

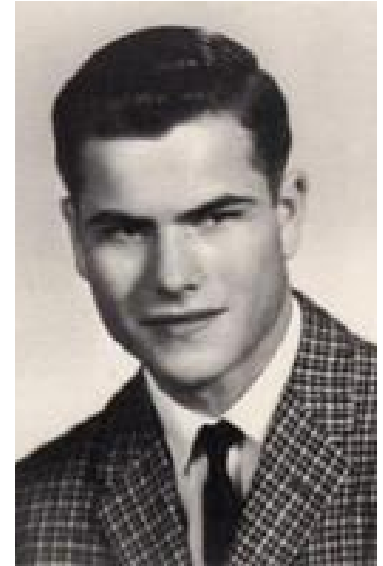
# Dennis Rader - “BTK Strangler”

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Kiara Alo-Racadio  
Period 2

# Childhood - Adulthood

- Born on March 9, 1945, in Pittsburg, Kansas. He was the eldest of four children
- Joined the Boy Scouts as a youth and participated in church youth group activities
- Developed fantasies about bondage, control and torture from an early age, while still in grade school. Kept his fantasies hidden
- Killed cats and dogs by hanging them
- Polite, quiet, and kept to himself. He wasn't very socially active with others
- Graduated from Wichita Heights High School, class of 1963
- Joined the U.S. Air Force in the summer of 1966 at the age of 21
- Got married to Paula Dietz on May 22, 1971. They eventually had two children
- Earned his bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice from Wichita State University in 1979



# Otero Family

- Occurred: January 15, 1974
- Cut off the phone lines and snuck into the Otero household through the backdoor
- He bound the wrists and ankles of Mr. and Mrs. Otero. He suffocated Mr. Otero with a plastic bag and proceeded to strangle Mrs. Otero with a rope
- Took Joseph Jr. to his bedroom, bound his wrists, placed a plastic bag over his head, and watched as the child slowly suffocated
- Lastly, he took Josephine into the basement and hung her on a pipe. He expressed his sexual desires about the young girl as she died
- Rader went through each room he killed in and cleaned away any evidence just before stealing the father's watch as a momentum
- The eldest son of the family, Charlie Otero, came home from school that very day to find his family gone



Joseph Otero



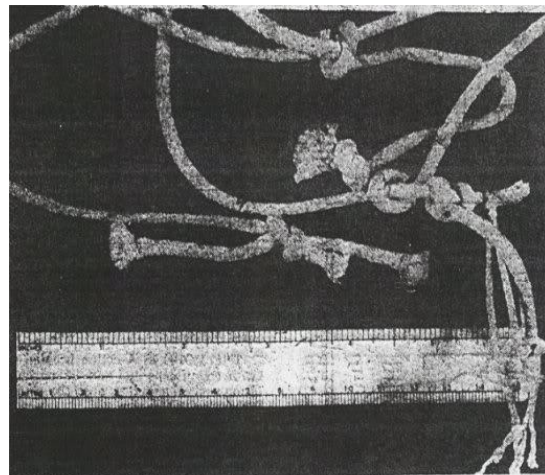
Julie Otero



Josephine Otero



Joseph Otero Jr.



Police Photo

ROPE BINDING OTEROS VENETIAN BLIND CORD

... Probably was cut from a well-used blind.



# Desire For Fame

- October 1974: A letter was placed in an engineering book at Wichita Public Library, where the Otero murders were described in great detail
- Dennis requested to be called the “BTK Strangler”, explaining that it stood for “bind them, torture them, kill them”
- Contacted the local police and media repeatedly, sending letters containing anagrams and poems of the crimes he committed over the years
- His desire was to terrorize the people of Wichita and make sure his greatest accomplishments were credited to him

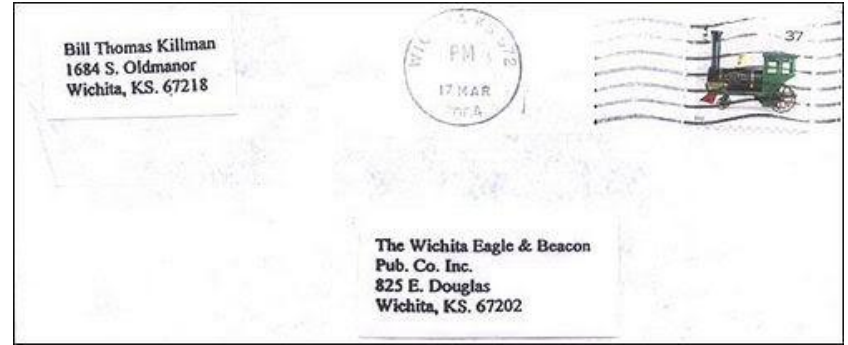
# Investigation

- Dennis' murders were spaced out (3-4 years) which made it increasingly hard for police to catch him
- He chose his victims at random, stalking them for long periods of time before attacking them
- Dennis had a wife and two kids, so he couldn't kill as often as he'd like to. Otherwise, he would look suspicious
- When he was unable to kill, Rader satisfied his urges by practicing on himself



# Investigation (continued)

- 1979: Dennis stopped communicating and remained silent for 25 years which caused the case to run cold
- 2004: An envelope was mailed to *The Wichita Eagle* from a **Bill Thomas Killman**. It contained three photocopied pictures of Vicki Wegerle taken in 1986 during her murder. It also had a photocopy of her missing driver's license
- DNA evidence was taken from Vicki's fingernails and over 1300 samples were taken in hopes to tie someone to the murders
- It is still unknown as to why Dennis stopped killing



CHAPTER 8

Examined by  
TabloidColumn.com

M C P R O W L X Q W T Y X	O R J L Z N F C I O P H N	A U K E F A N T A S I E S	S I W O L L O F M R N L T	D S P O T P V I C T I M E	D E T A I L S V L T P O A	O X H G J M N B D B U E M	P F G R Y U I S D L I U B	J G O F O R I T L S L F X
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Q A G S F H L K X	W E N R T Y U I	A N D E R S O N D I T	E O E F S S E R D C I G M	T P M G K T E Z C I G Y	Y O R S A L E V E N D	U A D D H L S O X B K O N	I S E J P L E H N A R A	X D L O S T P E T F W H
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# Catching A Killer

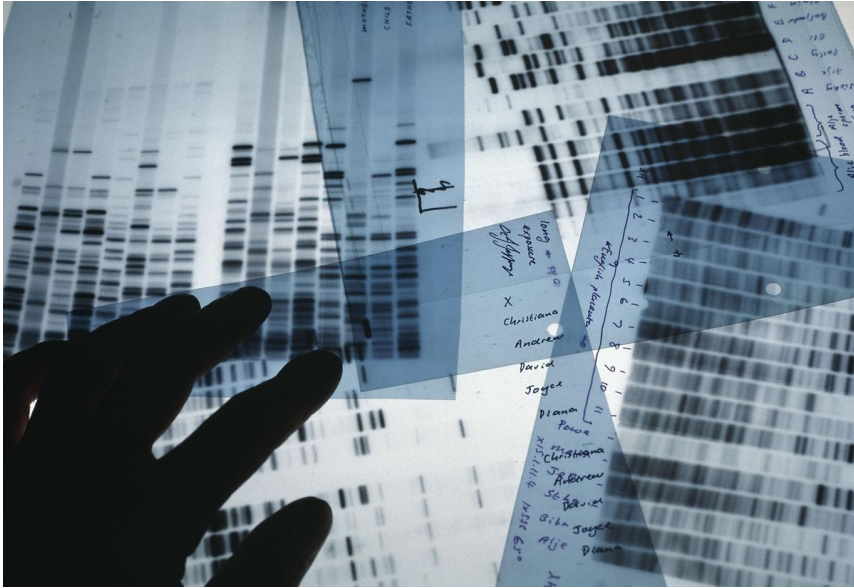
- Dennis sent police a document created in Microsoft Office on a floppy disk, which they quickly analyzed
- Another Microsoft Word document that was deleted was found on the floppy disk. Forensic experts analyzed the metadata and found that it had last been modified by someone named “Dennis” at Christ Lutheran Church
- They searched the church’s website and found that Dennis Rader functioned as president of the church’s congregation council
- Police secretly obtained a subpoena for a sample of Kerri Rader’s DNA and it came back as a familial match to the semen found at the BTK crime scenes



# Trial

- Dennis originally pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of murder, but then later changed his plea to guilty
- Rader's defense team had psychologist, Robert Mendoza, conduct a psych eval of Dennis to determine if an insanity plea could be viable
- August 19, 2005: Rader was sentenced to 175 years of imprisonment in El Dorado Correctional Facility
- Rader escaped execution only because his murders were committed before Kansas voted to restore the death penalty





DNA Profiling



Computer Forensics

# Opinion

I believe that Dennis Rader is guilty of being the BTK Killer because of the the DNA match they found from his daughter compared with DNA found at the crime scenes. Unfortunately, his crimes were committed during the time Kansas didn't enforce the death penalty, but I still think his sentence is fair. Although, the police should've never given Rader the attention he desired for his killings. He complained in one his many letters saying, "How many do I have to kill before I get my name in the paper or some national attention?" He's a sexual sadist who enjoys toying with people. Of course, he's going to lie and say he's going to keep taking lives if nobody gives him his credit. He was going to kill those women no matter what anybody did.



April 4, 1974:  
Kathryn Bright



March 17, 1977:  
Shirley Vian



December 8, 1977  
Nancy Fox



April 27, 1985  
Marine Hedge



January 19, 1991  
Dolores Davis

## Remaining Victims

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