Betty Lou Beets "Texas Black Widow"



Information researched and summarized by Derek Beaber, Manuel Gomez, and Lauren Barber

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Date	Age	Life Event
03/12/1937	0	Born in Roxboro, North Carolina
1940	3	Got measles and lost her hearing
1942	5	Raped by father
1942	5	Moved to Danville Virginia
1945	8	Her brother Jimmy was born
1947	10	Her sister Jackie was born
1949	12	Began taking care of her little brother and sister because her mother was institutionalized (did not return to school)
1951	14	Her mother had a psychotic break
07/18/1952	15	Married Robert Franklin Branson after finishing 9 th grade
1953	16	Had her first child Faye
1953	16	Had a six month separation from her husband
1953	16	Attempted suicide
1953	16	Reconciled with her husband
1954	17	Had second child Connie
1954	17	Moved to Mesquite Texas
02/1959	22	Had third child Shirley
1962	25	Had fourth child Phyllis
1964	27	Had fifth child Robert Franklin Branson II
1966	29	Had sixth child Bobby
1969	31	Divorced Robert Franklin Branson (Started drinking)
07/28/1970	33	Married Billy York Lane
10/281970	33	Got restraining order against Billy
1970	33	Divorced Billy Lane
06/1971	34	Billy broke Betty's nose
01/17/1972	34	Billy Lane threatened to kill Betty
01/18/1972	34	Betty shot Billy Lane

1972	35		ried for attempted murder but Billy Lane signed affidavit
	25		ened Betty's life so charges were dropped to aggravated assault
1972	35		Lane after trial, marriage lasted for one month
11/1973	36	Met Ronnie Threlkold	
02/16/1978	41		C. Threlkold in Dallas County, Texas
1978	41	·	Ronnie over with her car
08/27/1979	42	Betty began topl	
1979	42	Charged with public lewdness while working at topless bar (spent thirty days in jail)	
1979	42	Divorced Ronnie	
10/03/1979	42		Vayne Barker (separated 7 weeks later)
01/1980	42		erious car accident and suffered major head injuries
07/22/1980	42	Betty and Doyle	
10/1981	44		e Wayne Barker and buries him in the front yard
08/19//1982	45	Marries Jimmy I	
08/06/1983	45		n Beets (WM, 46)
1984	47	Betty burns dow	n Jimmy Don Beets' lake house
2/1985	48	Betty files for Jir	mmy Don Beets' death certificate
06/08/1985	48	Betty is arrested	
07/11/1985	48		ts Betty for the murder of Jimmy Don Beets.
1985	48	Betty goes to tria	al
10/11/1985	48	Betty is found gu	
10/14/1985	48	Sentenced to dea	th penalty
09/21/1988	51	Conviction was a	reinstated after appeals
1993	56	Betty's mother d	lies
1993	56	Betty's son Bobl	by died
2/24/2000	62	Betty is executed	l at 6:18 p.m.
General Informa	tion		
Sex			Female
Race			White
Number of victims			Suspected of 2, Confessed to 0, convicted of 1.
Country where killing occurred		occurred	United States
States where killing occurred			Texas
Cities where killing occurred			Henderson County
Type of killer			Black widow
Height			
Childhood Inform	mation		
Date of birth			03/27/1937
Location			Roxboro North Carolina
Birth order			2
Number of siblings			3, 1 older brother, 1 younger brother and 1 younger sister
XYY?			N/A
Raised by			Mother and father
Birth category			Middle born
Parent's marital status			Together
Family event			Mom was institutionalized
I MIIIII Y CYCIIL			12, when mom was sent to mental institution and she was left
	event		
Age of family of			in care of family.
Age of family of Problems in sci	hool?		in care of family. Yes
Age of family of	hool?	?	in care of family.
Age of family of Problems in sci	hool? n school? active?	?	in care of family. Yes

Head injury? Yes, during car accident Physically abused? Yes, raped by her father at age 5 and abused by most of her husbands Yes Sexually abused? Yes Yes, raped by her father at age 5 and abused by most of her husbands. Father's occupation Farmer Age of first sexual experience Age when first had intercourse 5 years old Age when first had intercourse 5 years old Age when first had intercourse 5 years old Alcohol Mother's occupation Farmer Father abused drugs/alcohol Alcohol Alcoholololololololololololololololololol	Speech defect?	Physical disability that contributes to speech disorder
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Spend time in jail? Yes	Killer Criminal History	
Spend time in jail? Yes	Committed previous crimes?	Yes. Aggravated assault (shot 2 nd husband)
Spend time in prison? Yes, after she was convicted of the murders		
	Spend time in prison?	Yes, after she was convicted of the murders

Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	2
Victim type	Husbands
Killer age at start of series	44
Date of first kill in series	10/1981
Date of final kill in series	08/06/1983
Gender of victims	Male
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Late 40s
M (1 1 C1'11'	
Method of killing	Shooting with a handgun
Weapon	Hand gun
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Colt revolver .38
Did killer have a partner?	Not in killings, but used son and daughter in disposal of bodies.
Name of partner	Shirley and Robby (her son and daughter)
Sex of partner	Female and Male
Type of serial killer	Black Widow
How close did killer live?	Same home
Location of first contact	Bar (met most husbands at bars).
Location of killing	Bedroom
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	No
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No (didn't shoot more than three times)
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	Yes, in the yard of her house
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-op and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	June 8th,1985
Date convicted	October 11 th , 1985
****	1 2 2 2

Sentence	Sentenced to death
Killer executed?	Yes
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Texas, Huntsville/ Huntsville State Prison
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	Yes, when she was executed
Date of death	Feb 24, 2000

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