10 LINES

Oxford, Ohio--The television mystery-documentary "The Phantom of Oxford," about the 1953 disappearance of Miami University sophomore Ronald Tammen, won an award for two staff members of Station WDTN (Dayton Channel 2) in the 1977 annual Ohio Associated Press Broadcasters competition, plus nomination for one of the Regional Emmy Awards to be announced May 21.
Cited individually were Ed Hart, news director, and Tom Williamson, who since the documentary was produced has been promoted from production manager to executive producer. Hart and Williamson were co-producers of the winner.

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PHANTOM OF OXFORD

VF: JOE CELLA
REPORTER
HAMILTON, O.
JOURNAL NEWS

(audio:) (I believe Ron Tammen voluntarily walked off campus. I believe he's somewhere out in the world today, alive under an assumed name. Everything has been erased with him ah, but I believe he's still out there)

Stil out there?.....Joe Cella seems to think so. Cella has been writing about Ron Tammen since the young man disappeared from the Miami University campus in Oxford, Ohio; that was Sunday, April 19th, 1953.

It is not enough to explain that the Tammen disappearance was unusual...that patterns, lifestyles, directions and personalities did not fit the classic runaway...even a runaway of the 50's.
VIDEO

THE SETTING OF THIS STORY IS ALMOST PERFECT FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED GHOST TALE; THE MIAMI CAMPUS IS RICH IN TRADITION AND LEGEND. STORIES WHICH ARE PERPETUATED BY IMAGINATION FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...MOST CAN BE EXPLAINED AWAY BY THOSE WHO WOULD BREAK THE SPELL...MOST, BUT NOT ALL. THE TAMMEN MYSTERY HAS ITS BEGINNINGS IN ONE OF THE OLDEST BUILDINGS ON THE MIAMI CAMPUS...THE NOW DILAPIDATED, CRUMBLING REMNANTS OF WHAT WAS ONCE AN ARCHITECTS DREAM...

FISHER HALL TODAY
VIDEO

AUDIO

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE

DISAPPEARANCE OF RONALD HENRY

TAMMEN, JR....A STORY WITH A

BEGINNING...BUT SO FAR, NO END.

RONALD HENRY TAMMEN, JUNIOR,

HAS BECOME..."THE PHANTOM OF

OXFORD!"

(BREAK)

ORIGINAL STILL

THE BUILDING NOW KNOWN AS FISHER

HALL OPENED FOR CLASSES AS OXFORD

FEMALE COLLEGE ON SEPTEMBER

3RD, 1856.....ITS FIRST PRESIDENT

WAS THE REV. JOHN WITHERSPOON

SCOTT, A FORMER FACULTY MEMBER

AT MAIMI AND THE FATHER OF

CAROLINE SCOTT WHO BECAME THE

FIRST LADY OF THE COUNTRY AS

THE WIFE OF PRESIDENT BENJAMIN

HARRISON. OVER THE YEARS THERE

DISSOLVE TO VINES,

GARDENS ETC.
WERE MANY RESIDENTS OF THE
COLLEGE WHO SHARED AND CONTRIBUTED
TO ITS HISTORY....VIRGINIA MOON...
AN OXFORD NATIVE WHOSE SYMPATHIES
WERE WITH THE SOUTH DURING THE
CIVIL WAR. MISS MOON WAS
EXPelled, AND IN THE COURSE
OF TIME BECAME A CONFEDERATE
SPY.

THE TRUE LIFE HEROINE OF JAME
WHITCOMB RILEY’S "THAT OLD SWEET-
HART OF MINE"...KATE MYERS, STUDIED
MUSIC AT OXFORD FEMALE COLLEGE,
WHERE RILEY OFTEN VISITED.
OPENED WITH POMP AND CEREMONY...
COMPLETE WITH LUXURY OF SERVANTS
IN BUTTONS AND LIVERY...THE COLLEGE
FOUNDERED UNDER ECONOMIC PRESSURES.....
IN 1882 THE BUILDING WAS SOLD TO THE OXFORD RETREAT COMPANY AND FOR FORTY-FOUR YEARS WAS A PRIVATE INSTITUTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF INSANITY, NERVOUS DISORDERS, INEBRITY AND OPIUM HABIT.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY ACQUIRED THE BUILDING AND IN 1928 RENAMED IT FISHER HALL IN HONOR OF JUDGE ELAM FISHER WHO HAD SERVED AS A UNIVERSITY TRUSTEE FOR 36 YEARS. FISHER HALL WAS A MENS RESIDENCE...DURING WORLD WAR TWO A NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, THEN A RESIDENCE FOR FRESHMAN WOMEN...

AND IN 1947 IT AGAIN BECAME A FRESHMAN MEN’S RESIDENCE.
FISHER HALL WAS ALMOST MAJESTIC WITH ITS HIGH ARCHED WINDOWS, VINE COVERED WALLS AND IMPOSING COLUMNED ENTRANCE. THIS WAS FISHER HALL IN THE SPRING OF 1953..... THAT SPRING RONALD TAMMEN WAS A 19-YEAR OLD SOPHOMORE COUNSELOR IN FISHER HALL. A GRADUATE OF MAPLE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL NEAR CLEVELAND, RON HAD COME TO MIAMI TO STUDY BUSINESS. HE WAS A DEAN'S LIST STUDENT, A VARSITY WRESTLER, AND HE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MUSIC. HE PLAYED BASS FIDDLER IN THE CAMPUS OWLS, A POPULAR COLLEGE DANCE BAND:
VIDEO

(MONTAGE SHOTS OF CAMPUS OWLS TIGHTEN TO TAMMEN)

CAMPUS SCENES

DORM ACTIVITIES "DRAMATIZATION"

AUDIO

(SWING MUSIC UP FOR :03 AND UNDER)

RONALD TAMMEN WAS, BY ALMOST ANY STANDARD, A WELL ADJUSTED, WELL LIKED, TYPICAL "JOE COLLEGE" OF THE FIFTIES.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1953 WAS AN UNSEASONABLY COOL DAY IN OXFORD; LIGHT SNOW WAS FALLING, AND IN THE EARLY EVENING HOURS STUDENTS WERE RETURNING TO THE CAMPUS FROM WEEKEND OUTINGS.

RON TAMMEN WAS IN HIS SECOND FLOOR ROOM ABOUT EIGHT O'CLOCK PREPARING FOR THE NEXT DAY'S CLASSES. SHORTLY AFTER EIGHT RON LEFT HIS ROOM, WENT DOWNSTAIRS AND ASKED THE HOUSEKEEPER FOR SOME CLEAN SHEETS. HE SAID HE WAS TIRED AND WAS GOING TO BED
VIDEO

AUDIO

EARLY, HE WAS SEEN BY SEVERAL
FELLOW STUDENTS AS HE RETURNED
TO HIS ROOM ABOUT EIGHT TWENTY......

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME RONALD
HENRY TAMMEN, JUNIOR WAS EVER
SEEN BY ANYONE!

STILL OF FINDLAY
ZOOM TO HIGHLIGHT

TAMMEN'S ROOMMATE WAS 19 YEAR
OLD CHARLES FINDLAY OF DAYTON.

DISSOLVE TO FILM
FINDLAY TODAY

FINDLAY WAS ALSO A SOPHOMORE
COUNSELOR IN FISHER HALL AND
HAD SPENT THAT WEEKEND AT HOME.

HE RETURNED ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK

SUNDAY NIGHT:

SOFM/FINDLAY :37

VF: CHUCK FINDLAY
ROOMMATE

(I CAME BACK TO CAMPUS TO FISHER
HALL AND WENT TO MY ROOM AS NORMAL
AND THE LIGHT WAS ON IN THE ROOM.
AND IN THE ROOM, THE DOOR WAS
UNLOCKED, AND RON'S BOOK WAS
OPEN HIS SIDE OF THE DESK. AND
AH THE DESK CHAIR WAS PULLED BACK
AS THOUGH HE GOT UP AND WENT
SOMEWHERE. SO I THOUGHT TOO
NOT TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT AND I
STUDIED I THINK TILL ELEVEN THAT
NIGHT. I GOT BACK TO SCHOOL
ABOUT NINE WENT TO BED AS USUAL
AND GOT UP THE NEXT MORNING
AND DIDN'T SEE RON IN HIS BED.
I STILL WASN'T TOO EXCITED ABOUT
IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE MIGHT
HAVE SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE
FRATERNITY HOUSE.)

RON TAMMEN WAS A MEMBER OF
DELTA TAU DELTA, BUT HE WAS NOT
AT THE FRATERNITY HOUSE, IN FACT
HIS FRATERNITY BROTHERS HAD
NOT SEEN HIM THAT DAY. MONDAY,
APRIL 20TH, 1953 WAS A ROUTINE
DAY FOR CHUCK FINDLAY AND HE
WENT ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES AS
USUAL:

(SOFTWARE: FIDELITY :13
VF: CHUCK FINDLAY
ROOMMATE)

AND IT WAS SOMETIME LATER THAT
AFTERNOON THE EVENING WE HAD A
COUNSELORS MEETING. AND THAT'S
WHEN I THINK WE DISCUSSED A
LITTLE MORE, A LITTLE FURTHER
AS TO WHAT, WHERE RON WAS AND
WHAT THE SITUATION WAS.)

NOT ONLY HAD THE RADIO BEEN
PLAYING, AND TAMMEN'S PSYCH BOOK
ON THE DESK OPEN, BUT FINDLAY
FOUND ALL OF RON'S PERSONAL
BELONGINGS IN THE ROOM. ON
VIDEO

AUDIO

THE DESK, AS IF HIS POCKETS
HAD BEEN EMTIED, WERE TAMMEN'S
WALLET, BANKBOOK, COMB, WATCH,
AND EVEN HIS CLASS RING AND
CAR KEYS.

BESIDE FISHER HALL...JUST BELOW
TAMMEN'S WINDOW, WAS HIS 39
CHEVY SEDAN, PARKED AND LOCKED...
INSIDE, ON THE BACK SEAT, WAS
HIS BASS FIDDLE.

DESPITE THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING TAMMEN'S DISAPPEARANCE
IT WAS THREE OR FOUR DAYS BEFORE
HE WAS OFFICIALLY LISTED AS
"MISSING"...THE FAMILY WAS NOTIFIED
ON THURSDAY APRIL 23RD...THE SAME
DAY THE POLICE WERE CALLED IN:
(I THINK PROBABLY AFTER THE FIRST THREE OR FOUR DAYS I WASN'T CONCERNED. BUT I REALLY REALIZED HE WASN'T COMING BACK, HE WASN'T COMING BACK AS HE NORMALLY WOULD AND THE ROTC WAS OUT AND THEY WERE DRAGGING THE POND. I GOT CONCERNED CAUSE I REMEMBER SITTING AT MY DESK LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW AND WATCHING THEM DRAG THE POND AND THAT WAS KIND OF AN EERIE FEELING)

SOMEONE MUST HAVE SUSPECTED FOUL PLAY WAS INVOLVED. DID

CHUCK FINDLAY THINK SO?

(NO I DIDN'T. I DIDN'T THINK SO BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, EVEN NOW, YOU GO BACK AND YOU THINK ABOUT THE COLLEGE STUDENT WHAT, 19, 20 YEARS OF AGE. HOW DO YOU MAKE AND ENEMY? AND WHO WOULD THINK A COLLEGE STUDENT WOULD HAVE MUCH MONEY.)

ANOTHER SOPHOMORE COUNSELOR IN FISHER HALL THAT YEAR WAS JIM LARKINS. LARKINS...NOW AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES AT WRIGHT STATE...

URGED AN INVESTIGATION BE UNDERTAKEN;
VIDEO

SOFM/LARKINS :17

BRIDGE - HART ON CAMPUS

FILM-SET UP OF KNOX

FILM-SIGN "FLORIDA ATLANTIC"

AUDIO

(HE IS JUST THE LAST PERSON THAT YOU WOULD EVER EXPECT JUST TO MERELY TAKE OFF...AH FOR AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR HIS HAVING DONE IT. FROM ALL THAT WE COULD, ALL THAT WE KNEW ABOUT HIM AND COULD LEARN ABOUT HIM HE JUST SEEMED TO HAVE EVERYTHING FOR HIM)

"THE LAST PERSON YOU WOULD EVER EXPECT TO DISAPPEAR".....A PHRASE THAT CONTINUES TO SURFACE WHEN RON TAMMEN'S NAME IS MENTIONED. IT MIGHT HELP TO EXAMINE THE TIMES IN WHICH RON TAMMEN LIVED HERE; THE EARLY FIFTIES.

DR. CARL KNOX...NOW A PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT FLORIDA/ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY IN BOCA RATON...WAS DEAN OF MEN AT MIAMI UNIVERSITY IN 1953. HE RECALLS THE GENERAL MOOD OF COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN THE FIFTIES...AND HE REMEMBERS RON TAMMEN:
(It was known as the apathetic period of time. It was certainly ah far different from the sixties. But ah it was generally a fairly happy ah time and sort of normal activities taking place. This young man was ah well appreciated around campus because of his musical talent. He played bass with the campus owls ah he did and was one of few people on campus had a car permit in order to transport that bass vial around. And one of the oddities of the thing because he prized it so highly was the fact his car was found locked up with the bass inside and no ron.)

Ron was the second of five children. A brother, John, was at Princeton...

A younger brother, Richard, was a freshman at Miami...at 18, one year younger than Ron.

Marjorie Tammen died in 1963...

Ten years after her son's disappearance. Ronald Tammen, senior, now remarried and living in Fort Lauderdale, saw his son at the family home near Cleveland the weekend before the
VIDEO

SOFM UP FULL :16
VF: RONALD TAMMEN, SR.

AUDIO

DISAPPEARANCE. THE CAMPUS OWLS PLAYED FOR A DANCE AT JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY:

(HE JUST SEEMED TO HAVE FUN THE WHOLE TIME HE WAS THERE. THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING AT ALL THAT WOULD INDICATE THERE WAS A (LAUGH) HE HAD A PROBLEM OR A THING WAS BOTHERING HIM. (PAUSE) NOTHING AT ALL)

FILM-CELLA IN NEWSROOM

THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RON TAMMEN ARE AS MYSTERIOUS TWO DECADES LATER AS THEY WERE IN 1953.

REPORTER CELLA HAS HELD THE OPINION ALL THESE YEARS THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS LESS THAN THOROUGH IN THE FIRST PLACE:

SOFM/CELLA ON INVESTIGATION :26
VF: JOE CELLA REPORTER HAMILTON, O. JOURNAL NEWS

(I WASN'T TOO KEEN ON THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION THAT WENT ON, IT WAS VERY ABRUPTLY DONE...TO ME THERE WAS NO THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. AND THAT IS THE REASON I STAYED WITH IT OVER A PERIOD THAT FOLLOWED. WE WERE ABLE TO ACCUMULATE A LOT MORE, MUCH MORE THAN WE EVER HAD INITIALLY)
VIDEO

FILM-HAMILTON
BOONE'S OFFICE

AUDIO

DR. GARRET BOONE HAS BEEN IN PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE IN HAMILTON FOR FORTY YEARS...

DR. BOONE HAS BEEN THE BUTLER COUNTY CORONER FOR THIRTY FIVE YEARS. THE DR. REMEMBERS RON TAMMEN BECAUSE TAMMEN CAME TO HIM FOR A BLOOD TYPING FIVE MONTHS BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED...

THE ONLY STUDENT IN FORTY YEARS TO ASK FOR A BLOOD TYPE. AND, AS CORONER DR. BOONE WAS INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH. HE AMPLIFIES JOE CELLA'S CONCERN OVER THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION:
(ON ONE OCCASION AH LED TO SOME
SHARP WORDS BETWEEN A AH ME AND
TWO MIAMI UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL
WHO DID NOT APPRECIATE AH MY AH
BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROBLEM
OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. WHY? WELL,
I REALLY DON'T KNOW AH THEY MIGHT
HAVE BEEN BORED WITH ME AND MAYBE
THEY GOT FED UP BY REPORTERS AND
TV MEN, I'M NOT SURE WHICH.)

THE TAMMEN FAMILY WAS DISTRAUGHT
OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THEIR
SON. FRUSTRATED BY NO CONCRETE
EVIDENCE LEADING ANYWHERE, MR.
TAMMEN REPORTED RON TO THE DRAFT
BOARD IN JUNE. BECAUSE RON HAD
FAILED TO COMPLETE THE SCHOOL
YEAR HIS DEFERMENT WAS ENDED.
IF HE COULD BE DRAFTED, AND NOT
REPORT, THE CASE WOULD GO TO THE
FBI; AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT
HAPPENED.
VIDEO

SOFM/TAMMEN
VF: RONALD TAMMEN SR.

AUDIO

(UH I WAS HAPPY THAT WE GOT THE FBI TO BE INVOLVED BECAUSE OF THE BROAD COVERAGE. BUT AH I CAN'T SAY THAT I'VE EVER BEEN HAPPY ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE CASE, BECAUSE NOTHING'S EVER HAPPENED (CHUCKLE).)

NOTHING EVER DID HAPPEN FOR THE TAMMEN FAMILY. BUT RON'S DISAPPEARANCE WAS FOREMOST ON THEIR MINDS...THE PRESSURE TOOK ITS TOLL...PARTICULARLY ON MRS. TAMMEN:

SOFM/TAMMEN :35

(SO MUCH SO WITH THE WIFE THAT AH BIG PROBLEMS OCCURRED WITH HER HEALTH, IT WAS JUST BEYOND HER, SHE JUST COULDN'T TAKE CARE, SHE COULDN'T TAKE IT AND HER HEALTH STARTED FAILING AND THAT THAT WAS THE CAUSE, I BELIEVE OF HER DEATH WAS HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND NO EVIDENCE OR SOLUTIONS AT ANY TIME)

FILM-KNOX

DR. KNOX WAS IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION, AS FAR AS THE UNIVERSITY WAS CONCERNED, AND HE ADMITS THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN A CASE LIKE THE TAMMEN DISAPPEARANCE...BEFORE OR SINCE:
VIDEO

FILM-CU
"SEVEN-MILE MARKER"

SOFM/BARBARA SPIVEY JEWELL
:17
VF: BARBARA SPIVEY JEWELL

FILM-PAN DOWN THE
ROAD FROM HOUSE
DRAMATIZATION

AUDIO

AWAY FROM FISHER HALL THAT SUNDAY
EVENING SOMEONE WOULD HAVE SEEN
HIM. A FAMILY IN SEVEN MILE,
OHIO...ABOUT EIGHT OR TEN MILES
FROM OXFORD SAY THEY DID:

(WELL WE SAW HIS PICTURE IN THE
PAPER ABOUT A WEEK AFTERWARDS AND
MY MOTHER SAID, WELL THAT'S THE
BOY THAT WAS HERE AT OUR DOOR.
AND SO WE WENT TO OXFORD
TO THE POLICE STATION AND TALKED
TO THEM. BUT AS I WAS AT THE
DOOR WITH MY MOTHER ALSO AND AHM
I'M POSITIVE IT WAS HIM.

THE YOUNG MAN ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS
TO MIDDLETOWN; HE THEN THANKED
THE SPIVEY'S AND LEFT. NO FURTHER
TRACE OF THE LATE NIGHT VISITOR
WAS EVER FOUND...BUT TWENTY
THREE YEARS LATER...BARBARA
SPIVEY JEWELL HAS NO DOUBTS:

SOFM/BARBARA SPIVEY
JEWELL :06
DRAMATIZATION FILM

(I WOULD STILL SAY THAT IT WAS
HIM. I'M POSITIVE AND I CAN
STILL SEE HIS DARK EYES AND HIS
DARK HAIR)

MUSIC UP