

# *Robert Ben Rhoades*

*“Whips and Chains”*



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Date	Age	Life Event
11/22/1945	0	Born in Counsel Bluffs, Iowa
		Raised initially by his mother and then by his mother and father after the father returned from overseas.
		Had few problems in school. Played football, wrestled, and was in the boy's glee club, choir, and French club
1963	16	Arrested for tampering with a motor vehicle during his sophomore year in high school.
Approx 1964		Arrested for fighting
1964	18	Enlisted in Marine Corps after graduating Monticello High School
	18	Father arrested for performing lascivious acts on a 12-year old girl. Father committed suicide after being arrested.
1967-1968		Arrested for robbery and was discharged from the Marines
		Attended college, but dropped out
		Applied for a job as a police officer but was not hired
		Got married after returning to Council Bluffs had one son
1972	26	Divorced
		Married two more times
		Worked in stores, supermarkets, warehouses, restaurants and drove long haul truck
Nov., 1989	44	First kill in series
Jan, 1990		Picked up Candace Walsh and her new husband, Douglas Zyskowski. Rhoades killed Zyskowski and dumped his body. He kept Candace for seven more days before killing her and dumping her body in Millard County, Utah.
Jan., 1990	44	Douglas Scott Zyskowski's body found in Texas but they were not able to identify it until 1992.
02/03/1990	44	Final kill in the series
02/14/1990	44	Last marriage to wife Debra
04/01/1990	44	Arrested in Arizona for aggravated assault, sexual assault, and unlawful imprisonment
09/29/1990	44	The body of 14-year old Regina Walters was found in a barn off Interstate 70, 220 miles southwest of Chicago
Oct., 1990	44	Body of Candace Walsh (24) was discovered by deer hunters near Fillmore, UT
Sept. 1992	44	Pleads guilty to first-degree murder for the murder of Regina Walters

09/11/1992	46	Convicted in Illinois and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole
09/15/1992	46	Admitted to Stateville Correctional Center, Illinois
2005	59	Extradited to Utah to be tried for the murder of Candace Walsh (24)
2006		Returned to prison in Illinois
04/23/2007	61	Rhoades is still serving his sentence in Illinois.

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	At least four
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Multiple locations (Utah, Washington, Texas, Illinois)
Cities where killing occurred	Interstates/highways
Type of killer	Both Organized and Disorganized
Height	5'11"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	November 22, 1945
Location	Council Bluffs, Iowa
Birth order	2 <sup>nd</sup> out of 4
Number of siblings	4
XYY?	no
Raised by	Mother at first, Father came later from overseas
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Father arrested for performing lascivious acts on a 12-year old girl. Father committed suicide after being arrested.
Age of family event	18
Problems in school?	No. Played football, wrestled, boy's glee club, choir, French club
Teased while in school?	
Physically attractive?	Not attractive
Physical defect?	
Speech defect?	
Head injury?	
Physically abused?	
Psychologically abused?	
Sexually abused?	
Father's occupation	Army/Firefighter
Age of first sexual experience	
Age when first had intercourse	
Mother's occupation	Housewife
Father abused drugs/alcohol	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	

### Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	12
Highest degree	High School Diploma
Grades in school	
IQ	
Source of IQ information	

### Work History

Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Marine Corps

Type of discharge	Dishonorable
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	Yes, but application was rejected
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Stores, supermarkets, warehouses, restaurants and drove long haul truck
Employment status during series	Truck driver
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married/Separated
Number of children	One son
Lives with his children	
Living with	
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	
Fire setting	
Bed wetting	
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	
Abused alcohol?	
Been to a psychologist?	
Time in forensic hospital?	
Diagnosis	
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes, he was arrested for fighting, tampering with motor vehicle, and robbery
Spend time in jail?	
Spend time in prison?	
Killed prior to series? Age?	
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	4
Victim type	Prostitutes, transient women, Missionaries, young women w/ boyfriends, hitchhikers
Killer age at start of series	44
Date of first kill in series	November 1989
Date of final kill in series	February 3, 1990
Gender of victims	Both males and females
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	14, 18, 24, 28
Type of victim	Prostitutes, Transient women, Missionaries, Young women w/ Boyfriends, Hitchhikers
Method of killing	Tortured, sexually abused, shot, strangled
Weapon	Killer brought with him, Had torture chamber in back of truck
Was gun used?	Yes, only used on the married couple
Type	Handgun
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	N/A
Sex of partner	N/A

Type of serial killer	Organized lust and disorganized thrill
How close did killer live?	Drove to Crime/Crimes committed in his truck
Location of first contact	Interstate
Location of killing	Back of truck on Interstate
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Yes
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes, all female victims
Tortured victims?	Yes, had torture chamber in the back of his truck
Stalked victims?	No, Contacted families after killing victims
Overkill?	Yes, shaved hair and posed the bodies
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Yes, used a horse bit
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?	When he took victims
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	Yes, Articles of clothing, pictures
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	Yes, young female victim was left in a barn
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes, Dumped bodies in random places
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	April 1, 1990
Date convicted	September 11, 1992
Sentence	Life without parole
Killer executed	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Illinois
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still alive today

### References

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