

William Heirens
“The Lipstick Killer”



Information summarized by
Ashley Moyer, Brandy Powell, Christina Powell, Mike Pinn

Department of Psychology
 Radford University
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
11-15-28		Bill Heirens was born to parents Margaret and George, a couple whose marriage wasn't necessary in trouble, but was far from happy. They were always teetering on the edges of poverty, and the coming Depression made matters worse.
		Born with lump on head (possible head injury during what was a difficult labor)
	7 months	fell out of carriage
	2	would “playfully” close dog up in unlit oven and lock mom in pantry
	3	baby brother Jere born
		Enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together
	6	Started Grammar school at St. Margaret Mary's
	6-12	Inclined to daydream and was always inventive
	9	Made a pair of wings from cardboard with the intent of flying off the roof, but changed his mind
		Always kind to animals, according to his mom
	9-10	Became a loner choosing to work on drawings, model planes, old clocks etc.
	10	Broke arm at River park in Chicago after falling from trapeze rungs
	12	First robbery and stole 1 dollar to fix a short changing from the delivery for a grocery store he was working for
	13	First encounter with the law, possession of pistol, taken to police custody
	13	Held in detention center for 3 weeks awaiting hearing
	13	Sent to Gibault School for boys in Terre Haute, Indiana
	13	While in school, joined wrestling team and made good grades

	14	Returned home and got a job delivering packages for a liquor store
	14	Arrested for prowling in Rogers Park Hotel
	14	Sent to St. Bede's academy in Peru, Illinois
	14	Wrestled at St. Bede's and continued to make good grades
	14-16	Continued to steal
	16	Passed entrance exams for University of Chicago
	16	Entered College, skipping senior year in high school
	16-17	Finally took interest in girls, started dating
	17	Grades were slipping, can't keep up with college work
	17	Stealing to cover financial burdens his parents can't afford
06-05-45	16	Murdered Josephine Ross, age 43
12-10-45	17	Murdered Frances Brown, age 30
01-07-46	17	Murdered Suzanne Degan, age 6
June 1946	17	Arrested for burglary, hospitalized at beginning of accusations
08-07-46	17	Confessed to all 3 murders
09-05-46	17	Went to prison
02-06-72		Became first inmate in Illinois to earn a college degree

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	3
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Chicago
Type of killer	Organized lust
Height	5'9"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	November 15, 1928
Location	Evanston Hospital
Birth order	1 st of 2
Number of siblings	1 Brother, 3 years younger
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Oldest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	On a daily basis parents would argue violently
Age of family event	While he was a young child; remembered it.
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	Normal looking male
Physical defect?	Lump on head at birth
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	7 month's old fell out of carriage, fell on playground and broke arm at age 10
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Had a hard time dealing with parents constant fighting
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Chicago Tribune
Age of first sexual experience	Around 16, masturbated while committing robbery
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	Worked multiple jobs
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Went out drinking with friends occasionally which cause problems because of money issues.

Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	11, Skipped senior year entering University of Chicago at age 16, completed freshman year in college
Highest degree	High School Diploma
Grades in school	While attending St, Bede's Academy average grades were high
IQ	N/A
Work History	
Served in the military?	NA
Branch	NA
Type of discharge	NA
Saw combat duty	NA
Killed enemy during service?	NA
Applied for job as a cop?	NA
Worked in law enforcement?	NA
Fired from jobs?	NA
Types of jobs worked	Delivery boy, Usher during college, docent at university functions, Catholic Chaplin at Vienna Correctional Center (1975), business office in the Dixon Correctional Center (present)
Employment status during series	Student
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Hetero, sexually aberrant
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	NA
Living with	A roommate in college
Triad	
Animal torture	NA
Fire setting	Sexually excited by fires
Bed wetting	NA
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	NA
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Burglary over several years, possession of weapon
Spent time in jail?	No, but detained in a delinquents home before being sent to Gibault School for wayward boys in Terre Haute, IN; about a year later sent to St. Bede's Academy, a detention center in Peru, IL and remained there until entering University of Chicago
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	Confessed 3 victims
Victim type	Attractive 30-year-old women, 43-year-old woman and a 6-

	year-old child
Killer age at start of series	16
Gender of victims	2 women 1 child (female)
Race of victims	white
Age of victims	43-year-old, 30-year-old woman and 6-year-old child
Method of killing	Stabbed one, shot one, and strangled the little girl and dismembered her body
Type of serial killer	Disorganized lust
How close did killer live?	Drove to Crime (crimes in suburbs of Chicago)
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Frances-yes, Suzanne-yes Josephine- yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Josephine-knife, Frances-gun, Suzanne- hunting knife
Behavior During Crimes	claimed to have derived immense pleasure
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No, but had multiple orgasms at the site of the body
Mutilated body?	Yes
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	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	Yes, Suzanne
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	June 1946
Date convicted	September 1946
Sentence	3 life sentences for murder, 1 year-life for burglary
Killer executed?	No, confessed to avoid electric chair
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Currently, Dixon Illinois Center
Killer committed suicide?	1 attempt
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still alive

References

Confess of Die: The Case of William Heirnes

By: Lauri E. Kallio

Murder Cases of the Twentieth Century

By: David K. Frasier

William Heirens: His Day In Court

By: Dolores Kennedy

“Before I Kill More”

By: Lucy Freeman

<http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial4/heirens/>

<http://www.justicedenied.org/billheir.htm>

http://www.law-forensic.com/cfr_heirens_2.htm

http://www.geocities.com/verbal_plainfield/a-h/heirens.html

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/ruth.buddell/heirens.htm>

<http://www.freeheirens.com/>

<http://www.freeheirens.com/confession.html>

http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/predators/heirens/inquiries_5.html

<http://www.truthinjustice.org/heirens.htm>

We all agree that William Heirens was unjustly incarcerated for all three murders.