

Vaughn Orrin Greenwood
“The Skid Row Slasher”

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Date	Age	Life Event
1944	0	Born
11/13/1964	20	Greenwood’s first known victim was found on library steps with his throat cut and numerous stab wounds. His name was David Russell, an aging transient.
11/14/1964	20	67-year old Benjamin Hornberg was killed in the second floor restroom of his hotel, with his throat slashed from ear to ear and numerous stab wounds marking his head and upper torso.
1966	22	Greenwood’s slayings were interrupted in 1966 when he was imprisoned for over five years in Illinois for the attempted murder of a man in Chicago.
12/01/1974	30	Greenwood murdered 46 year old Charles Jackson, an alcoholic drifter, on the spot where David Russell had been slain a decade earlier.
12/08/1974	30	Moses Yakanac, a 47-year old Eskimo, was knifed to death in a skid row alley.
12/11/1974	30	54-year old Arthur Dahlstedt was slain outside an abandoned building.
12/22/1974	30	42-year old David Perez was found in some shrubbery adjacent to the Los Angeles public library.
01/09/1975		The body of Casimir Strawinski, 58, was found in his hotel room.
01/17/1975		A hotel maid found the body of 46-year old Robert Shannahan with a bayonet protruding from his chest.
1975		49-year old Samuel Suarez, the final <i>skid row</i> victim, was found in a sleazy fifth floor hotel room.
01/29/1975		45-year old George Friar was stabbed to death in his own apartment in Hollywood.
01/31/1975		A cash register mechanic, 34-year old Clyde Hays, was found in his Hollywood home.
1975		By this time, L.A. detectives had formed a mental picture of their suspect, described as a white male in his late twenties or thirties, six feet tall and 190 pounds, with shoulder length stringy blonde hair. A psychiatric profile, published on the morning of Clyde Hay’s murder, described the killer as a “sexually impotent coward, venting his own feeling of worthlessness on hapless derelicts and drifters he kills, and we think he’s trying to resolve his own inner conflicts by turning his wrath and hatred outward.” He was further described as a friendless, poorly-educated loner, probably homosexual, with an unspecified physical deformity.
02/02/1975	31	Greenwood invaded the Hollywood home of William Graham, assaulting him with a hatchet before houseguest Kenneth Richer intervened, and both men plunged through a plate-glass window. Greenwood fled on foot to the home of actor Burt Reynolds, carelessly dropping a letter addressed to himself in the driveway
02/03/1975	31	Police picked up Greenwood and charged him with two counts of burglary and assault.

03/17/1975		Greenwood charged with murder.
01/23/1976		Greenwood indicted for 11 murders.
12/29/1976		Convicted on nine counts of murder. A mistrial was declared on the other two counts of murder.
01/19/1977	33	Sentenced to life in prison.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	African American
Number of victims	11
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	California
Type of killer	Missionary
Height	

Childhood Information

Date of birth	1944
Location	Pennsylvania
Birth order	
Number of siblings	
XXX?	
Raised by	Foster parents
Birth category	
Parent's marital status	
Family event	
Age of family event	
Problems in school?	
Teased while in school?	
Physically attractive?	
Physical defect?	
Speech defect?	
Head injury?	
Physically abused?	
Psychologically abused?	
Sexually abused?	
Father's occupation	
Age of first sexual experience	
Age when first had intercourse	
Mother's occupation	
Father abused drugs/alcohol	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	7
Highest degree	
Grades in school	
IQ	

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?	
Types of jobs worked	Earned a living as a migrant worker
Employment status during series	
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Homosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	
Living with	
Triad	
Animal torture	
Fire setting	
Bed wetting	
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	
Abused alcohol?	
Been to a psychologist?	
Time in forensic hospital?	
Diagnosis	
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spent time in jail?	
Spent time in prison?	Spent over five years in prison for attempted murder in Chicago.
Killed prior to series? Age?	Yes. Age 20 (went to prison for 5 years at age 22)
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	Suspected of 11, convicted of 9
Victim type	Down-and-out alcoholic bums
Killer age at start of series	30
Gender of victims	Male
Race of victims	
Age of victims	34, 42, 45, 46(2), 47, 49(2), 54, 58, 67
Method of killing	Stabbed, slashed throats
Type of serial killer	
How close did killer live?	
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Two of them
Killing occurred in home of killer?	None
Weapon	Knife
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	

Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes. Bodies found bearing signs of ritualistic abuse
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	Bodies had cups of blood next to them, salt sprinkled around the outlines of their heads, and cryptic marks scribbled around the slash wounds. Shoes were removed and left pointing towards the bodies.
Took totem – body part	
Took totem – personal item	
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	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	February 3, 1975
Date convicted	December 30, 1976
Sentence	Life
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Name and state of prison	
Killer committed suicide?	
Killer killed in prison?	
Date of death	

References

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