Charles Howard Schmid, Jr.

“The Pied Piper of Tucson”
“Smitty”

Information researched and summarized by
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Radford, VA 24142-6946

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Life Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/08/1942</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Born to unwed mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/09/1942</td>
<td>1 day old</td>
<td>Adopted by Charles and Katharine Schmid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944-1954</td>
<td>Childhood</td>
<td>Described as a “trickster”. Curious, bright, risk-taker, and indifferent to other’s expectations. Complained that his dad use to beat him for no reason at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>He and best friend Paul Ginn used to go hunting with BB guns for rabbits, birds, and squirrels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometime between 1956-1960</td>
<td>Somewhere between 14-18</td>
<td>Spent one semester in a military school in San Diego, presumably because of his less than average grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>Led school to State Gymnastics Championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 60s</td>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>He was reportedly “obsessed with sex and its possibilities.” Once wrote in a “theme” that he wanted to “run naked down the main street of Tucson, masturbating and screaming obscenities at the world.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Discovers he us adopted with a possibly unfriendly encounter with his birth mother (Some sources say this did not occur till he was 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Living on his own in a cottage furnished by his parents; Parents provided $300/month and a nice car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/1962</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Smitty and friend Paul Ginn go to Balboa Island for Easter. Smitty is attacked by L.A. “hoods” who bust him across the face with a lead pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/1961</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Went to jail for one night for creating unlawful diversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1965</td>
<td>18-23</td>
<td>He is always interested in blondes around the age of 15-16. If a female of interest did not have blonde hair, he would bleach it for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Known for enjoying “torturing” girls. Made them fall in love with him and then drop them flat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Supposedly ran a ring of 100 call girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Books found in his cottage included Playboy, detective magazines that included stories of rape and sexual misadventure, and Harry, the Rat with</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/20/1963</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>He is detained by Beverly Hills police for suspicion of robbery on another impulsive trip to California. He also told friends the night before that he wanted to “go out and rape a couple of girls and kill them.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-1964</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>He met friend/girlfriend Mary French (age 18) who he lies about to his parents and says he is married to. Mary lives with him, sleeping in the same bed, until Charles’ parents find out and make her leave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mary is employed by Charles Schmid Jr.’s parents at the nursing home. He convinces her to put her paycheck in his account and he spends all her money. \ He becomes interested in Alleen Rowe, an attractive, studious girl who was not interested in him at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rumors circulate around Tucson that Smitty is the leader of a “sex club” where individuals have to have sex in front of others to be initiated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/31/1964</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Declares that morning to his friends John Saunders and Mary French that he wants to kill Alleen Rowe that night. He and his friends got a shovel to bury the body, picked up Alleen, drove into the desert and killed her. The three bury the body and drive back to town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer of 1964</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Smitty discovers Gretchen Fritz at the swimming pool. Gretchen is the daughter of a heart surgeon, typical “rich girl” with a rebellious nature. The two have an up and down relationship, each very possessive of the other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-1965</td>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>-Mary French claims to be pregnant with his child. \ -Several incidents of Smitty inflicting physical abuse on Gretchen. He also wrote a letter to the Health Department saying that Gretchen had a venereal disease, followed by letters to Gretchen’s (un-approving) parents about how she was sneaking behind their backs to see him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early 1965</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Smitty tells Gretchen that he killed Alleen, and supposedly takes her to the grave. Alleen says she doesn’t care, she still loves him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer of 1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smitty becomes increasingly irritated with Gretchen, accusing her of stealing his diary that had information about a man he killed in the east. (There was no real evidence that this diary existed or that he had committed a murder previous to Alleen’s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall of 1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>- Smitty begins disclosing to friends that he is going to kill Gretchen Fritz. \ - His parents declared bankruptcy, losses totaling $300,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/16/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Gretchen and her little sister Wendy go to a drive-in movie and never return. Smitty is questioned by the police and he tells them he thinks the girls ran away to Mexico.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/22/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smitty is questioned by Bill Heilig, a private investigator, about the Fritz sisters. Their car is discovered ½ mile from Smitty’s cottage with a business card in it from “C &amp; S Upholstery Co., a business Smitty had attempted to start.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/23/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smitty admits to friend Richard Bruns that he killed the Fritz sisters in his cottage, then took the bodies out to the desert. The two boys drive out to the desert and bury the bodies that he had left just lying there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smitty calls the FBI and tells them the Mafia is harassing him about the disappearance of the two girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/27/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Smitty accompanies 2 “Mafia” type men to California to look for Gretchen. There he gets detained by the San Diego police where he is held in jail for a couple of nights on suspicion of murder. Due to lack of evidence, they let him go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Meets Diane Lynch, age 15, on a blind date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/1965</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Married Diane Lynch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Late October, | 23  | Richard Bruns gets drunk and tells his grandmother and father everything he knows about Smitty murdering the Fritz Sisters. Bruns takes the police to the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>desert and shows them the bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10/1965</td>
<td>23 Smitty is picked up by Tucson police for suspicion of murder; A few days later, John Saunders and Mary French were also arrested for their involvement in the murder of Alleen Rowe. Both admitted their involvement immediately, Saunders received life in prison, Mary 4-5 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/23/1965</td>
<td>23 The Judge prohibited police to discuss the Schmids case in the media and also makes the members of the jury stay together in one motel to make sure they are not exposed to media or other sources that would make them biased towards the trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/26/1965</td>
<td>23 <em>Time</em> magazine prints the article “Secrets in the Sand” about Smiddy. This article inspires Joyce Carol Oates to write her award winning short story “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15/1966</td>
<td>24 Schmid was scheduled to be tried in superiors court for the murders to Gretchen and Wendy Fritz at the Pima County Courthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/01/1966</td>
<td>24 He is convicted of first degree murder for the murders of Gretchen and Wendy Fritz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/11/1966</td>
<td>24 OR 03/25/1966 Formally sentenced to the death penalty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/11/1966</td>
<td>24 <em>Time</em> magazine prints a second article about him, “Growing Up in Tucson.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/14/1966</td>
<td>24 Did an exclusive interview to be viewed by the media to prove his innocence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/17/1966</td>
<td>24 Date of which he was supposed to get executed by lethal gas but is postponed because they are awaiting an appeal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/10/1967</td>
<td>24 He pleads guilty to second-degree murder for the death of Alleen Rowe/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/12/1967</td>
<td>24 Judge hears Smitty’s request for a new trial. Smitty refuses a psychiatric examination and withdrawals his request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/23/1967</td>
<td>24 He takes sheriff to grave of Alleen Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>29 State of Arizona temporarily abolishes death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>31 He officially changed his name to Paul David Ashley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1974</td>
<td>24-32 Smitty tries to escape prison 3 times, briefly succeeding once. He had a bad relationship with other prisoners, acting as though he was their superior.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/20/1975</td>
<td>32 He is attacked in the Arizona State Prison by 2 fellow inmates; Receives 20+ stab wounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/30/1975</td>
<td>32 He died in Maricopa County Hospital as a result of wounds suffered in the prison attack.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of victims</td>
<td>3 (Although it is speculated that he might’ve killed a man sometime before these 3 victims. This information is based on a diary he supposedly had that Gretchen stole from him. It was never proven for sure if the diary even existed.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country where killing occurred</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States where killing occurred</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities where killing occurred</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of killer</td>
<td>Mixed Thrill Killer/Revenge Seeker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>5’3” or 5’4”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Childhood Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of birth</th>
<th>July 8th, 1942</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>It is unclear where he was born, but he was adopted the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
very next day in Tucson, Arizona

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth order</th>
<th>Adopted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of siblings</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XYY?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised by</td>
<td>Adoptive parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth category</td>
<td>Only child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s marital status</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family event</td>
<td>His parents tell him he is adopted. He locates his birth mother and the meeting does not go the way he wanted it to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of family event</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems in school?</td>
<td>Just minor problems such as stealing gym clothes and tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teased while in school?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physically attractive?</td>
<td>No, but he had no problem getting girls. He used make-up to darken his skin, dyed his hair, wore chapstick to make his lips white, and he darkened in a mole to make it bigger. He also stuffed rags and cans in his boots to make himself taller.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical defect?</td>
<td>No, but he often lied and told girls he was crippled in order to get them to feel sorry for him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech defect?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head injury?</td>
<td>Yes-Hit in head by lead pipe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physically abused?</td>
<td>He said his father beat him but there was no evidence of this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologically abused?</td>
<td>Possibly by his bad encounter with his birth mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually abused?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father’s occupation</td>
<td>Nursing home proprietor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of first sexual experience</td>
<td>18+ is when the Playboys were mentioned and his supposed “sex club” was spoke about, although his first experience was probably much earlier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age when first had intercourse</td>
<td>It is unclear but Mary French lived with him and slept in the same bed with him when he was 21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s occupation</td>
<td>Nursing home proprietor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father abused drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>No (do not know about his biological father)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother abused drugs/alcohol</td>
<td>No (do not know about his biological mother)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cognitive Ability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest grade in school</th>
<th>Highest grade completed was 11th.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest degree</td>
<td>He dropped out his senior year after being suspended for stealing tools from the machine shop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades in school</td>
<td>Below average, although his teachers gave the impression that his grades were due to lack of interest, as opposed to lack of intelligence. He said, “I quit out of boredom.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IQ</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of IQ information</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Work History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Served in the military?</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of discharge</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saw combat duty</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killed enemy during service?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied for job as a cop?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked in law enforcement?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fired from jobs?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of jobs worked</td>
<td>He started an upholstery business that only lasted about a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Otherwise, his parents supported him and he conned females into giving him money.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment status during series</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationships</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual preference</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td>Married for about 8 months to 15 year old Diane Lynch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children</td>
<td>Mary French was said to have given birth to a stillborn child belonging to Smitty when she was briefly living in Chicago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives with his children</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with</td>
<td>Mostly by himself, although friends lived with him off and on, as well as the short period he was married.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Triad**                      |            |
| Animal torture                 | Yes (abused his cat) |
| Fire setting                   | No          |
| Bed wetting                    | No          |

| **Killer Psychological Information** |            |
| Abused drugs?                   | No          |
| Abused alcohol?                 | Yes         |
| Been to a psychologist?         | No          |
| Time in forensic hospital?      | No          |
| Diagnosis                       | N/A         |

| **Killer Criminal History**     |            |
| Committed previous crimes?      | Charles and friends went to jail for a night for “creating unlawful diversion” by driving around town with someone’s arm hanging out the window covered in ketchup |
| Spend time in jail?             | Yes, one night for the event listed above and a couple of other nights in California for being a murder suspect. |
| Spend time in prison?           | No          |
| Killed prior to series? Age?    | No          |

<p>| <strong>Serial Killing</strong>              |            |
| Number of victims               | 3          |
| Victim type                     | Young females ages 13-18. |
| Killer age at start of series   | 21         |
| Date of first kill in series    | May 31st, 1964 |
| Date of final kill in series    | August 16, 1965 |
| Gender of victims               | Females    |
| Race of victims                 | Caucasian  |
| Age of victims                  | 13, 17, 18 |
| Type of victim                  | Young females (2 sisters of prominent heart surgeon, and one high school dropout) |
| Method of killing               | 1st murder- Beat victim with rocks; 2nd &amp; 3rd murders- It is speculated that he strangled them with a cord that went to his guitar but it was never proven. |
| Weapon                         | Killer found at scene |
| Was gun used?                   | No          |
| Type                           | N/A         |
| Did killer have a partner?      | 1st Killing: Yes 2nd/3rd Killings: No |
| Name of partner                 | 1st Killing: Mary French and John Saunders |
| Sex of partner                  | 1st Killing: Male and Female |
| Type of serial killer           | Mixed Thrill Killer/Revenge Seeker |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>How close did killer live?</strong></th>
<th>Drove out to desert in Tucson to commit 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; murder; Killed victims at his home in 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; and 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location of first contact</strong></td>
<td>He met Alleen at the local hangouts, he saw Gretchen at the swimming pool, then went to her house pretending to be a pots and pans salesman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location of killing</strong></td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;: In the desert on the outskirts of Tucson; 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;-3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;: In his home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Killing occurred in home of victim?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Killing occurred in home of killer?</strong></td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; murder, No. 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; and 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; murders, Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victim abducted or killed at contact?</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Behavior During Crimes**

- **Rape?** Does not say, but was insinuated.
- **Tortured victims?** Yes
- **Stalked victims?** Yes
- **Overkill?** No
- **Quick & efficient?** No
- **Used blindfold?** No
- **Bound the victims?** Yes

**After Death Behavior**

- **Sex with the body?** No
- **Mutilated body?** No
- **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** No

**Disposal of Body**

- **Left at scene, no attempt to hide** No
- **Left at scene, hidden** No
- **Left at scene, buried** Yes (1<sup>st</sup> Victim)
- **Moved, no attempt to hide** Yes (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Victims), and partially buried, then went back and buried more thoroughly later.
- **Moved, buried** Partially (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> murders)
- **Cut-op and disposed of** No
- **Moved, too home** No

**Sentencing**

- **Date killer arrested** 11/10/1965
- **Date convicted** 03/01/1966
- **Sentence** Death for the murders of the Fritz sisters, 50 years for Alleen Rowe.
- **Killer executed?** No
- **Did killer plead NGRI?** No
- **Was the NGRI plea successful?** N/A
- **Name and state of prison** Arizone State Prison near Florence, AZ
- **Killer committed suicide?** No
- **Killer killed in prison?** Yes (10 day after wounds suffered by attack that happened in prison)
- **Date of death** March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975
References

Allen, Paul. (July 11, 2005). Lookin’ back: Vicious ‘Pied Piper’ butchered in prison in ’75. Retrieved from The Tucson Citizen Website:
http://tucsoncitizen.com/intucson/history_culture/071105a5_schimidlookinback.


