

= Ted Bundy =

Theodore Robert Bundy (born Theodore Robert Cowell ; November 24 , 1946 ? January 24 , 1989) was an American serial killer , kidnapper , rapist , and necrophile who assaulted and murdered numerous young women and girls during the 1970s and possibly earlier . Shortly before his execution , after more than a decade of denials , he confessed to 30 homicides committed in seven states between 1974 and 1978 . The true victim count remains unknown , and could be much higher .

Bundy was regarded as handsome and charismatic by many of his young female victims , traits he exploited to win their trust . He typically approached them in public places , feigning injury or disability , or impersonating an authority figure , before overpowering and assaulting them at more secluded locations . He sometimes revisited his secondary crime scenes for hours at a time , grooming and performing sexual acts with the decomposing corpses until putrefaction and destruction by wild animals made further interaction impossible . He decapitated at least 12 of his victims , and kept some of the severed heads in his apartment for a period of time as mementos . On a few occasions , he simply broke into dwellings at night and bludgeoned his victims as they slept .

Initially incarcerated in Utah in 1975 for aggravated kidnapping and attempted criminal assault , Bundy became a suspect in a progressively longer list of unsolved homicides in multiple states . Facing murder charges in Colorado , he engineered two dramatic escapes and committed further assaults , including three murders , before his ultimate recapture in Florida in 1978 . He received three death sentences in two separate trials for the Florida homicides .

Ted Bundy died in the electric chair at Raiford Prison in Starke , Florida , on January 24 , 1989 . Biographer Ann Rule described him as " ... a sadistic sociopath who took pleasure from another human 's pain and the control he had over his victims , to the point of death , and even after . " He once called himself " ... the most cold @-@ hearted son of a bitch you 'll ever meet . " Attorney Polly Nelson , a member of his last defense team , agreed . " Ted " , she wrote , " was the very definition of heartless evil . "

= = Early life = =

= = = Childhood = = =

Bundy was born Theodore Robert Cowell at the Elizabeth Lund Home for Unwed Mothers (now the Lund Family Center) in Burlington , Vermont on November 24 , 1946 to Eleanor Louise Cowell (1924 ? 2012 ; known for most of her life as Louise) . His father 's identity has never been determined with certainty . His birth certificate assigns paternity to a salesman and Air Force veteran named Lloyd Marshall , but Louise later claimed that she had been seduced by " a sailor " whose name may have been Jack Worthington . (Years later , investigators would find no record of anyone by that name in Navy or Merchant Marine archives .) Some family members expressed suspicions that Bundy might have been fathered by Louise 's own violent , abusive father , Samuel Cowell , but no material evidence has ever been cited to support or refute this .

For the first three years of his life Bundy lived in the Philadelphia home of his maternal grandparents , Samuel and Eleanor Cowell , who raised him as their son to avoid the social stigma that accompanied birth outside wedlock at the time . Family , friends , and even young Ted were told that his grandparents were his parents and that his mother was his older sister . Eventually he discovered the truth ; he told his girlfriend that a cousin showed him a copy of his birth certificate after calling him a " bastard " , but he told biographers Stephen Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth that he found the certificate himself . Biographer and true crime writer Ann Rule , who knew Bundy personally , believes that he located his original birth record in Vermont in 1969 . Bundy expressed a lifelong resentment toward his mother for lying about his true parentage and leaving him to discover it for himself .

Bundy spoke warmly of his grandparents in some interviews , and told Rule that he " identified with " , " respected " , and " clung to " his grandfather ; but he and other family members told attorneys in 1987 that Samuel Cowell was a tyrannical bully and a bigot who hated blacks , Italians , Catholics , and Jews , beat his wife and the family dog , and swung neighborhood cats by their tails . He once threw Louise 's younger sister Julia down a flight of stairs for oversleeping . He sometimes spoke aloud to unseen presences , and at least once he flew into a violent rage when the question of Ted 's paternity was raised . Bundy described his grandmother as a timid and obedient woman who periodically underwent electroconvulsive therapy for depression and feared leaving their house toward the end of her life . Ted occasionally exhibited disturbing behavior , even at that early age . Julia recalled awakening one day from a nap to find herself surrounded by knives from the Cowell kitchen ; her three @-@ year @-@ old nephew was standing by the bed , smiling .

In 1950 Louise abruptly changed her surname from Cowell to Nelson , and at the urging of multiple family members , left Philadelphia with her son to live with cousins Alan and Jane Scott in Tacoma , Washington . In 1951 Louise met Johnny Culpepper Bundy , a hospital cook , at an adult singles night at Tacoma 's First Methodist Church . They married later that year and Johnny Bundy formally adopted Ted . Johnny and Louise conceived four children of their own , and although Johnny tried to include his adoptive son in camping trips and other family activities , Ted remained distant . He later complained to his girlfriend that Johnny wasn 't his real father , " wasn 't very bright " , and " didn 't make much money . "

Bundy 's Tacoma recollections varied from biographer to biographer : To Michaud and Aynesworth he described roaming his neighborhood , picking through trash barrels in search of pictures of naked women . To Polly Nelson he spoke of perusing detective magazines , crime novels , and true crime documentaries for stories involving sexual violence , particularly when illustrated with pictures of dead or maimed bodies ; yet in a letter to Rule he asserted that he " ... never , ever read fact @-@ detective magazines , and shuddered at the thought [that anyone would] " . To Michaud , he described consuming large quantities of alcohol and " canvass [ing] the community " late at night in search of undraped windows where he could observe women undressing , or " whatever [else] could be seen . "

Accounts of his social life also varied : He told Michaud and Aynesworth that he " chose to be alone " as an adolescent because he was unable to understand interpersonal relationships . He claimed that he had no natural sense of how to develop friendships . " I didn 't know what made people want to be friends , " he said . " I didn 't know what underlay social interactions . " Classmates from Woodrow Wilson High School told Rule , however , that Bundy was " well known and well liked " there , " a medium @-@ sized fish in a large pond " .

Bundy 's only significant athletic avocation was snow skiing , which he pursued enthusiastically using stolen equipment and forged lift tickets . During high school he was arrested at least twice on suspicion of burglary and auto theft . When he reached age 18 the details of the incidents were expunged from his record , as is customary in Washington and most other states .

= = = University years = = =

After graduating from high school in 1965 Bundy spent a year at the University of Puget Sound (UPS) before transferring to the University of Washington (UW) in 1966 to study Chinese . In 1967 he became romantically involved with a UW classmate who is identified in Bundy biographies by several pseudonyms , most commonly Stephanie Brooks . In early 1968 he dropped out of college and worked at a series of minimum @-@ wage jobs . He also volunteered at the Seattle office of Nelson Rockefeller 's presidential campaign , and in August , attended the 1968 Republican National Convention in Miami as a Rockefeller delegate . Shortly thereafter Brooks ended their relationship and returned to her family home in California , frustrated by what she described as Bundy 's immaturity and lack of ambition . Psychiatrist Dorothy Lewis would later pinpoint this crisis as " ... probably the pivotal time in his development . " Devastated by Brooks 's rejection , Bundy traveled to Colorado and then farther east , visiting relatives in Arkansas and Philadelphia , and enrolling for one semester at Temple University . It was at this time in early 1969 , Rule believes ,

that Bundy visited the office of birth records in Burlington and confirmed his true parentage .

Back in Washington in the fall of 1969 , he met Elizabeth Kloepper (identified in Bundy literature as Meg Anders , Beth Archer , or Liz Kendall) , a divorcée from Ogden , Utah , who worked as a secretary at the University of Washington School of Medicine . Their stormy relationship would continue well past his initial incarceration in Utah in 1976 . In mid @-@ 1970 , now focused and goal @-@ oriented , he re @-@ enrolled at UW , this time as a psychology major . He became an honor student , well @-@ regarded by his professors . In 1971 he took a job at Seattle 's Suicide Hotline crisis center . There he met and worked alongside Rule , a former Seattle police officer and aspiring crime writer who would later write one of the definitive Bundy biographies , *The Stranger Beside Me* . Rule saw nothing disturbing in Bundy 's personality at the time , describing him as " kind , solicitous , and empathetic " .

After graduating from UW in 1972 Bundy joined Governor Daniel J. Evans 's reelection campaign . Posing as a college student , he shadowed Evans 's opponent , former governor Albert Rosellini , recording his stump speeches for analysis by Evans 's team . After Evans 's reelection he was hired as an assistant to Ross Davis , Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party . Davis thought well of Bundy , describing him as " smart , aggressive ... and a believer in the system . " In early 1973 , despite mediocre Law School Admission Test scores , Bundy was accepted into the law schools of UPS and the University of Utah on the strength of letters of recommendation from Evans , Davis , and several UW psychology professors .

During a trip to California on Republican Party business in the summer of 1973 Bundy rekindled his relationship with Brooks , who marveled at his transformation into a serious , dedicated professional , seemingly on the cusp of a distinguished legal and political career . He continued to date Kloepper as well , though neither woman was aware of the other 's existence . In the fall of 1973 Bundy matriculated at UPS Law School and continued courting Brooks , who flew to Seattle several times to stay with him . They discussed marriage ; at one point he introduced her to Davis as his fiancée . In January 1974 , however , he abruptly broke off all contact ; her phone calls and letters went unreturned . Finally reaching him by phone a month later , Brooks demanded to know why Bundy had unilaterally ended their relationship without explanation . In a flat , calm voice , he replied , " Stephanie , I have no idea what you mean ... " and hung up . She never heard from him again . Later he explained , " I just wanted to prove to myself that I could have married her . " At about the same time Bundy began skipping classes at law school , and by April he had stopped attending entirely , as young women began to disappear in the Pacific Northwest .

= = First two series of murders = =

= = Washington , Oregon = =

There is no consensus on when or where Bundy began killing women . He told different stories to different people , and refused to divulge the specifics of his earliest crimes , even as he confessed in graphic detail to dozens of later murders in the days preceding his execution . He told Nelson that he attempted his first kidnapping in 1969 in Ocean City , New Jersey , but did not kill anyone until sometime in 1971 in Seattle . He told psychologist Art Norman that he killed two women in Atlantic City in 1969 while visiting family in Philadelphia . To homicide detective Robert D. Keppel he hinted at a murder in Seattle in 1972 , and another in 1973 involving a hitchhiker near Tumwater , Washington , but refused to elaborate . Rule and Keppel both believe that he may have started killing as a teenager . Circumstantial evidence suggests that he abducted and killed 8 @-@ year @-@ old Ann Marie Burr of Tacoma in 1961 when he was 14 , an allegation he denied repeatedly . His earliest documented homicides were committed in 1974 when he was 27 years old . By then he had (by his own admission) mastered the skills needed ? in the era before DNA profiling ? to leave minimal incriminating evidence at a crime scene .

Shortly after midnight on January 4 , 1974 ? around the time that he terminated his relationship with Brooks ? Bundy entered the basement apartment of 18 @-@ year @-@ old Karen Sparks (

identified as Joni Lenz or Terri Caldwell by various sources) , a dancer and student at UW . After bludgeoning the sleeping woman with a metal rod from her bed frame he sexually assaulted her with a speculum , causing extensive internal injuries . She remained unconscious for 10 days but survived , with permanent brain damage . Less than a month later , in the early morning hours of February 1 , Bundy broke into the basement room of Lynda Ann Healy , a UW undergraduate who broadcast morning radio weather reports for skiers . He beat her unconscious , dressed her in blue jeans , a white blouse , and boots , and carried her away .

Female college students continued disappearing at the rate of about one per month . On March 12 , Donna Gail Manson , a 19 @-@ year @-@ old student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia , 60 miles (97 km) southwest of Seattle , left her dormitory for a jazz concert on campus but never arrived . On April 17 , Susan Elaine Rancourt disappeared while on her way to a movie after an evening advisors ' meeting at Central Washington State College (now Central Washington University) in Ellensburg , 110 miles (180 km) southeast of Seattle . Two female Central Washington students later came forward to report encounters ? one on the night of Rancourt 's disappearance , the other three nights earlier ? with a man wearing an arm sling , asking for help carrying a load of books to his brown or tan Volkswagen Beetle . On May 6 Roberta Kathleen Parks left her dormitory at Oregon State University in Corvallis , 260 miles (420 km) south of Seattle , to have coffee with friends at the Student Union Building , but never arrived .

Detectives from the King County Sheriff 's Office and the Seattle Police Department grew increasingly concerned . There was no significant physical evidence , and the missing women had little in common , apart from being young , attractive , white college students with long hair parted in the middle . On June 1 , Brenda Carol Ball , 22 , disappeared after leaving the Flame Tavern in Burien , Washington near Seattle ? Tacoma International Airport . She was last seen talking in the parking lot to a brown @-@ haired man with his arm in a sling . In the early hours of June 11 , UW student Georgann Hawkins vanished while walking down the brightly lit alley between her boyfriend 's dormitory residence and her sorority house . The next morning three Seattle homicide detectives and a criminalist combed the entire alleyway on their hands and knees , finding nothing . After Hawkins 's disappearance was publicized , witnesses came forward to report seeing a man that night in the alley behind a nearby dormitory , on crutches with a leg cast , struggling to carry a briefcase . One woman recalled that the man asked her to help him carry the case to his car , a light @-@ brown Volkswagen Beetle .

During this period Bundy was working at the Washington State Department of Emergency Services (DES) in Olympia , a government agency involved in the search for the missing women . There he met and dated Carole Ann Boone , a twice @-@ divorced mother of two who , six years later , would play an important role in the final phase of his life .

Reports of the six missing women and Sparks 's brutal beating appeared prominently in newspapers and on television throughout Washington and Oregon . Fear spread among the population ; hitchhiking by young women dropped sharply . While pressure mounted on law enforcement agencies , the paucity of physical evidence severely hampered them . Police could not provide reporters with the little information that was available for fear of compromising the investigation . Further similarities between the victims were noted : The disappearances all took place at night , usually near ongoing construction work , within a week of midterm or final exams ; all of the victims were wearing slacks or blue jeans ; and at most crime scenes there were sightings of a man wearing a cast or a sling , and driving a brown or tan Volkswagen Beetle .

The Pacific Northwest murders culminated on Sunday , July 14 with the broad @-@ daylight abductions of two women from a crowded beach at Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah , 20 miles (32 km) east of Seattle . Five female witnesses described an attractive young man wearing a white tennis outfit with his left arm in a sling , speaking with a light accent , perhaps Canadian or British . Introducing himself as " Ted " , he asked their help in unloading a sailboat from his tan- or bronze @-@ colored Volkswagen Beetle . Four refused ; one accompanied him as far as his car , saw that there was no sailboat , and fled . Three additional witnesses saw him approach Janice Anne Ott , 23 , a probation case worker at the King County Juvenile Court , with the sailboat story , and watched her leave the beach in his company . About four hours later Denise Naslund , an 18

@-@ year @-@ old woman who was studying to become a computer programmer , left a picnic to go to the restroom and never returned . While Bundy later told Stephen Michaud that Ott was still alive when he returned with Naslund ? and that one was forced to watch as the other was murdered ? he retracted that detail on the eve of his execution .

King County police , finally armed with a detailed description of their suspect as well as his car , posted fliers throughout the Seattle area . A composite sketch was printed in regional newspapers and broadcast on local television stations . Elizabeth Kloepfer , Ann Rule , a DES employee , and a UW psychology professor all recognized the profile , the sketch , and the car , and reported Ted Bundy as a possible suspect ; but detectives ? who were receiving up to 200 tips per day ? thought it unlikely that a clean @-@ cut law student with no adult criminal record could be the perpetrator .

On September 6 two grouse hunters stumbled across the skeletal remains of Ott and Naslund near a service road in Issaquah , 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) east of Lake Sammamish State Park . An extra femur and several vertebrae found at the site were later identified by Bundy as Georgann Hawkins 's . Six months later , forestry students from Green River Community College discovered the skulls and mandibles of Healy , Rancourt , Parks , and Ball on Taylor Mountain , where Bundy frequently hiked , just east of Issaquah . Manson 's remains were never recovered .

= = = Idaho , Utah , Colorado = = =

In August 1974 Bundy received a second acceptance from the University of Utah Law School and moved to Salt Lake City , leaving Kloepfer in Seattle . While he called Kloepfer often , he dated " at least a dozen " other women . As he studied the first @-@ year law curriculum a second time , " he was devastated to find out that the other students had something , some intellectual capacity , that he did not . He found the classes completely incomprehensible . ' It was a great disappointment to me , ' he said . "

A new string of homicides began the following month with two that went undiscovered until Bundy confessed to them shortly before his execution . On September 2 he raped and strangled a still @-@ unidentified hitchhiker in Idaho , then either disposed of the corpse immediately in a nearby river or returned the next day to photograph and dismember the victim . On October 2 he seized 16 @-@ year @-@ old Nancy Wilcox in Holladay , a suburb of Salt Lake City , and dragged her into a wooded area , intending to " de @-@ escalate " his pathological urges , he said , by raping and releasing her . However , he strangled her ? by accident , he claimed ? in the process of trying to silence her . Wilcox was buried , he said , near Capitol Reef National Park , some 200 miles (320 km) south of Holladay , but her remains were never found .

On October 18 Melissa Smith , the 17 @-@ year @-@ old daughter of the police chief of Midvale , another Salt Lake City suburb , disappeared after leaving a pizza parlor . Her nude body was found in a nearby mountainous area nine days later . Postmortem examination indicated that she may have remained alive for up to seven days following her disappearance . On October 31 , 25 miles (40 km) south in Lehi , Laura Ann Aime , also 17 , disappeared after leaving a café just after midnight . Her naked body was found by hikers 9 miles (14 km) to the northeast in American Fork Canyon on Thanksgiving Day . Both women had been beaten , raped , sodomized , and strangled with nylon stockings . Years later Bundy described his postmortem rituals with Smith 's and Aime 's remains , including hair shampooing and application of makeup .

In the late afternoon of November 8 , Bundy approached 18 @-@ year @-@ old telephone operator Carol DaRonch at Fashion Place Mall in Murray , Utah , less than a mile from the Midvale restaurant where Melissa Smith was last seen . He identified himself as " Officer Roseland " of the Murray Police Department , told DaRonch that someone had attempted to break into her car , and asked her to accompany him to the station to file a complaint . When DaRonch pointed out that Bundy was driving on a road that did not lead to the police station , he immediately pulled to the shoulder and attempted to handcuff her . During their struggle he inadvertently fastened both handcuffs to the same wrist , and DaRonch was able to open the car door and escape . Later that evening Debra Kent , a 17 @-@ year @-@ old student at Viewmont High School in Bountiful , 19 miles (31 km) north of Murray , disappeared after leaving a theater production at the school to pick

up her brother . The school 's drama teacher and a student told police that " a stranger " had asked each of them to come out to the parking lot to identify a car . Another student later saw the same man pacing in the rear of the auditorium , and the drama teacher spotted him again shortly before the end of the play . Outside the auditorium , investigators found a key that unlocked the handcuffs removed from Carol DaRonch 's wrist .

In November Elizabeth Kloefer , having read that young women were disappearing in towns surrounding Salt Lake City , called King County police a second time . Detective Randy Hergesheimer of the Major Crimes division interviewed her in detail . By then , Bundy had risen considerably on the King County hierarchy of suspicion , but the Lake Sammamish witness considered most reliable by detectives failed to pick him from a photo lineup . In December , Kloefer called the Salt Lake County Sheriff 's Office and repeated her suspicions . Bundy 's name was added to their list of suspects , but at that time no credible evidence linked him to the Utah crimes . In January 1975 Bundy returned to Seattle after his final exams and spent a week with Kloefer , who did not tell him that she had reported him three separate times to police . She made plans to visit him in Salt Lake City in August .

In 1975 Bundy shifted much of his criminal activity eastward to Colorado from his base in Utah . On January 12 , a 23 @-@ year @-@ old registered nurse named Caryn Campbell disappeared while walking down a well @-@ lit hallway between the elevator and her room at the Wildwood Inn (now the Wildwood Lodge) in Snowmass Village , 400 miles (640 km) southeast of Salt Lake City . Her nude body was found a month later next to a dirt road just outside the resort . She had been killed by blows to her head from a blunt instrument that left distinctive linear grooved depressions on her skull ; her body also had deep cuts from a sharp weapon . A hundred miles (160 km) northeast of Snowmass on March 15 , Vail ski instructor Julie Cunningham , 26 , disappeared while walking from her apartment to a dinner date with a friend . Bundy later told Colorado investigators that he approached her on crutches and asked that she help carry his ski boots to his car , where he clubbed and handcuffed her , then assaulted and strangled her at a remote secondary site near Rifle , Colorado , 90 miles (140 km) west of Vail . Weeks later he made the six @-@ hour drive from Salt Lake City to revisit her remains . Denise Oliverson , 25 , disappeared near the Utah ? Colorado border in Grand Junction on April 6 while riding her bicycle to her parents ' house ; her bike and sandals were found under a viaduct near a railroad bridge . On May 6 Bundy lured 12 @-@ year @-@ old Lynette Culver from Alameda Junior High School in Pocatello , Idaho , 160 miles (260 km) north of Salt Lake City . He drowned and then sexually assaulted her in his hotel room , then disposed of her body in a river north of Pocatello (possibly the Snake) .

In mid @-@ May three of Bundy 's Washington State DES coworkers , including Carole Ann Boone , visited him in Salt Lake City and stayed for a week in his apartment . Bundy spent a week in Seattle with Kloefer in early June and they discussed getting married the following Christmas . Again , Kloefer made no mention of her discussions with the King County Police and Salt Lake County Sheriff 's Office , and Bundy disclosed neither his ongoing relationship with Boone nor a concurrent romance with a Utah law student known in various accounts as Kim Andrews or Sharon Auer .

On June 28 Susan Curtis vanished from the campus of Brigham Young University in Provo , 45 miles (72 km) south of Salt Lake City . Curtis 's murder became Bundy 's last confession , tape @-@ recorded moments before he entered the execution chamber . The bodies of Wilcox , Kent , Cunningham , Culver , Curtis , and Oliverson were never recovered .

In August or September 1975 he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints , although he was not an active participant in services and ignored most church restrictions . He would later be excommunicated by the LDS Church following his 1976 kidnapping conviction . (When asked his religious preference after his arrest , Bundy answered " Methodist " , the religion of his childhood .)

In Washington state , investigators were still struggling to analyze the Pacific Northwest murder spree that had ended as abruptly as it had begun . In an effort to make sense of an overwhelming mass of data , they resorted to the then @-@ innovative strategy of compiling a database . They used the King County payroll computer , a " huge , primitive machine " by contemporary standards ,

but the only one available for their use . After inputting the many lists they had compiled ? classmates and acquaintances of each victim , Volkswagen owners named " Ted " , known sex offenders , and so on ? they queried the computer for coincidences . Out of thousands of names , 26 turned up on four separate lists ; one was Ted Bundy . Detectives also manually compiled a list of their 100 " best " suspects , and Bundy was on that list as well . He was " literally at the top of the pile " of suspects when word came from Utah of his arrest .

= = Arrest and first trial = =

Bundy was arrested in August 1975 by a Utah Highway Patrol officer in Granger , another Salt Lake City suburb , after he failed to pull over for a routine traffic stop . The officer , noting that the Volkswagen 's front passenger seat was missing , searched his car ; he found a ski mask , a second mask fashioned from pantyhose , a crowbar , handcuffs , trash bags , a coil of rope , an ice pick , and other items initially assumed to be burglary tools . Bundy explained that the ski mask was for skiing , he had found the handcuffs in a dumpster , and the rest were common household items . However , Detective Jerry Thompson remembered a similar suspect and car description from the November 1974 DaRonch kidnapping , and Bundy 's name from Kloefer 's December 1974 phone call . In a search of Bundy 's apartment police found a guide to Colorado ski resorts with a checkmark by the Wildwood Inn , and a brochure advertising the Viewmont High School play in Bountiful (where Debra Kent had disappeared) , but nothing sufficiently incriminating to hold him . He was released on his own recognizance . (Bundy later said that searchers missed a collection of Polaroid photographs of his victims hidden in the utility room , which he destroyed after he was released .)

Salt Lake City police placed Bundy on 24 @-@ hour surveillance , and Thompson flew to Seattle with two other detectives to interview Kloefer . She told them that in the year prior to Bundy 's move to Utah she had discovered objects she " couldn 't understand " in her house and in Bundy 's apartment : a set of crutches ; a bag of plaster of Paris that he admitted stealing from a medical supply house ; a meat cleaver , never used for cooking , that he packed when he moved to Utah ; surgical gloves ; an Oriental knife in a wooden case that he kept in his glove compartment ; and a sack full of women 's clothing . Bundy was perpetually in debt to everyone , and Kloefer suspected he had stolen almost everything of significant value that he owned . Once , when she confronted him over a new TV and stereo , he warned her , " If you tell anyone , I 'll break your fucking neck . " She said Bundy became " very upset " whenever she considered cutting her hair ? which was long and parted in the middle . She would sometimes awaken in the middle of the night to find him under the bed covers with a flashlight , examining her body . He kept a lug wrench , taped halfway up the handle , in the trunk of her car (she too owned a Volkswagen Beetle , which Ted often borrowed) " for protection " . The detectives confirmed that Bundy had not been with Kloefer on any of the nights during which the Pacific Northwest victims had vanished , nor on the day Ott and Naslund were abducted . Shortly thereafter , Kloefer was interviewed by Seattle homicide detective Kathy McChesney and learned of the existence of Stephanie Brooks and her brief engagement to Bundy around Christmas 1973 .

In September Bundy sold his Volkswagen Beetle to a Midvale teenager . Utah police impounded it , and FBI technicians dismantled and searched it . They found hairs matching samples obtained from Caryn Campbell 's body . Later , they also identified hair strands " microscopically indistinguishable " from those of Melissa Smith and Carol DaRonch . FBI lab specialist Robert Neill concluded that the presence of hair strands in one car matching three different victims who had never met one another would be " a coincidence of mind @-@ boggling rarity " .

On October 2 , detectives put Bundy in a lineup before DaRonch , who immediately identified him as " Officer Roseland " . Witnesses from Bountiful picked him from the same lineup as the stranger lurking about the high school auditorium . There was insufficient evidence linking him to Debra Kent (whose body was never found) , but more than enough to charge him with aggravated kidnapping and attempted criminal assault in the DaRonch case . He was freed on \$ 15 @,@ 000 bail , paid by his parents , and spent most of the time between indictment and trial in Seattle , living in Kloefer 's

house . Seattle police had insufficient evidence to charge him in the Pacific Northwest murders , but kept him under close surveillance . " When Ted and I stepped out on the porch to go somewhere , " Kloefer wrote , " so many unmarked police cars started up that it sounded like the beginning of the Indy 500 . "

In November , the three principal Bundy investigators ? Jerry Thompson from Utah , Robert Keppel from Washington , and Michael Fisher from Colorado ? met and exchanged information with 30 detectives and prosecutors from five states in Aspen , Colorado . While officials left the meeting (later known as the Aspen Summit) convinced that Bundy was the murderer they sought , they agreed that more hard evidence would be needed before he could be charged with any of the murders .

On February 23 , 1976 , Bundy stood trial for the DaRonch kidnapping , waiving his right to a jury on the advice of his attorney , John O 'Connell , due to the publicity surrounding the case . On March 1 , after a four @-@ day trial and a weekend of deliberation , Judge Stewart Hanson Jr. found him guilty of kidnapping and assault . He was sentenced to 1 to 15 years in the Utah State Prison on June 30 . In October he was found hiding in bushes in the prison yard carrying an " escape kit " ? road maps , airline schedules , and a social security card ? and spent several weeks in solitary confinement . Later that month , Colorado authorities charged him with Caryn Campbell 's murder . After a period of resistance , he waived extradition proceedings and was transferred to Aspen in January 1977 .

= = Escapes = =

On June 7 , 1977 , Bundy was transported 40 miles (64 km) from the Garfield County jail in Glenwood Springs to Pitkin County Courthouse in Aspen for a preliminary hearing . He had elected to serve as his own attorney and as such was excused by the judge from wearing handcuffs or leg shackles . During a recess he asked to visit the courthouse 's law library to research his case . Concealed behind a bookcase , he opened a window and jumped from the second story , spraining his right ankle as he landed . After shedding an outer layer of clothing he walked through Aspen as roadblocks were being set up on its outskirts , then hiked southward onto Aspen Mountain . Near its summit he broke into a hunting cabin and stole food , clothing , and a rifle . The following day he left the cabin and continued south toward the town of Crested Butte , but became lost in the forest . For two days he wandered aimlessly on the mountain , missing two trails that led downward to his intended destination . On June 10 Bundy broke into a camping trailer on Maroon Lake , 10 miles (16 km) south of Aspen , taking food and a ski parka ; but instead of continuing southward he walked back north toward Aspen , eluding roadblocks and search parties . Three days later he stole a car at the edge of Aspen Golf Course . Cold , sleep @-@ deprived , and in constant pain from his sprained ankle , he drove back into Aspen , where two police officers noticed his car weaving in and out of its lane and pulled him over . He had been a fugitive for six days . In the car were maps of the mountain area around Aspen that prosecutors were using to demonstrate the location of Caryn Campbell 's body (as his own attorney , Bundy had rights of discovery) , indicating that his escape had been planned .

Back in jail in Glenwood Springs , Bundy ignored the advice of friends and legal advisors to stay put . The case against him , already weak at best , was deteriorating steadily as pretrial motions consistently resolved in his favor and significant bits of evidence were ruled inadmissible . " A more rational defendant might have realized that he stood a good chance of acquittal , and that beating the murder charge in Colorado would probably have dissuaded other prosecutors ... with as little as a year and a half to serve on the DaRonch conviction , had Ted persevered , he could have been a free man . " Instead , Bundy devised a new escape plan . He acquired a detailed floor plan of the jail and a hacksaw blade from other inmates and accumulated \$ 500 in cash , smuggled in over a six @-@ month period , he later said , by visitors ? Carole Ann Boone in particular . During the evenings , while other prisoners were showering , he sawed a hole about one foot (0 @. @ 30 m) square between the steel reinforcing bars in his cell 's ceiling and , after losing 35 pounds (16 kg) , was able to wriggle through it into the crawl space above . In the weeks that followed he made a

series of practice runs , exploring the space . Multiple reports from an informant of movement within the ceiling during the night were not investigated .

By late 1977 , Bundy 's impending trial had become a cause célèbre in the small town of Aspen , and Bundy filed a motion for a change of venue to Denver . On December 23 the Aspen trial judge granted the request ? but to Colorado Springs , where juries had historically been hostile to murder suspects . On the night of December 30 , with most of the jail staff on Christmas break and nonviolent prisoners on furlough with their families , Bundy piled books and files in his bed , covered them with a blanket to simulate his sleeping body , and climbed into the crawlspace . He broke through the ceiling into the apartment of the chief jailer ? who was out for the evening with his wife ? changed into street clothes from the jailer 's closet , and walked out the front door to freedom .

After stealing a car , Bundy drove eastward out of Glenwood Springs , but the car soon broke down in the mountains on Interstate 70 . A passing motorist gave him a ride into Vail , 60 miles (97 km) to the east . From there he caught a bus to Denver , where he boarded a flight to Chicago . In Glenwood Springs , the jail 's skeleton crew did not discover the escape until noon on December 31 , more than 17 hours later . By then Bundy was already in Chicago .

= = Florida = =

From Chicago , Bundy traveled by train to Ann Arbor , Michigan . There , on January 2 in a local tavern , he watched his alma mater UW defeat Michigan in the Rose Bowl . Five days later he stole a car and drove to Atlanta , where he boarded a bus and arrived in Tallahassee , Florida , on January 8 . He rented a room under the alias Chris Hagen at a boarding house near the Florida State University (FSU) campus . Bundy later said that he initially resolved to find legitimate employment and refrain from further criminal activity , knowing he could probably remain free and undetected in Florida indefinitely as long as he did not attract the attention of police ; but his lone job application , at a construction site , had to be abandoned when he was asked to produce identification . He reverted to his old habits of shoplifting and stealing credit cards from women 's wallets left in shopping carts .

Sometime during the evening of January 14 or the early hours of January 15 , 1978 ? one week after his arrival in Tallahassee ? Bundy entered FSU 's Chi Omega sorority house through a rear door with a faulty lock . Beginning at about 2 : 45 am he bludgeoned Margaret Bowman , 21 , with a piece of oak firewood as she slept , then garroted her with a nylon stocking . He then entered the bedroom of 20 @-@ year @-@ old Lisa Levy and beat her unconscious , strangled her , tore one of her nipples , bit deeply into her left buttock , and sexually assaulted her with a hair mist bottle . In an adjoining bedroom he attacked Kathy Kleiner , breaking her jaw and deeply lacerating her shoulder ; and Karen Chandler , who suffered a concussion , broken jaw , loss of teeth , and a crushed finger . Tallahassee detectives later determined that the four attacks took place in a total of less than 15 minutes , within earshot of more than 30 witnesses who heard nothing . After leaving the sorority house Bundy broke into a basement apartment eight blocks away and attacked FSU student Cheryl Thomas , dislocating her shoulder and fracturing her jaw and skull in five places . She was left with permanent deafness , and equilibrium damage that ended her dance career . On Thomas 's bed police found a semen stain and a pantyhose " mask " containing two hairs " similar to Bundy 's in class and characteristic " .

On February 8 Bundy drove 150 miles (240 km) east to Jacksonville in a stolen FSU van . In a parking lot he approached 14 @-@ year @-@ old Leslie Parmenter , the daughter of Jacksonville Police Department 's Chief of Detectives , identifying himself as " Richard Burton , Fire Department " , but retreated when Parmenter 's older brother arrived . That afternoon he backtracked 60 miles (97 km) westward to Lake City . At Lake City Junior High School the following morning , 12 @-@ year @-@ old Kimberly Diane Leach was summoned to her homeroom by a teacher to retrieve a forgotten purse ; she never returned to class . Seven weeks later , after an intensive search , her partially mummified remains were found in a pig farrowing shed near Suwannee River State Park , 35 miles (56 km) northwest of Lake City .

On February 12 , with insufficient cash to pay his overdue rent and a growing suspicion that police

were closing in on him , Bundy stole a car and fled Tallahassee , driving westward across the Florida Panhandle . Three days later at around 1 : 00 a.m. , he was stopped by Pensacola police officer David Lee near the Alabama state line after a " wants and warrants " check showed his Volkswagen Beetle as stolen . When told he was under arrest , Bundy kicked Lee 's legs out from under him and took off running . Lee fired a warning shot and then a second round , gave chase , and tackled him . The two struggled over Lee 's gun before the officer finally subdued and arrested Bundy . In the stolen vehicle were three sets of IDs belonging to female FSU students , 21 stolen credit cards , and a stolen television set . Also found were a pair of dark @-@ rimmed non @-@ prescription glasses and a pair of plaid slacks , later identified as the disguise worn in Jacksonville . As Lee transported his suspect to jail , unaware that he had just arrested one of the FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives , he heard Bundy say , " I wish you had killed me . "

= = Florida trials , marriage = =

Following a change of venue to Miami , Bundy stood trial for the Chi Omega homicides and assaults in June 1979 . The trial was covered by 250 reporters from five continents , and was the first to be televised nationally in the United States . Despite the presence of five court @-@ appointed attorneys , Bundy again handled much of his own defense . From the beginning , he " sabotaged the entire defense effort out of spite , distrust , and grandiose delusion " , Nelson later wrote . " Ted [was] facing murder charges , with a possible death sentence , and all that mattered to him apparently was that he be in charge . "

According to Mike Minerva , a Tallahassee public defender and member of the defense team , a pre @-@ trial plea bargain was negotiated in which Bundy would plead guilty to killing Levy , Bowman , and Leach in exchange for a firm 75 @-@ year prison sentence . Prosecutors were amenable to a deal , by one account , because " prospects of losing at trial were very good . " Bundy , on the other hand , saw the plea deal not only as a means of avoiding the death penalty , but also as a " tactical move " : He could enter his plea , then wait a few years for evidence to disintegrate or become lost , and for witnesses to die , move on , or retract their testimony . Once the case against him had deteriorated beyond repair , he could file a post @-@ conviction motion to set aside the plea and secure an acquittal . At the last minute , however , Bundy refused the deal . " It made him realize he was going to have to stand up in front of the whole world and say he was guilty " , Minerva said . " He just couldn 't do it . "

At trial , crucial testimony came from Chi Omega members Connie Hastings , who placed Bundy in the vicinity of Chi Omega House that evening ; and Nita Neary , who saw him leaving the sorority house clutching the oak murder weapon . Incriminating physical evidence included the bite impressions Bundy left in Levy 's left buttock , which forensic odontologists Richard Souviron and Lowell Levine matched to castings of Bundy 's teeth . The jury deliberated less than seven hours before convicting him on July 24 , 1979 of the two murders , three counts of attempted first degree murder , and two counts of burglary . Trial judge Edward Cowart imposed death sentences for the murder convictions .

Six months later , a second trial took place in Orlando for the abduction and murder of Kimberly Leach . Bundy was found guilty once again , after less than eight hours ' deliberation , due principally to the testimony of an eyewitness who saw him leading Leach from the schoolyard to his stolen van . Important material evidence included clothing fibers with an unusual manufacturing error , found in the van and on Leach 's body , which matched fibers from the jacket Bundy was wearing when he was arrested .

During the penalty phase of the trial , Bundy took advantage of an obscure Florida law providing that a marriage declaration in court , in the presence of a judge , constituted a legal marriage . As he was questioning former Washington State DES coworker Carole Ann Boone ? who had moved to Florida to be near Bundy , had testified on his behalf during both trials , and was again testifying on his behalf as a character witness ? he asked her to marry him . She accepted , and Bundy declared to the court that they were legally married .

On February 10 , 1980 , Bundy was sentenced to death by electrocution for a third time . As the

sentence was announced , he reportedly stood and shouted , " Tell the jury they were wrong ! " This third death sentence would be the one ultimately carried out nearly nine years later .

In October 1982 , Boone gave birth to a daughter and named Bundy as the father . While conjugal visits were not allowed at Raiford Prison , inmates were known to pool their money to bribe guards to allow them intimate time alone with their female visitors .

= = Death row , confessions , and execution = =

Shortly after the conclusion of the Leach trial and the beginning of the long appeals process that followed , Bundy initiated a series of interviews with Stephen Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth . Speaking mostly in third person to avoid " the stigma of confession " , he began for the first time to divulge details of his crimes and thought processes .

He recounted his career as a thief , confirming Kloepper 's long @-@ time suspicion that he had shoplifted virtually everything of substance that he owned . " The big payoff for me , " he said , " was actually possessing whatever it was I had stolen . I really enjoyed having something ... that I had wanted and gone out and taken . " Possession proved to be an important motive for rape and murder as well . Sexual assault , he said , fulfilled his need to " totally possess " his victims . At first he killed the women " as a matter of expediency ... to eliminate the possibility of [being] caught " ; but later , murder became part of the " adventure " . " The ultimate possession was , in fact , the taking of the life " , he said . " And then ... the physical possession of the remains . "

Bundy also confided in Special Agent William Hagmaier of the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit . Hagmaier was struck by the " deep , almost mystical satisfaction " that Bundy took in murder . " He said that after a while , murder is not just a crime of lust or violence " , Hagmaier related . " It becomes possession . They are part of you ... [the victim] becomes a part of you , and you [two] are forever one ... and the grounds where you kill them or leave them become sacred to you , and you will always be drawn back to them . " Bundy told Hagmaier he considered himself an " amateur " , an " impulsive " killer in his early years , before moving into what he called his " prime " or " predator " phase at about the time of Lynda Healy 's murder in 1974 . This implied that he began killing well before 1974 ? though he never explicitly admitted doing so .

In July 1984 Raiford guards found two hacksaw blades hidden in Bundy 's cell . A steel bar in one of its windows had been sawed completely through at the top and bottom and glued back in place with a homemade soap @-@ based adhesive . Several months later his cell was changed again after guards found a mirror .

Sometime during this period Bundy was attacked by a group of his fellow death row inmates . Though he denied having been assaulted , a number of inmates confessed to the crime , characterized by one source as a " gang rape " . Shortly thereafter he was charged with a disciplinary infraction for unauthorized correspondence with another high @-@ profile criminal , John Hinckley , Jr . In October 1984 Bundy , who by then considered himself an expert on serial killers , contacted Robert Keppel and offered to share his self @-@ proclaimed expertise in the ongoing hunt for his successor in Washington , the Green River Killer . Keppel and Green River Task Force detective Dave Reichert interviewed Bundy , but Gary Leon Ridgway remained at large for a further 17 years . Keppel published a detailed documentation of the Green River interviews , and later collaborated with Michaud on another examination of the interview material .

In early 1986 an execution date (March 4) was set on the Chi Omega convictions ; the Supreme Court issued a brief stay , but the execution was quickly rescheduled . In April , shortly after the new date (July 2) was announced , Bundy confessed to Hagmaier and Nelson what they believed was the full range of his depredations , including details of what he did to some victims after their deaths . He told them that he revisited Taylor Mountain , Issaquah , and other secondary crime scenes , often several times , to lie with his victims and perform sexual acts with their decomposing bodies until putrefaction forced him to stop . In some cases he drove several hours each way and remained the entire night . In Utah he applied makeup to Melissa Smith 's lifeless face , and he repeatedly washed Laura Aime 's hair . " If you 've got time , " he told Hagmaier , " they can be anything you want them to be . " He decapitated approximately twelve of his victims with a hacksaw , and kept at

least one group of severed heads ? probably the four later found on Taylor Mountain (Rancourt , Parks , Ball , and Healy) ? in his apartment for a period of time before disposing of them .

Less than 15 hours before the scheduled July 2 execution , the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals stayed it indefinitely and remanded the Chi Omega case for review of multiple technicalities ? including Bundy 's mental competency to stand trial , and an erroneous instruction by the trial judge during the penalty phase requiring the jury to break a 6 ? 6 tie between life imprisonment and the death penalty ? that , ultimately , were never resolved . A new date (November 18 , 1986) was then set to carry out the Leach sentence ; the Eleventh Circuit Court issued a stay on November 17 . In mid @-@ 1988 the Eleventh Circuit ruled against Bundy , and in December the Supreme Court denied a motion to review the ruling . Within hours of that final denial a firm execution date of January 24 , 1989 was announced . Bundy 's journey through the appeals courts had been unusually rapid for a capital murder case : " Contrary to popular belief , the courts moved Bundy as fast as they could ... Even the prosecutors acknowledged that Bundy 's lawyers never employed delaying tactics . Though people everywhere seethed at the apparent delay in executing the archdemon , Ted Bundy was actually on the fast track . "

With all appeal avenues exhausted and no further motivation to deny his crimes , Bundy agreed to speak frankly with investigators . To Keppel , he confessed to all eight of the Washington and Oregon homicides for which he was the prime suspect . He described three additional previously unknown victims in Washington and two in Oregon whom he declined to identify (if indeed he ever knew their identities) . He said he left a fifth corpse ? Donna Manson 's ? on Taylor Mountain , but incinerated her head in Kloepfer 's fireplace . (" Of all the things I did to [Kloepfer] , " he told Keppel , " this is probably the one she is least likely to forgive me for . Poor Liz . ")

He described in detail his abduction of Georgann Hawkins from the brightly lit UW alley ? how he lured her to his car , clubbed and handcuffed her , drove her to Issaquah and strangled her , spent the entire night with her body , and revisited her corpse on three later occasions . He also admitted , for the first time , that he returned the following morning to the UW alley . There , in the very midst of a major crime scene investigation , he located and gathered Hawkins 's earrings and one of her shoes where he had left them in the adjoining parking lot and departed , unobserved . " It was a feat so brazen , " wrote Keppel , " that it astonishes police even today . "

" He described the Issaquah crime scene [where the bones of Ott , Naslund , and Hawkins were found] , and it was almost like he was just there " , Keppel said . " Like he was seeing everything . He was infatuated with the idea because he spent so much time there . He is just totally consumed with murder all the time . " Nelson 's impressions were similar : " It was the absolute misogyny of his crimes that stunned me , " she wrote , " his manifest rage against women . He had no compassion at all ... he was totally engrossed in the details . His murders were his life 's accomplishments . "

To detectives from Idaho , Utah , and Colorado , Bundy confessed to numerous additional homicides , including several that police had been unaware of . He explained that in Utah he could bring his victims back to his apartment , " where he could reenact scenarios depicted on the covers of detective magazines . " A new ulterior strategy quickly became apparent : He withheld many details , hoping to parlay the incomplete information into yet another stay of execution . " There are other buried remains in Colorado " , he admitted , but refused to elaborate . The new strategy ? immediately dubbed " Ted 's bones @-@ for @-@ time scheme " ? served only to deepen the resolve of authorities to see Bundy executed on schedule , and yielded little new detailed information . In cases where he did give details , nothing was found . Colorado detective Matt Lindvall interpreted this as a conflict between his desire to postpone his execution by divulging information and his need to remain in " total possession ? the only person who knew his victims ' true resting places . "

When it became clear that no further stays would be forthcoming from the courts , Bundy supporters began lobbying for the only remaining option , executive clemency . Diana Weiner , a young Florida attorney and Bundy 's last purported love interest , asked the families of several Colorado and Utah victims to petition Florida Governor Bob Martinez for a postponement to give Bundy time to reveal more information . All refused . " The families already believed that the victims were dead and that Ted had killed them " , wrote Nelson . " They didn 't need his confession . "

Martinez made it clear that he would not agree to further delays in any case . " We are not going to have the system manipulated " , he told reporters . " For him to be negotiating for his life over the bodies of victims is despicable . "

Carole Ann Boone , who had championed Bundy 's innocence throughout all of his trials , felt " deeply betrayed " by his admission that he was , in fact , guilty . She moved back to Washington with her daughter and refused to accept his final , pre @-@ execution phone call . " She was hurt by his relationship with Diana [Wiener] , " Nelson wrote , " and devastated by his sudden wholesale confessions in his last days . "

Hagmaier was present during Bundy 's final interviews with investigators . On the eve of his execution , he talked of suicide . " He did not want to give the state the satisfaction of watching him die " , Hagmaier said . Ted Bundy died in the Raiford electric chair at 7 : 16 a.m. EST on January 24 , 1989 ; he was 42 years old . Hundreds of revelers ? including 20 off @-@ duty police officers , by one account ? sang , danced , and set off fireworks in a pasture across the street from the prison as the execution was carried out , then cheered loudly as the white hearse containing Bundy 's corpse departed the prison . His remains were cremated in Gainesville and the ashes scattered at an undisclosed location in the Cascade Range of Washington State in accordance with his will .

= = Modus operandi and victim profiles = =

Bundy was an unusually organized and calculating criminal who used his extensive knowledge of law enforcement methodologies to elude identification and capture for years . His crime scenes were distributed over large geographic areas ; his victim count had risen to at least 20 before it became clear that numerous investigators in widely disparate jurisdictions were hunting the same man . His assault methods of choice were blunt trauma and strangulation , two relatively silent techniques that could be accomplished with common household items . He deliberately avoided firearms due to the noise they made and the ballistic evidence they left behind . He was a " meticulous researcher " who explored his surroundings in minute detail , looking for safe sites to seize and dispose of victims . He was unusually skilled at minimizing physical evidence . His fingerprints were never found at a crime scene , nor was any other incontrovertible evidence of his guilt , a fact he repeated often during the years in which he attempted to maintain his innocence .

Other significant obstacles for law enforcement were Bundy 's generic , essentially anonymous physical features , and a curious chameleon @-@ like ability to change his appearance almost at will . Early on , police complained of the futility of showing his photograph to witnesses ; he looked different in virtually every photo ever taken of him . In person , " ... his expression would so change his whole appearance that there were moments that you weren 't even sure you were looking at the same person " , said Stewart Hanson , Jr . , the judge in the DaRonch trial . " He [was] really a changeling . " Bundy was well aware of this unusual quality and he exploited it , using subtle modifications of facial hair or hairstyle to significantly alter his appearance as necessary . He concealed his one distinctive identifying mark , a dark mole on his neck , with turtleneck shirts and sweaters . Even his Volkswagen Beetle proved difficult to pin down ; its color was variously described by witnesses as metallic or non @-@ metallic , tan or bronze , light brown or dark brown .

Bundy 's modus operandi evolved in organization and sophistication over time , as is typical of serial murderers , according to FBI experts . Early on , it consisted of forcible late @-@ night entry followed by a violent attack with a blunt weapon on a sleeping victim . Some victims were sexually assaulted with inert objects ; all except Healy were left as they lay , unconscious or dead . As his methodology evolved Bundy became progressively more organized in his choice of victims and crime scenes . He would employ various ruses designed to lure his victim to the vicinity of his vehicle where he had pre @-@ positioned a weapon , usually a crowbar . In many cases he wore a plaster cast on one leg or a sling on one arm , and sometimes hobbled on crutches , then requested assistance in carrying something to his vehicle . Bundy was regarded as handsome and charismatic by many of his victims , traits he exploited to win their confidence . " Ted lured females " , Michaud wrote , " the way a lifeless silk flower can dupe a honey bee . " Once near or inside his vehicle the victim would be overpowered , bludgeoned , and restrained with handcuffs . Most were sexually

assaulted and strangled , either at the primary crime scene or (more commonly) after transport to a pre -selected secondary site , often a considerable distance away . In situations where his looks and charm were not useful , he invoked authority by identifying himself as a police officer or firefighter . Toward the end of his spree , in Florida , perhaps under the stress of being a fugitive , he regressed to indiscriminate attacks on sleeping victims .

At secondary sites he would remove and later burn the victim 's clothing , or in at least one case (Cunningham 's) deposit them in a Goodwill Industries collection bin . Bundy explained that the clothing removal was ritualistic , but also a practical matter , as it minimized the chance of leaving trace evidence at the crime scene that could implicate him . (A manufacturing error in fibers from his own clothing , ironically , provided a crucial incriminating link to Kimberly Leach .) He often revisited his secondary crime scenes to engage in acts of necrophilia , and to groom or dress up the cadavers . Some victims were found wearing articles of clothing they had never worn , or nail polish that family members had never seen . He took Polaroid photos of many of his victims . " When you work hard to do something right , " he told Hagmaier , " you don 't want to forget it . " Consumption of large quantities of alcohol was an " essential component " , he told Keppel , and later Michaud ; he needed to be " extremely drunk " while on the prowl in order to " significantly diminish " his inhibitions and to " sedate " the " dominant personality " that he feared might prevent his inner " entity " from acting on his impulses .

All of Bundy 's known victims were white females , most of middle -class backgrounds . Almost all were between the ages of 15 and 25 and most were college students . He apparently never approached anyone he might have met before . (In their last conversation before his execution , Bundy told Kloefer he had purposely stayed away from her " when he felt the power of his sickness building in him . ") Rule noted that most of the identified victims had long straight hair , parted in the middle ? like Stephanie Brooks , the woman who rejected him , and to whom he later became engaged and then rejected in return . Rule speculated that Bundy 's animosity toward his first girlfriend triggered his protracted rampage and caused him to target victims who resembled her . Bundy dismissed this hypothesis : " [T] hey ... just fit the general criteria of being young and attractive " , he told Hugh Aynesworth . " Too many people have bought this crap that all the girls were similar ... [but] almost everything was dissimilar ... physically , they were almost all different . " He did concede that youth and beauty were " absolutely indispensable criteria " in his choice of victims .

= = Pathology = =

Bundy underwent multiple psychiatric examinations ; the experts ' conclusions varied . Dorothy Otnow Lewis , Professor of Psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine and an authority on violent behavior , initially made a diagnosis of bipolar disorder , but later changed her impression more than once . She also suggested the possibility of a multiple personality disorder , based on behaviors described in interviews and court testimony : A great -aunt witnessed an episode during which Bundy " ... seemed to turn into another , unrecognizable person ... [she] suddenly , inexplicably found herself afraid of her favorite nephew as they waited together at a dusk -darkened train station . He had turned into a stranger . " Lewis recounted a prison official in Tallahassee describing a similar transformation : " He said , ' He became weird on me . ' He did a metamorphosis , a body and facial change , and he felt there was almost an odor emitting from him . He said , ' Almost a complete change of personality ... that was the day I was afraid of him . ' " Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) has also been proposed in at least one subsequent retrospective analysis .

While experts found Bundy 's precise diagnosis elusive , the majority of evidence pointed away from bipolar disorder or other psychoses , and toward antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) . ASPD patients ? frequently identified as " sociopaths " or " psychopaths " ? are often outwardly charming , even charismatic ; but beneath the facade there is little true personality or genuine insight . Most sociopaths are not demonstrably psychotic ; they can readily distinguish right from wrong , but such ability has minimal effect on their behavior . They are devoid of feelings of guilt or

remorse , a point readily admitted by Bundy himself . " Guilt doesn 't solve anything , really " , he said in 1981 . " It hurts you ... I guess I am in the enviable position of not having to deal with guilt . " Other hallmarks include narcissism , poor judgment , and manipulative behavior . " Sociopaths " , prosecutor George Dekle wrote , " are egotistical manipulators who think they can con anybody . " " Sometimes he manipulates even me " , admitted one psychiatrist . In the end , Lewis agreed with the majority : " I always tell my graduate students that if they can find me a real , true psychopath , I 'll buy them dinner " , she told Nelson . " I never thought they existed ... but I think Ted may have been one , a true psychopath , without any remorse or empathy at all . "

On the afternoon before he was executed Bundy granted an interview to James Dobson , a psychologist and founder of the Christian evangelical organization Focus on the Family . He used the opportunity to make new statements about violence in the media and the pornographic " roots " of his crimes . " It happened in stages , gradually " , he said . " My experience with ... pornography that deals on a violent level with sexuality , is once you become addicted to it ... I would keep looking for more potent , more explicit , more graphic kinds of material . Until you reach a point where the pornography only goes so far ... where you begin to wonder if maybe actually doing it would give that which is beyond just reading it or looking at it . " Violence in the media , he said , " particularly sexualized violence " , sent boys " down the road to being Ted Bundys . " The FBI , he suggested , should stake out adult movie houses and follow patrons as they leave . " You are going to kill me , " he said , " and that will protect society from me . But out there are many , many more people who are addicted to pornography , and you are doing nothing about that . "

Multiple biographers , researchers , and other observers have concluded that Bundy 's sudden condemnation of pornography was one last manipulative attempt to shift blame by catering to Dobson 's agenda as a longtime anti @-@ pornography advocate , telling him precisely what he wanted to hear . While he asserted in the Dobson interview that detective magazines and other reading material had " corrupted " him and " fueled [his] fantasies ... to the point of becoming a serial killer " , in a 1977 letter to Ann Rule he wrote , " Who in the world reads these publications ? ... I have never purchased such a magazine , and [on only] two or three occasions have I ever picked one up . " He told Michaud and Aynsworth in 1980 , and Hagmaier the night before he spoke to Dobson , that pornography played a negligible role in his development as a serial killer . " The problem wasn 't pornography " , wrote Dekle . " The problem was Bundy . " Nelson expressed the minority view , that Bundy 's concern about the dangers of violent pornography was genuine .

Rule and Aynsworth both noted that , for Bundy , the fault always lay with someone or something else . While he eventually confessed to 30 murders , he never accepted responsibility for any of them , even when offered that opportunity prior to the Chi Omega trial ? which would have averted the death penalty . He deflected blame onto a wide variety of scapegoats , including his abusive grandfather , the absence of his biological father , the concealment of his true parentage , alcohol , the media , the police (whom he accused of planting evidence) , " society " in general , violence on television , and ultimately , true crime periodicals and pornography . He blamed television programming ? which he watched mostly on sets that he had stolen ? for " brainwashing " him into stealing credit cards . On at least one occasion he even tried to blame his victims : " I have known people who ... radiate vulnerability " , he wrote in a 1977 letter to Kloepfer . " Their facial expressions say ' I am afraid of you . ' These people invite abuse ... By expecting to be hurt , do they subtly encourage it ? "

A significant element of delusion permeated his thinking :

Bundy was always surprised when anyone noticed that one of his victims was missing , because he imagined America to be a place where everyone is invisible except to themselves . And he was always astounded when people testified that they had seen him in incriminating places , because Bundy did not believe people noticed each other .

" I don 't know why everyone is out to get me " , he complained to Lewis . " He really and truly did not have any sense of the enormity of what he had done , " she said . " A long @-@ term serial killer erects powerful barriers to his guilt , " Keppel wrote , " walls of denial that can sometimes never be breached . " Nelson agreed . " Each time he was forced to make an actual confession , " she wrote , " he had to leap a steep barrier he had built inside himself long ago . "

= = Victims = =

Bundy confessed to 30 homicides , but the true total remains unknown . Published estimates have run as high as 100 or more , and Bundy occasionally made cryptic comments to encourage that speculation . He told Hugh Aynesworth in 1980 that for every murder " publicized " , there " could be one that was not . " When FBI agents proposed a total tally of 36 , Bundy responded , " Add one digit to that , and you 'll have it . " Years later he told attorney Polly Nelson that the common estimate of 35 was accurate , but Robert Keppel wrote that " [Ted] and I both knew [the total] was much higher . " " I don 't think even he knew ... how many he killed , or why he killed them " , said Rev. Fred Lawrence , the Methodist clergyman who administered Bundy 's last rites . " That was my impression , my strong impression . "

On the evening before his execution , Bundy reviewed his victim tally with Bill Hagmaier on a state @-@ by @-@ state basis :

in Washington , 11 (including Parks , abducted in Oregon but killed in Washington ; and including 3 unidentified)

in Utah , 8 (3 unidentified)

in Colorado , 3

in Florida , 3

in Oregon , 2 (both unidentified)

in Idaho , 2 (1 unidentified)

in California , 1 (unidentified)

The following is a chronological summary of the 20 identified victims and 5 identified survivors :

= = = 1974 = = =

= = = = Washington , Oregon = = = =

January 4 : Karen Sparks (often identified as Joni Lenz in Bundy literature) (age 18) : Bludgeoned and sexually assaulted in her bed as she slept ; survived

February 1 : Lynda Ann Healy (21) : Bludgeoned while asleep and abducted ; skull and mandible recovered at Taylor Mountain site

March 12 : Donna Gail Manson (19) : Abducted while walking to a concert at The Evergreen State College ; body left (according to Bundy) at Taylor Mountain site , but never found

April 17 : Susan Elaine Rancourt (18) : Disappeared after attending an evening advisors ' meeting at Central Washington State College ; skull and mandible recovered at Taylor Mountain site

May 6 : Roberta Kathleen Parks (22) : Vanished from Oregon State University in Corvallis ; skull and mandible recovered at Taylor Mountain site

June 1 : Brenda Carol Ball (22) : Disappeared after leaving the Flame Tavern in Burien ; skull and mandible recovered at Taylor Mountain site

June 11 : Georgann (often misspelled " Georgeann ") Hawkins (18) : Abducted from an alley behind her sorority house , UW ; skeletal remains identified by Bundy as Hawkins 's recovered at Issaquah site

July 14 : Janice Ann Ott (23) : Abducted from Lake Sammamish State Park in broad daylight ; skeletal remains recovered at Issaquah site

July 14 : Denise Marie Naslund (19) : Abducted four hours after Ott from the same park ; skeletal remains recovered at Issaquah site

= = = = Utah , Colorado , Idaho = = = =

October 2 : Nancy Wilcox (16) : Ambushed , assaulted , and strangled in Holladay , Utah ; body buried (according to Bundy) near Capitol Reef National Park , 200 miles (320 km) south of Salt

Lake City , but never found

October 18 : Melissa Anne Smith (17) : Vanished from Midvale , Utah ; body found in nearby mountainous area

October 31 : Laura Ann Aime (17) : Disappeared from Lehi , Utah ; body discovered by hikers in American Fork Canyon

November 8 : Carol DaRonch (18) : Attempted abduction in Murray , Utah ; escaped from Bundy 's car and survived

November 8 : Debra Kent (17) : Vanished after leaving a school play in Bountiful , Utah ; body left (according to Bundy) near Fairview , Utah , 100 miles (160 km) south of Bountiful ; minimal skeletal remains (one patella) found , but never positively identified as Kent 's

== = 1975 == =

January 12 : Caryn Campbell (23) : Disappeared from hotel hallway in Snowmass , Colorado ; body discovered on a dirt road near the hotel

March 15 : Julie Cunningham (26) : Disappeared on the way to a tavern in Vail , Colorado ; body buried (according to Bundy) near Rifle , 90 miles (140 km) west of Vail , but never found

April 6 : Denise Oliverson (25) : Abducted while bicycling to her parents ' house in Grand Junction , Colorado ; body thrown (according to Bundy) into the Colorado River 5 miles (8 @ . @ 0 km) west of Grand Junction , but never found

May 6 : Lynette Culver (12) : Abducted from Alameda Junior High School in Pocatello , Idaho ; body thrown (according to Bundy) into what authorities believe to be the Snake River , but never found

June 28 : Susan Curtis (15) : Disappeared during a youth conference at Brigham Young University ; body buried (according to Bundy) near Price , Utah , 75 miles (121 km) southeast of Provo , but never found

== = 1978 == =

== = = Florida == = =

January 15 : Margaret Bowman (21) : Bludgeoned and then strangled as she slept , Chi Omega sorority , FSU (no secondary crime scene)

January 15 : Lisa Levy (20) : Bludgeoned , strangled and sexually assaulted as she slept , Chi Omega sorority , FSU (no secondary crime scene)

January 15 : Karen Chandler (21) : Bludgeoned as she slept , Chi Omega sorority , FSU ; survived

January 15 : Kathy Kleiner (21) : Bludgeoned as she slept , Chi Omega sorority , FSU ; survived

January 15 : Cheryl Thomas (21) : Bludgeoned as she slept , eight blocks from Chi Omega ; survived

February 9 : Kimberly Diane Leach (12) : Abducted from her junior high school in Lake City , Florida ; skeletal remains found near Suwannee River State Park , 43 miles (69 km) west of Lake City

== = Other possible victims == =

Bundy remains a suspect in several unsolved homicides , and is likely responsible for others that may never be identified ; in 1987 he confided to Keppel that there were " some murders " that he would " never talk about " , because they were committed " too close to home " , " too close to family " , or involved " victims who were very young " .

Ann Marie Burr , age 8 , vanished from her Tacoma home on August 31 , 1961 when Bundy was 14 . The Burr house was on Bundy 's newspaper delivery route . The victim 's father was certain that he

saw Bundy in a ditch at a construction site on the nearby UPS campus the morning his daughter disappeared . Other circumstantial evidence implicates him as well , but detectives familiar with the case have never agreed on the likelihood of his involvement . Bundy repeatedly denied culpability and wrote a letter of denial to the Burr family in 1986 ; but Keppel has observed that Burr fits all three of Bundy 's " no discussion " categories of " too close to home " , " too close to family " , and " very young " . Forensic testing of material evidence from the Burr crime scene , in 2011 , yielded insufficient intact DNA sequences for comparison with Bundy 's .

Flight attendants Lisa E. Wick and Lonnie Trumbull , both 20 , were bludgeoned with a piece of lumber as they slept in their basement apartment in Seattle 's Queen Anne Hill district on June 23 , 1966 near the Safeway store where Bundy worked at the time , and where the women regularly shopped . Trumbull died . In retrospect , Keppel noted many similarities to the Chi Omega crime scene . Wick , who suffered permanent memory loss as a result of the attack , later contacted Ann Rule : " I know that it was Ted Bundy who did that to us , " she wrote , " but I can 't tell you how I know . " In the absence of incriminating evidence , Bundy 's involvement remains speculative .

Vacationing college friends Susan Davis and Elizabeth Perry , both 19 , were stabbed to death on May 30 , 1969 . Their car was found that day abandoned beside the Garden State Parkway outside Somers Point , New Jersey , near Atlantic City , 60 miles (97 km) south of Philadelphia ; and their bodies ? one nude , one fully clothed ? were found in nearby woods three days later . Bundy attended Temple University from January through May , 1969 and apparently did not move west until after Memorial Day weekend . While Bundy 's accounts of his earliest crimes varied considerably between interviews , he told forensic psychologist Art Norman that his first murder victims were two women in the Philadelphia area . Biographer Richard Larsen believed that Bundy committed the murders using his feigned @-@ injury ruse , based on an investigator 's interview with Julia , Bundy 's aunt : Ted , she said , was wearing a leg cast due to an automobile accident on the weekend of the homicides , and therefore could not have traveled from Philadelphia to the Jersey Shore ; there is no official record of any such accident . Bundy is considered a " strong suspect " , but the case remains open .

Rita Curran , a 24 @-@ year @-@ old elementary school teacher and part @-@ time motel maid , was murdered in her basement apartment on July 19 , 1971 in Burlington , Vermont ; she had been strangled , bludgeoned and raped . The location of the motel where she worked (adjacent to Bundy 's birthplace , the Elizabeth Lund Home for Unwed Mothers) and similarities to known Bundy crime scenes led retired FBI agent John Bassett to propose him as a suspect . No evidence firmly places Bundy in Burlington on that date , but municipal records note that a person named " Bundy " was bitten by a dog that week , and long stretches of Bundy 's time ? including the summer of 1971 ? remain unaccounted for . Curran 's murder officially remains unsolved .

Joyce LePage , 21 , was last seen on July 22 , 1971 on the campus of Washington State University , where she was an undergraduate . Nine months later her skeletal remains were found wrapped in carpeting and military blankets , bound with rope , in a deep ravine south of Pullman , Washington . Multiple suspects ? including Bundy ? have " never been cleared " , according to investigators . Whitman County authorities have said that Bundy remains a suspect .

Rita Lorraine Jolly , 17 , disappeared from West Linn , Oregon on June 29 , 1973 ; Vicki Lynn Hollar , 24 , disappeared from Eugene , Oregon on August 20 , 1973 . Bundy confessed to two homicides in Oregon without identifying the victims . Oregon detectives suspected that they were Jolly and Hollar , but were unable to obtain interview time with Bundy to confirm it . Both women remain classified as missing .

Katherine Merry Devine , 14 , was abducted on November 25 , 1973 , and her body was found the next month in the Capitol State Forest near Olympia , Washington . Brenda Joy Baker , 14 , was seen hitchhiking near Puyallup , Washington on May 27 , 1974 ; her body was found in Millersylvania State Park a month later . Though Bundy was widely believed responsible for both murders , he told Keppel that he had no knowledge of either case . DNA analysis led to the arrest and conviction of William E. Cosden for Devine 's murder in 2002 . The Baker homicide remains unsolved .

Sandra Jean Weaver , 19 , a Wisconsin native who had been living in Tooele , Utah , was last seen

in Salt Lake City on July 1 , 1974 ; her nude body was discovered the following day near Grand Junction , Colorado . Sources conflict on whether Bundy mentioned Weaver 's name during the death row interviews . Her murder remains unsolved .

Carol L. Valenzuela , 20 , was last seen hitchhiking near Vancouver , Washington , on August 2 , 1974 . Her remains were discovered two months later in a shallow grave south of Olympia , along with those of another female later identified as Martha Morrison , 17 (last seen in Eugene , Oregon on September 1 , 1974) . Both victims had long hair parted in the middle . In August 1974 Bundy drove from Seattle to Salt Lake City and could have passed through Vancouver and Eugene en route , but there is no evidence that he did . Both cases remain open .

Melanie Suzanne " Suzy " Cooley , 18 , disappeared on April 15 , 1975 , after leaving Nederland High School in Nederland , Colorado , 50 miles (80 km) northwest of Denver . Her bludgeoned and strangled corpse was discovered by road maintenance workers two weeks later in Coal Creek Canyon , 20 miles (32 km) away . While gas receipts place Bundy in nearby Golden on the day Cooley disappeared , and Cooley is included on the list of Bundy victims in most Bundy literature , Jefferson County authorities say the evidence is inconclusive and continue to treat her homicide as a cold case .

Shelly (or Shelley) Kay Robertson , 24 , failed to show up for work in Golden , Colorado on July 1 , 1975 . Her nude , decomposed body was found in August , 500 feet (150 m) inside a mine on Berthoud Pass near Winter Park Resort by two mining students . Gas station receipts place Bundy in the area at the time , but there is no direct evidence of his involvement ; the case remains open .

Nancy Perry Baird , 23 , disappeared from the service station where she worked in Farmington , Utah , 20 miles (32 km) north of Salt Lake City , on July 4 , 1975 and remains classified as a missing person . Bundy specifically denied involvement in this case during the death row interviews .

Debbie Smith , 17 , was last seen in Salt Lake City in early February 1976 , shortly before the DaRonch trial began ; her body was found near the Salt Lake City International Airport on April 1 , 1976 . Though listed as a Bundy victim by some sources , her murder remains officially unsolved .

Minutes before his execution , Hagmaier queried Bundy about unsolved homicides in New Jersey , Illinois , Vermont (the Curran case) , Texas , and Miami , Florida . Bundy provided directions ? later proven inaccurate ? to Susan Curtis 's burial site in Utah , but denied involvement in any of the open cases .

= = Artifacts = =

Bundy 's 1968 Volkswagen Beetle was displayed in the lobby of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington DC until its closure in 2015 . It is presently on exhibit at the Alcatraz East Crime Museum in Pigeon Forge , Tennessee .

= = In media = =

= = Film = =

The Deliberate Stranger (1986) , starring Mark Harmon

Ted Bundy (2002) , starring Michael Reilly Burke

The Stranger Beside Me (2003) , starring Billy Campbell

Bundy : A Legacy of Evil (2008) , starring Corin Nemec