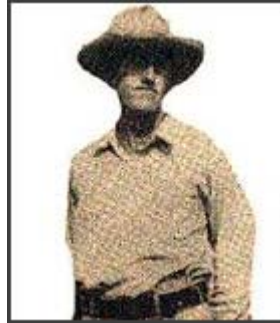


Ray Copeland



Information summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
1914		Born in Oklahoma
		Moved continuously until they settled in Ozark Hills, Arkansas
		Dropped out of school in fourth grade to help his poor family
	20	Stole 2 hogs from his dad and sold them in another town
		Kept stealing livestock
1936	21-22	Arrested in Harrison, Arkansas for forging checks
		Sentenced to one year in jail
1940	25-26	Met his future wife Faye Della Wilson
1940-1941	26-27	Married Faye six months after they met
1941	27	Had first son Everett
1943	29	Second son Billy Ray was born
1944	30-31	Moved to Fresno County, Ca
1945	31-32	First and only daughter Betty Lou was born
1947	33-34	Third son Alvia was born
1949	35-36	Accused of stealing horses from a local farmer, no charges were brought up but it ruined his reputation
1949	35-36	Fourth son William Wayne was born
		He moved his family back to Arkansas
		After less than a month Ray was arrested for cattle theft and sentenced to one year in jail
1950-1951	36-37	Ray moved his family to Rocky Comfort, Missouri
1951	36-37	Arrested for cattle theft once again and sentenced to manual labor on the Judge's farm
1953	38-39	Moved his family to Illinois
		Moved continuously over the next eight years and in those eight years he was arrested on three separate charges of check forgery
1961	46-47	Ray Paid for 20 cattle with a bad check and was sentenced to nine months in jail
		After he was released he brought 19 more cattle at an auction with a bad check and was sentenced to another nine months in jail
1966	51-52	He moved back to Missouri

1967	52-53	Ray and his family bought a 40 acre farm in Mooresville, Missouri
1970's	56-65	Started thinking of new ways to buy cattle with bad checks
		Thought up a plan to use drifters to sign his name in their hand writing so when asked about it he could deny he knew what had happened because it was not his handwriting
		One drifter named Gerald Perkins was caught by the local police who already suspected Ray of being involved and found out the scam
		Police arrested Ray and he spent 2 years in prison for check forgery
1980's	65-74	After he was released he tries to fine tune his plan by having drifters get a post office box and then having them set up their own bank accounts. He would then still have them buy cattle at auctions at which point he would sell them and there would be no proof of his involvement.
		After Ray got his use out of the drifter and he had used him enough he would get rid of him for good so that police could not catch up with the drifter and find out the scam.
1989	74-75	Jack McCormick told police that Ray Copeland had tried to kill him after he had been employed by Ray. But then did not cooperate with local police
Aug. 20, 1989	74-75	A hired worker named Jack McCormick call a hotline for tips and it said that they gave reward money to those tips that lead to arrest. He then called and told the hotline that he had found bones and a human skull on the Copeland farm.
Oct. 9 1989	74-75	Sheriff and around 40 officers raided the Copeland farm with a search warrant trying to find the remains of dead workers
Oct 17, 1989	74-75	Officers discover three bodies in a barn that were buried in three separate graves. The men were identified as 21-year-old Paul Jason Cowart, from Dardanelle, Arkansas; 27-year-old John W. Freeman, from Tulsa, Oklahoma; and 27-year-old Jimmie Dale Harvey, from Springfield, Missouri.
		Wayne Warner was later found in a barn under bales of hay that were stacked up to the ceiling.
		Denis Murphy was the last to be found and he was found in an old well near where Wayne Warner was found. All had been shot in the back of the head with a .22 caliber rifle.
		In addition to the bodies found investigators also found a quilt that Faye had made out of the workers clothing and a list that had twelve names on it and all were crossed out. Five of the men on that list were the bodies that were found and the others were all missing.
Nov.1 1990	75-76	Faye's defense was that her husband committed the murder without her knowledge and that she was a victim of battered woman's syndrome.
		After Faye's conviction a sheriff asked Ray what is thoughts about it were and he responded "Well, those things happen to some you know"
March 7 1991	76	Copeland goes to trial for five counts of murder in the first degree
		Responds to conviction by saying "I'm OK"
1993	78	Dies in Potosi Correctional Center

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	5 maybe more (12 names were crossed out on a list)
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Missouri
Type of killer	Organized
Height	

Childhood Information

Date of birth	?-?-1914
Location	Oklahoma

Birth order	2 nd of 5
Number of siblings	Four
XYY?	
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Moved a lot, great depression caused hardships on their family
Age of family event	Early childhood
Problems in school?	Had to drop out in fourth grade in order to help support family
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	Probably got beatings b/c they were common in this time period but no record
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Farmer
Age of first sexual experience	After marriage to Faye
Age when first had intercourse	After marriage to Faye
Mother's occupation	House mother
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	4 th
Highest degree	None, dropped out in fourth grade
Grades in school	Unknown
IQ	Unknown
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes had bad reputation for his various crimes
Types of jobs worked	Farming jobs
Employment status during series	self employed as a farmer, would buy and sell livestock
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Hetero
Marital status	Married
Number of children	5
Lives with his children	Had all moved out by this time but lived near in Chillicothe, Missouri
Living with	Spouse
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	

Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Unknown
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	None
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	5 that were found but twelve names all together had X's by them and others were all missing
Victim type	Drifters or people that would not be remembered , most were drunks who would agree to stay sober for a warm bed and three square meals
Killer age at start of series	Unknown when first killing was
Gender of victims	Males
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Varied from 20's and on
Method of killing	Shot victim in the back of the head with .22 rifle
Type of serial killer	Organized opportune killer
How close did killer live?	Lived at crime scene (happened on his 40 acre farm)
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Weapon	.22 caliber Marlin bolt-action rifle
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes shot in back of the head
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	Had their clothing (was made into a quilt)
Robbed victim or location	Would take clothing which Faye made quilt out of
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	Yes crime scene was his home and he would bury the bodies throughout his home
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-op and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	All in separate places throughout their farm or barns that Ray

	was known to use
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	around late 1989
Date convicted	March 1991
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	No died of old age before he could be executed
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Name and state of prison	Potosi Correctional Center, MO
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	1993

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