|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Robert Otis Coulson *“Bob”* |  | | | | |
| Serial killer researched and summarized by  *Claire Vincent, Page Watson, Frances Wassell, Courney Walker, and Juliana Lambriola*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 3/11/68 |  | Bob was born to Robert Bennett | |
| Childhood |  | Bob and sister Robin adopted by the Coulson family | |
| After College |  | He maxed out his credit cards, was in debt from college, and owed many people money. | |
| 8/1997 | 24 | Began purchasing supplies like duct tape and a stun gun for the killings. Kept them in a backpack. | |
| 11/11/1992 | 24 | Scoped out a dark drop-off site | |
| 11/12/1992 | 24 | Dropped off backpack and gas at parents’ house, and checked out their wills to see who their heirs were. | |
| 11/13/1992 | 24 | Day of killings | |
| 11/15/1992 | 24 | Called parents’ attorney to ask about the size of the inheritance | |
| 11/17/1992 | 24 | Attended families funeral (where he showed no emotion, smiled, and performed a dance step when leaving), then later arrested for the murders of his 5 family members | |
| 6/16/1994 | 26 | Found guilty of capital murder. | |
| 6/22/1994 | 29 | Sentenced to death for the killings | |
| 10/1996 |  | Texas Court of Appeals confirmed the verdict and death sentence | |
| 2/21/1997 | 28 | Found liable for $26.6 million for the slayings of his family in a wrongful death suit filed by the family estate and 4 yr. old sole survivor of the killings | |
| 6/1999 | 31 | The Court of Criminal Appeals denies his last appeal, ending his state appeals. | |
| 6/25/2002 | 34 | Executed by lethal injection in a Texas prison | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | White |
| Number of victims | | | 5 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country where killing occurred | United States |
| States where killing occurred | Texas |
| Type of killer | Organized Black widow |
| Height | 6’ |
| **Childhood Information** | |
| Date of birth | March 11, 1968 |
| Location |  |
| Birth order | 2nd of 2 (natural) 2nd of 3 (natural and adoptive) |
| Number of siblings | 2 – 1 biological sister and 1 adoptive sister (also adopted by the Coulsons) |
| XYY? |  |
| Raised by | Adoptive parents |
| Birth category | Middle |
| Parent’s marital status | Adoptive parents married |
| Family event | Biological parents had financial difficulties, and  mother left husband and the children for another man. Then she came back and took them and put them up for adoption. Unsure of age this occurred.  No adoptive family problems were ever reported. All said he had relatively normal childhood. |
| Age of family event |  |
| Problems in school? |  |
| Teased while in school? |  |
| Physically attractive? | Yes |
| Physical defect? | No |
| Speech defect? |  |
| Head injury? |  |
| Physically abused? |  |
| Psychologically abused? |  |
| Sexually abused? |  |
| Father’s occupation | Retired from oil company (geologist)/volunteer work |
| Age of first sexual experience |  |
| Age when first had intercourse |  |
| Mother’s occupation | Homemaker and songwriter |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol |  |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol |  |
| **Cognitive Ability** | |
| Highest grade in school | First year of college |
| Highest degree | High school Diploma |
| Grades in school |  |
| IQ |  |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Branch |  |
| Type of discharge |  |
| Saw combat duty |  |
| Killed enemy during service? |  |
| Applied for job as a cop? |  |
| Worked in law enforcement? |  |
| Fired from jobs? |  |
| Types of jobs worked |  |
| Employment status during series | Employed in sales |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Had a girlfriend, but possibly bi |
| Marital status | Single |
| Number of children |  |
| Lives with his children |  |
| Living with |  |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture |  |
| Fire setting |  |
| Bed wetting |  |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? |  |
| Abused alcohol? |  |
| Been to a psychologist? |  |
| Time in forensic hospital? |  |
| Diagnosis |  |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | No |
| Spend time in jail? | No |
| Spend time in prison? | No |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 5 (and unborn child) |
| Victim type | Family members |
| Killer age at start of series | 24 |
| Gender of victims | 3 females, 2 males |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | Mary Coulson – mother – 54  Otis Coulson – father – 66  Sarah Coulson – sister – 21  Robin Wentworth – sister – 25  Richard Wentworth – brother-in-law – 27 |
| Method of killing | Smothering |
| Type of serial killer | Organized black widow |
| How close did killer live? | Within driving distance |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | yes |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | no |
| Weapon | Killer had previously dropped off weapons at the scene (trash compactor bags, zip cords, gasoline, and stun gun) |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | No |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | Yes, after dead, poured gasoline on victims and set them and the house on fire. |
| Quick & efficient? | Yes |
| Used blindfold? | Yes, bags over their heads |
| Bound the victims? | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| Robbed victim or location | No |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide | Left at scene, but attempted to burn the house down. |
| Left at scene, hidden | No |
| Left at scene, buried | No |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | No |
| Moved, buried | No |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Moved, to home | No |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | November 17,1992 |
| Date convicted | June 16, 1994, Sentenced June 22, 1994 |
| Sentence | Death |
| Killer executed? | Yes - June 25, 2002 |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | N/A |
| Name and state of prison | Livingston in Texas |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | June 25, 2002 |

|  |
| --- |
| **References**  http://www.ccadp.org/robertcoulson.htm  http://www.txexecutions.org/reports/273.asp  http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib- proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?\_m=f2875d7f0a276188d7a3008c9ca62c0e&\_docnum=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&\_md5=33108d4a069e7b1140b1b7e27d4c4d21  http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib- proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?\_m=f2875d7f0a276188d7a3008c9ca62c0e&\_docnum=13&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&\_md5=6a700d38b35c3af75cd21b6a8a3601d7  http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/death/US/coulson783.htm  http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib- proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?\_m=b3a7bd49b255d14b7c38c4a2949c7e8b&\_docnum=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&\_md5=0d4bde180ac4e6b87a37dbf974f0e2b7  http://www.initiative-gegen-die-todesstrafe.de/texas25061.html  http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/statistics/deathrow/drowlist/coulson.jpg  http://www.prodeathpenalty.com/Pending/02/jun02.htm  http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/aug02/1425.html  http://www.fdp.dk/uk/exec/exe-0201.htm  http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\_qn4182/is\_19970802/ai\_n10111219  http://www.deathrow.at/freebob/d.html  http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/newsarchive/2002/20020624coulsonfacts.htm  Searched, but unable to find information:  http://global.factiva.com/ha/default.aspx  no books found using your website listings, www.amazon.com , McConnell Library catalogue |