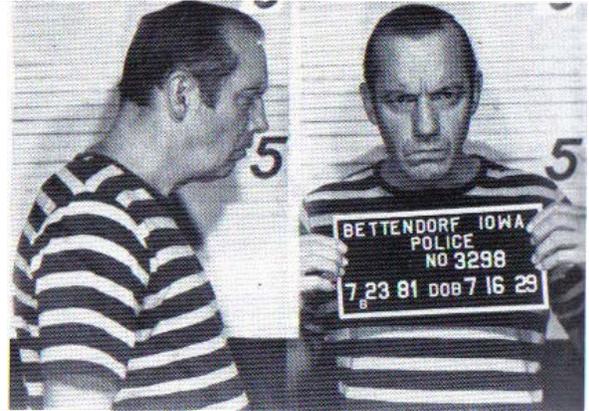


Charles Ray Hatcher

*“Crazy Charlie”
“A one-man crime wave”
“Mr. Prince”*



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Date	Age	Life Event
July 16, 1929	birth	Charles Ray Hatcher was born at 4:00pm 34 miles north of St. Joseph, in Mound City, Missouri. He was the youngest child of three brothers (Arthur, Jesse Jr., and Floyd) His parents were Jesse and Lula Hatcher
Spring, 1935	6	Watched his older brother, Arthur Allen Hatcher die of electrocution. The brothers were flying a kite with copper wire they found in an old Model T Ford. Arthur was about to hand the kite to Charles, when it hit a high voltage power line and electrocuted him. Arthur was pronounced died at the scene.
1945	16	Charles moved with his mother and her third husband to St. Joseph, Missouri.
1947	18	Charles received his 1 st job setting pins at a bowling alley in Missouri.
Fall, 1947	18	Charles Hatcher received a job driving a truck and hauling logs for the Iowa-Missouri Walnut Co. which only lasted two weeks.
October 9, 1947	18	The company reported that one of the trucks had been stolen. Hatcher bought the company truck back that morning. He was intoxicated at the time and admitted to stealing the truck. He was convicted of his first crime which was auto theft in St. Joseph, Missouri. He received a two-year suspended sentence.
February 5, 1948	18	Hatcher received another job at the St. Francis Hotel in St. Joseph, Missouri washing dishes and doing other odd jobs. Convicted of auto theft for a second time for stealing a 1937 Buick in St. Joseph, Missouri, Hatcher was sentenced to two years in Missouri State Penitentiary.
February 7, 1948	18	Hatcher was received at the prison for the 1 st time.
June 8, 1949	18	Hatcher was released from prison after serving a little less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of his time.
October 10, 1949	19	Convicted of forgery for a \$10 check at a gas station in Maryville, Missouri. Hatcher was sentenced to three years in Missouri State Penitentiary.
March 18, 1951	21	Escaped from prison, but was caught and received an extra two years.

		While he was out he also attempted a burglary.
July 14, 1954	24	After serving his additional time he was released from prison.
February 5, 1955	25	Hatcher stole a 1951 Ford in Orrick, Missouri. He was then sentenced to 4 years for the car theft. During his imprisonment at Ray County Jail in Richmond, Missouri, Hatcher received an additional two years for attempted escape.
March 18, 1959	29	Released from prison after the fifth and sixth sentences of his career.
June 26, 1959	29	Hatcher attempted to abduct a 16 year old St. Joseph newspaper boy by the name of Steven Pellham. He threatened the young boy with a butcher knife, making this the first recorded violent crime of his life. Pellham reported the crime and Hatcher was arrested when the police stopped him in a stolen vehicle.
November 20, 1959	30	Hatcher was sentenced to five years in the Missouri State Penitentiary for the attempted abduction and auto theft under the Habitual Criminal Act.
November 21, 1959	30	Hatcher was waiting to be transported to the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he attempted to break out of the Buchanan County Jail. Hatcher was unsuccessfully.
November 25, 1959	30	Hatcher arrived at the Missouri State Penitentiary for his fourth tour. At this point Hatcher was starting to state his claim as being the most notorious criminal in the northwest of Missouri since Jesses James.
July 2, 1961	31	Jerry Tharrington, a fellow inmate of Hatcher's at the penitentiary, was found raped and stabbed to death on the prison's kitchen loading dock. Hatcher was the only one missing from the kitchen crew at the time of the murder.
August 21, 1961	32	Hatcher was sent to solitary confinement for the Tharrington's murder, since there was not enough evidence to convict him in court. This was the only punishment available.
January 18, 1962	32	Hatcher, still in solitary confinement from the murder, sent a note to the Major at the penitentiary, claiming that he realized he needed psychological treatment. However, the prison psychologist felt that it was all a scheme to get out of solitary and possibly out of prison early. Treatment was refused, and many believe that if he had gotten treatment, the remainder of his life may have gone in an entirely different direction.
October, 1962	33	Hatcher was returned to the general population at the prison and his sentenced was reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ the original time.
August 24, 1963	34	Hatcher was released from the penitentiary.
August 27, 1969	40	Hatcher confessed to abducting a boy in Antioch, California. The boy was riding down the street on his bicycle and he had a tennis racket with him. Hatcher told the boy to take a ride with him. Hatcher drove to a creek and strangled the boy with his hands.
August 29, 1969	40	A 6 year old Hispanic boy was reported missing at 5:00pm in San Francisco, California. The boy had been last seen walking away with a man that offered him ice cream, as reported by the six year old girl he was playing with. The boy was found by a man walking his dog in the middle of the sexual assault and beating. Police arrived in time and arrested the man who wouldn't answer any questions except saying his name was Albert Ralph Price; the identification found on him was fro a man named Hobert Prater. The boy survived the horrifying assault. FBI records finally identified the man as Charles R. Hatcher.
September 12, 1969	40	Hatcher, still going by the name Albert Price, was brought before a judge in California for the charges of assault with attempt to commit sodomy and kidnapping. Psychiatric evaluations were ordered to determine Hatcher's competence.
September, 25, 1969	40	A complete mental evaluation during a 90-day stay at California State Hospital was ordered after Hatcher was completely unresponsive during

		the preliminary evaluations. This was the first time Hatcher faked mental illness and avoided prison. During his time at the hospital, Hatcher claimed he heard voices and faked delusions of persecution. He pretended to be confused and faked a few suicide attempts for effect.
September 30, 1969	40	Hatcher began the 1 st of his five tours of the California State Hospital.
December, 1970	41	Hatcher was repeatedly sent back to the courts from the hospital; psychologists' saying that he was competent to stand trial and each time being sent back to the hospital. One psychiatrist at the hospital identified him as having a passive-aggressive personality with sexual deviation and pedophilia. It was also reported that the staff felt Hatcher was malingering. The hospital decided once again that he was competent to stand trial and once again the judge ordered two more evaluations.
January 21, 1971	41	The first psychiatrist concluded that Hatcher was insane and recommended vigorous treatment in a secure hospital.
January 22, 1971	41	The second psychiatrist, who referred to Hatcher as "Mr. Prince," concluded that he was incompetent to stand trial and sent him back to the hospital.
May 24, 1971	41	Hatcher was finally sent to trial and pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Once again, Hatcher was sent for evaluations, this time at a different hospital and it was concluded that he could not stand trial.
May 27, 1971	41	The actual examination took place with both Hatcher (Albert Price) and Dr. Carl Drake, Jr. He lied about his life history to the doctor. Many doctor's had relied on the words of convicted inmates on the accounts of their lives.
June 2, 1971	41	Hatcher escaped from the hospital. He was caught a week later 90 miles away in Colusa, California. He was arrested under suspicion of auto theft and went by the name Richard Lee Grady.
July 15, 1971	41	Hatcher was returned to the California State Hospital for an evaluation of a mental disorder, where he was recognized by the staff.
April 4, 1972	42	After finally deciding that Hatcher's treatment was going nowhere and that he was endangering other patients, he was sent to the prison state hospital at Vacaville.
August, 1972	43	Hatcher was transferred to San Quentin Prison, and finally would be forced to trial, three years after the crime.
October 24, 1972	43	After it was determined that he was capable of rational thinking, based on a letter he wrote to his public defender, Hatcher was ordered two final examinations. One would determine if he was competent to stand trial and the other would determine if he was sane at the time of the crime.
December 12, 1972	43	Hatcher was finally tried for the abduction and molestation of Gilbert Martinez, the Hispanic boy. He was convicted of the charges.
January, 9 1973	43	Hatcher was committed to the California State Hospital as a mentally disordered sexual offender.
March 28, 1973	43	Around 5:00pm the security guards found Hatcher hiding in a cooler near the main courtyard of the hospital. There were two sheets stuffed into his pants. He admitted to the guards he was Attempting to escape from the hospital. The doctors felt that he was still a threat to society and he was sent back to court for sentencing.
April 27, 1973	43	Sent to a medium security prison in Vacaville, California with a sentence of one year to life in prison.
May 1973	43	A psychologist, W.D. Lewis interviewed Hatcher at the reception center and found him to be a "manipulative institutionalized sociopath."
June 15, 1973	43	Hatcher was recommended for transfer to a maximum security prison. He slashed his wrists because he didn't want to be sent to one of those prisons. A psychiatrist concluded that had paranoia and schizophrenia, which saved him from the maximum security prison. He remained at

		Vacaville.
August 1975	45	Guards stated at the parole review that Hatcher was not a custodial problem and had performed his tasks well in the hospital kitchen.
June 25, 1976	45	The California Parole Board found that Hatcher had improved dramatically through his time in prison, which was two years, seven months, and seventeen days based on various reviews. Talk of parole began. After continued treatment and rehabilitation a parole date was set for December 25, 1978.
January 3, 1977	47	Hatcher received a modified parole date that led him to be released 19 months earlier than expected. A bill had been passed that would give credit to inmates for time spent not only in jails, but in mental health facilities as well.
May 20, 1977	47	Hatcher was released to Home Care Services Center, a halfway house in San Francisco, California.
May 25, 1977	47	Hatcher was supposed to report back to the half-way house every night at 9:00pm and take a total of nine prescribed pills. Five days later, Hatcher violated the terms of his parole and was on the run. He was considered a "walk-away."
June 13, 1977	47	Hatcher was declared a "parolee at large" and besides a sighting in Wilmar, Minnesota, was not seen for about a year.
May 27, 1978	48	A 4 year old by the name of Eric Christgen was abducted and murdered in St. Joseph, Missouri.
September 4, 1978	49	Hatcher was arrested in Omaha, Nebraska, 150 miles north of St. Joseph, Missouri for a sexual attack on a 16 year old boy.
Fall 1978 and Spring of 1982		Hatcher was arrested for molesting a teenage boy, attempting to stab a 7 year old boy, fighting over payment for sex with a young man. All these crime were in Omaha, Nebraska. Hatcher also molested a man in Lincoln, Nebraska, attempted to stab a man in Des Moines, and abducted an 11 year old boy from a shopping mall in Bettendorf, Iowa.
January 31, 1979	49	Released from Douglas County Mental Hospital in Omaha, where he had been for the sexual attack in September 1978. He had been arrested under the name Richard Clark, and records indicate that he may never have been identified as Hatcher during his time there. None of the jurisdictions that Hatcher encountered bothered to process his fingerprints.
February 14, 1979	49	Man by the name of Melvin Reynolds was falsely accused and convicted to life in prison for the Christgen murder, which was committed by Hatcher.
May 3, 1979	49	Hatcher was arrested again in Omaha for assault and attempt to kill a 7 year old boy by the name of Thomas Morton. Charges were dropped and he was sent to another mental health facility.
May 21, 1980	50	Hatcher was released only to return two months later for another assault charge.
September 6, 1980	51	Escaped from Norfolk Regional Center
October 9, 1980	51	Arrested under the name Richard Clark in Lincoln, Nebraska for attempted assault and sodomy of a 17 year old male. He was discharged from the mental health facility he was sent to only 21 days later.
January 13, 1981	51	Arrested again under the name Richard Clark in Des Moines, Iowa after a knife fight. He spent a short amount of time in various Iowa mental health facilities.
April 10, 1981	51	Hatcher was discharged to a Salvation Army shelter in Davenport, Iowa.
June 20, 1981	51	A man by the name of James L. Churchill was stabbed to death on the banks of the Mississippi River near Rock Island, Illinois. Hatcher eventually confessed that Churchill and he had been drinking heavily and he felt the impulse to kill growing inside of him. He stabbed Churchill until the knife became imbedded in a bone to the right of his chest, near

		the heart. He stabbed Churchill a total of 10 or 12 times.
July 16, 1981	52	Arrested in Bettendorf, Iowa for attempting to abduct an 11 year old boy by the name of Todd Peers from a grocery store. The boy was able to run and when the police arrested Hatcher, he again went by the name of Richard Clark. Ironically this was Hatcher's birthday.
March 18, 1982	52	The charges were dropped but Hatcher was sent to a mental hospital in Mount Pleasant, Iowa on an involuntary commitment.
May 7, 1982	52	After staying there only 49 days, Hatcher was released.
July 27, 1982	53	A young woman, Stephanie Richie was accosted by a strange man in a downtown shopping mall in St. Joseph, Missouri. The man wanted to take her for a walk and buy her a cup of coffee. Richie was frightened by the man and told him to leave her alone. This encounter took place only half a block down from where Eric Christgen was abducted 4 years earlier.
July 28, 1982	53	Hatcher abducted a 10 year old boy by the name Kerry Heiss. The abduction took place outside of a mall in St. Joseph, Missouri. Heiss had been browsing in a record shop at the mall when a man grabbed him by the shoulder and announced he was a security guard. The boy got away from Hatcher and went to find his grandmother. The man escaped before the police arrived.
July 29, 1982	53	There was a brief report in the <i>St. Joseph Gazette</i> on the attempted abduction of Kerry Heiss.
July 29, 1982	53	An 11 year old Michelle Steele was abducted and murdered in St. Joseph. She was going to a dentist appointment downtown in St. Joseph, Missouri. She went to her dentist appointment which was at 10:30 a.m. and left around 11:30 a.m. When her mother, Annette Steele returned home at 3:15 and noticed that her daughter was not present, she called the police.
July 30, 1982	53	The uncle of the missing girl, Roy Montgomery was continuing the search when he noticed something white between two logs. It was Michelle Steele's lifeless body laying there between the two logs. The body was found less than a mile downstream from where Eric Christgen's body was found earlier.
July 30, 1982	53	Hatcher voluntarily checked into the St. Joseph State Hospital under the name Richard Clark, claiming that he was hearing voices.
August 3, 1982	53	Hatcher, under the name Richard Clark, was charged with first degree murder for the murder of Michelle Steele and the bond was set for \$250,000. Hatcher had been identified by the police as the man they had seen by the river, as well as picked out of photo lineups by the two attempted abductees. Sufficient evidence had been found: nylon cords, his knapsack, his teeth matched the bite marks on the girl's body, and his shoes matched the imprints in the soil near the body.
August 13, 1982	53	Hatcher received his first mental examination in this case and it was concluded that he could understand his charges and didn't need to be sent to another mental hospital.
September 12, 1982	53	Hatcher pleaded not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. A second examination was ordered.
December 2, 1982	53	During this examination he was injected with a truth serum. In the questioning, Hatcher claimed that voices and demons told him to "sacrifice the maiden." The doctors believed that these were simply excuses he had come up with himself to justify his violence.
December 6, 1982	53	A trial date was, but was missed but of his lack of competence to stand trial.
April 19, 1983	53	Hatcher was ruled competent to stand trial for the 1 st degree murder in the death of Michelle Steele. A new trial date was set for June 6 th .
May 3, 1983	53	Hatcher was spending time at Buchanan County Jail, awaiting his trial. He gave a scrap of paper to a deputy that said: "Please call the FBI and tell

		them I would like to see them today. Very important case.” When Hatcher met with FBI agent Joe Holtstag, he gave him a map that directed him to the body of James Churchill. He didn’t admit to killing him, so it was assumed that this was just to gain credibility. He told Holtstag that there were 16 bodies, 13 adults, and all were male. Holtstag got his first pieces of information that would lead to the discovery that the wrong man was in jail for the murder of Eric Christgen. During this interview, it became clear that Hatcher would trade details about the murder for the death penalty; he wanted to be put to death
May 28, 1983	53	Hatcher was finally charged under his real name. He was listed as using the aliases: Richard Martin Clark, Richard Harris, Richard Mark Clark, Richard Lee Grady, Richard Lee Price, Earl L. Kalebough, Albert Aire, Charles Marvin Tidwell, Hobart Prater, Ronald Springer, Doris Mullins, Carl L. Kalebough, Albert Ralph Price, Doris Mullins Travis, and Dwayne Lee Wilfong. He had used six Social Security numbers in his career.
June 6, 1983	53	After Hatcher’s cell was searched by impatient officers still waiting for his confessions, he told Holtstag that he had flushed his diary of the murders.
June 20, 1983	53	The two attorneys, Dahms and Morrey had obtained a change of venue for Hatcher’s trial and the date was set for August 22, 1983.
July 25, 1983	54	Hatcher finally wrote a detailed account, containing evidence no one else would know, about the Christgen case. Holtstag received this letter on the 27 th of July.
August 3, 1983	54	Hatcher confessed to the murder of James Churchill in 1981 and William Freeman in 1969. During this same interview he was questioned by other detectives about killing Eric Christgen. By the end of this interview, Hatcher had filled out a timeline of his career from his October 27, 1947 arrest for auto theft to his July 29, 1982, which was the arrest for the Michelle Steele murder.
September 1, 1983	54	The grand jury met and felt they had heard enough evidence to indict Hatcher on capital murder charges of Michelle Steele.
September 6, 1983	54	Hatcher was indicted by the Buchanan County grand jury on capital murder and was arraigned the next day.
September 12, 1983	54	Hatcher pleaded not guilty and another trial was set for January 9, 1984.
October 13, 1983	54	Hatcher was sentenced to life in prison in Missouri State Penitentiary for the murder of Eric Christgen. Melvin Reynolds, the man currently serving time for the crime was released the next day.
January 9, 1984	54	The trial was about to start, but Hatcher’s attorney, Dahms had enough of his clients abuse and dropped the case.
September 17, 1984	55	The trial and the new attorney moved to Warrensburg, Kansas. The trial lasted five days from 9:00 am until 9:00pm. A jury of 8 men and 4 women were picked the 1 st day.
Sept 22, 1984	55	Hatcher was convicted of capital murder in the case of Michelle Steele. It took the jury less than an hour to return and recommend Hatcher be sentenced to life without the possibility of probation or parole for 50 years.
November 1984	55	Holtstag met with Hatcher for the last time in the penitentiary interview room.
December 3, 1984	55	Hatcher appeared before the court again on a motion for a new trial. The motion was denied.
December 7, 1984	55	On a clear and cold morning, officers made their routine schedule and shined a flashlight in Hatcher’s cell and found him hanged in his cell. He was hanging by a piece of electrical wire that had been tied to the brace of a heavy metal ventilation grate on his cell. The knot in the wire was located beneath his right ear. Hatcher’s hands had been tied behind his back with a piece of shoelace. The officers tried to revive him, but he was already dead.

December 11, 1984	55	A group of volunteers carried a fiberboard box containing Hatcher's remains to the prison cemetery to be buried. His brother refused to have anything to do with Hatcher.
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General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	16
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Missouri and California
Type of killer	Antisocial Personality, Hatcher killed on impulse and seemed to have no conscience.
Height	6'2"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	July 16, 1929
Location	Mound City, Missouri
Birth order	4 th of 4
Number of siblings	3 brothers
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents were present at first, then mother remarried multiple times. Charles received more attention than his brothers did from his mother. His mother believed in him.
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Separated, broken home
Family event	Death of older brother, Arthur Allen Hatcher and parents separated and mother remarried
Age of family event	6
Problems in school?	Yes, due to the fact that Charles was abused as a child he would often inflict pain on children when at school
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No head injuries
Physically abused?	Yes, Charles's father drank heavily and as a result physically abused both Charles and his brothers
Psychologically abused?	Broken home, unable to gain genuine relationships
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Ex- Convict
Age of first sexual experience	40
Age when first had intercourse	40
Mother's occupation	Did not have a job
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes, alcoholic father
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No, but unstable

Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	Unknown. However, obtained a job at the age of 16. Estimate could range somewhere before.
Highest degree	Unknown
Grades in school	Specifics are unknown; however, he performed well in the years of schooling.
IQ	Unknown

Work History

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?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Bowling alley attendant, truck driver, dishwasher at the local hotel.
Employment status during series	unemployed
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Bi-sexual; molested men and young boys, but also raped Michelle Steele.
Marital status	Single
Number of children	0
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Mother and stepfathers for most of his young life, alone in adulthood.
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes
Diagnosis	Hatcher was first diagnosed with schizophrenia, sociopath, and mentally disturbed sex offender. Eventually they found out he was competent to stand trial.
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No, just petty crimes before series.
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	16
Victim type	Predominately males, some females.
Killer age at start of series	31
Gender of victims	Males
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	4, 16, 7, 11, 10, 13, and unknown of Jerry Tharrington
Method of killing	Stabbing and strangulation
Type of serial killer	Antisocial personality/ Hatcher seemed to have an urge to kill people and had to satisfy that urge.
How close did killer live?	Hatcher seemed to stay in close proximity of the victims, but drove or sometimes walked to the scene.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	

Weapon	Killer brought with him, which was usually a knife or his bare hands.
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes, One victim was overkill; due to the fact Hatcher stabbed him 10 or 12 times.
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
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?	Yes
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Left body at the scene of the crime
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, to home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	Arrested August 3, 1982 for the murder of Michelle Steele. He was already in prison when he confessed to the murder of Eric Christgen.
Date convicted	Convicted of Michelle Steele's murder on Sept 22, 1984. Convicted of Eric Christgen's on October 13, 1984.
Sentence	50 years to life without parole.
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	Yes
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Missouri State Penitentiary, Missouri.
Killer committed suicide?	Yes
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Dec. 7, 1984
References	
<p>Ganey, T. (1989). <i>Innocent blood: A true story of obsession and serial murder</i>. New York, NY: Carol Communications, Inc.</p> <p>Ganey, T. (1989). <i>St. Joseph's children</i>. New York, NY: Carol Publishing Group.</p> <p>http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkillers/H/HATCHER_charles_ray.php</p> <p>http://www.geocities.com/verbal_plainfield/a-h/hatcher.html</p>	

