

I. DISCOVERY OF THE CRIMINAL- BTK:

On January 15, 1974, a chilly winter day, 15-year-old Charlie Otero began his afternoon walk home from school. Charlie, his parents, and four siblings had recently moved into a quiet peaceful suburban neighborhood in a small frame house located at 803 North Edgemoor St., Wichita.

Charlie opened the front door and walked into the living room, nothing immediately seemed out of the ordinary. "Hello is anyone home?" he called out into the quiet house. There was no response. Such quiet was unusual. With some trepidation, Charlie walked toward his parents' bedroom.

Charlie's father, Joseph, 38, was lying face down on the floor at the foot of his bed; his wrists and ankles had been bound. His mother, Julie, 34, lay on the bed bound in similar fashion, only she had been gagged. Charlie came to his senses and he rushed out in desperation to get help for his parents. As the police searched the house, they were shocked to find nine-year-old Joseph II in his bedroom face down on the floor at the foot of his bed. His wrists and ankles were also bound, the only difference being that over his head were 3 hoods. Downstairs in the basement, Charlie's eleven-year-old sister, Josephine, was discovered hanging by her neck from a pipe; she was partially nude, dressed only in a sweatshirt and socks, and she had been gagged.

Investigators were stunned at this daytime execution-style multiple murder in such a quiet neighborhood. This brilliantly planned and orchestrated crime which required surveillance, perfect timing, and the ability to subdue a group of people who were normally more than capable of defending themselves. It had the hallmarks of a military operation, but then there were these nagging details that the police didn't want to discuss. Police Chief Floyd Hannon told the Wichita Eagle in January of 1974 that "the way in which family members were slain indicates a fetish on the part of the assailant."

Letter

In October of 1974, just nine months after the Otero family murders, the Wichita Eagle newspaper's Don Granger received an anonymous call. The caller directed him to a mechanical engineering textbook in the Wichita Public Library. Inside the book, Granger found a letter claiming credit for the killings of the Joseph Otero family, and promising more victims. The authenticity of the letter was not in doubt since it contained details that only the police and killer knew.

The killer wrote:

"I write this letter to you for the sake of the tax payer as well as your time. Those three dudes you have in custody are just talking to get publicity for the Otero murders. They know nothing at all. I did it by myself and with no ones help. There has been no talk either. Let's put this straight....I'm sorry this happen to society. They are the ones who suffer the most. It hard to control myself. You probably call me 'psychotic with sexual perversion hang-up.' When this monster enter my brain I will never know. But, it here to stay. How does one cure himself? If you ask for help, that you have killed four people they will laugh or hit the panic button and call the cops.

"I can't stop it so the monster goes on, and hurt me as well as society. Society can be thankful that there are ways for people like me to relieve myself at time by day dreams of some victims being torture and being mine. It a big complicated game my friend of the monster play putting victims number down, follow them, checking up on them, waiting in the dark, waiting, waiting.... the pressure is great and sometimes he run the game to his liking. Maybe you can stop him. I can't. He has already chosen his next victim or victims. I don't know who they are yet. The next day after I read the paper, I will know, but it to late. Good luck hunting.

"YOURS, TRULY GUILTY"

Although the letter was unsigned, it contained this postscript:

"P.S. Since sex criminals do not change their M.O. or by nature cannot do so, I will not change mine. The code word for me will be....Bind them, torture them, kill them, B.T.K., you see he at it

again. They will be on the next victim."

#2

Three months after the Otero murders, Kathryn Bright, 20, and her brother Kevin, 19, were murdered in their home at approximately 1 p.m. There had been an intruder hiding in the house, waiting for her to return.

The intruder tried to strangle Kevin with a rope, but Kevin resisted and was shot twice in the head. He heard sounds of distress from his sister in the next room. Kevin managed to escape and get help for his sister, but she died five hours after being taken to the hospital with three stab wounds in her abdomen.

Police also noted that the Kathryn was partially undressed and that there was obvious ligature activity around her neck. Kevin assisted the police in sketching a likeness of the intruder, but he was not identified.

#3 – Three years later

Three years later on March 17, 1977, Wichita police discovered 26-year-old Shirley Vian dead. She lay on her bed partially undressed, hands and feet bound, a plastic bag draped over her head. Upon removing the bag investigators noted the BTK's signature cord wrapped tightly around her neck. Again, investigators believed that the crime was premeditated. The incident occurred during the daytime and there was no sign of forced entry. The killer had stopped one of the victim's sons on the street that morning, and showed him photographs of a woman and child, purportedly seeking directions to their home.

On Dec. 8, 1977, BTK placed a call to the emergency hotline "Go to this address," he told an emergency dispatcher, "You will find a homicide - Nancy Fox." Investigators were able to quickly trace the call to a downtown phone booth, where witnesses indistinctly recalled a blond man, approximately six feet tall, using the phone booth moments earlier. Unfortunately, the quality of the recording was too poor for investigators to perform any type of voice analysis.

Officers rushed to 843 S. Pershing. Upon arrival, investigators immediately noticed that a window had been broken, allowing entry to the home and the officers discovered 25-year-old Nancy Jo Fox dead in her bedroom, a nylon stocking twisted around her neck. Unlike previous victims, she was fully clothed. Fox's driver's license was missing from the scene. The murder had occurred at night, semen was found at the scene, but an autopsy later revealed that Fox had not been sexually assaulted.

As abruptly as they started, the killings appeared to have ended in 1977. It seemed as though BTK had vanished.

II. INVESTIGATION AND PROFILING

In 1983 two teams of detectives were assigned to reinvestigate the murders, setting up a task force, nicknamed "The Ghostbusters" and hired a computer consultant to work with them in an attempt to try and discover the identity of BTK. After assembling their massive collection of DNA evidence, seven years after the last murder, investigators finished entering their data into an IBM computer, and a list of suspects began to spew out.

On Oct. 31, 1987, the body of 15-year-old Shannon Olson was found dumped in a pond in an industrial area, partially disrobed and stabbed numerous times. Her hands and feet were bound. The murder sparked off an outbreak of letters to the police and media suggesting the BTK Strangler committed the crime.

On Dec. 31, 1987, Mary Fager returned to her Wichita home after spending 2 1/2 days out of town. Upon entering her house, she discovered her husband, Phillip Fager, dead; he had been shot twice in the back. Her two daughters, 16-year-old Kelli and 10-year-old Sherri, were both found strangled in the hot tub situated in the basement of the home. Sherri's hands and feet were bound with black electrical tape, which later washed loose. Kelli Fager was nude. Then, the BTK killer went dormant.

After nearly 30 years of silence, resurfaced on March 19, 2004, when he sent a letter to *The Wichita Eagle* newsroom. The letter suggested the killer was taking responsibility for the September 16, 1986, unsolved death of Vicki Wegerle. Included with the letter were a photocopy of Wegerle's driver's license

and three photos of her body. The return address on the letter was from "Bill Thomas Killman" (BTK). Investigators have since determined the name to be fictitious. Why he chose them is unknown.

On June 17, 2004 another letter was found in a mechanical engineering book in the drop box of the Wichita Public Library. The police revealed that it was yet another genuine BTK communication.

There were more clues present in the letter, which linked the killer to Wichita State University. More interesting is the poem, "*Oh! Death to Nancy*", that BTK wrote to Anna, an intended victim, who did not come home in time for BTK to kill her.

Oh, Anna Why Didn't You Appear

*T' was perfect plan of deviant pleasure so bold on that Spring nite
My inner felling hot with propension of the new awakening season*

*Warn, wet with inner fear and rapture, my pleasure of entanglement,
like new vines at night*

On October 22, 2004, another BTK letter was left at a UPS drop in Wichita, Kansas. Interestingly, the letter was discovered on the 30th anniversary of BTK's first communication with the authorities. Chances are that the timing was no coincidence.

In November, 2004, police publicly revealed for the first time information that BTK revealed about himself in a letter. The personal information was released in the hopes that someone might recognize the killer's description and come forward with even more information about his identity or whereabouts:

- BTK claims he was born in 1939, which would make him 64 - 65 years old.
- His father died in World War II. His mother and grandparents raised him.
- He has a fascination with railroads and between 1950 - 1955; his mother dated a detective with the railroad.
- In the early 1950s, he built and operated a ham radio. He also has knowledge of photography and can develop and print pictures.
- He also likes to hunt, fish and camp.
- In 1960, BTK claims he went to tech school and then joined the military for active duty and was discharged in 1966 at which time he says he moved back in with his mother.
- He worked repairing copiers and business equipment.
- He admits to soliciting prostitutes.

In mid-December, 2004, an unidentified man found a suspicious white plastic bag wrapped in rubber bands in Murdock Park. The man took the bag home and looked inside it, when to his surprise he noticed items that may have belonged to some of BTK's victims.

Investigators examined the bag's contents and found a driver's license belonging to Nancy Fox and a letter, along with other objects. The letter was similar to one found earlier in May 2004, which displayed a list of chapters taken from this Crime Library story. However, some of the chapter titles were listed differently.

On March 1, 2005, the police released information concerning the white trash bag BTK left in Murdock Park in December 2004. Its contents contained, a Barbie brand doll known as "PJ," which had a bag over its head, its hands tied behind its back and the feet bound by panty hose. The manner in which the doll was bound was similar to the way BTK tied up his victims before murdering them.

The name of the doll he chose was significant because its initials were that of Wichita State University English literature professor P.J. Wyatt, whom he referred to in earlier communications. At the time the bag was found it was revealed that Nancy Fox's driver license was in it, as well as a list of "BTK" chapters based on the Crime Library story on the BTK killings.

Also revealed was a puzzle BTK sent in a May 2004 communication that contained some 40 words and strings of numbers. Some of the words hidden in the puzzle included, prowl, fantasies, spot victims, steam builds, go for it, Wichita spelled backwards, help, handyman and lost pet. Rader's house number

"6220" and his name "D Rader" appeared in the puzzle.

In February 2005, police announced they have in custody, 59-year-old Dennis Rader, the BTK killer. His daughter, Kerri Rader, had cooperated with the police before the arrest.

Also, it's likely that there are even other BTK victims.

After considering an insanity defense, Dennis Rader confessed to the murders of many BTK victims. According to testimony, Rader said while he tortured Dolores Davis, he placed a thin painted plastic mask on her face to "pretty her up a little bit" and make her look "more feminine." The mask had been painted flesh tone with red lips and darkened eyebrows to make it look more lifelike in appearance.

Rader said he wore some of Davis's clothes that he had stolen, along with a similar looking mask and a wig. When Rader dressed up as a woman, he posed himself in various positions and took pictures of himself with a remote snap camera. In the pictures he appeared markedly distressed as if he were the actual victim. The pictures were kept in a huge stash he referred to as "the mother load" which was hidden in his house and office and included such items index cards with child swimsuit models on them and fantasies written on the backside, jewelry and clothing from his victims, newspaper clippings, and a doll collection.

Rader described his victims as "projects" and calmly explained how he selected a victim, gave the "project" a code name and then researched and stalked her until he found the right opportunity to attack. He blamed his blood lust on his "compartmentalized personalities," one side of himself that he claimed he showed to his family and the church and the other dominated by "Factor X"- the killer.

On June 27, 2005, Dennis Rader plead guilty to 10 counts of first-degree murder then calmly told the court the chilling details of the **"Bind, Torture, Kill"** slayings that terrorized the Wichita, Kansas area between 1974 and 1991.

III. THE BACKGROUND:

Dennis Rader was born in 1945 to William and Dorothea Rader. He grew up in Wichita along with three brothers, all of whom graduated from Heights High School in Wichita. Rader joined the Boy Scouts as a youth. By his own admission, he developed fantasies about control and torture from an early age, while still in grade school. As he became entered puberty, he dreamed of tying girls up and having his way with them. The Mouseketeer Annette Funicello was one of his favorite targets for his fantasies. He admits to having killed cats and dogs such as by hanging them as a youth. Those who knew him personally describe a quiet and polite young man who preferred to keep to himself. Dennis Rader was not a joiner or known to be very socially active in high school. One friend described him as utterly lacking a sense of humor, but tending to be studious and focused.

Rader was in the Air Force in Vietnam from 1965 to 1969. He then attended Kansas Wesleyan College in the year 1965 to 1966 – at which time he quit college in pursuit of a military career in the U.S. Air Force. During his time serving, Dennis spent time in Texas, Alabama, Japan, Okinawa, South Korea, Greece and Turkey. Upon his return home, Dennis received a job in the meat department of a local supermarket in Park City, Kansas. In the year 1971, Dennis Rader became married to Paula Dietz. Rader then attended Butler County Community College in the city of El Dorado where he earned a Bachelor Associate's Degree in the field of Electronics in the year 1973. In the fall of that year, he enrolled at Wichita State University, where he graduated in the year 1979 with a degree in the Administration of Justice.

He worked at ADT Security Services from 1974 through 1989. In 1989, he also worked for the U.S. Census bureau going door-to-door collecting information. While working in both positions, Rader had access to many area residents' homes. It is believed that he might have initially encountered some of his victims while on the job.

Rader and his wife Paula had two children, a boy and girl." Paula never knew about Rader's murder

sprees and was quite shocked and horrified at his arrest.

In his spare time, Rader lead a Cub Scouts group and was active in his church. No one imagined he was capable of doing any harm to anybody. Many referred to him as a kind of guy who wasn't very noticeable, one who never really stood out from others. In fact, it was his ability to "blend in" that allowed him to go undetected for so many years.