

Robert Joseph Silveria Jr.
“The Boxcar Serial Killer”
“Sidetrack”



Serial killer researched by
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Date	Age	Life Event
03-03-1959	0	Born in Redwood City, California
	11	Skipped school, expelled, and experimented with drugs
	12	Caught robbing neighbor's home
		Moved
		Beat up in a park by one white kid and 2 black kids
	14	Started to use drugs heavily
	High school	Robbed a drug dealer
	20s	Took father's truck and had a felony auto theft
	21	Left his home in California
	22	Killed first victim (not in series)
5/19/84	25	Married first wife
Nov. 85'	26	Separated from his first wife
1986	27	Got back with his first wife and had a daughter
04-09-1989	30	Bludgeoned to death Anthony Garcia (HM, 62) in West Sacramento, CA
Nov. 90'	31	Remarried
1991	31-32	Joined the Freight Train Riders of America (FTRA)
April 91'	32	Left second wife
07/08/1992	33	Bludgeoned to death Darren Royal Miller (19) near Thompson Springs, UT
04/28/1994	35	Bludgeoned to death Willie Clark (BM, 52) near Tallahassee, FL
08/02/1994	35	Beat Michael Garfinkle (WM, 20) to death near Emeryville, CA
04/21/1995	36	Bludgeoned Roger Bowman (38) to death in Salt Lake City, UT
07/17/1995	36	Started working at the Double D Ranch
07/22/1995	36	Killed James McLean (50) near Albany, CA
07/26/1995	36	Killed Charles Randall Boyd in Ellsworth County, KS
Oct. 95'	36	Killed drug dealer in Arizona
10/15/1995	36	Killed Paul Wayne Matthews (43) in Whitefish, MT
12/01/1995	36	Killed William Avis Pettit Jr. (39) in Millersburg, OR
12/06/1995	36	Killed Michael A. Clites (24) in Portland, OR
12/23/1995		Killed Michael A. Brandolino
03/02/1996		Arrested at a railroad by a railroad officer who recognized him as being wanted
03/12/1996	38	Indicted in Salem. Oregon

01/06/1998	38	Trial began in Oregon
01/30/1998		Plead guilty as part of a plea bargain in Oregon
02/17/1998		Plead guilty as part of a plea bargain in Kansas
05/20/1998	39	Plead guilty as part of a pleas bargain in Florida

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Confessed to 47, suspected of 14, convicted of 3
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	OR, MT, UT, WA, CA, AZ, KS, FL, ID (28+ states)
Type of killer	Disorganized Thrill and Missionary
Height	6'1"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	March 3, 1959
Location	Redwood City, CA
Birth order	2 nd of 4
Number of siblings	3 (1 sister, 2 brothers) and a half-brother
XYY?	N/A
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	N/A
Age of family event	N/A
Problems in school?	Skipping school and expelled
Teased while in school?	Beat up once
Physically attractive?	"ruggedly handsome"
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Possibility- beat up in park
Physically abused?	Father physically abused him to "straighten him out"
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Worked in Airline, supervisor
Age of first sexual experience	N/A
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	Worked in Airline, catering department
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	12
Highest degree	Diploma
Grades in school	Poorly
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?	Yes; embezzlement
Types of jobs worked	Luggage handler, airport manager, roofer, and Christian missionary camp
Employment status during series	Unemployed
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Divorced 2 times
Number of children	1 daughter
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Himself and FTRA members
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes; killed kitten by throwing it across a cactus and stabbed a victim's dog
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes; heroin, pot, crack and methamphetamines
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes; in Vancouver and they told him to leave
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes
Diagnosis	No psychological diagnosis given-(Greed)
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes; robbed neighbors home, felony auto theft, motorcycle theft and burglary
Spend time in jail?	1 year
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	Yes; 22
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	47
Victim type	Drug dealers, veterans, FTRA members, and other male railroad-riders
Killer age at start of series	36
Gender of victims	Male
Race of victims	White, Hispanic, and Black
Age of victims	19, 20, 24, 38, 39, 50, 52, 62
Method of killing	Beat head in (goon stick, pipe, 2x4, concrete slab, fence post, and his boots)
Type of serial killer	Disorganized Thrill and Missionary
How close did killer live?	Close to railways (where he lived)
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes-railroads were usually his victim's home
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes-rails were his home
Weapon	Brought with him and found at the scene
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No, except one time when it was with two other people
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No

Bound the victims?	No
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	Yes
Robbed victim or location	Yes
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	Yes
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	March 2, 1996
Date convicted	January 30 th , February 17 th , and May 20 th 1998
Sentence	Life in prison without parole because he made plea bargain
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Oregon State Penitentiary, Oregon
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A
References	
<p>Palmini, W. G., & Chalupa, T. (2004). <i>Murder on the rails: The true story of the detective who unlocked the shocking secrets of the Boxcar Serial Killer</i>. NY: Horizon Press.</p>	

