

James Michael DeBardeleben
“Mall Passer”



Information researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
03/20/1940	0	Born in Little Rock, Arkansas
1945	5	Moved to Austin, Texas. Father shipped to South Pacific for 9 months
1949	9	Family moved from Kentucky to Frankfurt, Germany
1950	10	Family moved again
1956	16	Physically assaulted his mother
09/08/1956	16	Purchased two handguns and ammo with a friend
09/21/1956	16	First arrest; felony arrest for concealed weapon. Soon after first arrest, arrested several times on charges from theft, sodomy, attempted murder, and kidnapping
05/13/1957	17	Reckless driving offense
Spring 1957	17	Expelled from Peter Schuyler High School
06/26/1957	17	Joined the Air Force. Shipped to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas
03/1958	18	Court-martialed for variety of offenses: wearing “Improper Insignia and Improper Uniform” and disorderly behavior. Sentenced to 2 months in Stockade and \$155 in pay forfeited
06/1958	18	Cited for “Unauthorized Absence from Bed Check,” “Breaking Restrictions” twice, and “Disrespectful to Superiors.” Ordered to visit air force psychiatrist
08/1958	18	Discharged from the Air Force “Under Other Than Honorable Conditions,” and moved to Fort Worth, Texas with family
01/1959	18	Enrolled at R.L. Paschal High School
03/1959	19	Expelled from high school
08/1959	19	Married Linda Weir
08/1959	19	Separated from Linda Weir after three weeks of marriage.
10/5/1959	19	Attempted robbery with accomplice
10/1959	19	2 weeks later, arrested for string of auto thefts. Sentenced to 5 years probation
11/1959	19	Premature daughter was stillborn
12/1959	19	Meets Charlotte Weber, 17
03/1960	19/20	Charlotte gets pregnant
06/09/1960	20	Marries Charlotte
12/12/1960	20	Daughter, Bethene, born
No date	20/21	Charlotte becomes pregnant, forced to give baby up for adoption
08/1961	21	Younger brother, Ralph, commits suicide

09/1961	21	Divorced from Charlotte
Summer 1961	21	Enrolls at Texas Christian University without HS diploma and then at North Texas State University
09/1962	22	Probation for auto theft revoked and sent to Texas State Prison at Huntsville
05/1963	23	Released from prison and lives with parents
03/1964	24	Father files complaint on Mike and Mike is sent to Western State Hospital in Staunton, VA
05/16/1964	24	Comes back home
09/1964	24	Marries Wanda Faye Davis
1965	25	Wanda begins to accompany Mike in criminal acts
1966	26	Charged with assault, sodomy, kidnapping of young girl, but later charges are dropped
04/25/1969	29	Faye is accomplice in kidnap-extortion
No date	29	Faye becomes pregnant, but miscarries when Mike pushes her down the stairs
Aug/1969	29	Faye becomes pregnant, divorce
01/02/1970	29	Daughter, Lindsey, is born
07/10/1970	30	Marries Caryn, 18
No date	N/A	Returns to college at George Mason University
04/1971	31	Murders realtor, Terry McDonald
1975	35	Pistol-whips Phillipa Voliner
1976	36	Divorced Caryn
1976	36	Caught for counterfeiting for first time
1978	38	Crime Information Center believes Mike is dead
05/05/1978	38	Released to a D.C. halfway house after serving 23 months of his 1976 counterfeiting sentence in the Federal Penitentiary in Danbury, Connecticut
06/1978	38	Moved to Arlington, VA, took barbering job
07/1978	38	Bought '77 Thunderbird, which is believed to have been used in the abduction of nursing student, Lucy Alexander, 19
09/04/1978	38	Posed as a cop to abduct Lucy Alexander. He also raped, sodomized, and forced her to fallate him repeatedly. She was forced to call him "Daddy" Raped at least 4 times, performed fallatio 4-5 times over 18 hours
09/05/1978	38	Released Lucy into isolated area known as Hardscrabble, east of Georgetown, Delaware
02/04/1979	38	Fayetteville, N.C. introduced self as "Al Wise" to Elizabeth Mason, 31 and pretended to be interested in buying a house. Attacked and assaulted her with an automatic handgun, tied and gagged, and strangled until unconscious, then stole her car
05/1979	39	Posing as "Frank A. Turner" bought a house and counterfeiting press in Maryland
06/01/1979	39	Returned to Delaware-Maryland seashore, posing as a cop, abducted Laurie Jensen, 20. Fallatio, sodomy, rape. Audio/videotaped sexual assaults and used a dildo. Called her "Becky" and forced her to call him "Daddy" Kept her in a closet
06/03/1979	39	Drove Laurie home to Maryland
07/31/1979	39	In Florence, Kentucky, used counterfeit money at Super Sam's Store
Summer 1979	39	Met Barbara Abbott in Falls Church, VA
No Date	39	Married Barbara
Christmas 1980	40	Barbara left Mike
08/01/1979	39	Used counterfeit money in United Dairy Farmers Store
08/21/1979	39	Used counterfeit money in a Cincinnati Burger Chef restaurant
10/10/1979	39	Assaulted Italian-American woman in New Jersey at clothing store
11/13/1979	39	Used counterfeit money at Empress Shop in Elizabeth, N.J.
12/14/1979	39	Used counterfeit money in United Pennsylvania Bank in Scranton, Pennsylvania
03/1-10/1980	39	Used counterfeit money in Durham, N.C., Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and Sterling, VA and Columbus, Ohio
04/12/1980	40	Used counterfeit money at Blue Hen Mall in Dover, Delaware

04/14/1980	40	Counterfeit money at JCPenneys store in St. Louis
04/22/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Charlotte and Greensboro, N.C.
06/11/1980	40	Counterfeit money in malls in Birmingham, Alabama
06/13/1980	40	Counterfeit money in mall in Atlanta
06/13/1980	40	Counterfeit money in mall in Dallas
06/16-17/1980	40	Counterfeit money in New Orleans and Shreveport, Louisiana
06/18-19/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Dallas
06/20/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Kansas City
06/30/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Charlotte
07/31/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Novi, Michigan
08/1980	40	Counterfeit money in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Niles, Illinois, Milwaukee again, and Louisville, Kentucky
Labor Day weekend 1980	40	Counterfeit money in Tulsa, Oklahoma
11/01/1980	40	Posed as a cop and pulled over Dianne Overton, 25. She successfully fought to get away after being abducted
11/12/1980	40	Robbed clothing store in N.J., tied Maria Santini, 27, he dressed in skirt and heels, fondled and took photos, but let her go after failure to become aroused
06/14/1982	42	In Kentucky, charged with 6 counts of passing and possessing counterfeit currency, 2 counts of firearm Possession by a felon, and 1 count of carrying forearm during commission of a crime
1980-1982	40-42	Used numerous aliases throughout the East Coast
04/27/1982	42	In Bossier City, Louisiana, murdered realtor, Jean McPhaul (WF, 40), after restraining, strangling and stabbing her.
04/13/1983	43	Broke into a house in Greece, New York, and abducted two male housemates, David Starr and Joe Rapini (WM, 42). He held Rapini for ransom and then shot him.
10/1983	43	Charged with 1 st degree kidnapping in Trombley case
10/26/1983	43	Indicted for murder of Terry McDonald
02/29/1984	44	In Nashville, Tennessee, sentenced for counterfeiting conviction
01/1988	48	Convicted

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	3
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Louisiana, Rhode Island, Greece
Cities where killing occurred	Bossier City, Barrington, Lake Ontario
Type of killer	Organized lust, sexual sadist
Height	6'0"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	March 20, 1940
Location	Little Rock, Arkansas
Birth order	2 nd of 3
Number of siblings	2
XYX?	N/A
Raised by	Both parents, father was in the military, frequently absent
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Death of younger brother (suicide)
Age of family event	21

Problems in school?	Expelled
Teased while in school?	Yes, bullied and beaten up
Physically attractive?	Described as “wimpy,” concerned with vanity
Physical defect?	Irregularity at the bridge of his nose from a childhood surgery
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	None
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	Mother was alcoholic, father was neglectful
Sexually abused?	No
Father’s occupation	Engineer, Lieutenant in WWII
Age of first sexual experience	Approximately 16
Age when first had intercourse	Approximately 16
Mother’s occupation	Secretary
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Yes, alcohol
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	9, Expelled from different schools
Highest degree	None, granted a special dispensation to enroll in college without HS diploma
Grades in school	As, Bs, Cs in middle school, D+ in college
IQ	127
Source of IQ information	Michaud (1994, page 258)
Work History	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Air Force
Type of discharge	“Under Other Than Honorable Conditions”
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No, posed as police officer many times
Worked in law enforcement?	N/A
Fired from jobs?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Barber
Employment status during series	Unemployed and employed at various times
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married and divorced 5 times
Number of children	3 living children, 1 miscarried
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Various living arrangements including wives, family and self
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	Yes
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	2 months in Staunton, VA
Diagnosis	Sexual Sadist
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes, auto theft, sodomy, kidnapping, attempted murder

Spend time in jail?	Yes, several times
Spend time in prison?	Yes, 1962 and 1976
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	3
Victim type	Realtors
Killer age at start of series	38
Date of first kill in series	April, 1971
Date of final kill in series	April 13, 1983
Gender of victims	2 females, 1 male
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	40, 42
Type of victim	Realtors, students
Method of killing	Strangulation, stabbing
Weapon	Various
Was gun used?	Yes, in the murder of Rapini
Type	Handgun
Did killer have a partner?	Used wives as accomplices
Name of partner	Caryn, Wanda Faye Davis
Sex of partner	Female
Type of serial killer	Organized lust, sexual sadist
How close did killer live?	Drove to crime
Location of first contact	Realtor office
Location of killing	Vacant house for sale
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Sometimes
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	Yes
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	Yes
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	Yes
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	May 25, 1983
Date convicted	January, 1988
Sentence	375 years
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Leavenworth Prison in Kansas
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A

References

Michaud, Stephen G. (1994). *Lethal Shadow: The chilling true-crime story of a sadistic sex slayer*. NY: Onyx Books (0-451-40530-7)