|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Larry Eyler  *“The Highway Killer”* | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by *Meghan Bahr, Saskia Snuffer, Ashley Wrights*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 12/21/1952 | 0 | Born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, the youngest sibling out of four. | |
|  | Adolescence | Parents divorce, mother later remarries. | |
|  | Adolescence | Teased and physically abused by stepfathers. | |
| 1970 | 18 | Eyler drops out of high school during his senior year and earns his GED. | |
| 1974-1978 | 22-26 | Sporadic enrollment in college throughout these years leaves Eyler without a degree. | |
| 08/03/1978 | 25 | Eyler moves to Terre Haute, Indiana. | |
| 08/04/1978 | 25 | Eyler is arrested for stabbing Craig Long. Long was hospitalized but lived. | |
| 11/13/1978 | 25 | Eyler plead guilty to the aggravated battery of Long and is fined $43. | |
| 10/02/1982 | 30 | Eyler strangles Delvoyd Baker (BM, 14); his body is found dumped on the side of the road north of Indianapolis. | |
| 10/23/1982 | 30 | Steven Crockett (WM, 19) is stabbed 32 times with four wounds to the head; Eyler discards his body outside Lowell, Indiana. | |
| 11/04/1982 | 30 | 21-year old Craig Townsend is drugged and beaten by Eyler near Lowell, Indiana. He escapes and flees from the hospital before detectives could complete their investigation of the assault. | |
| 11/04/1982 | 30 | Robert Foley (WM) is found murdered in a field northwest of Joliet, IL. Police have yet to recognize a pattern even after unknowingly speaking with a survivor. | |
| 12/25/1982 | 31 | Body of John Johnson (WM, 25) is found dumped in a field outside of Belshaw, Indiana. | |
| 12/28/1982 | 31 | Body of John Roach (WM, 21) is discovered near Belleville and body of Steven Agan (WM, 23) is found bound and discarded north of Newport, Indiana. | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 03/04/1983 | 31 | Edgar Underkofler (WM, 27) is found murdered in Danville, Illinois. |
| 03/21/1983 | 31 | Body of Jay Reynolds (WM, 31) was found on the outskirts of Lexington, Kentucky, stabbed to death. |
| 04/08/1983 | 31 | Gustavo Herrera (HM, 28) is found murdered in Lake Forest, Illinois. |
| 04/15/1983 | 31 | Ervin Dwayne Gibson (WM, 16) is found murdered in Lake Forest, Illinois. |
| 05/09/1983 | 31 | Jimmy T. Roberts (BM, 18) is found murdered in Cook, Illinois and Daniel Scott McNeive (WM, 21) is found murdered Bellville, Indiana. |
| Summer of 1983 | 31 | Eyler moves to Indianapolis and starts to become a part of the gay  community. Shortly after, people start to become suspicious of his behavior. A gay newspaper called The Works set up a hot-line and published a profile of the suspected serial killer, whether the police wanted help or not. |
| 07/02/1983 | 31 | Unidentified male is found murdered in Ford, Illinois. |
| 08/31/1983 | 31 | Ralph Calise (WM, 28) is found bringing Eyler’s kill count to 13. Stabbed 17 times, his body was discovered in a field outside of Lake Forest, Illinois with his pants down around his ankles. |
| 09/30/1983 | 31 | An Indiana highway officer sees Eyler’s pickup truck parked on the side of Interstate 65. He sees two men moving towards the woods with one of them appearing to be bound. Upon further investigation, the young man accuses Eyler of making homosexual advances and asking if he could tie him up. The police officer searched Eyler’s car and found surgical tape, nylon clothesline, and a hunting knife that was stained with human blood. The blood on the knife matched Ralph Calise’s. Eyler’s tire tracks and boot prints were strikingly like the ones in the field where Calise’s body was dumped. |
| 10/01/1983 | 31 | Eyler moves in with his secret lover John Dobrovolskis along with Dobrovolskis’ wife and kids. |
| 10/04/1983 | 31 | Derrick Hansen (WM, 18) is found sexually assaulted and dismembered in Kenosha, Wisconsin. |
| 10/06/1983 | 31 | Police search Eyler’s car but find no hard evidence. |
| 10/15/1983 | 31 | John Doe is discovered near Rensselear, Indiana. |
| 10/19/1983 | 31 | Four skeletons including 22-year old Michael Bouer and 19-year old John Bartlett are found dumped together, all with their pants down, in Newton County. One of the bodies was decapitated. |
| Mid  October 1983 | 31 | Eyler’s family is overwhelmed with shock when they find out that he’s a suspect in these murders and could potentially be a serial killer. |
| Mid  October 1983 | 31 | Eyler is arrested in Lake County jail. |
| 10/29/1983 | 31 | A judge refuses to lower Eyler’s bond of a million dollars. |
| 11/01/1983 | 31 | Police raid and search the Little’s home. |
| 12/05/1983 | 31 | Another John Doe is found dead near Effingham, Illinois. |
| 12/07/1983 | 31 | Richard Wayne and another John Doe are found dead near Indianapolis. By this point, police had enough circumstantial evidence to connect Eyler to 18 murders. |
| Mid  December 1983 | 31-32 | Police finally get in contact with a surviving victim from one of Eyler’s attacks, Craig Townsend, who identifies him from a line-up. |
| Mid  December 1983 | 31-32 | Police begin following Eyler everywhere. He takes out a lawsuit against them for psychological warfare to get $500,000. His attempts fail and instead he is arrested for the murder of Ralph Calise. |
| 02/01/1984 | 32 | Eyler is released on bond awaiting further trials when the judge throws out the case, ruling the police obtained evidence illegally. |
| 05/07/1984 | 32 | David M. Block (WM, 22) is found murdered in Lake Forest, Illinois. |
| 08/21/1984 | 32 | The janitor that works where Eyler lives is lead by his dog to a collection of 8 trash bags. Police are called and upon opening of the bags, they found what |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | was left of Danny Bridges (WM, 15). Eyler is arrested. | |
| 09/13/1984 | 32 | Eyler finally goes to trial. | |
| 07/01/1986 | 33 | Doctor Little is called as the first witness to Eyler’s trial. | |
| 07/10/1986 | 33 | Eyler is found guilty of murdering Daniel Bridges | |
| 10/03/1986 | 33 | Judge Urso sentences Eyler to death by lethal injection. | |
| 06/12/1988 | 35 | Eyler is on death row at Pontiac Prison awaiting his appeal in the Illinois Supreme Court. | |
| 11/21/1990 | 37 | Eyler was willing to confess, provide more information on unknown murders and even testify against Doctor Little if he was given a fixed sentence of 60 years instead of the death penalty. The state refused. | |
| 12/08/1990 | 37 | Doctor Little’s office is raided at Indiana State University. He is brought in for questioning but when his lawyer doesn’t show up, he is let go because Police wanted to avoid constitutional problems. He remains a free man. | |
| 03/06/1994 | 41 | Eyler avoids the death penalty by passing away from an AIDS related disease. | |
| 03/08/1994 | 41 | Eyler’s attorney, Kathleen Zellner, holds a news conference to announce that Eyler signed a written confession that he killed 21 people. The confession could not be released until after Eyler’s death. | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | White |
| Number of victims | | | Numbers vary from 20-23, exact number unknown |
| Country where killing occurred | | | United States |
| States where killing occurred | | | Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois |
| Cities where killing occurred | | | Lexington, Unknown, Lowell, Newport, Belshaw, Rensselaer, Kenosha, Lake Forest, Effingham, Zion |
| Type of killer | | | Organized Lust |
| Height | | | 6’ |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | December 21, 1952 |
| Location | | | Crawfordsville, Indiana |
| Birth order | | | Last of fourth |
| Number of siblings | | | 3 |
| XYY? | | | No |
| Raised by | | | Mother and Step-fathers, later by other families |
| Birth category | | | Youngest |
| Parent’s marital status | | | Divorced, Mother re-married several times |
| Family event | | | Divorce, physical abuse |
| Age of family event | | | Adolescence |
| Problems in school? | | | Dropped out senior year, trouble maker in school |
| Teased while in school? | | | No |
| Physically attractive? | | | Yes |
| Physical defect? | | | No |
| Speech defect? | | | No |
| Head injury? | | | No |
| Physically abused? | | | Beaten by many of his step-fathers throughout his childhood |
| Psychologically abused? | | | Step-fathers teased him, internal war dealing with his homosexuality, Mother’s abandonment |
| Sexually abused? | | | No |
| Father’s occupation | | | Employment unknown |
| Age of first sexual experience | | | N/A |
| Age when first had intercourse | | | N/A |
| Mother’s occupation | | | N/A |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | No |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | No |
| **Cognitive Ability** | |
| Highest grade in school | 11 |
| Highest degree | GED |
| Grades in school | N/A |
| IQ | N/A |
| Source of IQ information | N/A |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Branch | N/A |
| Type of discharge | N/A |
| Saw combat duty | N/A |
| Killed enemy during service? | N/A |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? | No |
| Types of jobs worked | In different cities: Taught library science during college, one of the most popular workers at the Equal Employment  Opportunities Commission, Elf at holiday party, house painter, liquor store clerk, other odd holiday jobs |
| Employment status during series | Employed |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Homosexual |
| Marital status | Single |
| Number of children | 0 |
| Lives with his children | No |
| Living with | Lived with Mom and stepfathers, lived with college library science professor Dr. Burke, lived with a friend in Terre Haute, Indiana, lived with his lover and his lover’s wife and children |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | No |
| Fire setting | No |
| Bed wetting | No |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | No |
| Abused alcohol? | No |
| Been to a psychologist? | No |
| Time in forensic hospital? | No |
| Diagnosis | N/A |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | No |
| Spend time in jail? | Yes |
| Spend time in prison? | Yes |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 23 |
| Victim type | Teenage to young adult males |
| Killer age at start of series | 30 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of first kill in series | March 22, 1982; Jay Reynolds, stabbed to death outside of Lexington, Kentucky |
| Date of final kill in series | May 7, 1984; David Block, found murdered near Zion, Illinois with wounds matching previous victims |
| Gender of victims | Male |
| Race of victims | 18 White, 2 Black, 1 Hispanic |
| Age of victims | 14, 16, 18(2), 19(2), 21(2), 22, 25, 26, 27, 28(2) |
| Type of victim | Most were homosexual males |
| Method of killing | Stabbing and strangling |
| Weapon | Knife brought with the killer |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type | N/A |
| Did killer have a partner? | Believed to have an accomplice that remains a free man |
| Name of partner | Robert Little |
| Sex of partner | Male |
| Type of serial killer | Organized lust |
| How close did killer live? | Victims were chosen locally, but Eyler drove from one state to another |
| Location of first contact | Lexington, Kentucky |
| Location of killing | Outskirts of Lexington, Kentucky |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | No |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? | Charged with Aggravated Kidnapping; Some victims were voluntarily lured into abduction; Eyler used his charm to get his victims alone with him and then he forcefully had his way with them |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | Yes |
| Tortured victims? | Yes |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | Yes |
| Quick & efficient? | No |
| Used blindfold? | No |
| 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 | No |
| 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 | No |
| Moved, buried | Yes; victims were put in trash bags and thrown into dumpsters or dumped along the highway or an inconspicuous area |
| Cut-op and disposed of | Yes |
| Moved, too home | No |
| Sentencing |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date killer arrested | First arrest for the murder of Calise but let go due to  illegally obtained evidence: September 31, 1983; Second arrest for the murder of 15-year old Danny Bridges, a street hustler in Chicago, Illinois: August 21, 1984 |
| Date convicted | July 9, 1986 |
| Sentence | Death by lethal injection |
| Killer executed? | No, died before in prison from AIDS |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | N/A |
| Name and state of prison | Pontiac Prison, Illinois |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | March 6, 1994 |
|  |  |
| **References**  Kolarik, Gera-Lind, Wayne Klatt. *Freed to Kill: The True Story of Serial Murderer Larry Eyler*. Avon Books. New York, New York: 1990, 1992.  Larry Eyler. *A-Z of Serial Killers*. Retrieved December 1, 2007: http://www.geocities.com/quietlyinsane5/larry.html  Larry Eyler The Interstate Killer. *Serial Killers*. Retrieved December 1, 2007: http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/eyler.htm  Profiles A-G: Larry Eyler. *Circle of Shit True Crime*. Retrieved December 1, 2007: http://www.slogun.com/cos%20site/agpage.htm | |