

Dennis L. Rader
“BTK”—
Bind them, Torture them, Kill them



Serial killer researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
3-09-45	0	Born in Kansas
~1957	~12	Grade 8: Confirmed in the Zion Lutheran Church
1960	15	Saved the life of a fellow boy scout on a canoe trip in Arkansas
~1963	18	Graduated Wichita Heights Valley Center High School
8-17-66	21	Enlisted in the United States Air Force as a mechanic in the Vietnam War. Reached the rank of Sergeant and received three medals during his military career. His tour of duty included tours in Korea, Turkey, Greece and Okinawa.
1966	21	Father died while Rader served in Vietnam
8-6-66	21	Best Man at John Davis' wedding; Davis was a friend since childhood
2-67	21	Stationed at Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile, AL
2-68	22	Stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan
8-11-70	25	Left active duty and enters reserves
6-20-72	27	Finishes reserve duty in the Air Force; discharged as sergeant
1970-1973	25-28	Rader worked in the meat department for Leeker's IGA in Park City and took a job at the Coleman factory, but left in July 1973, six months before the Otero slayings.
1974-1988	29-43	Employed with ADT Security Systems; nicknamed “Blue Book Man” because of his memory for regulations
1-15-74	28	BTK claimed his first victims. The ankles and wrists of Joseph Otero, 35, had been bound. His wife Julie Otero, 34, also bound by her ankles and wrist was lying on the bed with her mouth gagged. Joseph Otero Jr., 9, had been bound in the same fashion with three hoods covering his head and face. Hanging from pipe in the basement; Josephine Otero, 11, was found gagged and partially naked. All were dead by strangulation by cut cords from a Venetian blind, not found in the house. The crime was committed in the morning around 8:00am to 10:00am. The telephone lines leading to the house were cut, and there was evidence of forced entry. BTK had worked with Julie Otero at the Coleman factory.
10-74	29	The local paper, the Wichita Eagle, received a phone call referring journalists to a book in a local library where a note was found, apparently written by BTK, claiming responsibility for the Otero killings.
1974	29	April 4: Kathryn Bright, 20, and her brother Kevin, 19, walked in on an intruder already in Kathryn's residence. BTK forced Kevin to tie his sister to a chair, then

		took Kevin into another room, where he was bound and gagged. BTK then attempted to strangle him; when Kevin resisted he was shot but not killed. Kevin heard his sister struggling in the other room, but managed to get free. He escaped, but Kathryn later died in the hospital from 3 stab wounds. She also had marks around her neck, presumably from attempted strangling. BTK had worked with Kathryn Bright at the Coleman factory.
7-27-75	30	Son, Brian, Born
3-17-77	32	Shirley Vian, 26, was discovered dead with her hands and feet bound and a bag over her head. BTK's signature cord was wrapped around her neck. Her three children were unharmed; apparently due to a phone call, BTK left the scene without murdering the children
12-9-77	32	The murder of 25-year-old Nancy Fox was phoned in to investigators by BTK.
1-31-78	32	BTK mailed a letter to the Wichita Eagle containing a poem about Shirley Vian.
2-10-78	32	BTK wrote another letter to a television station announcing his victim count, so far, to be seven. He blamed his crimes on a "demon."
4-28-79	34	BTK sent a letter to Anna Williams, 63, (in which he had also included one of her scarves--apparently stolen from her home) telling her to be glad she did not come home because he had been waiting for her inside.
1979	34	Graduated Wichita State University with a B.A. in Administration of Justice. From a 25 year Class Reunion Questionnaire (1984) Rader wrote that he attended Kansas Wesleyan and Butler County Community College before Wichita State University
6-79	34	Sends poem, sketches and jewelry to a woman in whose home he had hidden in earlier (waiting for her to return); also sends similar package to KAKE-TV
6-13-79	34	Daughter, Kerri, Born
4-27-85	40	Marine Hedge, 53, is abducted from her home in Park City, a few doors down from Rader's home.
5-5-85	40	The body of Marine Hedge is found in a roadside ditch.
9-16-86	41	Vicki Wegerle, 28, found strangled in her home. Her son was unharmed.
10-31-87	42	Shannon Olson, 15, was found in the pond of an industrial park bound and stabbed multiple times.
12-31-87	42	Three members of the Fager family were found bound and strangled in their residence. Soon afterwards, Mary Fager received a letter thought to be from BTK. It said that he had not committed the murders but that he admired the work.
1989	44	Collected information for the United States Census Bureau
1990	45	Employed as Compliance Supervisor for Park City, KS
1-19-91	45	The body of Delores Davis, 62, was found under a bridge a few blocks from her home
1996	51	Appointed to Sedgewick County Board of Zoning Appeals
1996	51	Appointed to Sedgewick County Animal Control Advisory Board
1998	53	Resigned from Sedgewick County Board of Zoning Appeals
1998	53	Resigned from Sedgewick County Animal Control Advisory Board
8-6-98	53	Possibly tranquilized neighbor, Barbara Walters', dog
1998	53	Misty King reports Rader as helping her with a difficult time while her husband was hospitalized, and even checked on her after the marriage ended until she began dating. Rader then began harassing King who was given citations by Rader from 1999-2001.
2001	56	Euthanized King's dog
3-19-04	59	BTK sent a letter to the Wichita Eagle claiming responsibility for the September 16, 1986 murder of Vicki Wegerle. In the letter he included a photocopy of her driver's license and three photos of the body.
5-5-04	59	Another letter from BTK arrives at a local Wichita television station.
6-17-04	59	Another letter was found in the drop box of the local library.
7-17-04	59	Package from BTK found in Wichita library
10-22-04	59	A letter is discovered at a Wichita Shopping Center from BTK on the 30 th anniversary of his first communications.

12-14-04	59	December: a man found a plastic bag in Murdock Park that had Nancy Fox’s license along with a letter; it also contained a Barbie doll with gag and binds on.
2-05	59	Serving as President of Christ Lutheran Church Congregational Council
2-05	59	Working as a Cub Scout Leader
2-16-05	59	Sends manila envelope with computer disk and other items to KSAS TV station
2-25-05	59	Arrested; bond set at 10 million dollars; 5-3-05: Pled not guilty
General Information		
Sex	Male	
Race	White	
Number of victims	10 suspected; possibly more	
Country where killing occurred	United States	
States where killing occurred	Kansas	
Type of killer	Organized lust	
Height	5’11”	
Childhood Information		
Date of birth	3-9-45	
Location	Kansas	
Birth order	First of four boys	
Number of siblings	3 Brothers (Paul 1947, William 1949, Jeffery 1955)	
XXX?	Unknown	
Raised by	Biological Parents. William E. And Dorothea Cook Rader	
Birth category	Oldest	
Parent’s marital status	Mother was widowed in 1966, current status unknown.	
Family event	Father died in 1966	
Age of family event	21	
Problems in school?	Unknown	
Teased while in school?	Unknown	
Physically attractive?	Symmetrical, but not attractive	
Physical defect?	Unknown – none visible	
Speech defect?	Unknown	
Head injury?	Unknown	
Physically abused?	Unknown	
Psychologically abused?	Unknown	
Sexually abused?	Unknown	
Father’s occupation	Marine	
Age of first sexual experience	Unknown	
Age when first had intercourse	Unknown	
Mother’s occupation	Unknown	
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown	
Cognitive Ability		
Highest grade in school	High School Graduate	
Highest degree	B. A. in Administration of Justice from Wichita State University in 1979	
Grades in school	Unknown, but according to Richard Crusinberry, a classmate of Rader’s, Rader was very bright and did well in school.	
IQ	Unknown	
Work History		
Served in the military?	Yes	
Branch	Air Force 1965-1969 in Vietnam (Mechanic)	
Type of discharge	Unknown	
Saw combat duty	Probably	

Killed enemy during service?	Possibly
Applied for job as a cop?	Yes, application was rejected
Worked in law enforcement?	Working as a Compliance Supervisor for Park City, KS since 1990 at the time of his arrest. Duties included Animal Control, enforcement of city ordinances, nuisance calls.
Fired from jobs?	<i>Unknown</i>
Types of jobs worked	Home Security, City Government Regulation
Employment status during series	Employed with ADT during most of the series of crimes.
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married to Paula Rader (nee Dietz) for 34 years
Number of children	2; 1 M (Brian) living in Connecticut, 1 F (Kerri) living in Michigan
Lives with his children	Children are grown
Living with	Spouse, Paula, a bookkeeper for a local convenience store in Park City
Triad	
Animal torture	Possibly unnecessarily tranquilized dogs as compliance officer
Fire setting	<i>Unknown</i>
Bed wetting	<i>Unknown</i>
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	<i>Unknown</i>
Abused alcohol?	<i>Unknown</i>
Been to a psychologist?	Defense is reported to have "copies of expert reports and mental exams"
Time in forensic hospital?	<i>Unknown</i>
Diagnosis	<i>Unknown</i>
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Possibly killed dogs
Spend time in jail?	<i>Unknown</i>
Spend time in prison?	<i>Unknown</i>
Killed prior to series? Age?	<i>Unknown</i>
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	~10, possibly 14
Victim type	Mostly young women; one family of 4
Killer age at start of series	28 (Jan. 1974)
Gender of victims	2 M; 8 F
Race of victims	Hispanic; White
Age of victims	Between age 9 and age 62; mean age 27
Method of killing	The BTK killer would cut the phone lines, break into the home; wait for the victim; bind victim/victims and torture victims before strangling them; the BTK also used a gun and knife in some cases; in some cases, the BTK would move the victim's vehicle a few blocks away
Type of serial killer	Organized lust
How close did killer live?	Most likely drove to crime; lived about 10-12 miles from crime scenes
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Killer brought weapon with him for the most part, killer may have used items such as cords from window blinds found at scene; also used a gun and knife in some cases
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	Yes

Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	Yes; hood
Bound the victims?	Yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No, but semen was found on and around victims
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	Yes
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	Yes; including jewelry, photos and possible audio recordings of the scene
Robbed victim or location	No
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; did possibly dispose of two victims on nearby dirt roads or under bridges
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, to home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	2-25-05
Date convicted	N/A; plead not guilty 5-3-05
Sentence	Most likely life in prison as capital punishment law not passed in Kansas until 1994; 20 years after Rader's first murder
Killer executed?	N/A; not likely- see above
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Sedgwick County Jail, Wichita, KS - soon to be transferred to El Dorado State Prison
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	N/A
Date of death	N/A; may have been diagnosed with colon cancer; is declining treatment

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*** From a 25 year Class Reunion Questionnaire (1984) Rader described his activities over the previous 25 years as: "raising kids, scouting, family outings, garden, a lot."***