

William George Bonin
"The Freeway Killer"



Information researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
01-08-1947	0	Born in Connecticut.
1954	7	Neglected and abused by parents and grandfather
1955	8	Served time in a juvenile hall for stealing license plates. Bonin became the sexual play things of others, sexual sadism, punishments such as submersion in ice water, and threats at the point of a knife.
1955	8	1 st sexual experience, aware asked for restraints.
1965	18	Joined the Air Force.
1969	22	First arrest for sexually assaulting young boys. Sent to Atascadero State Hospital and diagnosed as having a manic-depressive illness..
1975	28	Released from Atascadero State Hospital.
August 1975	28	Rape and attempted strangulation of David McVicker, 14-years old.
1978	31	Released by the California prison system.
08-05-1979	32	Killed first victim Marcus Grabs, 17-years old.
08-27-1979	32	Murdered Donald Hyden, 15-years old.
09-09-1979	32	Murdered David Murillo, 17-years old.
12-02-1979	32	Murdered Dennis Frank Fox, 17-years old.
02-03-1980	33	Murdered Charles Miranda, 15-years old.
02-06-1980	33	Murdered James McCabe, 12-years old.
03-14-1980	33	Murdered Ronald Gatlin, 19-years old.
03-20-1980	33	Murdered Harry Todd Turner, 14-years old.
03-22-1980	33	Murdered Glenn Barker, 14 years old and Russell Rugh, 15 years old.
04-10-1980	33	Murdered Steven Wood, 16-years old.
04-29-1980	33	Murdered Darin Lee Kendrick, 19 years-old.
05-18-1980	33	Murdered Lawrence Sharp, 17-years old.
06-2-1980	33	Murdered Steven Jay Wells, 18-years old.
06-11-1980	33	Attempted rape, with intent to kill, Harold T, 15-years old. Apprehended by police.
07/25- 07/29 1980	33	Charged with 14 counts of murder, three counts of robbery.
03-12-1982	35	Convicted during first trial he was sentenced to death in 1982 for 10 murders throughout Los Angeles County.

08-26-1983	36	Convicted during second trial in Orange County of the other four murders, for which he received a second death sentence.
03-16-1990		Bonin v. California
02-23-1996	49	Executed. First person in California to die by lethal injection.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Convicted of 14, suspected as many as 30
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	California
Cities where killing occurred	Orange County and Southern California
Type of killer	Disorganized lust
Height	

Childhood Information

Date of birth	January 8, 1947
Location	Connecticut
Birth order	1 st of 2
Number of siblings	1
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents and grandfather
Birth category	Oldest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	
Age of family event	
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	
Speech defect?	
Head injury?	Brain damage, unexpected scars
Physically abused?	Neglected by parents
Psychologically abused?	Neglected by parents
Sexually abused?	Yes by his grandfather and older boys in juvenile dentition
Father's occupation	
Age of first sexual experience	8
Age when first had intercourse	8
Mother's occupation	Played bingo
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Alcoholic and gambler
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	12
Highest degree	Diploma
Grades in school	
IQ	
Source of IQ information	

Work History

Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Air Force
Type of discharge	Honorable
Saw combat duty	Yes, logged 700 hours combat/patrol
Killed enemy during service?	Yes

Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	
Types of jobs worked	Military, transportation
Employment status during series	Employed as truck driver
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Homosexual but had been married
Marital status	Divorced
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	
Living with	Friend
Triad	
Animal torture	Unknown
Fire setting	Unknown
Bed wetting	Unknown
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Unknown
Abused alcohol?	Unknown
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	Atascadero State Hospital, 5 years
Diagnosis	Manic depressive disorder, sociopath
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	As many as 30
Victim type	Young males
Killer age at start of series	32
Date of first kill in series	August 5, 1979
Date of final kill in series	June 2, 1980
Gender of victims	Males
Race of victims	Varied
Age of victims	Young men
Type of victim	Hitchhikers
Method of killing	Strangled
Weapon	Article of clothing, tire iron, binding material found at scene of the crime, knife
Was gun used?	No
Type	
Did killer have a partner?	Yes, three different partners
Name of partner	Vernon Butts, Gregory Miley, James Munro
Sex of partner	Male
Type of serial killer	Disorganized lust
How close did killer live?	Drove to crime
Location of first contact	Highway
Location of killing	Killer's home, van
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Sometimes

Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Yes he abducted using a van
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	No because he raped, strangled and stabbed them
Used blindfold?	Possibly
Bound the victims?	Yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	Yes, he took their wallets
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes, no but he left bodies on side of the highway, dumpsters/alley
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	June 11, 1980
Date convicted	March 12, 1982, August 26, 1983
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	Yes, February 23, 1996
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Name and state of prison	San Quentin, California
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	February 23, 1996, 49 years old

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