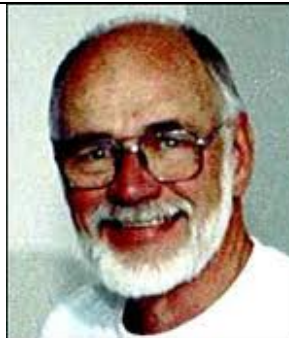


Robert Merlin Spangler
“The Black Widower”



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Date	Age	Life Event
01/10/1933	0	Born in Des Moines, Iowa. Parents are unknown
	Young	Adopted by Merlin and Ione Spangler and raised in Ames, Iowa
1944	11	Bob is suspected of murdering a classmate who he did not like
1950	17	Starred on his high school football team and had an amazing season
1951	18	Graduates from Ames (IA) High School and enrolls at Iowa State University
1955	22	Graduates from Iowa State with a degree in technical journalism
1955	22	Marries Nancy Stahlman
11/27/1961	28	David Spangler is born to Nancy and Robert Spangler
08/14/1963	30	Susan Spangler is born to Nancy and Robert Spangler
1976	43	Robert begins a secret affair with Sharon Cooper, a coworker at American Water Works
1978	45	Robert moves in with Sharon Cooper
10/1978	45	Robert moves back in with his family.
12/30/1978	45	Timothy Trevithick (Susan Spangler’s boyfriend) finds Susan and David dead. Police later find Nancy Spangler, deceased, shot in the basement. Robert Spangler returns home “from a movie” to find police at his house and his family dead
07/14/1979	46	Robert Spangler marries Sharon Cooper
1986	53	Spangler goes to visit his 92-year old father, Merlin Spangler, who suffers a terrible fall a few days after Robert Spangler’s arrival and dies two weeks later
1986	53	Robert Spangler inherits money from his father and is able to retire
12/1987	54	Sharon Spangler makes call to police, saying she was afraid of Robert and then runs to a grocery store to hide.
06/24/1988	55	Sharon and Robert Spangler divorce and Robert must pay Sharon \$500 per month for three years and then \$400 per month for seven years after that. He also has to give her an immediate \$150,000.
1988	55	Robert starts placing personal ads in search of a new mate. He finds Donna Sundling.
8/18/1990	57	Robert Spangler and Donna Sundling marry and move to a new home in Durango, Colorado
1990	57	Robert gets a job at a country music station as the morning personality. He soon becomes very popular
4/11/1993	60	Robert pushes Donna Sundling off a cliff in the Grand Canyon

7/1994	61	Sharon comes to visit Robert and stays in his guest bedroom for some time, mourning her dog's death and her broken relationship with Michael, her previous boyfriend
10/02/1994	61	Sharon takes an overdose of drugs, Robert finds her and takes her to the emergency room, where he is by her side. Sharon dies while alone with Robert. Robert gets \$20,000 from her death and he no longer has to pay Sharon for the divorce settlements
8/1995	62	Police question Robert about Sharon's death. Investigator Paul Goodman and Investigator Bev Perry (FBI) begin to work together to investigate Donna's death in the Grand Canyon.
1998	65	Robert quits his job, sells his home, and moves to Pennsylvania to pursue a woman he had met over the Internet. She was taken aback by his intensity and the relationship did not work out.
1998-2000	65-67	Robert Spangler is being watched by police when taking hikes in the Grand Canyon
1998-2000	65-67	Robert Spangler moves to Grand Junction, Colorado. Gets a job as Vice President of Applecrest Irrigation Company and takes up the hobby of theatre
1998-2000	65-67	Robert meets Judy Hilty
08/12/2000	67	Robert finds out he has inoperable lung cancer that has spread to his brain
09/01/2000	67	Robert Spangler and Judy Hilty marry. Cops are moving in closer, afraid for Judy's life.
09/15/2000	67	Feeling pressure from Spangler's terminal illness, the team investigating Spangler's murders bring him in for questioning. After telling him that only serial killers are interviewed by profilers, Spangler confesses to the murders.
11/05/2000	67	Robert Spangler pleads not guilty, saying his brain cancer had caused him to confess to things he had not done.
2000	67	Spangler signs a plea agreement to serve life in prison for Donna Sundling's murder
08/05/2001	68	Robert Spangler dies at 3:15 am in the Federal Corrections Medical Center in Springfield, Missouri

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	4 suspected, 1 convicted, 4 confessed to
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Colorado
Cities where killing occurred	Littleton, Durango (Grand Canyon)
Type of killer	Black Widow
Height	6'1"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	01/10/1933
Location	Des Moines, Iowa
Birth order	Adopted
Number of siblings	1
XXX?	No
Raised by	Adopted parents Merlin and Iona Spangler
Birth category	N/A
Parent's marital status	Married,
Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	Yes
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	No
Did serial killer live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	Father dies
Age of family event	
Problems in school?	Bullied younger kids/aggressive behavior
Teased while in school?	

Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Well-known and well-liked professor at Iowa State
Age of first sexual experience	N/A
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	N/A
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	16
Highest degree	Bachelor's degree
Grades in school	Average
IQ	N/A
Source of IQ information	N/A
Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Army
Type of discharge	N/A
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Sesame Street, Public Relations, Radio DJ,
Employment status during series	Public Relations, Radio DJ
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married/Divorced/Remarried
Number of children	2
Lives with his children	Not after he killed them
Living with	Spouse
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	No
Diagnosis	None
Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)	
Committed previous crimes?	No
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No

Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	4 confirmed
Victim type	Wives and kids
Killer age at start of series	45
Date of first kill in series	December 30 th 1978
Date of final kill in series	April 11, 1993
Gender of victims	1 male, 3 females
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	15, 17, 45, 58
Type of victim	Family
Method of killing	Shooting, pushed off a cliff
Weapon	Killer brought with him, killer found at scene, no weapon
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Handgun (.38 revolver)
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	
Sex of partner	
Relationship of partner	
Type of serial killer	Organized
How close did killer live?	Lived in home, not far
Location of first contact	High School Sweethearts
Location of killing	Home/Grand Canyon
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	No
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
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	No
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
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	

Date killer arrested	October 3, 2000
Date convicted	November 5, 2000
Sentence	Life Sentence
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Did serial killer confess?	Yes
Name and state of prison	Federal Corrections Medical Center Springfield. Missouri
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	August 5, 2001
Cause of death	Brain and Lung Cancer

References

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