Robert John Erler "The Catch Me Killer"



Information summarized and researched by

Laura Hehemann

Robert Cowell

Katherine Cippel

Savannah Childer

Department of Psychology Radford University Radford, VA 24142-6946

| Date | Age | Life Event | |
|----------|-----|---|--|
| unknown | | Born in Adams, Massachusetts | |
| | | Moved to Alabama city in Arizona | |
| | | Grew up in Phoenix Arizona | |
| | | Was the oldest son of 8 children | |
| | | As a child his father pushed him to be tough and put pressure on him to live out his life. | |
| 1963 | | As an amateur boxer Erler went up against a well known fighter named Florentino Fernandez. During that bout, Erler suffered a severe concussion. Later that night he went berserk in Hollywood's Diplomat Hotel. It took 11 police officers to calm him | |
| 1963 | | down and from then on he would wake up with blood soaking his pillow from his ears. This is thought to be the reason Erler suffered from severe migraines. | |
| 1965 | | Joined the Army and was a Green Beret | |
| 1965 | | Attended Special Forces Medical School at Fort Sam Houston. | |
| | 23 | Worked for the North American Boat Corporation | |
| | | Married Go-Go dancer Pattie Gould who was pregnant at the time. | |
| | | Rented a house in Phoniz and they moved in with the new baby. | |
| 1967- | | Became a cop for the Dania Police Department.1968 he graduated from Broward | |
| 1967- | | County Police Academy. Also went and worked for the Hollywood Police | |
| 1700 | | Department. | |
| | | Attempted murder of Dorothy Clark and her 12 yr old daughter Marilyn. | |
| 08-12-68 | | Married and had one son. Lived with wife and child until they left him. | |
| | 25 | While on the job, Erler suffered a severe brain concussion from a high speed chase | |
| 08-12-68 | | Attempted murder of a mother and killed the 12 yr. old daughter. Shot them both in the head with a .22 caliber pistol. Shot the mother five times in the head and also shot | |

| | the 12 yr. old daug home. | hter in the head five times. Killing took place inside his mobile | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 09-10-68 | Erler drove to siste | ers house in Phoeniz to stay for a few days. Upon his arrival he was empted murder of Dorothy Clark and the murder of her 12 year old | |
| | daughter. | • | |
| 09-24-68 Dorothy Clark, moth Erler in a line up. | | other of child shooting victim was unable to positively identify | |
| 11-05-68 | | adge assigned to the trial of Erler | |
| 01-27-69 | Trial began for Erl | er | |
| | Erler sentenced to | 99.5 years in prison | |
| 1973 | Erler escapes from | | |
| March | - | had dyed his hair black and went under the assumed name Bruce | |
| 1974 | Strickland | | |
| 03-26-74 | | nitted to lying on the stand about the events that occurred the night | |
| | that she and her da | <u> </u> | |
| 1974 | | Christ as his Savior and admits to the murder of Marilyn Clark. | |
| | | Grant in Arizona, which is a minimum security prison. | |
| | | Florence because he was a runaway risk for the minimum | |
| | security prison. | | |
| General Inform | ation | M 1 | |
| Sex | | Male | |
| Race Number of vi | | Caucasian | |
| | | 2 attempted victims, mother and daughter United States | |
| | re killing occurred | Florida | |
| | killing occurred | | |
| Type of killer Height | | Disorganized 5'10 | |
| Childhood Info | rmation | 3 10 | |
| Date of birth | i mauon | | |
| | | | |
| Location | | Adams Massachusetts | |
| Location Birth order | | Adams, Massachusetts Oldest | |
| Birth order | hlings | Oldest | |
| Birth order Number of si | blings | Oldest 7 younger siblings | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? | blings | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by | | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor | y | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari | y tal status | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event | y tal status | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family | y tal status | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s | y tal status y event school? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while | y tal status y event school? in school? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att | y event school? in school? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec Head injury? | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defec Speech defec Head injury? | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Ves, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defec Speech defec Head injury? Physically ab Psychologica | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? t? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec Head injury? Physically ab Psychologica Sexually abus | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? t? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information No information No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec Head injury? Physically abuse Psychologica Sexually abuse Father's occur | y tal status y event school? in school? cractive? ct? t? used? lly abused? sed? pation | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information No information Served in military | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec Head injury? Physically ab Psychologica Sexually abus Father's occu | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? t? | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information No information Served in military No information | |
| Birth order Number of si XYY? Raised by Birth categor Parent's mari Family event Age of family Problems in s Teased while Physically att Physical defe Speech defec Head injury? Physically ab Psychologica Sexually abus Father's occu | y event school? in school? cractive? ct? t? used? lly abused? sed? pation exual experience st had intercourse | Oldest 7 younger siblings Did not specify Both parents Oldest Married Death of parent- father No specific date given as to the death of his father No information No information Yes No No Yes, During a police chase. The car slid 56 feet before hitting a stop sign and projecting Erler through the window. He had a severe brain concussion. This left him with severe migraines that brought on nausea and dizziness as well as blacking out No information No information Served in military | |

| Mother abused drugs/alcohol Cognitive Ability Highest grade in school IQ Not specified Grades in school IQ Not specified Work History Served in the military? Yes Branch Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back Saw combat duty No information Killed enemy during service? No information Applied for job as a cop? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Police Officer Fired from jobs? North American Boat Corporation, Police officer Bratin status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children No information He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He das a decomposition in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostic personality, which suggests an angry and hostic personality. No No No No Serial Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information No Serial Killer No information No Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Lyctem bye of serial Killer Pour of serial Killer Porganized lust, disorganized thrill Prov close did killer No Porganized lust, disorganized thrill Prov close did killer No | Father abused drugs/alcohol | Not specified |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Cognitive Ability Highest grade in school 12 Highest degree High-school diploma No information | Č | • |
| Highest grade in school Highest degree High-school diploma Grades in school No information Rowsk History Served in the military? Served in the military? Branch Army - Green Beret Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back Saw combat duty No information Applied for job as a cop? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? No, quit police Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children No information Fire setting Bed wetting No information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No information Diagnosis Willer Perional History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend | | The state of the s |
| High-school diploma Grades in school IQ Not specified Work History Served in the military? Branch Type of discharge Saw combat duty Killed enemy during service? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Fired from jobs? Seval preference Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Sexual preference Marital status Lives with his children Living with Animal torture Fire setting Bed wetting Bed wetting Bed wetting Bed not passed as supported to the vacable during his time in prison Abused durys? Abused alcohol? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? Time in forensic hospital? No information Spend time in prison? No information Spend time in prison in the time of the killing in the prison ba | | 12 |
| Grades in school IQ No specified Work History Served in the military? Any-Green Beret Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back No information No information No information No information No quit police Fired from jobs? No, quit police Served in law enforcement? Police Officer Fired from jobs? No, quit police Types of jobs worked Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now I son Lives with his children Lives with his children Lives with his children Lives with his children No information Fire setting No information Red wetting No information Bed wetting No information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He astended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims I vous geven and hostile personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Wous geven and hostile personality. Victim type | | |
| Work History Served in the military? Served in the military? Bernach Army - Green Beret Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back Saw combat duty No information Killed enemy during service? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children Living with Animal torture Animal torture No information Fire setting Bed wetting Riller Psychological Information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No information Spend time in prison? No information | <u> </u> | |
| Served in the military? Yes | | |
| Served in the military? Branch Army - Green Beret Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back Saw combat duty No information Killed enemy during service? No information Applied for job as a cop? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting Killer Psychological Information Killer Psychological Information Been to a psychologist? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol; Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No No Serial Killing Number of victims Age of victims Age of victims Age of victims Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | 110005 |
| Branch Type of discharge Left on emergency leave. Didn't come back Saw combat duty No information Killed enemy during service? Applied for job as a cop? Yes, Accepted Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Bed wetting No information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting rial. Time in forensic hospital? No information Spend time in jail? Spend time in jail? Spend time in jail? No Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No Killer ag at start of series 25 Gender of victims Ag of victims Ag of victims Ag of victims Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims | • | Yes |
| Type of discharge Saw combat duty No information Killed enemy during service? Applied for job as a cop? Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children Living with Animal torture No information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No information Spend time in prison? Spend time in prison? Spend time in prison? No information No information Spend time in prison? No information No information Spend time in prison? No information No information Spend time in prison? No information Spend time in jail? Spend time in prison? No information No information Spend time in prison? No info | · | |
| Saw combat duty Killed enemy during service? Applied for job as a cop? Yes, Accepted Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? No, quit police Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Bed wetting No information Bed wetting No information He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alrugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Killed gat at start of series Caucasian Age of victims Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | · |
| Killed enemy during service? Applied for job as a cop? Applied for job as a cop? Yes, Accepted Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? No, quit police Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Living with Lives with his children Lives with his children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Red wetting No information Roused drugs? Abused drugs? Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No Spend time in pial? No information Spend time in pison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of cictims Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Applied for job as a cop? Worked in law enforcement? Pired from jobs? Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? Been to a psychologist? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Nace of victims Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Type of serial Killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Worked in law enforcement? Fired from jobs? No, quit police Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Province of the personality of the prison of the personality of the prison of the prison of the prison of the personality of the prison of the prison of the personality of the prison of the personality of the prison of the prison of the prison of the personality of the prison of the priso | , , | |
| Fired from jobs? Types of jobs worked North American Boat Corporation, Police officer Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Heterosexual Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in pirison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Victim type Victim type Victim type Victim Spend time Victime Victim Spend time V | | |
| Types of jobs worked Employment status during series Relationships Sexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Animal torture Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in jail? No information No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims I victim type Victim type Victim type Victim type Victim Spend time in pairs Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Final Account Account and the prison Victing with 22 caliber pistol Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Employment status during series Police officer | | * * |
| Relationships Heterosexual preference Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children 1 son Livies with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information No information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in prison? No No Spend time in prison? No No Spend time in prison? < | | |
| Sexual preference | | 2 011001 |
| Marital status Separated at time of killings due to domestic dispute where Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Lives with his children Lives with his children Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type Voung woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Caucasian Age of victims Caucasian Age of victims Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | • | Heterosexual |
| Erler hit his wife for punishing their son. Remarried now Number of children 1 son | - | |
| Number of children Lives with his children No Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type Victim type Victim type Victim type Victim type Victim series Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | Trialital Status | |
| Lives with his children Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer | Number of children | 1 5 |
| Living with Alone at the time of the killings. Live with wife now Triad Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Animal torture | | |
| Animal torture No information Fire setting No information Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer | | Those at the time of the kinnings. Live with whe now |
| Fire setting Bed wetting No information Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims I Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | No information |
| Bed wetting No information | | |
| Killer Psychological Information Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Abused drugs? He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison Abused alcohol? He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | Ü | |
| Abused alcohol? Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? No Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type Voung woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Pace of victims Caucasian Age of victims Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | He abused pot, pills and coke during his time in prison |
| assumed not to have abused alcohol. Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims I Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer | | He attended Alcoholics Anonymous in prison, but was |
| Been to a psychologist? He was interviewed by a psychologist while he was in jail awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | 110 4000 410 011011 | |
| awaiting trial. Time in forensic hospital? Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer | Been to a psychologist? | |
| Time in forensic hospital? Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Diagnosis The diagnosis (whileErler was in jail) from the psychologist said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | Time in forensic hospital? | |
| said that Erler had a sociopathic personality, which suggests an angry and hostile personality. Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Killer Criminal History Committed previous crimes? No information Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Killer Criminal HistoryCommitted previous crimes?No informationSpend time in jail?No informationSpend time in prison?NoKilled prior to series? Age?NoSerial KillingNumber of victims1Victim typeyoung woman, mother of young womanKiller age at start of series25Gender of victimsYoung woman and her middle aged motherRace of victimsCaucasianAge of victims12, the mother's age was not specifiedMethod of killingShooting with .22 caliber pistolType of serial killerOrganized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Committed previous crimes? Spend time in jail? No information Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | Killer Criminal History | |
| Spend time in jail? Spend time in prison? No Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | <u> </u> | No information |
| Spend time in prison? Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Killed prior to series? Age? No Serial Killing Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | No |
| Serial KillingNumber of victims1Victim typeyoung woman, mother of young womanKiller age at start of series25Gender of victimsYoung woman and her middle aged motherRace of victimsCaucasianAge of victims12, the mother's age was not specifiedMethod of killingShooting with .22 caliber pistolType of serial killerOrganized lust, disorganized thrill | <u> </u> | No |
| Number of victims 1 Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Victim type young woman, mother of young woman Killer age at start of series 25 Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Caucasian Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | 1 |
| Killer age at start of series Gender of victims Young woman and her middle aged mother Race of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | Victim type | young woman, mother of young woman |
| Gender of victims Race of victims Age of victims Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Race of victimsCaucasianAge of victims12, the mother's age was not specifiedMethod of killingShooting with .22 caliber pistolType of serial killerOrganized lust, disorganized thrill | | Young woman and her middle aged mother |
| Age of victims 12, the mother's age was not specified Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| Method of killing Shooting with .22 caliber pistol Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | 12, the mother's age was not specified |
| Type of serial killer Organized lust, disorganized thrill | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | Yes | | | | |
| Weapon | Killer brought with him | | | | |
| Behavior During Crimes | Kiner brought with him | | | | |
| Rape? | No | | | | |
| Tortured victims? | No | | | | |
| Stalked victims? | No | | | | |
| Overkill? | Yes, shooting victims more than once | | | | |
| Quick & efficient? | Yes, he shot the victims several times with .22 pistol | | | | |
| Used blindfold? | No | | | | |
| Bound the victims? | No | | | | |
| After Death Behavior | 140 | | | | |
| 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 – body part Took totem – personal item | No | | | | |
| Robbed victim or location | 110 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Disposal of Body | No | | | | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide Left at scene, hidden | No | | | | |
| Left at scene, midden Left at scene, buried | No No | | | | |
| · | 1.5 | | | | |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | Yes, moved the victim to side of the road in an industrial park about 5 miles from the home where the shooting occurred and | | | | |
| | then dropped off the mother at the Fort Lauderdale Airport and | | | | |
| | left her in the car. She was later discovered alive by an airport | | | | |
| | security guard. | | | | |
| Moved, buried | No | | | | |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No | | | | |
| Moved, too home | No | | | | |
| Sentencing Sentencing | 110 | | | | |
| Date killer arrested | September 1968, no specific date given | | | | |
| Date convicted | No specific date given, but the assumption would be 1968 | | | | |
| Sentence | 99 years and 6 months for second degree murder | | | | |
| Killer executed? | No | | | | |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No | | | | |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | It was ruled by psychiatrist that examined Erler that he would | | | | |
| as the field plea successful. | not qualify for the NGRI plea. | | | | |
| Name and state of prison | Florida State Prison | | | | |
| Killer committed suicide? | No, yes, attempted | | | | |
| Killer killed in prison? | No | | | | |
| Date of death | | | | | |
| References | | | | | |

References

Erler, B., & Souter, J.C. (1981). *They Called Me the Catch Me Killer*.. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers.

Frasier, D.K. (1996). Murder Cases of the 20th Century. North Carolina: McFarland and Company.

Varon, J. A. (1994). *The Catch Me Killer. The True Story of Florida's Most Sensational Murder*. New York Lifetime Books.