

## William Cook



Information researched and summarized by  
*Theresa Gray & Rachel Hammond*

Department of Psychology  
 Radford University  
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
12/23/1928	0	Born in Joplin, Missouri
1933	5	Dad leaves wife and children.
Later 1933	5	Mom dies.
1940	11	In and out of juvenile jail
9/??/1943	14	Holds up and kidnaps a cab driver.
1943	14	Put in jail.
3/23/1946	18	Escapes jail.
8/15/1946	18	Caught escaping jail.
6/16/1950	22	Released from jail.
12/27/1950	23	Travels to Mexico.
12/28/1950	23	Meets Archer while hitching, later Archer escapes.
12/29/1950	23	Meet Mosser family and holds them hostage.
1/1/1951	23	Stops at store for food.
1/2/1951	23	All five members of the Mosser family and their dog are shot to death in the car and then their bodies are dumped in an abandoned mine shaft.
1/2/1951	23	Car is seen by individuals and called in to police
1/3/1951	23	Officers discover the bloodshed in the car
1/6/1951	23	Meets Waldrip, and Waldrip later gets away.
1/6/1951	23	Cook kills 5 <sup>th</sup> victim, Robert Dewey.
1/7/1951	23	Cook meets Burk & Damron and later get away
1/9/1951	23	Cook is found by police
1/15/1951	23	Police find the five bodies of the Mosser family.
1/15/1951	23	Cook is sent back to the states
1/29/1951	23	Preliminary hearing/trial
3/20/1951	23	Sanity hearing – given 300 years
10/13/1951	23	Tried for Dewey's murder
11/28/1951	23	Sentenced to death
5/7/1952	24	Appeal
12/12/1952	24	Death by Gas Chamber

<b>General Information</b>	
Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	6
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Southwestern region; TX, NM, CA
Cities where killing occurred	Lubbock, Wichita Falls
Type of killer	Spree killer
Height	n/a
<b>Childhood Information</b>	
Date of birth	12/23/1928
Location	Joplin, Missouri
Birth order	5 <sup>th</sup>
Number of siblings	8
XYY?	n/a
Raised by	Foster parents – various
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Mom died, father left
Family event	Dad left for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> time after mother's death
Age of family event	5
Problems in school?	Yes, a drifter, in and out of schools
Teased while in school?	Yes had eye defect
Physically attractive?	No "hard"
Physical defect?	Yes, right eye could not properly close
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Yes
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Miner
Age of first sexual experience	n/a
Age when first had intercourse	n/a
Mother's occupation	Stayed at home
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Alcoholic
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	In and out of school
Highest degree	n/a
Grades in school	n/a
IQ	n/a
Source of IQ information	-----
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	None
Type of discharge	None
Saw combat duty	None
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	None
Employment status during series	Unemployed

<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	No
Living with	n/a
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	n/a
Fire setting	n/a
Bed wetting	n/a
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital	No
Diagnosis	-----
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Petty theft, kidnapping, armed assault
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	3 got away, 6 killed, dog, 1 spared
Victim type	Adults and children
Killer age at start of series	23
Date of first kill in series	December 30, 1951
Date of final kill in series	January 6, 1951 (2 weeks later)
Gender of victims	Male/female
Race of victims	----
Age of victims	Various
Type of victim	Motorists
Method of killing	Shot to death
Weapon	Pistol
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Handgun 32 pistol
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	
Sex of partner	
Type of serial killer	Power seeker
How close did killer live?	Out of state
Location of first contact	New Mexico/Texas
Location of killing	Missouri/Texas
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Abducted
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No

Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold	No
Bound the victims?	Yes only 1 victim
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated 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	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Yes- dumped in abandoned mine shaft (Mosser family)
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	(Jan. 9, 1951 – found by police)
Date convicted	(Jan 15, 1951 – Sent back to states)
Date convicted	November 28. 1951
Sentence	Death by gas
Killer executed?	Yes
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Name and state of prison	San Quentin, CA
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	December 12, 1952
<b>References</b>	
Shirley, Glenn (1963). <i>Born to kill</i> . Derby: Monarch Books (OCLC: 19092177)	
<a href="http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkillers/C/COOK_william.php">www.crimezzz.net/serialkillers/C/COOK_william.php</a>	
<a href="http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/willcook.htm">http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/willcook.htm</a>	