THE NIGHT STALKER

Elissa Media

BIO: RICHARD RAMIREZ

- Serial killer, rapist and burglar
- His highly publicized home invasion crimes spree terrorized the residents of los angeles area, and later the residents of san francisco area.
- SPAN OF KILLINGS: June 1984 August 1985
- Dubbed as "NIGHT STALKER" by news media
- used a wide variety of weapons, including handguns, knives, a machete, a tire iron, and a hammer.



CRIME LAYOUT

TIMELINE & PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE

- Richard Ramirez was born Ricardo Leyva Muñoz Ramírez on February 29, 1960, in El Paso, Texas, the youngest of seven children born to Mercedes and Julian Ramírez, a Mexican American railway worker.
- Had a troubled childhood and was heavily influenced by his older cousin, a Green Beret named Mike who had recently returned from fighting in the Vietnam War.
- The two also discussed Satanic worship and smoked marijuana together, and Ramirez's teenage rebellion led him to commit petty crimes to fuel his drug habit, which further alienated him from his Catholic parents.
- As a result, he spent even more time with his cousin. When Mike murdered his wife, Ramirez
 was present, sowing the final developmental seeds for the future serial killer.

CRIMINAL BEGINNINGS

- Criminal record began in 1977, when he was placed in juvenile detention for a string of petty crimes.
- Moved to San Francisco, California, and then to Los Angeles, progressing to cocaine addiction and burglary, and cultivating an interest in weapons and Satanism.
- A car theft charge in 1983 led to a jail sentence.
- The following year, Ramirez was released from jail a conscienceless, Satanic criminal with poor hygiene, rotten teeth and no prospects.

DETAILS OF THE CRIMES

Theft turned to violence in 1984. Ramirez's first known murder took place on June 28, 1984; his victim was 79-year-old Jennie Vincow, who was viciously sexually assaulted, stabbed and murdered during a burglary in her own home. What followed was a spree of brutal murders, rapes and robberies, leaving more than 25 victims in its wake.

Ramirez's second known killing occurred nearly nine months after his first. On March 17, 1985, he attacked Maria Hernandez, who managed to escape him, and then killed her roommate, Dayle Okazaki. Not satisfied with these assaults, he also shot and killed Tsai Lian Yu the same evening, spurring a media frenzy that saw Ramirez dubbed the "Valley Intruder" by the press.

Just 10 days later, on March 27, Ramirez murdered 64-year-old Vincent Zazzara and Zazzara's 44-year-old wife, Maxine, using an attack style that would become a pattern for the killer: The husband was shot first, then the wife was brutally assaulted and stabbed to death. In this case, Ramirez also gouged out Maxine Zazzara's eyes.

Random Auto Checks Held After Night Stalker Attack



■ Crime: 'I will be avenged,' slayer declares at sentencing. Victims tell court of continuing

Ramirez Must Die, 'Stalker' Judge Decides

Los Angeles Times (1923-Current File); Nov 8, 1989; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Los Angeles Times (1881-1989)

Ramirez Must

Die, 'Stalker'

Judge Decides

TIMNICK, LOIS JOHN H LEE TIMES STAFF WRITERS

INTRUDER: The Stories of Killer's 14 Victims

which included 12 grandchildren. Two of those she helped through

Two or cooke are respice unrough.

Although Mrs. Bell's health was deterferating, ahe still drove her own our and payed bridge several times is week.

Divery year abe sent a contribution to a fund to heep the Station of "On one sides the was the very pectical business woman, or the other, a warm caring previou," and a grandion, his voice business woman enotion." I still can't title about

dy trouma July 15. Her sister survived, but relative id she can no longer speak ar

PATTY ELAINE HIGGINS The first time the Monroyi The first time the Moraevials Scheel Districts personned director met Petry Edaine Higgins, she could not inagine how the quiet could goestly handle a roomful could goestly handle a roomful denis. "But we found she had a confi-dence, inner aptril and strength that was arranged," the director time, energy and decidation on her job."

Miss Higgins, 32, grew up in a small town near Pittsburgh. After gradualing from college, the be-came a counselor for emotionally disturbed boys and later taught.

special to her."

On June 27, she worked late at Bradoaks School, decorating her room and getting ready for summer school.

She apparently arrived at mic vering at the burgalow in Arcad one apparently arrived it sittle evening at the burgalow in Arcadia that she shared with her pot cocker spaniel. She had no next-door neighbors because her house stands between a real estate office Mahet Beil, 84, and her invalid tor. Plorence Lant, 81, had spent

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road, they had only one close neighbor. Bell liked it that way, but her relatives worried. Born in Kentucky, Mn Bell, as ELYAS ABOWATH Diamond Bar, Aug. 8

Los Angeles Times October 23, 2009

DNA links 'Night Stalker' to girl's 1984 slaying, S.F. police say

Richard Ramirez is on death row for a string of 1985 murders that spawned widespread fear in the Southland

RUBEN VIVES

San Francisco police announced Thursday that DNA evidence had linked Richard Ramirez, the Southern California serial killer known as the "Night Stalker," to the 1984

slaving of a 9-year-old girl. Ramirez, who is on death ples to detectives Wednesday morning at San Quentin State Prison, according to the San

Francisco Police Department to determine whether Ramirez is connected to any other slav-

The unsolved case of the young girl's killing was reopened five years ago when Police Inspector Holly Pera re-



KILLER: Richard Ramirez was convicted of 13 murders, most committed after he entered homes at night.

called it from her days as a young patrol officer.

"That's part of the reason why the case was relooked at." Pera said during a news conference. "It's the type of case - as a new officer a case involving a little girl - that you can't forwas found dead in the base-

home from a friend's house.

staying at two hotels in the gen-

eral area, said Deputy Chief

Mathew Gabriel, the DNA

echnical leader at the crime

lab, said numerous items from

the scene were tested, and one

resulted in a "cold hit" when

run through a national data-

base. The Combined DNA In-

dex System (CODIS) holds

about 1.2 million profiles of

convicted offenders, and ar-

crime scene will now be com-

pared to the new DNA sample

from Ramirez to confirm the

The DNA sample from the

restees from past felonies.

cold hit. Gabriel said.

In most of the cases Ramin ez entered homes in the early ment of a residential hotel in morning hours through open the Tenderloin district, police windows or doors. Some of the victims were

found strangled, others had Police said Mei lived at the hotel with her family. Before their throats slashed, but most her death, she and her 8-yearhad been fatally shot. Spray-painted pentagrams old brother were seen walking a distinctive Satanist sym-At the time, Ramirez was

bol - were also found on the walls of the some of victims The killings led to an increase in the sale of guns, am-

munition locks and window bars throughout Los Angeles Ramirez's killing rampage

finally ended on Aug. 31, 1985, when he was captured and beaten by angry citizens in East Los Angeles after he tried to steal a woman's car. On Sept. 20, 1989, Ramirez

was convicted by a Los Angeles jury of 13 slavings. The following month, the jury voted for the death penalty.

Ramirez was quoted as say-In 1985, Ramirez went on a ing, as he left the courtroom months-long rampage of sexu-

Los Angeles Times

Early Start in Schooling

Botha Faces Mounting 400,000 Flee Pressure to Open Talks as Hurricane Broad Spectrum of S. African Leaders Urges

Solidarity Urges Polish Reforms

> Linked to Huge Robbery Seized

Stalker Suspect

25-Year-Old L.A. Man Named in Seven-Month Spree of Killings

AIDS Blood Tests Ordered for Armed Forces Recruits

slayings generated widespread fear throughout Southern California once police disclosed the existence of a wanton serial killer on Aug. 8. Sales of guns, ammunition, locks and window bars rose sharply all over the county. In the weeks

eading up to Aug. 31, the day ez was caught by citizens in East Los Angeles, employees of gun shops and home-security stores often arrived for work in the morning to find customers waiting at their doore

Even police officers were speaked by the killings. One senior member of the region-wide police Night Stalker task force became so oncerned that he moved his family out of their San Gabriel Valley house during the manhunt

Various government agencie eventually offered about \$80,000 in reward money for information leading to the killer's arrest and conviction. Nearly 20 claims already have been filed and now can

gust of 1985. Several of them took ne another.

Initially, many weeks passed be

prosecutors advised the relatives of Ramirez's victims who were on sexual assaults. hand to refrain from commenting The crimes were especially chill to the news media, since the penaling because they seemed so indisminate. But two of them. Ellen Francis and Judith Arnold, the daughters of men and women who lived peacefaxon and Lela Kneiding, who

Michael A. Typan read the guilt: verdicts for the murders of their

lived in Glendale, said they intended to visit their parents' grave sites. he women had struggled visibly to choke back tears as Judge ornia night.

ack of a pattern was one of operandi did not fit neatly into the traditional categories that police had come to associate with serial

All but one attack occurred between mid-March and early Au-The victims were middle-class fully in neatly tended houses and ndominiums and had simply gone

Police Identify

Super Baby.

some relief in that," he said.

In the verdicts, Halpin and

Yochelson got everything they

asked for, except for one murder

count, in which the jury returned a

rather than first-degree murder.

That involved the March 17, 1985,

murder of Tsai-Lian Victoria Yu,

Alhambra Avenue in Monterey

vho was shot to death in her car on

But Halpin and Yochelson called

hat determination "amazingly so-

phisticated" because, they said, the

jurors had been smart enough to

occurred without premeditation or

"It shows they were paying very

After court was adjourned, the

Ly phase still lies ahead.

close attention to both the evidence

deliberation.

spectators at his sentencing judge's decision: death in gas c RAMIREZ: Convicted on All 43 Stalk

JOSE GALVEZ / LOKA

chamber. The El Paso native beat, s raped, sodomized, shot and sla throats of his victims in a savage

of Satanic-tinged slayings that

point such rewards become seco

Richard Ramirez turns toward co

Southern California in the summe He was captured in August of tha angry East Los Angeles residents. "Evidence suggests that while gain initially motivated defendant

his perverted gratification," a

report read. Please see SENTE gas

owner. Further reproduction prohibited without

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P not

l am

r-old

II he

al assault and murder that genwidespread fear throughout Southern Califorruben vives@latimes com

"Big deal. Death always went with the territory."

In all, the jury returned with 19

mission of a burglary in addition to umstance" makes Ran to the death penalty. It took court clerk Josephine Williams and Tynan about 45 min-

The so-called penalty phase of

the trial is to begin Wednesday

utes to read the verdicts. morning. Ramirez's lawyers are expected to start calling witnesses whose testimony is intended to persuade jurors to spare Ramirez's

Rebuttal Weighed determine that the murder had Halpin said he does not intend to call prosecution witnesses during this phase, except perhaps as rebuttal witnesses after the defense

case is over

were committed during pre-dawn residential burglaries throughout Los Angeles County and were marked by cold-blooded murders, savage beatings, mutilations and

Most of the Night Stalker crimes

to bed with a window or door insecured on a warm, benign Cali-Among Ramirez's victims were a

raffic supervisor, an accountant, a awyer, a student, a pizzeria owner,

place within hours and blocks of

fore investigators realized that the

CONTINUED...

A full-scale police operation yielded no concrete results, and Ramirez repeated his attack pattern on pensioners William and Lillie Doi in April 1985. Over the next two months, his murder rate escalated rapidly, claiming another dozen victims in a frenzy of burglary, assault and brutal violence—complete with Satanic rituals—and driving Los Angeles into a panic. After the press demanded that the police do more to catch the killer, a dedicated task force comprised of hundreds of law-enforcement officers was established, and the FBI stepped in to assist.

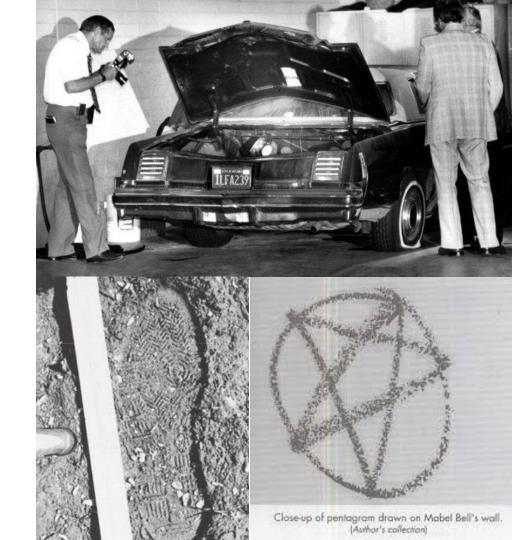
This relentless media and police pressure, aided with photo-fit descriptions from his surviving victims, forced Ramirez to leave the L.A. area that August. He moved north to San Francisco, taking his first victims there, Peter and Barbara Pan, on August 17. His unmistakable MO, complete with Satanic symbolism, meant that his "Valley Intruder" moniker was no longer applicable, so the press quickly coined a new name for the criminal: the "Night Stalker," as most of his assaults took place at night in his victims' homes.

FINAL MURDER

Ramirez's next—and final—attack, on August 24, 1985, led to the identification of his stolen car by the victim four days later. After a televised appeal, the car was found, complete with his fingerprints inside, and his criminal record enabled the police to finally put a name to the "Night Stalker."

THE EVIDENCE

- Fingerprints
- Bullet casings
- Pentagrams drawn in the crime scene
- Taking the eyes of the victims
- Witness getting license plate number



SCIENCE BEHIND IT

- Due to the time of the case and the lack of technology available, there weren't very many databases that could be used to analyzed the evidence.
- Everything had to be compared/analyzed by hand. The witness getting the license plate number gave a break to the case.
- A fingerprint lifted from the crime scene and car matched, which is when police were able to stop the ends to the Night Stalker.

FORENSIC SCIENCE INVOLVED

- Fingerprint analysis
- Footprint analysis
- Handwriting analysis

FINDING THE SUSPECT

CAPTURE

National television and print media coverage featuring his prison photo, along with a series of clues from witnesses and survivors, led to Ramirez's capture on August 30, after he was badly beaten by East L.A. residents while attempting a carjacking and police were called to the scene.

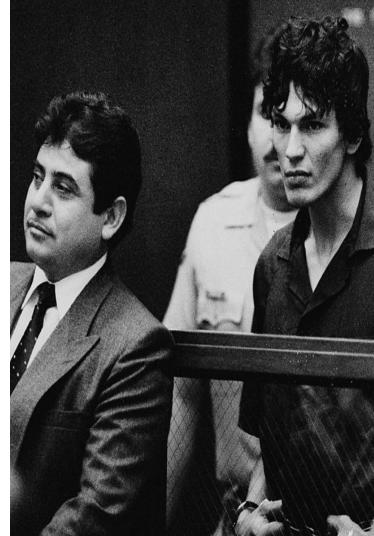
TRIAL

Ramirez claimed that he has been mistakenly identified and did everything possible to delay the onset of the trial, which saw him charged with 14 murders and 31 other felonies in connection to his killing spree.

Almost three years after his apprehension, on July 22, 1988, the jury selection process began.

The case took a full year to hear, given the number of witnesses and sheer amount of evidence.

During this time, Ramirez attracted a large, cult-like following—many of whom were black-clad Satan worshipers—who appeared daily at his trial.



TRIAL CONTINUATION...

On September 20, 1989, the jury finally returned a unanimous guilty verdict on 43 charges, including 13 counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder, 11 sexual assault charges and 14 burglary charges.

On November 7, 1989, Ramirez received 19 death sentences, and was subsequently transferred to San Quentin Prison in California.

Following his conviction, Ramirez was linked to several more vicious crimes, most recently in 2009, when a DNA sample connected him with the April 10, 1984, rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in San Francisco.

HOW HAS SCIENCE CHANGED?

Science has definitely improved and in fact even benefited this case, when law enforcement later used dna evidence to convict ramirez or more murders even after his initial sentencing...

MY OPINION... GUILTY

THANKS FOR LISTENING