

**Betty Lou Beets**  
*“Texas Black Widow”*



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Date	Age	Life Event
03/12/1937	0	Born in Roxboro, North Carolina
1940	3	Got measles and lost her hearing
1942	5	Raped by father
1942	5	Moved to Danville Virginia
1945	8	Her brother Jimmy was born
1947	10	Her sister Jackie was born
1949	12	Began taking care of her little brother and sister because her mother was institutionalized (did not return to school)
1951	14	Her mother had a psychotic break
07/18/1952	15	Married Robert Franklin Branson after finishing 9 <sup>th</sup> grade
1953	16	Had her first child Faye
1953	16	Had a six month separation from her husband
1953	16	Attempted suicide
1953	16	Reconciled with her husband
1954	17	Had second child Connie
1954	17	Moved to Mesquite Texas
02/1959	22	Had third child Shirley
1962	25	Had fourth child Phyllis
1964	27	Had fifth child Robert Franklin Branson II
1966	29	Had sixth child Bobby
1969	31	Divorced Robert Franklin Branson (Started drinking)
07/28/1970	33	Married Billy York Lane
10/28/1970	33	Got restraining order against Billy
1970	33	Divorced Billy Lane
06/1971	34	Billy broke Betty's nose
01/17/1972	34	Billy Lane threatened to kill Betty
01/18/1972	34	Betty shot Billy Lane

1972	35	Betty was to be tried for attempted murder but Billy Lane signed affidavit saying he threatened Betty's life so charges were dropped to aggravated assault
1972	35	Remarried Billy Lane after trial, marriage lasted for one month
11/1973	36	Met Ronnie Threlkold
02/16/1978	41	Married Ronnie C. Threlkold in Dallas County, Texas
1978	41	Betty tries to run Ronnie over with her car
08/27/1979	42	Betty began topless dancing
1979	42	Charged with public lewdness while working at topless bar (spent thirty days in jail)
1979	42	Divorced Ronnie Threlkold
10/03/1979	42	Marries Doyle Wayne Barker (separated 7 weeks later)
01/1980	42	Betty was in a serious car accident and suffered major head injuries
07/22/1980	42	Betty and Doyle divorce.
10/1981	44	Betty kills Doyle Wayne Barker and buries him in the front yard
08/19//1982	45	Marries Jimmy Don Beets
08/06/1983	45	Kills Jimmy Don Beets (WM, 46)
1984	47	Betty burns down Jimmy Don Beets' lake house
2/1985	48	Betty files for Jimmy Don Beets' death certificate
06/08/1985	48	Betty is arrested
07/11/1985	48	Grand Jury indicts Betty for the murder of Jimmy Don Beets.
1985	48	Betty goes to trial
10/11/1985	48	Betty is found guilty of murder
10/14/1985	48	Sentenced to death penalty
09/21/1988	51	Conviction was reinstated after appeals
1993	56	Betty's mother dies
1993	56	Betty's son Bobby died
2/24/2000	62	Betty is executed at 6:18 p.m.

### General Information

Sex	Female
Race	White
Number of victims	Suspected of 2, Confessed to 0, convicted of 1.
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Texas
Cities where killing occurred	Henderson County
Type of killer	Black widow
Height	

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	03/27/1937
Location	Roxboro North Carolina
Birth order	2
Number of siblings	3, 1 older brother, 1 younger brother and 1 younger sister
XYY?	N/A
Raised by	Mother and father
Birth category	Middle born
Parent's marital status	Together
Family event	Mom was institutionalized
Age of family event	12, when mom was sent to mental institution and she was left in care of family.
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	Hearing loss

Speech defect?	Physical disability that contributes to speech disorder
Head injury?	Yes, during car accident
Physically abused?	Yes, raped by her father at age 5 and abused by most of her husbands
Psychologically abused?	Yes
Sexually abused?	Yes, raped by her father and claims to have been raped by her husbands.
Father's occupation	Farmer
Age of first sexual experience	5 years old
Age when first had intercourse	5 years old
Mother's occupation	Farmer
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Alcohol
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Alcohol
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	When she was 12 years old, 7 <sup>th</sup> grade
Highest degree	None
Grades in school	Low
<b>IQ</b>	Unable to locate
<b>Source of IQ information</b>	
<b>Work History</b>	
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?	No, but was arrested on the job for public lewdness
Types of jobs worked	Waitress, cashier and topless dancer
Employment status during series	Stayed at home, occasionally was a waitress
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married and divorced five times
Number of children	6
Lives with her children	Yes
Living with	During the murders lived with her son Robby
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	Battered Women's Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes. Aggravated assault (shot 2 <sup>nd</sup> husband)
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes, after she was convicted of the murders

Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	2
Victim type	Husbands
Killer age at start of series	44
Date of first kill in series	10/1981
Date of final kill in series	08/06/1983
Gender of victims	Male
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Late 40s
Method of killing	Shooting with a handgun
Weapon	Hand gun
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Colt revolver .38
Did killer have a partner?	Not in killings, but used son and daughter in disposal of bodies.
Name of partner	Shirley and Robby (her son and daughter)
Sex of partner	Female and Male
Type of serial killer	Black Widow
How close did killer live?	Same home
Location of first contact	Bar (met most husbands at bars).
Location of killing	Bedroom
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	No
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No (didn't shoot more than three times)
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
<b>After Death Behavior</b>	
Sex with the 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
<b>Disposal of Body</b>	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	Yes, in the yard of her house
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
<b>Sentencing</b>	
Date killer arrested	June 8th, 1985
Date convicted	October 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1985

Sentence	Sentenced to death
Killer executed?	Yes
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Texas, Huntsville/ Huntsville State Prison
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	Yes, when she was executed
Date of death	Feb 24, 2000

#### References

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