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| Vaughn Orrin Greenwood *“The Skid Row Slasher”* | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Courtney Lerch, Missy Levy, & Josh Lynch*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 1944 | 0 | Born | |
| 11/13/1964 | 20 | Greenwood’s first known victim was found on library steps with his throat cut and numerous stab wounds. His name was David Russell, an aging transient. | |
| 11/14/1964 | 20 | 67-year old Benjamin Hornberg was killed in the second floor restroom of his hotel, with his throat slashed from ear to ear and numerous stab wounds marking his head and upper torso. | |
| 1966 | 22 | Greenwood’s slayings were interrupted in 1966 when he was imprisoned for over five years in Illinois for the attempted murder of a man in Chicago. | |
| 12/01/1974 | 30 | Greenwood murdered 46 year old Charles Jackson, an alcoholic drifter, on the spot where David Russell had been slain a decade earlier. | |
| 12/08/1974 | 30 | Moses Yakanac, a 47-year old Eskimo, was knifed to death in a skid row alley. | |
| 12/11/1974 | 30 | 54-year old Arthur Dahlstedt was slain outside an abandoned building. | |
| 12/22/1974 | 30 | 42-year old David Perez was found in some shrubbery adjacent to the Los Angeles public library. | |
| 01/09/1975 |  | The body of Casimir Strawinski, 58, was found in his hotel room. | |
| 01/17/1975 |  | A hotel maid found the body of 46-year old Robert Shannahan with a bayonet protruding from his chest. | |
| 1975 |  | 49-year old Samuel Suarez, the final *skid row* victim, was found in a sleazy fifth floor hotel room. | |
| 01/29/1975 |  | 45-year old George Friar was stabbed to death in his own apartment in Hollywood. | |
| 01/31/1975 |  | A cash register mechanic, 34-year old Clyde Hays, was found in his Hollywood home. | |
| 1975 |  | By this time, L.A. detectives had formed a mental picture of their suspect, described as a white male in his late twenties or thirties, six feet tall and 190 pounds, with shoulder length stringy blonde hair. A psychiatric profile, published on the morning of Clyde Hay’s murder, described the killer as a “sexually impotent coward, venting his own feeling of worthlessness on hapless derelicts and drifters he kills, and we think he’s trying to resolve his own inner conflicts by turning his wrath and hatred outward.” He was further described as a friendless, poorly-educated loner, probably homosexual, with an unspecified physical deformity. | |
| 02/02/1975 | 31 | Greenwood invaded the Hollywood home of William Graham, assaulting him with a hatchet before houseguest Kenneth Richer intervened, and both men plunged through a plate-glass window. Greenwood fled on foot to the home of actor Burt Reynolds, carelessly dropping a letter addressed to himself in the driveway | |
| 02/03/1975 | 31 | Police picked up Greenwood and charged him with two counts of burglary and assault. | |

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| 03/17/1975 |  | Greenwood charged with murder. | |
| 01/23/1976 |  | Greenwood indicted for 11 murders. | |
| 12/29/1976 |  | Convicted on nine counts of murder. A mistrial was declared on the other two counts of murder. | |
| 01/19/1977 | 33 | Sentenced to life in prison. | |
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| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | African American |
| Number of victims | | | 11 |
| Country where killing occurred | | | United States |
| States where killing occurred | | | California |
| Type of killer | | | Missionary |
| Height | | |  |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | 1944 |
| Location | | | Pennsylvania |
| Birth order | | |  |
| Number of siblings | | |  |
| XYY? | | |  |
| Raised by | | | Foster parents |
| Birth category | | |  |
| Parent’s marital status | | |  |
| Family event | | |  |
| Age of family event | | |  |
| Problems in school? | | |  |
| Teased while in school? | | |  |
| Physically attractive? | | |  |
| Physical defect? | | |  |
| Speech defect? | | |  |
| Head injury? | | |  |
| Physically abused? | | |  |
| Psychologically abused? | | |  |
| Sexually abused? | | |  |
| Father’s occupation | | |  |
| Age of first sexual experience | | |  |
| Age when first had intercourse | | |  |
| Mother’s occupation | | |  |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | | |  |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | | |  |
| **Cognitive Ability** | | | |
| Highest grade in school | | | 7 |
| Highest degree | | |  |
| Grades in school | | |  |
| IQ | | |  |
| **Work History** | | | |
| Served in the military? | | | No |
| Branch | | |  |
| Type of discharge | | |  |
| Saw combat duty | | |  |

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| Killed enemy during service? |  |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? |  |
| Types of jobs worked | Earned a living as a migrant worker |
| Employment status during series |  |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Homosexual |
| Marital status | Single |
| Number of children | None |
| 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? | Yes |
| Spent time in jail? |  |
| Spent time in prison? | Spent over five years in prison for attempted murder in Chicago. |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | Yes. Age 20 (went to prison for 5 years at age 22) |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | Suspected of 11, convicted of 9 |
| Victim type | Down-and-out alcoholic bums |
| Killer age at start of series | 30 |
| Gender of victims | Male |
| Race of victims |  |
| Age of victims | 34, 42, 45, 46(2), 47, 49(2), 54, 58, 67 |
| Method of killing | Stabbed, slashed throats |
| Type of serial killer |  |
| How close did killer live? |  |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | Two of them |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | None |
| Weapon | Knife |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | No |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | No |
| Quick & efficient? |  |
| Used blindfold? | No |
| Bound the victims? | No |
| After Death Behavior | |

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| Sex with the body? | No |
| Mutilated body? | Yes. Bodies found bearing signs of ritualistic abuse |
| Ate part of the body? | No |
| Drank victim’s blood? | No |
| Posed the body? | Bodies had cups of blood next to them, salt sprinkled around the outlines of their heads, and cryptic marks scribbled around the slash wounds. Shoes were removed and left pointing towards the bodies. |
| Took totem – body part |  |
| Took totem – personal item |  |
| Robbed victim or location | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Moved, too home | No |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | February 3, 1975 |
| Date convicted | December 30, 1976 |
| Sentence | Life |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? |  |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? |  |
| Name and state of prison |  |
| Killer committed suicide? |  |
| Killer killed in prison? |  |
| Date of death |  |
| **References**  http://www.adherents.com/misc/hsk.html  http://ajas29.tripod.com/stats.html  http://www.crimelife.com/killers/greenwood.html  http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkillers/G/GREENWOOD\_vaughn\_orrin.php http://faculty.ncwc.edu/toconnor/428/428lect10.htm  http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/greenwood.htm http://www.geocities.com/verbal\_plainfield/a-h/greenwood.html  http://www.mayhem.net/Crime/serial2.html | |