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## 'Expedition Unknown' revisits '80s treasure find in Chicago

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### Abstract

None available.

Jan. 16--Nearly 35 years after discovering buried treasure in Grant Park, Rob Wrobel and Eric Gasiorowski return to the park with "Expedition Unknown" host Josh Gates to describe how they solved one piece of a puzzle that has confounded people for decades.

Publisher Byron Preiss buried 12 ceramic casques -- each containing a key that could be redeemed for a jewel -- in parks around the country and put location clues in his 1982 book "The Secret." Gates visits the places where casques have been found and tries to pinpoint the remaining treasures on an episode of "Expedition Unknown" that is scheduled to air at 8 p.m. Wednesday on the Travel Channel.

"One of the things about the 'The Secret' that you learn when you delve into it is that it's really difficult," Gates said in a phone interview. "None of the puzzles are particularly easy to solve, so I think for three teenagers to have cracked the very first one, it's incredible stuff."

Gates met with Gasiorowski and Wrobel in April 2017, and they showed him the casque they unearthed with their

friend David James as suburban teenagers in 1983. Gasiorowski told the Tribune that for years he held on to the casque -- which was valued at more than \$500 when it was dug up -- but Wrobel now possesses it. He said the emerald they received from Preiss -- worth about \$1,000 at the time -- was stolen sometime in the early 2000s.

Now a 51-year-old welder who lives in Plainfield, Gasiorowski said he helped a treasure hunt group research possible casque locations about a decade ago.

A second casque was found in Cleveland in 2004. That leaves 10 casques up for grabs. Cameras follow Gates as he visits Milwaukee, New York and St. Augustine, Fla., to search for treasure. Adding to the mystery is that Preiss died in a 2005 car crash.

"I think if there's one fatal flaw to 'The Secret' it's that Byron maybe imagined it in an age when people weren't as mindful about the protection of local parks. I think, unfortunately, in order to solve 'The Secret,' unless you're really technical and you know exactly where the box is buried, you do run the risk of damaging these parks," Gates said. "We worked with the permission of the local park in Milwaukee as well as in St. Augustine. And to be honest, I think a lot of their motivation for letting us film was their hope that we could find one of the boxes and kind of stop people from coming to the parks and trying to dig it up."

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