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| William Edward “Billy” Cook | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Theresa Gray & Rachel Hammond*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 12/23/1928 | 0 | Born in Joplin, Missouri | |
| 1933 | 5 | Dad leaves wife and children. | |
| Later 1933 | 5 | Mom dies. | |
| 1940 | 11 | In and out of juvenile jail | |
| 9/??/1943 | 14 | Holds up and kidnaps a cab driver. | |
| 1943 | 14 | Put in jail. | |
| 03/23/1946 | 18 | Escapes jail. | |
| 08/15/1946 | 18 | Caught escaping jail. | |
| 06/16/1950 | 22 | Released from jail. | |
| 12/27/1950 | 23 | Travels to Mexico. | |
| 12/28/1950 | 23 | Meets Archer while hitching, later Archer escapes. | |
| 12/29/1950 | 23 | Mosser family picks-up Cook hitchhiking. He then holds them hostage. | |
| 01/01/1951 | 23 | Stops at store for food. | |
| 01/02/1951 | 23 | All five members of the Mosser family and their dog are shot to death in the car in Oklahoma. Their bodies are dumped in an abandoned mine shaft near Jopli, Missouri. | |
| 01/02/1951 | 23 | Car is seen by individuals and called in to police | |
| 01/03/1951 | 23 | Officers discover the bloodshed in the car | |
| 010/6/1951 | 23 | Meets Waldrip, and Waldrip later gets away. | |
| 01/06/1951 | 23 | Cook kills 6th victim, Robert Dewey (WM, 68) in Imperial County in California. | |
| 01/07/1951 | 23 | Cook meets Burk & Damron and later get away | |
| 01/09/1951 | 23 | Cook is found by police | |
| 01/15/1951 | 23 | Police find the five bodies of the Mosser family. | |
| 01/15/1951 | 23 | Cook is sent back to the states from Mexico. | |
| 01/29/1951 | 23 | Preliminary hearing/trial | |
| 03/20/1951 | 23 | Sanity hearing – given 300 years for murders of Mosser family. | |
| 10/13/1951 | 23 | Tried for Dewey’s murder in California. | |
| 11/28/1951 | 23 | Sentenced to death | |
| 05/07/1952 | 24 | Appeal | |
| 12/12/1952 | 24 | Executed in the gas chamber | |
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| **General Information** | |
| Sex | Male |
| Race | White |
| Number of victims | 6 |
| Country where killing occurred | United States |
| States where killing occurred | Oklahoma (5) and California (1) |
| Cities where killing occurred |  |
| Type of killer | Spree killer |
| Height | n/a |
| **Childhood Information** | |
| Date of birth | 12/23/1928 |
| Location | Joplin, Missouri |
| Birth order | 5th |
| Number of siblings | 8 |
| XYY? | n/a |
| Raised by | Foster parents – various |
| Birth category | Middle |
| Parent’s marital status | Mom died, father left |
| Family event | Dad left for a 2nd time after mother’s death |
| Age of family event | 5 |
| Problems in school? | Yes, a drifter, in and out of schools |
| Teased while in school? | Yes had eye defect |
| Physically attractive? | No “hard” |
| Physical defect? | Yes, right eye could not properly close |
| Speech defect? | No |
| Head injury? | No |
| Physically abused? | No |
| Psychologically abused? | Yes |
| Sexually abused? | No |
| Father’s occupation | Miner |
| Age of first sexual experience | n/a |
| Age when first had intercourse | n/a |
| Mother’s occupation | Stayed at home |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | Alcoholic |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | No |
| **Cognitive Ability** | |
| Highest grade in school | In and out of school |
| Highest degree | n/a |
| Grades in school | n/a |
| IQ | n/a |
| Source of IQ information | ----- |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Branch | None |
| Type of discharge | None |
| Saw combat duty | None |
| Killed enemy during service? | No |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? | No |
| Types of jobs worked | None |
| Employment status during series | Unemployed |

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| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Single |
| Number of children | None |
| Lives with his children | No |
| Living with | n/a |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | n/a |
| Fire setting | n/a |
| Bed wetting | n/a |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | No |
| Abused alcohol? | No |
| Been to a psychologist? | No |
| Time in forensic hospital | No |
| Diagnosis | ------- |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | Petty theft, kidnapping, armed assult |
| Spend time in jail? | Yes |
| Spend time in prison? | Yes |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 3 got away, 6 killed, dog, 1 spared |
| Victim type | Adults and children |
| Killer age at start of series | 23 |
| Date of first kill in series | January 1, 1951 |
| Date of final kill in series | January 6, 1951 |
| Gender of victims | 4 males and 2 females |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | 3, 5, 7, 29, 33, 68 |
| Type of victim | Motorists who picked-up a hitchhiker |
| Method of killing | Shot to death |
| Weapon | Pistol |
| Was gun used? | Yes |
| Type | Handgun - 32 caliber |
| Did killer have a partner? | No |
| Name of partner |  |
| Sex of partner |  |
| Type of serial killer | Financial gain - Robbery |
| How close did killer live? | Out of state |
| Location of first contact | New Mexico/Texas |
| Location of killing | Oklahoma and California |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | No |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? | Abducted |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | No |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | No |

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| Quick & efficient? | Yes |
| Used blindfold | No |
| Bound the victims? | Yes only 1 victim |
| 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 | Yes |
| Left at scene, hidden | No |
| Left at scene, buried | No |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | No |
| Moved, buried | Yes- dumped in abandoned mine shaft (Mosser family) |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Moved, too home | No |
| Sentencing | (Jan. 9, 1951 – found by police) |
| Date killer arrested | (Jan 15, 1951 – Sent back to states) |
| Date convicted | November 28. 1951 |
| Sentence | Death by gas |
| Killer executed? | Yes |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? |  |
| Name and state of prison | San Quentin, CA |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | December 12, 1952 |
| **References**  Shirley, Glenn (1963). *Born to kill.* Derby: Monarch Books (OCLC: 19092177)  www.crimezzz.net/**serialkillers**/C/**COOK**\_**william**.php  http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/willcook.htm | |