

The Toolbox Killers: A Timeline

Introduction

I'm just going to say right out of the gate that the topic we're going over today is very serious. This video will include these themes: Rape, kidnapping, and brutal abuse, torture, and assault towards women. If any of these themes are sensitive to you, I highly encourage you don't watch this video. Please skip it. If you can stomach it, continue watching. Thank you.

Hello everyone! My name is Caden from "Hide and Seek". Welcome to a brand new video. Grab your snacks, a blanket, and get comfy! Today we are delving into the murders of the Toolbox Killers. We will be covering every single known person that sadly lost their lives to these deranged individuals. Enough talk, let's hop in!

Body

It's Halloween night in the streets of the Sunland district in the San Fernando Valley of California. Shirley Ledford was walking home from her job when she was approached by two men in a van. Inside the van was Lawrence Bittaker and Roy Norris. Also known as "The Toolbox Killers". They asked her if she needed a ride and she accepted. Police believe that she accepted because she recognized Lawrence Bittaker as a person that visited the restaurant she worked at. This is when a simple acceptance will turn into a literal nightmare.

Background

Lawrence Sigmund Bittaker was born on September 27th, 1940 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was born into a family that didn't want him and as a result, was placed into an orphanage. After some time, he was eventually brought into a family. To put it lightly, it wasn't the best of environments. His desire for crime had revealed itself in the early stages of his youth. At the young age of 12 years old, he gained a criminal record that ranged from shoplifting to petty theft. Surprisingly enough, he was considered to be very smart with an IQ of 138. He learned somewhat quickly that school wasn't exactly his main focus, so he dropped out in 1957.

In that one year that he dropped out, he had been arrested for stealing a car, a hit and run, and evading arrest. All in one year! This dude was on a roll. He was placed in the California Youth Authority until he eventually turned 18 years old. From 1959-1974, he was in and out of jail for more crimes. The one that got him locked up in California Men's Colony was when he stabbed a young supermarket employee after the clerk claimed he stole. He was a literal 1 inch away from his heart upon stabbing him. Guy narrowly came close to death. After the stabbing, he was apprehended by two other employees, and the police promptly arrived. When he was eventually put in jail, it took roughly a year before he'd then meet someone that sparked his interest.

Roy Lewis Norris was born on February 5, 1948, in Greeley, Colorado. While he did live with family occasionally, he was repeatedly placed into foster families all throughout Colorado. Rough is only the tip of the iceberg when describing Norris' adolescent homelife. Neglect, denial of proper clothing and food, and sexual abuse are just a few of the things he had gone through as a boy. Norris' sexual desires became present when he was 16 years old. After hitting on a female relative *in her own home*, he was sent home and his father wasn't exactly the happiest man. Norris was told that he was about to get his butt beat. Like any normal human after hearing that news, he stole his dad's truck, drove up to the Rocky Mountains, and threatened to end his life. He was soon taken back to his parents. When he came back, his parents told him and his sister that divorce was soon going to happen. It's unclear whether he took this well or not but a year later he did drop out of high school and join the navy. He was deployed in Vietnam in 1969 but never saw true combat. He was soon honorably discharged after being in the Navy for a single tour of duty. After this, it all just went downhill. Charge after charge seemed to fall into his lap. He had racked up a good amount of sexual assault offenses from the years 1969-1975. In 1975 is when he'd eventually be put into the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. It is here when he'd meet his partner in crime.

The pair became very acquainted in jail after sharing their views on sexual violence and a *major* prejudice against women. Ah yes, the most casual of things to share amongst your peers. Once they were eventually released from jail, their little fantasies would sadly become reality. After a few months of just getting their feet on the ground, they brought up their plans of doing heinous acts to girls again in late February of 1979. The two saved up money to purchase a 1977

GMC cargo van. They named the van “Murder Mac”. According to Bittaker, this van was perfect for them because it was windowless and had a large passenger sliding door which made it easier to pull in girls. In late April, the men came upon a secluded fire road located in the San Gabriel Mountains. This is where they... did their deed. We are now closing in on the actual crimes. Let's get into it.

The Murders

Lucinda Lynn Schaefer was just 16 years old on June 24th, 1979. As she was leaving a Presbyterian Church meeting, she was approached by Norris and Bittaker around 7:46 pm. They tried to convince her to get into the van but she denied the requests. These two weren't going to take no as an answer. They parked in a driveway not too far from where she was and waited for her to get near. After a brief exchange of words, she was dragged into the van. The killers came up with a plan when picking up these girls, Bittaker was to turn up the radio to full volume while Norris bound the girls. When she was first pulled into the van, she was screaming and resisting, but she quickly regained her composure. It's believed that she just... accepted her fate. When Bittaker was eventually asked about that night, he said in a book called *Alone with The Devil* that she “displayed a magnificent state of self-control and composed acceptance of the conditions of which she had no control. She shed no tears, offered no resistance, and expressed no great concern for her safety ... I guess she knew what was coming.” She was brought to the fire road and raped by both men. When she asked Norris if they intended to kill her, he responded with no. This, sadly, wasn't the case. While the two were deciding on whether or not to kill her, she asked for one simple thing. “(Can I take) only a second, to pray?”. Schaefer was then strangled to death with a coat hanger that was wrapped around her neck with pliers before she ever got the chance to pray. Her body was wrapped in a shower curtain and then thrown into a canyon.

Andrea Joy Hall was just 18 years old on July 8th, 1979. She was hitchhiking when Bittaker called her into the van. When she hopped in, Bittaker offered her a drink from a cooler in the back. Norris hid in the back and jumped her the second he got the chance. He bound her arms, legs, and taped her mouth shut. They brought her to the fire road and both had turns raping her. When they thought there were headlights from a car, Bittaker moved her to some bushes

while Norris drove in search of the car. Upon returning, they moved uphill and made Hill walk nude up the hill where she would pose for some polaroid pictures. They drove to their final location more upward on the hill. When Norris left to get a beer, he came to Bittaker looking at polaroid pictures of Hall but their victim wasn't there. While Norris was gone, Bittaker told Hall that she was going to die and that he wanted her to give him reasons to live. As she was listing, he jammed an icepick into her ear, reaching her brain. He then slumped her body over and did it again to her other ear. He then slammed down on the pick with his shoe until the handle broke. Her body was disposed of by throwing it off a cliff.

Jackie Doris Gilliam and Jacqueline Leah Lamp had been hitchhiking along the Pacific Coast Highway. Jackie Gilliam was 15-years-old and Jacqueline Lamp was 13-years-old. As they sat at a bus stop close to Hermosa Beach, the killers had taken note of them. They pulled up next to them and offered a ride. The girls accepted and hopped into the van. When they entered, the girls realized very quickly that the direction they were headed wasn't on the highway any longer but rather... to the mountains. The killers tried to play it off like nothing was happening but the girls weren't having any of it. Jacqueline Lamp attempted to open the door before she was hit over the head with weights, knocking her out. Norris proceeded to bound and gag Jackie Doris and then did the same to Jacqueline. They drove to the mountains and were held captive for a whole two days. These two days were filled with vile and disgusting sexual acts. There were audio recordings of the rape, Bittaker tortured Jackie's breasts by stabbing with an ice pick and even tore off a nipple with his pliers, many lewd pictures were taken of the two girls, and one of the girls was even forced to act like a cousin of Bittaker when he was performing these sexual acts. Jackie Gilliam was killed by getting stabbed in both ears with an ice pick and was then strangled. Jacqueline Lamp was struck over the head with a sledgehammer and then strangled until they thought she was dead. When she opened her eyes once more, she was hit a few more times until she was eventually strangled to death. Their bodies were then disposed of by getting thrown over an embankment.

Shirley Lynette Ledford was just 16 years old on the night of Halloween in 1979. When she was walking home from her job, she was approached by Norris and Bittaker. She recognized Bittaker as a man that often came in when she would wait tables at her restaurant. This simple

acceptance would be the one thing that seals her fate. Instead of driving to their usual spot, Bittaker immediately flipped on the recorder and started beating Shirley Ledford after she was bound by Norris with tape on the mouth. If you thought the others were disgusting, just you wait, everyone. Bittaker removed the duct tape and started to degrade her and physically abuse her. He told her on multiple occasions to “say something” and to “scream, baby!” She was told more and more to scream louder as Bittaker began to strike her with a hammer, mainly beating at her breasts. He began to mutilate parts of her body with pliers, such as her breasts and genitals. The two killers switched places and now it was Norris’ turn. He, just like Bittaker, forced her to scream. When Norris began to reach into the toolbox for the sledgehammer, Ledford began to beg and plead. Norris struck down on her elbow and did it multiple times, 25 to be exact. After two hours of pure torture and pain, she was eventually strangled to death by a wire coat hanger. The killers decided to be a little more ballsy and dispose of her body in a random neighborhood. A poor jogger came upon her body the next morning. From an autopsy report, “There was a linear compression mark, soft tissue, and petechial hemorrhage around the neck. There was evidence of multiple blunt-force trauma to the face, head, and breasts. Her rectum, the lining inside her rectum, and her vagina had been torn from being stretched too far, in part due to the insertion of a pair of pliers by Bittaker. There were bruises on her left elbow, a cut to the right index finger, and a puncture wound to the left hand. The wrists and ankles had ligature marks as well.”

Investigation

The investigation was basically open and shut. Norris couldn’t exactly keep his mouth shut and told a buddy named Joseph Jackson, whom he went to jail with, all of the things he had been doing. Jackson, being an absolute chad, decided to report this to his attorney who then informed the Los Angeles Police. Paul Bynum, the detective that was assigned, noticed a lot of connections right off the bat. A woman named Robin Robeck, a victim of the rapings, had reported being raped by two caucasian men in their mid-30’s before being released. A line of mugshots was shown to Robin Robeck and she was able to identify Bittaker and Norris from the line. This was the LAPD’s queue to start picking up the pace. Norris was arrested after dealing

the marijuanas at the beaches while Bittaker was arrested for the rape of Robin Robeck. Bittaker's apartment and the van were searched and OH BOY was it funky. A plethora of disgusting pictures of his victims, a tape recording of Shirley Leford's final moments, a sledgehammer, and much more. Norris' apartment had a bracelet that belonged to Leford. Sick dude. He really kept that as a souvenir.

Norris was eventually questioned and began to say he had no involvement. Not a smidge. Not a hint. Bruh. Police began to notice him fold when they started bringing up some really good evidence from the case. He then began spilling the beans. He stated multiple times that he wasn't really involved as much as Bittaker was and that he was more culpable than him. Obviously, we know how true that is. He gave very detailed recounts of what had happened. This basically solidified that these two were 100% responsible.

Norris has pleaded guilty to a WHOLE lotta charges. A WHOLE lotta charges. Four counts of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree murder, two counts of rape, and a single count of robbery. If you thought Norris' numbers were high, just wait. Bittaker was arraigned on a total of 29 charges. This consisted of rape, kidnapping, sodomy, and murder. This isn't even including his other various charges of criminal conspiracy. He was eventually just charged with guilty of five counts of first-degree murder, one charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, five charges of kidnapping, nine charges of rape, two charges of forcible oral copulation, one charge of sodomy, and three charges of unlawful possession of a firearm.

Bittaker's trial began on January 19th, 1981. This is where most of the psychotic behaviors began. I won't go too heavily into it all because of just how much information was dumped, but I'll bring the most damning bit of evidence that came from the case. Shirley Leford's audiotape of her brutal murder was played in court. The tape has never been released and has only been heard once. An NBC reporter that was at the day of the hearing caught some brief audio of it. I am going to play a section of the audio, so if you don't want to hear this, please skip to this time. Thank you. (play audio) Here are what a few people had to say about it after hearing the tape. (roll footage) Truly disgusting and vile. The worst part about it in my opinion has to be the fact that Bittaker smiled for the entirety of the tape's runtime. Truly a

disgusting individual. There is also a transcript online of the audio. It's really gut-wrenching to read. So, if you're interested, be careful.

Results

I wish we could say that we got a happy ending on this one. Lawrence Bittaker was sentenced to death in 1981, understandably. Roy Norris was sentenced to life in prison with a possibility of parole in 2010. Yeah, good luck trying to convince them to let your crazy self out. As the years went by, these two sat there and rotted away. Frankly, they rotted for a little too long. Bittaker died while awaiting the death penalty on December 13 of 2019! 2019!!!! How do you await the death penalty for that long? A near 40 years. Roy Norris also died in prison on February 24th of 2020. This year is when this guy died. It took nearly 40 years for these sickos to pass. That was way too long considering the fact they took those girls' life from them at such a young age. Having some closure to it is better than none though. These two were caught, tried, and charged. That is the best ending this story can get really. No cold case stuff or major unknowns. They were caught. That is all that we can ask for. Rest in peace to all of the poor, innocent girls that lost their lives to these men at such a young age. If there is something out there, I hope it's peaceful.

Conclusion

This now brings us to the end of it all. Two horrible men committing disgusting acts and they were, frankly, caught. That's all that matters. I hope you guys enjoyed this one. It was very hard to look into all of this stuff and basically not vomit. I cut back majorly on the jokes simply because this just isn't the time. These poor girls deserved a long life but got it cut so short. It's very unfortunate, really.

Anyway, everyone. I hope you enjoyed this one. This was a lot more serious than my last one but it was very interesting to research and teach you guys about. My name is Caden and I hope you enjoyed the video. If you did like and subscribe, it helps a brother out. If you didn't like it, dislike it and let me know what I can improve on. Thanks for watching! I'll see y'all in the next one.

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