the Adirondacks. What you do dowsing. Whatever you want.

Ted: Well we came to Adirondacks because we had been skiers in the North Creek area back in the 40s. And one weekend we came up to a no longer existing ski area called Harvery Mountain Ski. And we overheard a conversation with our host about an old farmhouse. My wife, Caroline, immediately pick up her ears. And my reaction was, we need another place like a hole in the head. I've been enjoying the breeze through the hole ever since. It took some negotiating, but we finally bought the place. It was just a box, some old furniture, a lot of charm and a magnificent view. Some of which has been overgrown by the trees. We hope to lumber them down so we can get the view back someday.

M: That was back in the 40s you moved in here then?

Ted: No it was late 60s, late 60s. As we began to come up here weekends, then it became a three day weekend then a four day weekend and then a five day weekend. And then I invented the six day weekend. And after all, if you take a six day weekend, what do you do with the other day? You stay. So we moved up and I retired, somewhat. Even today I consider myself semi-retired because I come out of retirement at the sight of something green, you know what I

mean?

M: You in the advertising business?

Ted: Advertising and public relations.

M: Right in New York City?

Ted: Oh I worked in New York City but I had an office in my home in Long Island. So I'd work the commuter shift in New York and then I'd come home and do the paper work, and the creative work and the thinking. And take a nap in between and then get up again and--there were no special or specific hours. I did what I had to do and it was a one man shop. What I couldn't do myself I would buy through freelancers.

M: What attracted you--what attracts you to this place now?

Ted: Well, first thing that we heard that the two old gentlemen that lived here originally, both of whom are dead, one died at 86 the other older one put a new roof on the barn, which you see there, at 90. I figured if I breath this air, drink this water I've got a chance of gettin' there. And Caroline has loved the country. Our kids loved-- They didn't get a chance to live here, they all had moved elsewhere. But this is their haven. In fact my oldest daughter named the place Bewilderness, and that name has stuck. In fact I stuck it in the Post Office computer. And I get my mail as Bewilderness, New York. With a 12856

zip code.

M: They spell it--

Ted: B-E-W-I-L-D-E-R-N-E-S-S.

M: Yeah, I saw that where the horses were being shod.

Ted: Yeah, well that's like the sign on the railroad station, that's what the--that's the purpose of the sign up there, to identify your local. Upon moving here, or moving in slowly, we realized that we would have to have a good supply of water, not just what's in the well that you pump by hand. Which I invite you to taste on your way out. Beautiful water.

M: Designer water

Ted: Designer water, right. By Patou or even, what's more famous, Chanel--yet Chanel. This is number six. Anyway we called in or asked around, how do you find out how to get a well. We were told to get in touch with a lady named Edith Lincoln who is a water witch. And with her came a young man, school teacher--son of another neighbor--and they went through the process of dowsing. While city kid is watching all curiosity, I mean I knew the word, I even knew what water witch meant. You come across it someplace or another in literature and read. And so after they finished showing me where there were places to dig for water I said, "How do you do this?" She put the stick in my hand, put her hand in the middle of my back, and gave me a push. Well

every place that they had gotten a signal, I got a signal. Well I am overwhelmed, of course. And it's taken some weeks for this to sink in. And there's an article in the New York Times travel section about a dowsing convention in Danville, Vermont. My wife hands me the article and says go. There are other kooks in the world. So there's how I discovered dowsing. Discovered, too, that I could do it.

M: How many years ago was that about, when you moved up here?

Ted: Well we moved close to eighteen years ago, and this was prior to that because we were preparing to move. Therefore we had to think of how do we get things set up so we could have a washing machine, a sink, and a shower and so on. So the next thing, of course, was to get somebody to come in, set us up. We have a shallow well, ground water not a deep well. But it was done with a backhoe, filling in a reservoir with stones and it must a thirty foot diameter in terms of the size of the reservoir itself. So there's plenty of water there. And then going to the convention in Danville, in itself it's a phenomenon, as is dowsing. But the convention is a phenomenon because when you think in the terms of the word convention you think of a lot of businessmen walking around with their cards up against their chests like this. And they won't even show you the corners. At the dowsing convention everybody's got all the cards out

like this. And says to you, "take 'em, take this one. Take that one. Taken 'em all, I don't care. You know, take, take. I want you to learn." So you can't help but learn. And I guess I was a little more apt student than most because I have, in my years of dowsing, run into some rather I guess you could call it phenomenal results. Water yes, I have found wells in this area, I have found them in Long Island, I have found them in Westchester, in Pennsylvania. If somebody wants me I go. On the other hand, suddenly I was confronted with a situation of being asked to help find a missing person.

M: Who asked you that?

Ted: Well it came about because originally my daughter, who is now in Vancouver, was here with her baby and there was a criminal loose in the Adirondacks and we were, out of self protection, trying to find out if he was anywhere near here because he was supposedly within a radius of 50 or 60 miles. And you know this is no distance when a man wants to move. So we map dowsed him to be in the area of Wells, a town west of here.

M: Along Route 30 I think, yeah.

Ted: Yeah, right. And I called up a local forest ranger whom I knew and I said I don't think that I'd have much success talking to the police about this, but would you tell them that I have located him in Wells? And for

whatever value it may have to them. Well he snorts and he says, what kind of a stupid ass do you think that the police would think I was if I tell 'em some guy with a beard up on a mountain says that the criminal is at Wells. I said, OK suit yourself. Two days later it came out that he was in Wells. He came to North River, got gasoline in what is no longer a gas station, you know, the second one down near Bibby. That was a gasoline station. Stopped there and got gas and went up north.

M: Well then you had to find him all over again.

Ted: Yeah, but, no at that point I backed off. But it established a spark in the mind of this particular ranger. Within months, I don't know what it was, a man and his son took off from Newcomb in a canoe and disappeared. So he called me he said, do you think you could find 'em? I said, if I get a little better reception than I did last time I'll try. Well I not only located them, located where they were walking, the fact that they had tipped over in the canoe, but also that the father had a bruise on his foot. By creating a scenario of asking questions with a pendulum. In other words, looking at the map, I want a signal when I indicate where the canoe tipped. In fact my first question was did they tip. Yes. Where? Such and such a place. Did they walk out from there? Yes. In what direction? Give me a pendulum direction swing, like so. Was either of them

hurt? Yes. The father--no the son, no, father yes. And then you took him from head to toe, finally got a yes on the foot. So this was my report. They tipped over such and such a place. They're walking northeast from such and such a point on the topo map which is located with a fire locator which they gave me to use. You know, you take the corner of each quadrangle. And the father has a cut of some kind on his foot. But they're OK. They were found precisely in the position I had indicated. Well this again builds up my credulity as far as the finding people are concerned. Well on and off in between searching things had happened but they were not important things. I don't even remember at this point whether I did or didn't. But in the winter of 51 a item was in the paper about two men disappearing from Lake George in a truck, just disappeared in thin air. I looked at it by this time I had developed a personal policy that unless I'm asked I would not attempt to publicly do anything. I mean I might do it just out of curiosity, but I would not do it and then expose my information. Because two things, number one it's terribly damaging to your, well I don't know, I use the ego--that's not the word--to your psyche if somebody rejects you, says you know, that's a lot of crap. That's not good. I mean all the build up of goodwill and hard work is not easy to be rejected flatly. So I did nothing about it. I get a phone

call from another ranger, by this time apparently information has circulated among them to call me. He came here with a friend of the family. Rather a grim joke, undertaker. And we sat down and we mapped out _____. The theory was they had been kidnapped, they took off for Canada, picked up a couple of girls, they were sleeping it off somewhere. My reading was they had gone out on the lake in February, this is when it happened, that's the time of winter carnival. Automobiles drive out on the lake. Motorcycle races, automobile races. So they had gone to Stewart's for a quart of mile and decided to take a ride on the lake. Well they went over what is known as a pressure ridge, this is caused by under deep spring pushing water up at a warmer temperature than the water here, cracks the ice or weakens it. Truck had gone over and broken through and gone in. I located, with a compass, the azimuth reading from a point on the opposite side of the lake. They were on the west side of the lake in an area Orcut Bay. They took the information, next day would I please come down to the lake and try it from the land opposite where we took the azimuth readings. So they came up got me, went over there. The Azimuth readings using a stick now instead of the pendulum. Asking for a signal when you are facing the position of the truck and the bodies. Stick would go down. So we took it from in the north point of the assembly point

and the south point, which maybe a mile apart, so you could get a triangulation. Exactly the same azimuth readings as on the map. It's now, this is March not February. What can you do? Nothing, you can't break through the ice. I let go. Suddenly in paper one body surfaces in Orcut Bay. Then I get call from chief of police; no, he was a sergeant at that time. He's now chief of police, at L_____, great guy. Would you come down and give us instructions on what you've found. I'm doing this in the police department. Five minutes after I show him how to use the pendulum he's getting the same signal. Couple days later, this is May now, end of April into May, got on a boat and using the boat as my base, put my elbows on top of the deck, hold the stick turn the boat until we get a signal. Azimuth reading is exactly the same. So we go over to the point and then, now asking for a signal. As we go over the truck, I got a signal. We dropped bouys. That was all we could do that day. Overnight they stole the bouys, somebody. So I had to do it all over again. Now this time they had chipped in, the police and the local people. This is the son and son-in-law of the man who has the hardware store in Lake George. They had chipped in to get a man with a side reading sonar, which is quite a fancy piece of equipment. And I didn't know about this, but I get a phone call "would you come down again on the boat." I see this guy with all

this fancy equipment. He's gettin' nothin'. Again I guide the boat to the spot. Then he brings the sonar over, get the image directly on it. Now one day or two days before I got a false reading and we picked up an anomaly that still is not explained. This was in ninety feet of water. And it was this kind of a shape. Which could have meant like a truck but it was made of stone. Now whether it was a fortification that sank or what, nobody knows. They never went down to take another look at it but in finding that, we then took another reading and I moved right in on the other location. Now I think that one of the reasons I got a signal was that the truck was metal and there must have been some kind of involvement of a wave, a magnetic field or some energy field that was given off by the truck. 'Cause I don't know a body that had been in water, this is the remaining body that long would have anything that could be detectable. So this is why I say to you, or said earlier, I don't think that I have psychic powers unless they are unknown to me. And that I don't feel them, don't understand them if I do have them. So anyway, they found the truck and the body was a few feet away from the truck. Now there was another person involved who had a somewhat related situation. Milly Cuton, who is a known psychic, who died recently in Lake George. Very well respected, lovely lady. She went through, in her mind, the torture and the

conversation of these two boys as they went on the ice and into the ice and into the water. She reconstructed this. Now of course it could be a very vivid imagination too. But whatever, she and I were the only ones out of hundreds of people that were involved in the searches, who said they were in the lake. Everybody else--well when I left Ed L_____ the first time he laughed me out of the office. Not in front of me, but after I left. And then he apologized. He told me that he did. Even though he himself got the signal. He still wouldn't believe it. That's probably the most sensational one. And the other one was right here in Minerva, you know where Minerva is, out Route 28 and toward where Roosevelt slept. In that area. Right beyond Deborious a young man from Scanadity who'd had a terrible back injury or _____. Was very upset, wanted to commit suicide, obviously. Drove his car into the barrier. I didn't see this, I saw the tracks some days later. He wanted to go over into the ravine and tip over and catch on fire, you know. Like you see on television. But the car didn't go through. So he obviously got out, took off into the woods. Well the ranger were out, the sheriffs were out, the police dogs were out. Nobody found him. And I went out first with the father-in-law, two brothers-in-law. I got a lot of mixed signals. I went out a second time and I met the head ranger of the search and we went together. Still

didn't find him. Third time, about, I guess it would be the second week after they called me, young man that I work with had been teaching and he's a fine woodsman, Bruce Irwin of B_____, New York. Bruce and I and the father-in-law and again one of the brothers-in-law went out and I had Bruce take a compass, I'd forgotten all about my technique down in Lake George with the azimuth readings. So we triangulated and then every time we'd stop we'd take a compass reading and then ask how far is it from where I stand to the body. And by this time we knew he was dead. And kept getting less and less distance. Finally I was getting a reading of 25-30 feet. And I yelled over to Bruce who was over that way, in fact I asked just before we left should we spread out. No. You don't know the signal. Should we come close together so that we don't miss it in between. Yes. So we were 10-15 feet apart, no more. So that you could see between you if anything was there. So when I called out to them, I'm going to take one more reading, he said don't bother, come to my voice. There in a hemlock thicket, it looked like an igloo wasn't built it was there, man had hung himself on a limb with a piece of clothing. And here he was. And with a--the ranger, Gary Roberts, said, nobody would ever have found him, nobody. Said the police dogs didn't find him, they had the scent, they had everything.

M: But they weren't doing it.

Ted: Apparently it didn't work. So there is something that is involved here that I can't explain. It's like many dowers say, I can't explain it. I just do it. So that's the way I leave it. Far as this is concerned, I do this as a service to my fellow man, I don't want a dime for it.

M: That's good. Some people say it's psychic, a gift like that you can kind of spoil by getting greedy about it or--

Ted: Yeah, I suppose, I suppose.

M: I mean, you know, you wouldn't want to try it.

Ted: No. Well I was almost shocked when the family with whom we'd gotten very friendly, lovely Irish people, gave me an ATV as a gift. You know, one of these four wheel things that you ride. I was shocked, I just-- At first, I mean I couldn't very well let them see this emotion, but I had a reverse action of--reaction to it. I didn't touch it. They brought it here after they presented it to me at their place where they were staying. And it sat for weeks. I just couldn't bring myself to use it, there was something I couldn't explain. Now I use it, I make very good use of it. Had a little trailer on it and use it--

M: Yes, I saw a little red trailer--

Ted: Right, right, yeah, yeah.

M: Cute.

Ted: Yeah. But it--I, I--

M: At first did you feel that accepting something like that would alter your ability to--

Ted: Well so many times, you know, Tom Callahan said to me even before we found him, can't we do something for you? Can't we buy you something. You know, I said, no, no this is not my bag. I said, I want to do this. I want to help you. And if I'm successful that's all the reward I need. So, you know, when he did this it was, you know, like an explosion.

M: So how many times has the game warden or the police called you over the years?

Ted: Well, there's one of the rangers, has been trying to get the main, you know, the head man to have me conduct a course for the rangers. As he explains it, if we can cut a day, an hour, fifteen minutes off the search by even an amateurish person doing it, isn't it worth everything you can do to get this. And yet the top brass won't buy it. On the other hand I had an experience with the top brass, the head ranger and his assistant came here right on this table and they dispatched two rangers from a given point, which they told me, at a given time, which they told me and gave me their names, that's all. And I had the topo map, I found the first guy in fifteen minutes within 500 feet. The other guy I missed because I didn't ask is he still moving. So I learned something. I was close enough, you know, to be a

way of getting to him.

M: Something like that you could blow pretty easily. Just because of the pressure.

Ted: Oh sure, sure. But this again has established a certain amount of credence.

M: But the people you teach might not have that gift, and they could go--

Ted: You take a chance. What harm could it do?

M: I think Chris Byrd talks about how units in Vietnam used dowsing.

Ted: Yeah sure, Hanson Baldwin, the New York Times military writer in that period, wrote it up. A beautiful article. And that was done by Lewis Ma_____ down in Virginia. He's the guy who introduced it to the marines. Finally got them to accept the idea, do it with coat hangers. But I mean I can step aside from myself and look at this and say hey this is wonderful. I'm glad you did it. I mean that's what it means to me.

M: How many years have they been using you since that--

Ted: Let's see. I've had about six incidents since then. One of them right here. Peter Barton might be able to tell you about it. Some one of the men from the mine went out to go hunting, disappeared, didn't show up. Fortunately the ranger who was conducting the search had to

make a phone call. He's the guy who's trying to push the thing, comes here and I hear him talking about something. I said Lou, what is it, who is it. Maybe I can help. He said Jesus, I forgot. We locate the guy, he is--this is my scenario, this is what I call it now--he's sitting by a fire on the other side of a stream that he can't cross, waiting to be rescued. That's just exactly where he was. Opposite the air strip, on the Barton mine up on Gold Mountain. I like it when I can find them alive. Much, much more satisfying.

M: I know, a lot of times it's, you know, if you waited another 24 hours it'd be too late. In the winter it'd be too late in a few hours even.

Ted: I had a couple others that I was close, but not, you know, not on the button. But again, when you're doing on a map, and even if you make a pin point on a map how many hundred yards can that be? So, you know, when you start doing it hundreds of miles away and you can't go there yourself it diminishes the possibilities of success. But I had a phone call from a lady in New York just the other day, could I help find her Himalayan kitten? I said please, I said I have no way of being useful to you. I said go get somebody from the New York Chapter and see if you can go the area where you last saw the kitten and try to project something as to was the kitten stolen, whatever. I said all

I can tell you on the phone, and I used pendulum, is the kitten is still alive and being cared for but I don't know whether this is by someone who wants to sell it, keep it or whatever, I can't get any closer to an answer than that. But these are the kinds of phone calls I get. I get--this Lake George things has been written up many times in different places.

M: Mentioning you in--

Ted: Yeah, yeah. In fact Ed L_____ said he's going to be a real TV personality because we had this interview with 20/20. And I'm sure he's got equal time because this makes it authentic having the chief of police, which he is now instead of a sergeant, talking about how he participated in the search. It's OK with me, I said to him afterwards, I said I'll be your agent, Hollywood's lookin' for you.

M: Since it works, he's happy to be part of it, but if it didn't work.

Ted: Goodbye Charlie. But I can only say that the whole phenomenon, it's not frightening at all, but it does lift your imagination beyond the daily things that can do and what can happen.

M: Do you try and limit your dowsing to lost people and water?

Ted: Oh no.

M: Cause some people in that area, they--

Ted: Oh no. No I've played around with a little treasure dowsing. I'm not ready to say I'm a success. I went to Pensacola with my son-in-law and we participated with a Navy character down there on some Spanish doubloons. And didn't come up with it. I'm still convinced that we were close, but he didn't follow through with the right backhoe instead of shovels. So who knows.

M: You said you could be a foot away and failure.

Ted: Of course, of course.

M: Even though you were that close.

Ted: Yeah, because I taught everyone involved there how to dowse and we all got the same signals now. You can't put that down to wishful dowsing. If five people are getting the same--

M: Unless there's some secret duplicity going on.

Ted: I don't feel that I'm that psychically powerful that I can make them get the same signals I did. In fact I stayed away, physically. So that I wouldn't have any way of influencing 'em. But he never followed it through. We were spending it.

M: So you have a good time with it all.

Ted: I do, I do. I really do.

M: Some of the people I meet at the Danville festival, so serious.

Ted: Oh so deadly.

M: Not as serious as they are completely right. If the lay line is over there it's over there period. Of course if you dig you don't see a lay line, you know right or wrong.

Ted: Right, that's why I wanted to attach the electric meter to it.

M: And if you're looking for a person, when you find that person, that's proof.

Ted: Well look at--I mean other things that they-- they go into these caves in Europe and so on. And they get signals. Well what the hell are the signals? I mean, you want to, I can look at a rod and make it go down in my hands just by wanting to make it go down. Or I can walk over a water vein and say I don't want a signal and nothing will happen. So you know what's going on in the mind.

M: So you sort of detach yourself from that kind of stuff to, how do I phrase this, do you stand back from the results a little bit in your mind just to let it happen by itself?

Ted: You're talkin' about when I do or the--what they do?

M: When they're doing it correctly.

Ted: Yeah, yeah, I--I--I try not to be influenced in what I'm doing. I try to keep it completely clear. And let it happen.

M: Yeah, and just let it unfold.

Ted: Well dowsing is opened a complete new vista for my life. Here I am, I'm 75, I feel like a kid because of this, this is a delightful thing. It's an accomplishment, it's unusual and ham that I am, I'm getting press and TV and radio. You know, who can fight it.

M: Also you help people. You've found people who're lost.

Ted: Oh yes. I mean I feel that it's a genuine service. But also the fun is very much part of it.

M: So much, I hate the word success, but I don't know, there's something, unique combination between the joy of doing something and the outcome. Like I enjoy the photography, the more I love it the better my pictures get.

Ted: Exactly. Yeah. It is a joy of accomplishment.