

Thinking Sideways Podcast
Episode 1: The Ghost Blimp
Hosts: Steve, Devin, and Joe
Transcriber: Allison Perrone

[**Theme song plays**]

Steve: Hello and welcome to the show! I'm Steve.

Devin: I'm Devin.

Joe: And I'm Joe.

Steve: And we're going to tell you a strange story.

Devin: Do you have a strange story for us?

Steve: I do have a strange story for us.

Devin: Then tell us.

Steve: All right, this is the story of the ghost ship.

[**Ominous music plays**]

Devin: The ghost ship?

Joe: The ghost ship?

Steve: The ghost ship.

Devin: The only ghost ship.

Steve: The ghost ship.

Steve: A ghost ship.

Joe: A ghost ship? Okay.

Devin: Okay. Okay.

Steve: It's called "The Ghost Ship" but it's a ghost ship.

Joe: I've got to say, I love ghost ship stories.

Steve: I know they are your favorite. You've told them round the campfire a lot.

Joe: Mhm. They're pretty frickin' awesome, yeah.

Steve: [Laughs] All right. Well, this story begins in 1942.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: So, the United States was still in the middle of or near the end of (though they didn't know it) World War II. The country was worried about attacks on the western coast from the Japanese.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: So, what they decide to do is the country decides, or the Air Force decides that it would be a great idea is... let's get blimps because they can hover in one spot for long periods of time without using a lot of fuel and they can patrol the coast. Watch out for ships and subs...

Joe: Absolutely!

Steve: They can investigate...

Joe: There's actually talk about bringing the blimp back.

Steve: Oh, I didn't know that!

Joe: There actually is talk about that.

Steve: Well, very cool!

Joe: Yeah, it has many uses and they're cheap to keep up in the air.

Steve: They are.

Devin: And very safe, historically.

Joe: Mhm. Except for like, the hydrogen filled ones.

Devin: Right.

Steve: Well, there's that and what we're going to talk about. So in 1940, the US Navy - I think I said Air Force before but it was the Navy - purchased from the Goodyear company their blimp

named the Ranger. It worked so they decide, "We're going to get a couple more of these." On March 5th, 1942, the L-8 was purchased from Goodyear...

Devin: Sure.

Steve: And that was the blimp in question.

Devin: Oh, so it's a blimp story. Ghost blimp.

Joe: It's not a ghost ship, it's a ghost blimp.

Steve: Yes.

Joe: Okay.

Steve: Yes, it is a blimp, but they call it the Ghost Ship.

Devin: Okay.

Joe: It is an airship, after all.

Steve: Exactly.

Joe: But I like Ghost Blimp better.

Steve: Yeah.

Devin: Ghost Blimp.

Joe: Ghost Blimp.

Steve: Not only did these blimps do routine patrols up and down the coast, they also were involved in some clandestine operations. The L-8 was actually involved in an operation where it left the San Francisco Bay on the 11th of April, 1942 and it was hauling a secret 300 pound cargo which it took out to sea and it met the aircraft carrier the USS Hornet. Today we know that the cargo actually was parts for the B-25 bombers and that the Hornet initiated the first attack on the islands of Japan, through our first air raids actually on Japan, those were known as the Doolittle Raids.

Devin: Okay.

Joe: Oh.

Steve: So they played a pretty important part at the time, but we're going to move forward in time from there to August 16th, 1942. The L-8 is scheduled to go on a routine patrol to look for

submarines, supposed to leave Treasure Island, which is in the San Francisco Bay. It's going to head on about a thirty-mile trip out to sea, circle around, look around and come back. The L-8 normally would have a crew of three. In this instance, there was Lieutenant Ernest Cody, Ensign Charles Adams, and Machinist's Mate 3rd Class James Hill. So we've got three men. They meet the cargo load of this particular blimp. That's the max it can carry, or around its weight limit.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: Unfortunately, that day was very foggy and as we know, when it's foggy, condensation forms on everything. A blimp of that size gets so much water condensation on it that it changed the weight dynamics of the blimp and they realized that it had too much weight so it couldn't take the entire crew. The Navy decides, "Well, we're going to go ahead and just send out the two of you, and we're going to leave someone behind." So it turns out that James Hill is the one who's chosen to stay behind.

Joe: Oh, lucky for him.

Devin: Right?

Steve: Yeah, yeah indeed. Well, he goes on board, he sets up all the controls, makes sure everything is in line and then he walks away from the blimp. Now keep in mind, this crew had been on this blimp many, many times so it wasn't as if it was their first run out.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: So at 6:03 AM on the 16th of August 1942, the L-8 takes off from Treasure Island...

[**Sound: Blimp taking off**]

Steve: About an hour and a half into the patrol - which would be 7:42 in the morning, or AM - Cody radios back that he has spotted a potential oil slick and they're going to go investigate.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: That's the last time anybody ever heard from the crew. Now, keep in mind, I'm specifying here, it's the crew. [**Beach sound effects begin**] About 11:15, we're in Merced at the beach, California, it's a lovely day, we're all hanging out on the beach, and all of a sudden the crowds watch a blimp drifting in from the ocean and descending. [**Beach sound effects end**] It descends enough that it hits the cliffs out on the beach...

Devin: Whoa...

Steve: ...and snags.

[**Crumbling rock sound effect**]

Steve: Snags there, the breeze hits it, I'm not exactly sure, it damages an engine, and somehow the blimp brakes free, crowds are walking towards it, they want to know what's going on, right up until a depth charge falls off. At which point, everybody runs away.

Devin: Sure.

Joe: Sweet!

Steve: Okay well the depth charge, luckily enough, didn't go off. But the blimp, now lightened load, continues on inland. It eventually comes to rest in the 400 block in Daly City on Bellevue Avenue.

Joe: Uh huh.

Steve: The blimp, in the process of -

Joe: That must have been a traffic stopper.

Steve: Uh, yeah, because in the process - it was a terrible fender bender - in the process of coming down, it hits a house...

Devin: Huh!

Steve: ...and a couple of cars!

Devin: Of course!

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: Yeah, not something I would want to have running into my house.

Devin: No.

Joe: No, probably not.

Steve: Well, we do -

Joe: Did anybody get any cell phone pictures?

[**Steve and Devin laugh**]

Steve: No, unfortunately they didn't have them on.

Joe: Ahh, piss.

Steve: The iPhone wasn't around yet.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: So, we do have a quote from that time and the quote reads as such - it was Mrs. Appleton. She said that all of a sudden, this huge behemoth had settled and scraped across the top of her roof. She said it sounded like chains dragging. But the entire house was blacked out because of the size of this thing. She raced to the front window, wondering what in the world was going on, and she saw the rest of it. The gondola hit the cross arm, broke off part of the mechanism and then gradually settled to the ground. So this thing scraped across her roof, it was big enough and made quite a lot of noise.

Devin: Yeah.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: The ship comes to rest in the middle of the street and what happens, of course, the envelope that holds all the gas -

Joe: Collapses.

Steve: Collapses...

[Joe laughs]

Steve: ...and just swamps everything.

Joe: Can you imagine if that thing just landed near a house? You'd wake up and it's collapsed over your house, you're looking out the windows, you can't see anything, you know?

Steve: You're looking at the clock, going -

Joe: Wouldn't that be a little disconcerting?

Steve: "It's eleven o'clock in the morning but it's pitch black out! This is weird!"

Joe: Mhm.

Devin: "Can't see two feet in front of me!"

Steve: Exactly.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: That would be a little odd.

Joe: So, did anybody get trapped underneath this thing when it collapsed?

Steve: Well no, no bystanders were trapped, but there were a lot of people who were kind of following it as it was coming down so as soon as it hit, people were on the scene. Everybody presumed that the crew must be stuck in the gondola, the part that hangs on the bottom that the crew hangs out in...

Devin: Mhm.

Steve: ...or works in, and so they rushed to their aid.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: They hack and they cut and they saw their way through the envelope, desperately trying to get to the gondola. A gentleman who lived across the street by the name of William Morris, he was a volunteer firefighter and he went out there and did everything he could and he was one of the first people who got through the envelope and got to the gondola. When he got there, he said - and he said it was very strange, because as the quote goes: "The doors were open and nobody was in the cabin."

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: So the crew was completely gone.

Devin: Huh...

Steve: Nowhere near, nobody knows where they are, they're never found.

Joe: Mmm.

Steve: The Navy launches a land and sea search. They go everywhere looking for them but they can't find them. A year later, the Navy declared Cody and Adams officially deceased and the search officially ended.

Devin: Oh.

Joe: So I assume that they examined the envelope or whatever you call it for bullet holes?

Steve: Well, the problem was that the bystanders who were attempting to help...

Joe: Hacked it all up so much?

Steve: ...destroyed it. It was to the point that it was not salvageable.

Joe: Mhm.

Devin: Did they find any clues in the gondola?

Steve: Well, they did find some things in the gondola and some of this is weird, some of it's odd...

Devin: Okay...

Steve: ...and we'll just go ahead and we'll start with the gondola itself.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: When the Navy arrived, they inspected it and they found that all the parachutes were accounted for, the life belts - which is the equivalent of a life vest...

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: ...were gone, the life craft was still in place, and the radio was working normally. So, everything seemed in order. Most of the fuel was still left in the ship, the engines were switched on, but they weren't actually working at the time, obviously because of the crash...

Devin: Sure, sure.

Steve: ...with the cliff in Merced, and there was a briefcase in the gondola that still contained the classified files that were kept on the ship. There were rumors at one point for many years that there was a half-eaten sandwich and a warm cup of coffee still on the console! That's been debunked.

Joe: Oh.

Steve: That actually never happened, but you come across that when you find this story out there.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: Now, there are a couple of other things that we know that we found through some research that's been done. I talked about earlier that there was a big dish or a dent in the middle of the envelope. What that was from is that at some point, the blimp began to rise, just essentially straight up, to the point that it got high enough in the atmosphere that the pressure was too great and it caused an automatic pressure release valve to go off...

Devin: Hmm...

Steve: ...which vented a bunch of the gas, therefore reducing its lifting power.

Devin: Mhm.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: So as it came back down into the atmospheric pressure it was meant to work under, the bag wasn't as full so it sank and that's why there was that giant dip which explains why as it was coming inland...

Devin: Sure.

Steve: ...it continued to drop and eventually crash into the ground.

Joe: Uh huh. Okay.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: The only other account that we have of the L-8 during its mission is from two fishing boats that were out that day. And they said they did observe the blimp descending from whatever its normal operation elevation was, down to about 300 feet above the sea. Presumably, that's when they were investigating the oil slick that they'd radioed back and said they were checking out.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: They didn't know if it was a submarine or something.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: Well, as any smart captain would do, both captains pulled up their nets and turned around and tucked tail, because the last thing they wanted to do was be in the area if it dropped and depth charge.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: It would be kind of a bad thing.

Devin: Right.

Steve: So, that's as far as it goes. That's as far as we know all of the facts that are associated with the L-8.

Joe: Mhm.

Devin: And there's nothing else weird they discovered?

Steve: Nope. Nothing else. Its crew is gone, everything that should be in place is pretty much in place, nothing that they can tell is missing, nothing out of the ordinary that they can tell that's happened. Well, of course, rumors begin and there's a lot of some crazy, some not so crazy theories out there as to what could have happened.

Devin: Okay.

Joe: I think it's actually quite obvious what happened. It was a gay suicide pact.

Devin: Ha.

Steve: Okay, Joe. Yeah.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: You're absolutely right. Why...

Joe: It's elementary.

Steve: ...did I spend all this time looking at this story? You've figured it out.

[**Devin laughs**]

Steve: Thank you, man. [**Laughs**]

Joe: Absolutely.

Devin: It was obvious all along.

Steve: Yeah.

Joe: Yup.

Steve: Yeah, yeah, what was I thinking? All right. Here's what the theories are.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: We know that the L-8 was out looking for Japanese submarines. That was their primary mission, as to find submarines, to protect the coastline so that the Japanese didn't attack us on our own soil.

Devin: Sure.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: Or at least in the water on our own soil. Well, some people believe that what must have happened is that when the blimp descended, it did indeed find a Japanese sub and that the crew of the sub overpowered them... [**Devin laughs**] ... and pulled them out of the - essentially, I'm guessing this means the gondola was a couple feet off the water, right against the water, essentially, and that they overpowered them and hauled them out...

Joe: That seems unlikely that they would have gotten that low though, right?

Steve: That's the hard part! And then stuffed them in the hold and took off. Now there's some credence to this Joe...

Joe: Uh huh.

Steve: ...because if you think about, let's say that it's just floating there and there's no crew on the top, one of them might have climbed down the ladder to check it out, got captured and then with a gun to his head, the Japanese said "Get down here or we kill your friend."

Joe: Uh huh.

Devin: Except for, wouldn't they want that classified information that was on the blimp?

Steve: If they went into the blimp you would think they would look for that. Maybe they didn't go into the blimp but the other problem with that theory is that the radio was working.

Devin: Oh.

Steve: Don't you think that the first thing you would do when you found a sub floating is to call back and say...

Joe: Oh yeah.

Steve: "I found a sub."

Devin: Uh huh.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: "You're not going to believe what I just found."

Joe: Uh huh.

Steve: Nothing like that.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: So, we don't -

Devin: Oil slick isn't some Navy code for Japanese sub?

Steve: Not that I've ever heard, no.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: No. So let's see, there is Theory #2. Theory #2 says that it was a love triangle....

Joe: Hmm...

Steve: ...that these men were involved in a love triangle with a woman that they were both seeing on shore.

Devin: Uh huh.

Steve: Now, here's the hard part about this, or what doesn't hold water for me on that is that Cody was twenty-seven and Adams was thirty-eight. So I would guess that they probably wouldn't likely be chasing the same woman. Maybe they were, it's hard to say...

Joe: It's entirely possible.

Steve: It is possible, but -

Joe: Were these two friends, by the way?

Steve: There's no records to say what their relationship to each other was other than that they were co-workers...

Devin: Sure.

Steve: ...that they served on this ship and that's all we know that I can find. I did go to some Navy sites, looked up a lot of stuff, but that kind of information never seems to have been reported.

Joe: Mmm.

Steve: None of it was recorded, anyway. But here's what we have: we have a love triangle.

Devin: Mhm.

Steve: These two men are on the L-8 and a fight breaks out.

Joe: Mmm.

Devin: Uh oh.

Steve: They're fighting for her love.

Devin: Oh...

Steve: They get into a fist fight, one thing leads to another, they accidentally fall into the door of the gondola and they both fall out too their deaths at sea.

Devin: Surely there's some safety mechanism there, though.

Steve: Well, you know it's...

Joe: You would think.

Steve: It's funny, but the walls of the gondola, the metal is six millimeters thick.

Devin: Oh...

Steve: It's extremely thin.

Joe: It's aluminum?

Devin: Okay.

Steve: I'm guessing.

Joe: Oh.

Steve: It had to be thin to be light.

Joe: Yeah.

Devin: Sure.

Steve: I also when I was doing my research on this, came across reports from Navy men who had been in that or similar gondolas who had mentioned that they were extremely flimsy.

Devin: Huh.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: So it did have a bar to lock the door, but presumably the whole thing is made to be as light as possible, it's conceivable that somebody slamming into it could just pop the whole thing open.

Devin: That's true.

Joe: Maybe.

Devin: Yeah, okay.

Steve: So there is some possibility...

Joe: But maybe the bystanders who opened it up don't remember, was the door already open when they finally got to the gondola? Or was there...

Steve: According to Morris who was the first one to get through to the gondola, he said the door was wide open.

Joe: Uh huh. Hmm...

Steve: We don't know, did it get popped open when it ran into the cliff?

Devin: Yeah...

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: Was it open ahead of time? There's not a lot to support it. Again, the details on this one are one of those weird military items where things have been help back...

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: ...not necessarily reported so it's hard to get all of those details.

Devin: Sere, yeah.

Joe: Yeah, and you'd think they could ask some of the witnesses from the beach and etcetera.

Steve: True.

Joe: You know?

Steve: But then again, you know as well as I do that witness statements tend to be fraught with errors and...

Joe: Oh yeah.

Steve: ...they conflict constantly, so it's hard to say but unfortunately this was 70+ years ago. Not likely to find many of those folks around anymore that are going to tell you.

Devin: Sure, sure.

Steve: But there is one final theory.

Devin: Okay.

Steve: And this is a theory that personally, I think is probably the good one and it's the Bermuda Triangle. [**Pause**] No, I'm kidding.

Joe: Yeah, there you go.

Devin: Ha ha.

Steve: It's not the Bermuda Triangle. [**Laughs**] No, the last one is that it may have been a complete freak accident that claimed both of their lives. When the gondola was found, like I said, the door latch was open and the door was open, which obviously enough, is not the way that it should happen when it's in flight.

Devin: Sure.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: They do say there's a safety bar but again, I have a feeling that that safety bar is probably pretty minimal and flimsy, especially considering in 1942, we weren't really worried about safety as much as we are now.

Devin: Sure.

Joe: Hmm, very true.

Steve: So it's not some double-latch system, it's probably just a door bolt.

Joe: Mhm.

Devin: Uh huh.

Steve: A door handle with a bolt in it.

Joe: Still, these guys have been working in this thing for a long time. They probably know better than to go smashing into the door.

Steve: It's very true.

Joe: You know?

Steve: But here's where what I think has probably happened starts to gain some footing. There was a microphone plugged in inside the cockpit and that microphone goes to a loud speaker. That loud speaker was dangling outside of the gondola, so it was outside. So what people are thinking might have happened is that there was something mechanically that went wrong partway through their journey, two hours into the trip, and one of the men decided that he would try and go out and fix it...

Joe: Hmm.

Steve: ...ran into trouble, so Crewman Number 1 is outside, Crewman Number 2 is inside using the loud speaker. Obviously, you're moving along and it's windy, it's loud, so you've got to use the loudspeaker to be heard and that what he was doing was talking to his compatriot at which point, he ran into trouble. So Crewman Number 1 outside slips or gets snagged or something happens and Crewman Number 2 decides that the best thing to do is to go out and try to help him.

Devin: Huh.

Steve: At which point, they both lose their grip...

Joe: Oh. Yeah.

Steve: ...and they both fall to the sea.

Devin: But why wouldn't they have radioed back that there was a problem?

Steve: That's the hard part!

Devin: Right.

Steve: Now, do either of you - have you ever known folks that were in the military?

Joe: Oh, yeah.

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: What is the one thing you never tell you boss in the military?

[**Devin laughs**]

Joe: What's that?

Steve: "Something went wrong."

Devin and Joe: Yeah.

Steve: "Something's broken."

Joe: Yeah.

Devin: That's true.

Steve: "Hey Chief, this is not okay"? They don't like to hear that.

Joe: True.

Steve: And male bravado says, "I can fix this!"

Devin: Sure.

Steve: "I'll fix it now!"

Devin: Sure!

Steve: Which may very well have been the wrong thing to do and it may have been what claimed their lives.

Devin and Joe: Huh.

Steve: But we don't know! No bodies were ever found. If they fell to their deaths at sea, you know what its like when ships go down. Out of how many - a small fraction are ever found.

Devin: Mhm.

Steve: Nobody knows what ever happened.

Joe: Yeah, it's funny - you would think they would have found their bodies because if they were wearing their lifebelts, that would have kept their bodies afloat. They actually would have washed up ashore.

Steve: You would think.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: Unless the aliens got them.

Joe: Yeah, it could be...

Steve: That could have been it.

Devin: Or the sharks.

Steve: Or the sharks.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: Sharks - well, it is off of California.

Devin: Yeah...

Joe: Yeah, that's a good point!

Steve: There are a lot of sharks...

Joe: That's a good point.

Steve: A lot of mean, big-toothed fish.

Devin and Joe: Yeah.

Joe: I'm leaning towards the theory that they were actually on board when it landed and they just crawled away under the collapsed envelope because they probably screwed up in some major way and they knew they were going to be in big trouble when they got back. So they decided, "Well, let's just sneak off and go change our names and move to another state."

[Joe and Steve laugh]

Steve: So what you think happened is that they're both sitting there reading *Time*, not paying attention as they're cruising back to shore...

Devin: *Playboy*. Let's be fair, *Playboy*.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: Okay, it would have been *Playboy*. Was *Playboy* around in 1942?

Joe: No, it was not around yet, I don't think.

Steve: It would have been some skin mag...

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: Some skin mag, and they're not paying attention and they run into the cliff at which point, go "Uh oh."

Joe: Uh huh. [**Laughs**]

Steve: "We've got to get out of here, dude."

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: "I don't know what to do, let's run away to Mexico."

Devin: Maybe they bailed on the cliff. They released the depth charge and while that was a distraction, they bailed out on the cliff.

Joe: Mhm.

Joe: It would actually make -

Steve: That's a plausible scenario.

Devin: And that's why it got its lift.

Joe: Actually, if they didn't bail on the cliff, because the depth charge I would think wouldn't just pop out easily, but they're saying, "Hey, we're snagged on this. We've got to get some lift." Drop a depth charge.

[**Steve laughs**]

Joe: Drop a depth charge, yeah?

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: That's a good point!

Joe: "And that'll get us unsnagged from this thing."

Devin and Steve: Yeah.

Steve: I hadn't thought about it. I'm glad you're bringing that up because I was reading it and thinking that hat it meant was that the force of the impact broke it loose...

Joe: It's possible.

Steve: ...but your theory is just as plausible!

Joe: It's entirely...

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: We need some lift, let's get rid of some weight, throw everything overboard!

Joe: Uh huh.

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: It's like - what is it - the old hot air balloon cartoon?

Devin: Yeah, oh yeah.

Steve: You know, in cartoons you throw everything overboard as fast as you can?

Devin: Yep.

Steve: Including the guy you don't like?

Devin and Joe: Yeah.

Steve: It very well could have happened!

Devin and Joe: Yeah!

Joe: It could be this too - maybe, perhaps one of them murdered the other one out at sea, pushed his body out...

Steve: Mhm...

Joe: ... and, you know, after weighting it down a little bit or something like that, and then he's plotted this out: he's going to come back, he's going to bring it in really low, right over the beach so there will be lots of witnesses at this thing, it's just a drift and everything but he screws up, hooks on the cliff, has to drop a depth charge to get lift and continues on to his landing and then when the whole thing collapses, he crawls away underneath of the collapsed envelope.

Devin: Huh.

Steve: Again -

Devin: Although, ostensibly, he would have been in a uniform.

Joe: Oh yeah.

Devin: That's the only drawback.

Joe: Well, if he -

Devin: And then they would have been like, "Weird..."

Steve: He could have taken his shirt off. You know, when you wear a dress shirt...

Devin: Yeah, I guess that's true....

Steve: ...you've always got a t-shirt of some kind on underneath...

Devin and Joe: Yeah...

Steve: ...so he could have slipped away.

Joe: And also, if he planned it out in advance, which he may have done, he could have brought along some extra clothes.

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: There is that.

Devin: I think we've solved it.

Steve: We've solved it.

Joe: Yeah, I think so. I think so. Yeah.

Steve: You want to know the weird other twisted bit of history up with this story?

Devin: Yes.

Joe: Yeah, what's that?

Steve: So the L-8 was purchased, as I said in the beginning, from the Goodyear Corporation.

Devin: Uh huh.

Joe: Yeah.

Steve: When the Navy stopped using blimps...

Devin: Mhm.

Steve: ...they sold it back to Goodyear...

Devin: Uh huh...

Joe: With a whole lot of patches on it, I presume?

Steve: Yeah, with a bunch of patches on it!

[Joe and Steve laugh]

Devin: Right...

Steve: And this particular blimp was the Goodyear blimp that was used at football games from 1968 to 1982.

Devin: Wow.

Joe: Uh huh.

Steve: It was the same gondola!

Joe: Same gondola, different envelope.

Steve: So the same gondola that was recording all those football games, that we always saw on the commercials, if you're old enough to remember watching those commercials, that was the gondola that was involved in this crash.

Devin: Wow.

Joe: Wow, that's cool!

Steve: Today, that gondola - obviously, it stopped being used in '82. It's now in... I believe it's a Goodyear museum. They still keep it and they still have it.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: So it is still around. Obviously, probably been repaired and repainted several times...

Devin: Sure.

Steve: ...from what happened in '42, but...

Joe: Probably.

Steve: But ladies and gentlemen, don't go breaking in and trying to hop onto it and go looking for clues because they're long gone.

Joe: Yeah...

Steve: Long gone.

Joe: Yeah, they've been painted over.

Steve: Okay.

Joe: Anyway, we solved the mystery so what would the point in that be?

Steve: We solved the mystery. And that's it. We got it.

Devin: Yeah.

Steve: Alright, well if you want to go ahead and read up on this story and take a look at what we used for the research on this, you can always just go ahead to our website, which is thinkingsidewayspodcast.com, and you can find all research links right there. If you like letting us know you've got thoughts on it, you could always go ahead - if you've got another theory, or you think we've missed a piece of information, go ahead and send us an email. Email is thinkingsidewayspodcast@gmail.com. And with that, we're going to take off and we'll talk to you next week with another bit of weirdness!

Joe: So long, everybody!

Devin: Unless, you know, we crash a blimp.

Steve: Oh yeah.

Joe: Mhm.

Steve: Let's not do that.

Devin: Okay.

[**Outro music plays**]