## Sells, Tommy Lynn "Coast to Coast Killer"



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Date	Age	Life Event	
06-28-64	0	Born	
Dec. 1965	18 months	Exhibited the same high fever that his twin sister had died of.	
1966- 1969	2 - 5	Lived with his mother's Aunt Bonnie and his mother never visited. The aunt inquired about adopting Sells, but his mother took him back and refused to allow him to visit the aunt again. Aunt Bonnie later said that Sells' favorite activity was to ride his tricycle up and down a sidewalk. Sells claims that this is one of the only bright spots in his entire life.	
1971	7	Chronic truant, an indication of his mother's indifference.	
1971	7	Abused the alcohol that his maternal grandfather kept hidden.	
1972	8	Spent time with a man from a nearby town, Frisbee, Missouri, who had befriended him. Sells began to sleep at his home with increasing frequency. The man was later identified as a pedophile, who molested boys, including Sells, but was never charged.	
1974	10	Began smoking ditch-weed marijuana.	
1973	11	Joe Lovins, Sells' presumed biological father died. This stirred up numerous emotions. Sells tried to talk to his father during the viewing, but was cut off in the middle of his address because his maternal grandmother pulled him away and told him to "stop it."	
1977	13	Crawled into bed naked with his grandmother.	
1977	13	He claims that he walked to his families trailer to discover that everybody had moved out without saying goodbye. His family members denied the allegations.	
1977	13	Underwent a mental examination when he tried to rape his own mother.	
1978	14	Leaves his home in St. Louis and starts riding trains around the country and stealing.	
1979	15	Claims his first murder occurred when he was 15 in Mississippi. He was waiting to rob a house and saw a man molesting a child and claims to have killed him because of the molestation. Later evidence indicates that there was no molestation.	
1980	16	Killed a man with an ice pick near a Chinese restaurant in Los Angeles. In Oakland a few days later, he tangled in a gang-related fight in which he almost killed another man, and was hurt himself. Sells went to the hospital and later cussed two nurses out of the room after they had insisted that they insert a urinary	

		catheter. He left the hospital and hitchhiked home so that his mother could nurse him back to health.		
1001	17	Climbed into the shower with his mother, who beat him and yelled at him until he		
1981	17	ran out of the house.		
1982	18	Fathered a boy in Arkansas with Cindy Hanna, Sells' first love. The Hanna family strongly disapproved of Sells for numerous reasons, including stealing from the church in which they belonged.		
07-21-83	18	A man matching Sells' description was seen leaving the home of Thomas and Colleen Gill. The bodies of Colleen and the couple's 4-year-old daughter Tiffany were found beaten to death.		
Mar. 1983 or 1985	18 / 20	Burglarized a home near Little Rock Arkansas. Shot Mike Brenner, who lived.		
05-08-84	19	Arrested for stealing a car		
09-18-84	20	Convicted for auto theft and sentenced to two years in prison		
1984	20	Sells was serving two-years in prison for stealing a car when his daughter was born to Nicole Snow.		
02-18-85	20	Paroled from prison		
Apr. 1985	20	Convicted of felony theft in Missouri. Serves 8 months.		
07-19-85	21	Checks into New Horizons Rehabilitation Center		
07-22-85	21	After being questioned by police about the theft of a car, Sells fled the rehab center		
07-26-85	21	Killed Ena Cordt, 35, and her 4-year-old son Rory in Forsyth Missouri.		
10-15-85	21	Parole revoked		
10-29-85	21	Transferred back to prison		
12-18-85	21	Released on parole.		
05-16-86	21	Released from prison		
1986	21	Sells claims that while he was working for Atlas Towing in St. Louis, he received a call from a prostitute whose car had broken down. When he arrived at the vehicle, he suggested sex in lieu of paying for the towing cost. When she declined, Sells says he shot her and threw her body in a river.		
10-15-86	22	Returns to prison on a parole violation. Driving while intoxicated.		
05-01-87	24	Murders Suzanne Korcz, 27, outside of a Niagara Falls bar. Her remains were		
10.16.97	24	found 8 years later (1995), only 2 miles away from the bar		
10-16-87 11-18-87	24 24	Strangles Stephanie Stroh near Winnemucca, Nevada Murders Dardeen family in Ina, Illinois. Shot Russell, 29. Raped wife, Ruby Elaine and beat her and son Peter, 3, to death with a baseball bat. Wife gave birth during the beating. Salls also heat the newhorm to death		
September 1988	24	<ul> <li>the beating. Sells also beat the newborn to death.</li> <li>A Salem, New Hampshire girl named Melissa Ann Trembley disappeared and wa later discovered to be dead laying on a railroad track. The girl was seen in a convenient store parking lot before she disappeared talking to a man that matched Sells' description.</li> </ul>		
Fall 1988	24	Sells uses a 3-year-old boy and his mother to try to get pity from people to gain money. After begging, they all went on a road trip in the black van that Sells had stolen. The mother and child never returned.		
12-18-88	24	Murdered transient Kent Alan Lauten, 51, in Tucson Arizona in a dispute over a marijuana cigarette. Cut Lauten's throat.		
12-24-88	24	Arrested for assault but released when the victim would not file a complaint		
Jan 1989	24	Claims to have killed a prostitute in Truckee, NV when the prostitute turned out to be a man rather than a woman		
May 1989	24	Killed two people in Roseboro, OR		
05-09-89	24	Arrested for theft and spent 30 days in jail		
08-16-89	25	Charged with theft in Arkansas		
08-23-89	25	Released from jail		
10-19-89	25	Arrested in Carson City, NV and sent to detox for 30 days		
01-12-90	25			

1990-1991	26-27	Arrested for public intoxication and convicted for stealing a pickup truck. Serves 16 months of a 2-year sentence in the Wyoming State Penitentiary.		
May 1992	27	In Charleston, West Virginia, attacks Fabienne Witherspoon, 20, who took Sells home and offered him food and clothing. He raped and stabbed the woman, but she wrestled the knife away from him and inflicted 23 wounds. He picked up a piano stool and beat her unconscious, but she survived.		
06-24-93	28	Convicted of malicious wounding in Charleston, West Virginia. The rape charge was dropped. Sentenced to serve 2-10 years.		
June 24, 1993- May 1997	28-32	While in prison married Nora Price, and was diagnosed as bipolar.		
May 1997	32	Released on parole.		
May 1997	32	Sells and his new bride, Price move to Tennessee. Sells abandoned her frequently and set off on cross-country travels.		
10-15-97	33	Abducted and killed Stephanie Mahaney, 13, of Springfield, Missouri. Claims his van broke down in front of the girl's apartment, saw her playing outside, and waited for the adults to leave. Body was found in a farm pond.		
Late 1997	33	Worked for a carnival as a Ferris wheel operator and truck driver		
Feb. 1998	33	Sells is traveling with the carnival. In Del Rio Texas, he meets Jessica Levrie, a mother of four.		
03-31-98	33	Sells moves in with Jessica Levrie.		
Apr. 1998	33	Wife, Price, gives birth to Sells' son in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She gives the child up for adoption.		
Oct. 1998	34	Sells and Levrie marry in Del Rio, though the marriage was not legal due to the fact that Sells never divorced Price.		
04-04-99	34	Debra Harris, 32, and her daughter Ambria Halliburton, 8, were found stabbed to death in Gibson County, Tennessee. Sells claims responsibility for these murders.		
04-18-99	34	Strangled Mary Bea Perez, 9, who was abducted from an outdoor fair. Body was found near a drainage ditch. Sells confessed to the crime as part of a plea bargain.		
05-13-99	34	Sells rapes and strangles Haley McHone, 13, in Lexington Kentucky. Stole her bicycle and sold it for \$20.		
05-13-99	34	Sells was arrested for public intoxication in Lexington Kentucky. He was released the next morning and left town.		
May 1999	34	Sells is arrested in Madison, Wisconsin for drunkenness and being threatening with a box-cutter. While in custody Sells assaulted another inmate. He was released on June 24.		
July 1999	35	Abducted Bobbi Lynn Wofford, 14, from a convenience store near Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Sells sodomized and shot Wofford while she was trying to escape. Sells moved the body off the road into the woods and it was found 4 months later. Sells was linked to the crime through his confession and a pair of earrings that Sells removed from the body.		
No specified date	35	Sells returns to Del Rio. Jessica and her children move back in with him.		
12-30-99	35	Sells claims responsibility for the murders committed this day in Welch, Oklahoma. Danny and Kathy Freeman were found dead in their burning mobile home. Daughter Ashley and friend Lauria Bible have not been seen since. Sells claims he killed them both and dumped the bodies near Red River, the boarder between Oklahoma and Texas.		
12-31-99	35	Enters Harris home in Del Rio, Texas, bypasses parents and brother, stabs Kaylene Harris, 13, to death, and slashes the throat of Krystal Surles, 10, who escapes and runs to a neighbors house.		
01-02-00	35	Arrested for the death of Kaylene Harris and attempted murder of Krystal Surles		
09-20-00	36	Sentenced to death for the murder of Kaylene Harris.		
11-08-00	36	Began death row sentence in Polunsky Unit in Livingston, Texas, Givin TDJ #999367		

00.00.01	2.5	Left death row for	Bexar County Correction Center awaiting trial for capital
02-22-01	36	murder of Mary Be	ea Perez
09-10-03	39		ng Mary Bea Perez, 9, in San Antonio, TX.
04-05-04	39	Sells confessed to	the slaying of Suzanne Korcz, 27, in Niagara Falls.
General Infor	mation		
Sex			Male
Race			White
Number of	victims		Claims to have killed 20-50 people, but only 13 have been confirmed so far
Country wh	nere killin	g occurred	United States
Country where killing occurred States where killing occurred			Idaho, Nevada, California, Arizona, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, New York, Oklahoma
Type of kil	ler		Confrontational, robbery, pure anger, most sexual assault
Height			5'9''
Childhood In	formatio	n	
Date of birt	th		June 28, 1964
Location			Oakland, CA
Birth order			Third of 7
Number of			6, 2 older brothers, a twin sister, and 3 younger brothers
XYY?	sionings		No
Raised by			Aunts, relatives, Great aunt, pedophile
Birth categ	orv		Twin
Parent's ma		18	Married, but not to the biological father
Family eve			Mother abandoned him
Age of fam			18 months
Problems in school?			Unknown, however he did drop-out early, indicating that there were problems
Teased whi	ile in scho	ool?	Unknown, however he dropped-out, possibly indicating teasing
Physically		?	No
Physical de			No
Speech def			No
Head injury	y?		Unknown
Physically abused?			His mother would sometimes beat him (for example when he climbed into the shower with her)
Psychologi	cally abus	sed?	While living at his great-aunts house, his mother never visited him. He had a cold mother that did not seem to care.
Sexually at	oused?		Yes, Abused as an 8-year-old child by a man in the neighborhood and by the pedophile raising him for three years.
Father's oc	cupation		William Sells, an insurance agent, or Joe Lovins, a used-car salesman
Age of first			8, by a man that was later deemed to be a pedophile
Age when t			8
Mother's occupation			Nina
Father abused drugs/alcohol			Unknown
Mother abu		alcohol	Unknown
<b>Cognitive Ab</b>			
Highest grade in school			8th
Highest degree			None
Grades in school			Poor
IQ			80 (functional IQ of 100)

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?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Barber, mechanic, laborer, truck driver, carnival worker, used car salesman
Employment status during series	Carnival worker and auto mechanic
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married twice
Number of children	2, one of them was given up for adoption
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Transient
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	
Diagnosis	Bipolar; depressive disorder; severe opioid, amphetamine, cannabis, and alcohol dependency; and a personality disorder with anti-social, borderline and schizoid features
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spent time in jail?	Yes, numerous times. He spent time in jail for a wide range of things including public intoxication, driving without a license, and some drug-related charges.
Spent time in prison?	<ul> <li>Missouri Department of Corrections 2 year sentence for felony theft. Confined 8 months and released on parole on 12/18/1985. Returned later, for parole violation</li> <li>(DUI). Confined 16 months and discharged. Wyoming Department of Corrections 2 year sentence for felony theft. Confined 16 months and discharged. Wyoming Department of Corrections on a 2-10 years sentence for malicious wounding in 1993. Released on parole in May 1997.</li> </ul>
Killed prior to series? Age?	Yes around age 15
Serial Killing Number of victims	Exact number unknown, convicted of 2, probably killed 13+
Victim type	Women, men, transients, entire families, teenagers, infants
Killer age at start of series	15
Gender of victims	Men, Women
Race of victims	Caucasian and Hispanic
Age of victims	New-born to mid 30s

Method of killing	Shoot, stab, bludgeon, and strangle
Type of serial killer	Lust/Thrill killer
How close did killer live?	Transient
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Guns, knives, bat, shovel, ice pick and his bare hands
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes, but not with his penis. He is not sexually competent.
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	Once
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Some
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	At least once
Robbed victim or location	At least once
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	Yes
Left at scene, buried	Claimed-no bodies found
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Two Moved
Cut-op and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	1/2/2000
Date convicted	9/20/2000
Sentence	Death (also life sentence in other case)
Killer executed?	Not yet
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Polunsky Death Row, Texas
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A
	Deferrer

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