

## Gary Heidnik



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Date	Age	Life Event
Nov. 1943	0	Gary Michael Heidnik was born.
Early 1944	<1	Parents divorce. Mother of Heidnik overdoses from medication and alcohol.
1961	18	Heidnik dropped out of high school his senior year and joined the Army. He was discharged from the Army for psychological problems.
Summer of 1962	19	Stationed in West Germany.
1964	21	Heidnik started taking nursing classes in Philadelphia. He completed them in a year and started working as a nurse.
1965	22	Heidnik received internship at Philadelphia General Hospital
1967	24	After working as a nurse in Philadelphia General Hospital, Heidnik purchased his own 3-story house, renting out 2 floors. He started hanging out at the Elwyn Institute for the retarded.
1971	28	Heidnik formed his own church, the "United Church of the Ministries of God." He was the ordained minister.
1976	33	Heidnik sold his 3-story home and moved into another 3-story house with his illiterate, retarded girlfriend. He took \$35,000 and invested it into the stock market and shortly after, he developed assets over \$500,000. He began living the high life and purchased Rolls-Royces, Cadillac's, and a customized van.
1978	35	Heidnik and his girlfriend had their first child, a daughter. He and his girlfriend drove over to an institution in Harrisburg to pick up her retarded sister for a day out with the couple. Heidnik was arrested after the mentally retarded sister of his girlfriend was found chained in his basement. He was charged with a slew of offenses and was sentenced to 3 to 7 years in prison.
1983	40	Heidnik was paroled after 4 years and 4 months.
1984	41	Heidnik purchased what was to be his last house, in the middle of Philadelphia, and began advertising his "church" to area residents.
1985	42	Heidnik puts ad in the newspaper advertising for a wife. He later meets a 22-year-old Filipino woman named Betty Disto. They get married in Elkton, Maryland.
1986	43	On Thanksgiving Day, Heidnik picked up part-time prostitute, Josephina Rivera, and kept her in his basement to start his "harem." This is when his idea of "sex slaves" came into play. Heidnik grabbed his second victim, a 25-year-old retarded girl named Sandra Lindsay.

Jan. 1987	44	Heidnik kidnaps Lisa Thomas, a 19-year-old, and Jacqueline Askins, an 18-year-old. He keeps them in the basement cellar to continue his "harem."
Feb.-March 1987	44	Sandra Lindsay died after hanging from the basement beams for so long. Heidnik grinds up her flesh and feeds it to the other girls. He replaced her spot with Deborah Dudley, a 23-year-old. He ended up electrocuting her in a pit in the cellar after it was filled with water because she wasn't cooperative like the others.
03-25-87	44	Rivera escaped the house and ran to her boyfriend's apartment, Vincent Nelson, and they then called the authorities. Police go to Heidnik's house before 5 a.m. and freed the women. Heidnik was arrested.
June 1988	45	Heidnik appeared before court. Jury dismissed for deliberations.
07-1-88	45	Heidnik is found guilty of 2 murders and other assorted charges. Jury condemns Heidnik to death.
12-31-88	45	Heidnik overdosed on Thorazine and fell into a comma, from which he fully recovered.
04-15-97	54	Heidnik was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection at Rockview State Prison in Bellefont, but last-minute appeals led him to a hearing to determine his mental competency. His daughter blocked his execution on the grounds that his paranoid delusions left him incompetent to waive his appeals.
06-25-99	56	State Supreme Court affirms Heidnik's request of the death sentence. Ruling said his daughter had no right to try to block reunion on his behalf.
07-06-99	56	Gary Michael Heidnik's last meal was pizza and black coffee. He was executed by lethal injection and declared dead at 10:29 p.m.

#### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	2
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Pennsylvania
Type of killer	Mixed
Height	N/A

#### Childhood Information

Date of birth	November 1943
Location	(Eastlake) Cleveland, Ohio
Birth order	1 of 2
Number of siblings	1 Brother; Terry
XYY?	N/A
Raised by	Both parents, and at times step-parents
Birth category	Oldest
Parent's marital status	Married then divorced
Family event	Mother committed suicide
Age of family event	<1
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Yes, his head was deformed from falling from a tree
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Fell from a tree and hit his head causing a deformation
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Yes, father hung his bed-sheets outside when he wet them to make sure everyone saw
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	N/A

Age of first sexual experience	Early 1970's
Age when first had intercourse	Early 1970's
Mother's occupation	Housewife
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Alcohol
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Alcohol
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	Did not complete his senior year in high school
Highest degree	High school equivalency diploma
Grades in school	Scored a 96% on the high school equivalency test and received excellent grades while attending military school
IQ	130
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Army
Type of discharge	Honorable, in 1962 due to mental disabilities
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	Applied for the position of a Military Police Officer but was refused
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Was fired from the University Hospital
Types of jobs worked	Medic in the Army; LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse); Psychiatric nurse; Minister; Landlord; Stock Speculator
Employment status during series	Minister
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married once
Number of children	Fathered 1 female child
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Alone, after his wife left him
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	Yes
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	Claims that the Army ran tests on him using LSD
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes, 3 months in a Pennsylvania hospital for a psychological evaluation
Diagnosis	Schizophrenia; Schizoid Personality Disorder
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Many; deviant sexual conduct
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	Yes; 4 years and 4 months; was paroled in April 1983
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	6 total victims, killed 2
Victim type	Prostitute; young women
Killer age at start of series	24

Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	African American
Age of victims	18 to mid 20's
Method of killing	Accidental and natural causes
Type of serial killer	Mixed
How close did killer live?	Drove to pick up girls
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Weapon	Found at scene
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes; beat, whipped, electrocuted
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Yes, chains
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	Yes
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	Yes
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Parts of the body
Left at scene, hidden	Parts of the body
Left at scene, buried	Parts of the body
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	One of his victims
Cut-up and disposed of	Yes
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	March 24, 1987
Date convicted	July 1, 1988
Sentence	Death penalty
Killer executed?	Yes
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	State Correctional Institution in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Killer committed suicide?	Attempted many times
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	July 6, 1999 at 10:29 PM

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