

Dorothea Helen Gray
“Dorothea Puente”



Serial killer researched by

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Date	Age	Life Event
January 9, 1924	Birth	Dorothea Helen Gray was born in San Bernardino County, CA
1933	4	Father died
1935	6	Mother died
1935	6	Sent to an orphanage Adopted by relatives
1946	17	Married for the first time (name was ever mentioned)
1948	19	Widowed, husband died of heart attack Began to forge checks Charged, convicted and jailed for six months for forging checks Became pregnant and gave child up for adoption
1952	23	Married Axel Johnson Relationship was violent
1960	31	Arrested and given 90 days in the Sacramento County Jail. Not long after being released, she was arrested for vagrancy and sentenced to another 90 days. Got involved in crimes for money Found work as nurse’s aid for the disabled and elderly in private homes

		Managed boarding houses
1966	37	Divorced Johnson
1966	37	Married Robert Puente in Mexico City
1968	39	Marriage with Puente ended
1968	39	Dorothea took control of a three-story, 16-bedroom care home at 2100 F street
1976	47	Married Pedro Montalvo who was an abusive alcoholic Months later Montalvo was gone Dorothea went to bars to pick-up men Would steal the mens' benefit checks and forge them then cash them Was caught and charged on 34 counts of treasury fraud While on probation, continued to forge checks
1982	53	61-year old Ruth Monroe dies of a drug overdose in Puente's house Dorothea claimed it was a suicide and police believed her
1982	53	Dorothea robbed and drugged 74-year old prisoner Malcolm McKenzie
8/1982	56	Convicted of 3 counts of theft and sentenced to five years. Received a letter from 77-year old Everson Gillmouth of Oregon Corresponded on regular basis with Gillmouth and started a relationship between them
9/1985	56	Released from prison and continued relationship with Gillmouth. After release rented a room for \$200 a month from a friend Ricardo 1426 F Street. Gillmouth opened a joint bank account and Dorothea paid
11/1985	56	Hired a handy man named Ismael Florez Dorothea sold Everson Gillmouth's truck to Florez Asked Florez to build her a wooden box 6'x3'x2' She would use the box to bury Everson Gillmouth remains.
1/1985	56	Two fisherman found a wooden box with Everson Gillmouth's remains
2/1987	58	78-year old Leon a Carpenter was put in Dorothea's care and never seen again
7/1987	58	62-year old James Gallop came in to Dorothea's care and was never seen again
10/1987	58	62-year old Vera Martin came in to Dorothea's care and was never seen again
2/1988	59	52-year old Bert Montoya moved into Dorothea's boarding

		house. Dorothea soon took over his affairs. He then went missing and was never seen again. She was investigated by Social Security (Peggy Nickerson) however nothing was found on her
11/1988	59	Judy Moise filed a missing person's claim on Bert Montoya. Police came to house to investigate and were given a note stating that he had left.
11/1988	59	Police returned to the house with a warrant to search the house and the grounds around the house Seven bodies were found. Two of the bodies found were Bert Montoya and Betty Palmer (she was found missing her head, hands, and lower limbs). The Everson Gillmouth's and Monroe disappearances were said to be connected with the murders. Gillmouth's body was identified from hospital records. During the autopsy, traces of Fluazepam / Dalmane were found. Police found numerous amounts of this prescription in Dorothea's house. Dorothea was found to have cashed over 60 social security checks after the tenants where dead. Police went to make and arrest but Dorothea was missing. Dorothea booked a flight to L.A. but never got on the flight to try to throw the police off the trail. She was found staying in the Royal Vicking Hotel in Los Angeles. Dorothea, using the name Donna Johnson, visited a bar and met Charles Willgraves. Charles realized that he head seen Donna on the news and called CBS and the police and told them that he knew the location of Dorothea Puente. She was arrested and returned to Sacramento, California. She was arraigned there without bail.
4/1990	61	Pre-trial hearing began
6/1990	61	Judge found that she should stand trial on 9 counts of murder Dorothy Miller age 65 Leona Carpenter age 80 Vera Faye Martin age 65 Betty Mae Palmer age 80 Ruth F. Munroe age 61 James A. Gallop age 64 Benjamin Fink age 55 Alvaro Montoya age 52 Everson T. Gillmouth age 77
2/1993	64	Trial Began
8/1993	64	Jurors passed a note to judge stating that they were deadlocked. They where told to try again. Jury came back and found Dorothea Guilty on three counts of murder

12/1993	64	Dorothea Puente was sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole
General Information		
Sex	Female	
Race	White	
Number of victims	19	
Country where killing occurred	United States	
States where killing occurred	California	
Type of killer		
Height		
Childhood Information		
Date of birth	January 9 th 1929	
Location	Redlands, San Bernardino County CA	
Birth order	1 st of 1	
Number of siblings	0	
XYY?	n/a	
Raised by	Orphanage	
Birth category	Only child	
Parent's marital status	Parents died before she was 7	
Family event	Death of parent	
Age of family event	4 Years and 6 Years	
Problems in school?	Yes	
Teased while in school?	Yes	
Physically attractive?	No	
Physical defect?	No	
Speech defect?	No	
Head injury?	None	
Physically abused?	Beaten by both parents	
Psychologically abused?	Father and mother were both alcoholics	
Sexually abused?	No	
Father's occupation	Cotton Picker	
Age of first sexual experience	17	
Age when first had intercourse	17	
Mother's occupation	n/a	
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes / Alcohol	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Yes / Alcohol	
Cognitive Ability		
Highest grade in school	High School	

Highest degree	n/a
Grades in school	n/a
IQ	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?	No
Types of jobs worked	Nurses aid, home health, and care taker
Employment status during series	Caretaker
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married and divorced 4 times
Number of children	1 child was put up for adoption at birth
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Clients
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	No
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	Found 9 believed to be involved with 25 disappearances

Victim type	Elderly
Killer age at start of series	53
Gender of victims	Both
Race of victims	White, Hispanic
Age of victims	52-77
Method of killing	Drug overdose
Type of serial killer	Lethal Caretaker
How close did killer live?	Committed in killers home
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Weapon	Poison/Drugs
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
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	Yes
Robbed victim or location	Yes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	Yes
Left at scene, buried	Yes
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Buried
Cut-op and disposed of	Yes
Moved, too home	Yes
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	November 11 1988

Date convicted	August 26 1993
Sentence	Life with out the possibility of parole
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Sacramento California
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still Living

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