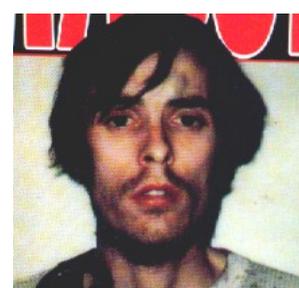


Richard Trenton Chase

“Dracula Killer”

“The Vampire of Sacramento”

FBI agent Robert Ressler once asked Chase how he selected his victims. He said that he went down the streets testing doors to find one that was unlocked. “If the door was locked,” he said, “That means you’re not welcome” (www.nokilli.com).



Information summarized by

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Date	Age	Life Event
May 23, 1950	0	Richard Trenton Chase was born in Santa Clara County, California
1953	3	Family moves into first house, rented apartment before
1960	10	Killing and torturing animals including cats.
1962	12	Family problems escalated, mother seen by two psychiatrists
1963	13	Family had financial troubles, lost house
1964-1968	14-18	Attended Mira Loma High School, obtained grades of Cs, Ds, and Fs, completed high school diploma
1965-1966	15-16	Sophomore year: arrested for possession of marijuana, ordered by juvenile court to work on weekends
1968- Spring 1971	18-21	Enrolled in American River College, maintained grades of Cs, consistently used drugs, briefly seen by a psychiatrist
1968	18	Counseled by a psychiatrist because of an erectile dysfunction. Suggested cause of this was suppressed anger, psychiatrist also thought he was suffering from mental illness but received no further counseling.
Feb. 1971	21	Rented an apartment with friends, boarded up the closet and room doors, continued heavy use of marijuana
May 1971	21	Roommates asked him to move out; when he didn't they moved, forcing Chase to return to parents' house
May 1972	22	Chase's parents separated
November 1972	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chase's parents finalized their divorce, and he maintained his time between father and motherWent on a solitary journey to Utah; was arrested and put in jail for a traffic

		violation
April 1973	22	While attending a friend's apartment party, Chase fondled a girl and then was asked to leave; after his return to the apartment, cops arrived to escort him out- a .22 caliber gun fell from his belt and he was sent to jail and his father bailed him out
May 1973	23	Moved to Los Angeles to live with grandmother, continued to complain of false head injuries and other illnesses; few months later, she couldn't tolerate his behavior and sent him back to Sacramento
1973	23	Continued to see a number of physicians for "head injuries" and stomach aches; was also seen by a neurologist who concluded Chase "had a psychiatric disturbance of major proportions"
December 1, 1973	23	Entered into the American River Hospital in Sacramento and told doctors and nurses someone had stolen his pulmonary artery and his blood flow had stopped; admitted to Psychiatric Ward, yet his mother later took him out
1975	25	Mother and father still convinced Chase was using drugs
1976	25-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chase made himself believe he was reincarnated as one of the Younger Brothers, bank robbers associated with Jesse James Hospitalized at Beverly Manor- committed as a schizophrenic suffering from somatic delusions Still teetered back and forth between mother's and father's house; went on welfare to receive extra spending money In argument with mother, slapped and knocked her to floor
April 26, 1976	25	Father visited Chase at his apartment and found him extremely ill; Chase was complaining of blood poisoning after injecting himself with rabbit's blood
May 18, 1976	25	Escaped from American River Hospital after doctors would not consent to releasing him; considered a "danger to others"
May 19, 1976	25	Transferred from American River Hospital to an extended-care mental hospital- Chase believed he was there for food poisoning- housekeepers continued to find dead birds outside of Chase's room
September 1976	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released from mental hospital with same diagnosis- paranoid schizophrenia Chase moved into own apartment- parents continued to pay for bills and groceries
1977	26-27	Court ordered conservatorship expired and he became responsible for his livelihood.
June 1977	27	Chase's mother helped plan and gave him \$1,450 for his trip to Washington- stayed there for three weeks- brought a 1966 Ford Ranchero wagon for \$800 from a man in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
August 3, 1977	27	Police officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs found Richard Chase's Ford Ranchero near Pyramid Lake Reservation in Nevada- police found .22 caliber and 30-30 rifle- he had taken a liver from a cow and smeared blood over naked body. Later, he was arrested and his car was impounded- yet he was released when the U.S. Attorney didn't want to prosecute.
October 1, 1977	27	Chase purchased and stole several dogs- brought two from the S.P.C.A. for \$ 15.90
Mid-November	27	Called and harassed the family of a dog he had stolen.

1977		
12/02/1977	27	Buys .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol for \$69.99 cash- could not pick it up until December 18 so his credentials could be verified.
12/29/1977	27	Kills first victim- Ambrose Griffin (WM, 51)- fires two shots out of car, one bullet enters Mr. Griffin's chest killing him, and Chase speeds away
January 1978	27	Institutionalized for paranoid schizophrenia, where he complained that his head kept changing shape and that someone had stolen his pulmonary artery.
01/11/1978	27	Neighbor, Dawn Larson, had seen him take three animals into apartment.
01/23/1978	27	Robs and ransacks several homes in Sacramento. Then kills second victim, Theresa Wallin (WF, 22) - she was twelve weeks pregnant
01/25/1978	27	Stole a four-month-old puppy, shot it in the head, and proceeded to drink the blood
01/27/1978	27	Kills Evelyn Miroth (WF, 38), her son Jason (WM, 6), her nephew David (Michael) Ferreira (WM, 22 months) and her boyfriend Daniel Meredith (WM, 52). Chase took the body of baby David with him. Next day, neighbor broke into house and called police immediately. Footprint in blood matched one found at Theresa Wallin's murder scene. Great quantity of sperm was found within vaginal cavity of Miroth.
01/28/1978	27	A city-wide search was organized to find baby David. Police arrived at Chase's door to ask questions, yet there was no response. Hearing movement inside the apartment, police remained and listened. Chase eventually stepped out, was tackled and then taken into custody by police.
01/29/1978	27	While in interrogation, Chase was interviewed by two psychiatrists -displaying no expressions of remorse or guilt; instead, described the crimes in a concrete manner.
03/24/1978	27	Body of baby David Ferreira was found in a cardboard box in a vacant lot between a church and a supermarket
01/02/1979	28	Trial opened, pleaded not guilty due to insanity. Both psychiatrists deemed him sane at all times of the crimes.
05/08/1979	28	Found guilty on all six murder counts, sentenced to death. Trial lasted for four months and the jury only deliberated for five hours. Sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison. Having difficulties with medications, Chase was sent to Vacaville State Hospital, yet was returned to death row.
12/24/1979	29	Chase committed suicide by taking an overdose of his medication (<i>Alone With the Devil</i>).
12/26/1980	30	Richard Trenton Chase died, while on death row, in San Quentin prison in California due to an overdose of anti-depressants (www.crimelibrary.com)
1992		Movie: <i>Unspeakable</i> , based on Chase's life is released

General Information

Sex		Male
Race		White
Number of victims		Convicted of 6, confessed to 6
Country where killing occurred		United States
States where killing occurred		California, Nevada
Type of killer		Disorganized Lust
Height		5'11"

Childhood Information	
Date of birth	May 23, 1950
Location	Santa Clara County, California
Birth order	1 st of 2
Number of siblings	1 sister
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Oldest
Parent's marital status	Divorced- November 1972 (Chase was 22 years old)
Family event	Family lost house, parents' divorce- Chase's mother believed her husband was poisoning her
Age of family event	Age 11 (house), age 22 (divorce)
Problems in school?	No- passive temperament, no disciplinary problems; however, he did enjoy matching with matches
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Impotence
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	Yes, he grew up in an unhappy, strict, and angry household and was beaten often.
Psychologically abused?	Yes- constant bickering, accusations, and tension. Mother believed husband to be unfaithful and was trying to poison her.
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Unknown
Mother's occupation	Unknown
Age of first sexual experience	Attempted in high school- sophomore year
Age when first had intercourse	High school- went on many dates with opportunities to have sex, but was impotent
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes- alcohol
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Completed high school
Highest degree	High school diploma
Grades in school	Mostly Cs, Ds, with several Fs
IQ	95
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	-----
Type of discharge	-----
Saw combat duty	-----
Killed enemy during service?	-----
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No known jobs

Types of jobs worked	-----
Employment status during series	Unemployed, receiving benefit checks
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Parents or roommates (1971), or grandmother (1973), or by himself
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes- cats, dogs, rabbits to drink blood
Fire setting	Yes
Bed wetting	Yes- consistently until age 8
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes- Marijuana, LSD
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes- find root cause of anger
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes
Diagnosis	Paranoid schizophrenia
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes- weapon charges, possession of marijuana (10 th grade)
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	Yes- animals, age 10
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	6
Victim type	Women, men, young boys, babies
Killer age at start of series	27
Gender of victims	Males, females
Race of victims	Caucasian
Age of victims	21 months, 6 years, 22 (3 months pregnant), 38, 51
Method of killing	Initial shots (usually to head), the dissection and mutilation of body, drank the blood
Type of serial killer	Disorganized
How close did killer live?	Short driving and walking distances – within 5 to 10 miles
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes- animals
Weapon	.22 caliber semiautomatic pistol, knife, .22 caliber gun, 30-30 rifle
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes - sodomized Evelyn Miroth after killing, and a large quantity of sperm was found within her vaginal cavity
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	Yes- if animals are considered victims
Overkill?	Yes

Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	Yes- raped and sodomized Evelyn Miroth
Mutilated body?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	Yes
Drank victim's blood?	Yes
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	Yes- baby David
Took totem – personal item	Yes- Meredith's keys and wallet, Wallin's kitchen knives, various collars and leashes of dogs and cats
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	Yes- several animals
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes- within victim's location (house, etc.)
Moved, buried	Yes
Cut-op and disposed of	Yes
Moved, too home	Yes- took baby David back to apartment
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	January 29, 1978
Date convicted	May 8, 1979
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	No- committed suicide while on death row
Did killer plead NGRI?	Yes
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	San Quentin Penitentiary, California
Killer committed suicide?	Yes- overdose of anti-depressants
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	December 26, 1980

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