


<p>Harry Powers <i>“Harm / Herman Drenth / Cornelius Pierson / Joseph Gildow”</i></p>	
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Information researched and summarized by
Brittany Hiben, Jessica Jenkins, and Mark Lubeskie

Department of Psychology
 Radford University
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
11/17/1892	0	Born in Beerta, Holland to Wilko and Jantie Drenth. Birth name was Harm Drenth.
Nov. 1903	11	Wilko and Jantje tried to have another baby but he was stillborn
06/22/1907	14	Harm’s sister Grietj marries Everet Schroder
1910	18	Other people pointed out that Harm was a congenital liar (stealing, trespassing, consuming alcohol)
April 1910	18	His family sent him to the United States on a ship with the Bakker family (they wanted Harm to become independent by working on a farm with another family they knew).
Spring 1910	18	Worked at the Ross place but left complaining of his boss. (He didn’t like people telling him what to do)
03/21/1911	18	Harm’s parents arrive in the United States.
1911	19	Harm was arrested for stealing liquor.
1911	19	The Drenth family “Americanized” their first names. Harm became Herman.
1911	19	Herman became fluent in English, thus making him bilingual.
1913	21	Herman’s older sister, Grietj, her husband, and her son moved from Holland to Iowa.
1916	24	Grietj and Everet have their second child
1917	25	Herman’s family left their Dutch community in Iowa and moved 250 miles north and bought 40 acres of land (Harm was forced to become more independent)
1918	26	Herman begins using the name Harry G. Powers. Herman and his 22-year old blonde “wife” moved to Madison, Wisconsin which was 250 miles from his home. They resided at a hotel and owned a small dog.
1919	27	Powers and his wife were arrested in Madison, Wisconsin, for theft of a vehicle
06/27/1919	27	Powers’ wife visited him in jail and brought him tools to escape.
06/28/1919	27	Powers and another inmate, Walter Bartkoski, escape from Dane County Jail.
1921	28	Developed an attachment to a 20-year old woman named Rose Strickland, who later got married to another man. Out of shock, he raged and broke into the newlywed’s home and stole several personal items. He then tried to burn down the house to cover the burglary but the fire did not spread. Was arrested and convicted in 1921.
10/11/1922	29	Released from Wisconsin state prison after serving less than 15 months. Promptly dropped out of sight and was not seen again by his family.
		Decided he was going to use the services of matrimonial agencies to gain female contacts.
		Became a participant in what was referred to as the “widow racket” – the practice of preying on women through matrimonial services.
04/16/1924	31	Under the alias of Joseph Gildow, he married Mrs. Allie Province (50). Shortly after

		being married, he served her some coffee with a sleeping powder and disappeared with some of her valuables. She took out a warrant against him but he was never arrested.
08/24/1924	31	Moved to Renton, Minnesota
09/09/1924	31	Moved to Cambridge, Ohio
1924	31	Harry and Mrs. Powers arrested for grand larceny of a Three Lakes, Wisconsin garage. Friends of theirs posted their bond.
09/24/1924	31	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Powers failed to appear for their court date and forfeited their bail
December 1924	32	Under the alias of Joseph Gildow, he was arrested in Mansfield, Ohio, when he tried to sell some articles that a second hand dealer thought to be stolen
04/29/1925	32	(Under alias Gildow) Arrested on a warrant issued for stealing money and jewelry from Ms. Lena Fellows, who had apparently accepted his marriage proposal and was told they would elope.
07/11/1926	33	Arrested for theft of vacuum cleaners from the Eureka company
06/01/1927	34	Under the alias of Harry F. Powers, he marries Luella Blanche Strother in Oakland, Maryland
1928	35	Harry is working as a salesman for the Eureka Vacuum Cleaner Company
07/11/1928	35	Harry is arrested for stealing vacuum sweepers
1931	38	Under the alias of Cornelius Pierson. proposed marriage to Asta Eicher
		Also talked to women by the names of Dorothy Lemke, Bessie Storrs, Virginia Bell, and Edith Simpson
		Also proposed marriage to Bessie Storrs and Dorothy Lemke
Late July . early August 1931	38	Powers kills Asta Eicher (43), her three children (Greta, 14; Harry 12; Anabel, 9), and Dorothy Lemke (50).
08/27/1931	38	Arrested and went to Clarksburg, WV Jail
08/28/1931	38	Police find Asta Eicher's body as well as the bodies of her three children buried on Powers' property
08/29/1931	38	Powers confesses to the murders of Eicher and her three children
	38	Police find the body of Dorothy Lemke and Powers confesses to her murder
08/30/1931	38	Edwin H. Mayer examined Powers and concluded that he was sane and would be glad to testify for the prosecution.
1931		Doctors stated that Powers is a psychopathic personality as shown by his reclusive nature, wanderings, extreme restlessness, inability to understand himself, and his sex life
1931		Doctor also stated that Powers is not insane, but he has been a borderline case all his life. Powers is capable of knowing right from wrong.
Summer 1931	38	Psychological Testing and admitted to killing the 5 victims, said it happened on August 1 st .
12/07/1931	39	Trial begins for the Lemke and Eicher murders
12/11/1931	39	Jury finds Powers guilty of first-degree murder
12/12/1931	39	Judge announced the death sentence
		Powers was placed in a death row cell at West Virginia State Prison
03/18/1932	39	Executed at 9:11 p.m.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	About 50 suspected, 5 convicted, confessed to 5
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	West Virginia
Cities where killing occurred	Quiet Dell, just outside of Clarksburg
Type of killer	Bluebeard Killer
Height	5'7"

Childhood Information	
Date of birth	November 17 th , 1892
Location	Beerta, Holland
Birth order	3 rd of 4 (2 nd and 4 th passed away as babies)
Number of siblings	1 (technically)
XXX?	Not sure.
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Married
Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	No
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	No
Did serial killer ever live with adopted family?	No
Did serial killer live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	Moved from Holland to the United States without his parents
Age of family event	18
Problems in school?	Yes, Did not enjoy school and was often truant
Teased while in school?	Possibly. No evidence.
Physically attractive?	Unattractive, pudgy
Physical defect?	Pig eyed
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No head injuries that we know of
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Maybe
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Not sure
Age when first had intercourse	"He has been weak sexually since childhood"
Mother's occupation	Not sure
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Not sure.
Highest degree	High School Diploma we think
Grades in school	Not sure.
IQ	Was described as intelligent but unmanageable
Source of IQ information	N/A
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	n/a
Type of discharge	n/a
Saw combat duty	n/a
Killed enemy during service?	n/a
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	n/a
Types of jobs worked	Farmer, door-to-door salesman, helped operate a small grocery store
Employment status during series	Employed as a door-to-door salesman for vacuums and operating a small grocery store
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Women - heterosexual

Marital status	Married – Luella (Lu Lu) Struthers 1931
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	No children
Living with	Wife but traveled without her
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes – when he came to America and worked at a farm he was caught treating the livestock in a cruel and inhumane manner 1910
Fire setting	Broke into the home of Rose and Thomas early because he was angry that he had not gained her affection and had married someone else. He tried to burn down the house to cover the burglary, but the first failed to spread. 1921
Bed wetting	No mention of bedwetting
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No mention of drug abuse
Abused alcohol?	No mention of abusing alcohol
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	None
Diagnosis	None
Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)	
Committed previous crimes?	Burglary 1921, car theft 1919, grand larceny 1924, trying to sell stolen goods 1924, theft of money and jewelry 1925, theft of vacuums 1926.
Spent time in jail?	Escaped from Dane County jail on June 28 th 1919, Harrison County jail 1931, Clarksburg Jail 1931
Spent time in prison?	Served less than 15 months in Wisconsin state prison 1921, West Virginia state prison 1931, State penitentiary at Moundsville 1931
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims (suspected of)	50
Number of victims (confessed to)	5
Number of victims (convicted of)	5
Victim type	Women and Children
Killer age at start of series	38 – for those he was convicted of murdering. Positive he was luring in widows and killing them years before these cases were brought up. Never knew anything else about any other victims however.
Killer age at end of series	38 – He was still 38 when he was arrested in August 1931. He killed his first victim around June 23, 1931 and about three weeks later had obtained Mrs. Lemke and murdered her.
Date of first kill in series	June 23, 1931
Date of final kill in series	Late July early August 1931
Gender of victims	2 women, 2 girls, 1 boy
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	50, 43, 14, 12, 9
Type of victim	Wealthy widows and children
Method of killing	Strangled to death. Gassed and Starved. Beaten with hammer.
Weapon	Killer brought with him

Was gun used?	No
Type	Hammer, noose, gas, starvation
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	n/a
Sex of partner	n/a
Relationship of partner	n/a
Type of serial killer	Organized lust
How close did killer live?	Walking distance
Location of first contact	He met the victims at their homes and brought back to his home in W. VA. Plans to go to Detroit for next victim.
Location of killing	Killer's home. In a "Murder Garage" separate from main house. That is what we know of. Only confessed to the 5 found – not sure if there were other killed in other places.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes – murder garage / chamber
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	n/a came on their own but could be abducted
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No – not entirely sure though.
Tortured victims?	Yes – gassed victims, strangled, beat, and starved
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Yes, in chamber
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	Not with victims but got aroused by the torture
Mutilated body?	Beat with hammer
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	Yes – kept a lot of personal items from the victims
Robbed victim or location	Yes – took possessions and sold homes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	Buried in ditch next to garage on his land
Left at scene, buried	Buried in ditch next to garage on his land
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, hidden	Buried in ditch next to garage on his land
Moved, buried	Buried in ditch next to garage on his land
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Burned body	No
Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	Drainage ditch from garage
Moved, took home	Took possessions and sold the widow's homes
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	August 26, 1931
Date convicted	December 12, 1931
Sentence	Death – hanged by the neck until dead
Killer executed?	Yes, hung
Did killer plead NGRI?	Possibly
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Did serial killer confess?	Yes – confessed to 5
Name and state of prison	Moundsville, West Virginia State Prison
Killer committed suicide?	No

Killer killed in prison?	Executed while serving years in prison
Date of death	March 18 th , 1932
Cause of death	Execution, hung

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