

Charles Howard Schmid, Jr.

*“The Pied Piper of Tucson”
“Smitty”*



Charles Schmid

Information researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
07/08/1942	0	Born to unwed mother
07/09/1942	1 day old	Adopted by Charles and Katharine Schmid
1944-1954	Childhood	Described as a “trickster”. Curious, bright, risk-taker, and indifferent to other’s expectations. Complained that his dad use to beat him for no reason at all.
1951	8-9	He and best friend Paul Ginn used to go hunting with BB guns for rabbits, birds, and squirrels
Sometime between 1956-1960	Somewhere between 14-18	Spent one semester in a military school in San Diego, presumably because of his less than average grades
1960	17-18	Led school to State Gymnastics Championship Quit school after being suspended for stealing tools from the machine shop
Early 60s	17-23	He was reportedly “obsessed with sex and its possibilities.” Once wrote in a “theme” that he wanted to “run naked down the main street of Tucson, masturbating and screaming obscenities at the world.”
1960	18	Discovers he us adopted with a possibly unfriendly encounter with his birth mother (Some sources say this did not occur till he was 21)
1960-61	18	Living on his own in a cottage furnished by his parents; Parents provided \$300/month and a nice car.
03/1962	19	Smitty and friend Paul Ginn go to Balboa Island for Easter. Smitty is attacked by L.A. “hoods” who bust him across the face with a lead pipe.
11/1961	19	Went to jail for one night for creating unlawful diversion
1960-1965	18-23	He is always interested in blondes around the age of 15-16. If a female of interest did not have blonde hair, he would bleach it for them.
		Known for enjoying “torturing” girls. Made them fall in love with him and then drop them flat.
		Supposedly ran a ring of 100 call girls
		Books found in his cottage included Playboy, detective magazines that included stories of rape and sexual misadventure, and Harry, the Rat with

		Women.
03/20/1963	20	He is detained by Beverly Hills police for suspicion of robbery on another impulsive trip to California. He also told friends the night before that he wanted to “go out and rape a couple of girls and kill them.”
1963-1964	21	He met friend/girlfriend Mary French (age 18) who he lies about to his parents and says he is married to. Mary lives with him, sleeping in the same bed, until Charles’ parents find out and make her leave.
		Mary is employed by Charles Schmid Jr.’s parents at the nursing home. He convinces her to put her paycheck in his account and he spends all her money.
		He becomes interested in Alleen Rowe, an attractive, studious girl who was not interested in him at all.
		Rumors circulate around Tucson that Smitty is the leader of a “sex club” where individuals have to have sex in front of others to be initiated.
05/31/1964	21	Declares that morning to his friends John Saunders and Mary French that he wants to kill Alleen Rowe that night. He and his friends got a shovel to bury the body, picked up Alleen, drove into the desert and killed her. The three bury the body and drive back to town.
Summer of 1964	22	Smitty discovers Gretchen Fritz at the swimming pool. Gretchen is the daughter of a heart surgeon, typical “rich girl” with a rebellious nature. The two have an up and down relationship, each very possessive of the other.
1964-1965	22-23	-Mary French claims to be pregnant with his child.
		-Several incidents of Smitty inflicting physical abuse on Gretchen. He also wrote a letter to the Health Department saying that Gretchen had a venereal disease, followed by letters to Gretchen’s (un-approving) parents about how she was sneaking behind their backs to see him.
Early 1965	22	Smitty tells Gretchen that he killed Alleen, and supposedly takes her to the grave. Alleen says she doesn’t care, she still loves him.
Summer of 1965	23	Smitty becomes increasingly irritated with Gretchen, accusing her of stealing his diary that had information about a man he killed in the east. (There was no real evidence that this diary existed or that he had committed a murder previous to Alleen’s)
Fall of 1965	23	- Smitty begins disclosing to friends that he is going to kill Gretchen Fritz.
		- His parents declared bankruptcy, losses totaling \$300,000.
08/16/1965	23	Gretchen and her little sister Wendy go to a drive-in movie and never return. Smitty is questioned by the police and he tells them he thinks the girls ran away to Mexico.
08/22/1965	23	Smitty is questioned by Bill Heilig, a private investigator, about the Fritz sisters. Their car is discovered ½ mile from Smitty’s cottage with a business card in it from “C & S Upholstery Co., a business Smitty had attempted to start.
08/23/1965	23	Smitty admits to friend Richard Bruns that he killed the Fritz sisters in his cottage, then took the bodies out to the desert. The two boys drive out to the desert and bury the bodies that he had left just lying there.
08/1965	23	Smitty calls the FBI and tells them the Mafia is harassing him about the disappearance of the two girls.
08/27/1965	23	Smitty accompanies 2 “Mafia” type men to California to look for Gretchen. There he gets detained by the San Diego police where he is held in jail for a couple of nights on suspicion of murder. Due to lack of evidence, they let him go.
09/09/1965	23	Meets Diane Lynch, age 15, on a blind date.
10/24/1965	23	Married Diane Lynch
Late October,	23	Richard Bruns gets drunk and tells his grandmother and father everything he knows about Smitty murdering the Fritz Sisters. Bruns takes the police to the

1965		desert and shows them the bodies.
11/10/1965	23	Smitty is picked up by Tucson police for suspicion of murder; A few days later, John Saunders and Mary French were also arrested for their involvement in the murder of Alleen Rowe. Both admitted their involvement immediately, Saunders received life in prison, Mary 4-5 years.
11/23/1965	23	The Judge prohibited police to discuss the Schmid's case in the media and also makes the members of the jury stay together in one motel to make sure they are not exposed to media or other sources that would make them biased towards the trial.
11/26/1965	23	<i>Time</i> magazine prints the article "Secrets in the Sand" about Smiddy. This article inspires Joyce Carol Oates to write her award-winning short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
2/15/1966	24	Schmid was scheduled to be tried in superior court for the murders of Gretchen and Wendy Fritz at the Pima County Courthouse
03/01/1966	24	He is convicted of first-degree murder for the murders of Gretchen and Wendy Fritz.
03/11/1966 OR 03/25/1966	24	Formally sentenced to the death penalty.
03/11/1966	24	<i>Time</i> magazine prints a second article about him, "Growing Up in Tucson."
04/14/1966	24	Did an exclusive interview to be viewed by the media to prove his innocence
06/17/1966	24	Date of which he was supposed to get executed by lethal gas but is postponed because they are awaiting an appeal.
07/1966	24	Diane divorces him.
05/10/1967	24	He pleads guilty to second-degree murder for the death of Alleen Rowe/
06/12/1967	24	Judge hears Smitty's request for a new trial. Smitty refuses a psychiatric examination and withdraws his request.
06/23/1967	24	He takes sheriff to grave of Alleen Rowe
1971	29	State of Arizona temporarily abolishes death penalty
1974	31	He officially changed his name to Paul David Ashley
1967-1974	24-32	Smitty tries to escape prison 3 times, briefly succeeding once. He had a bad relationship with other prisoners, acting as though he was their superior.
03/20/1975	32	He is attacked in the Arizona State Prison by 2 fellow inmates; Receives 20+ stab wounds.
03/30/1975	32	He died in Maricopa County Hospital as a result of wounds suffered in the prison attack

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	3 (Although it is speculated that he might've killed a man sometime before these 3 victims. This information is based on a diary he supposedly had that Gretchen stole from him. It was never proven for sure if the diary even existed.)
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Arizona
Cities where killing occurred	Tucson
Type of killer	Mixed Thrill Killer/Revenge Seeker
Height	5'3" or 5'4"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	July 8 th , 1942
Location	It is unclear where he was born, but he was adopted the

	very next day in Tucson, Arizona
Birth order	Adopted
Number of siblings	0
XYY?	No
Raised by	Adoptive parents
Birth category	Only child
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	His parents tell him he is adopted. He locates his birth mother and the meeting does not go the way he wanted it to.
Age of family event	18
Problems in school?	Just minor problems such as stealing gym clothes and tools
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	No, but he had no problem getting girls. He used make-up to darken his skin, dyed his hair, wore chapstick to make his lips white, and he darkened in a mole to make it bigger. He also stuffed rags and cans in his boots to make himself taller.
Physical defect?	No, but he often lied and told girls he was crippled in order to get them to feel sorry for him.
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Yes-Hit in head by lead pipe.
Physically abused?	He said his father beat him but there was no evidence of this.
Psychologically abused?	Possibly by his bad encounter with his birth mother.
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Nursing home proprietor
Age of first sexual experience	18+ is when the <i>Playboys</i> were mentioned and his supposed "sex club" was spoke about, although his first experience was probably much earlier.
Age when first had intercourse	It is unclear but Mary French lived with him and slept in the same bed with him when he was 21.
Mother's occupation	Nursing home proprietor
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No (do not know about his biological father)
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No (do not know about his biological mother)
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Highest grade completed was 11 th .
Highest degree	He dropped out his senior year after being suspended for stealing tools from the machine shop.
Grades in school	Below average, although his teachers gave the impression that his grades were due to lack of interest, as opposed to lack of intelligence. He said, "I quit out of boredom."
IQ	N/A
Source of IQ information	N/A
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?	No
Types of jobs worked	He started an upholstery business that only lasted about a

	month. Otherwise, his parents supported him and he conned females into giving him money.
Employment status during series	Unemployed
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married for about 8 months to 15 year old Diane Lynch.
Number of children	Mary French was said to have given birth to a stillborn child belonging to Smitty when she was briefly living in Chicago.
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Mostly by himself, although friends lived with him off and on, as well as the short period he was married.
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes (abused his cat)
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	N/A
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Charles and friends went to jail for a night for "creating unlawful diversion" by driving around town with someone's arm hanging out the window covered in ketchup
Spend time in jail?	Yes, one night for the event listed above and a couple of other nights in California for being a murder suspect.
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	3
Victim type	Young females ages 13-18.
Killer age at start of series	21
Date of first kill in series	May 31 st , 1964
Date of final kill in series	August 16, 1965
Gender of victims	Females
Race of victims	Caucasian
Age of victims	13, 17, 18
Type of victim	Young females (2 sisters of prominent heart surgeon, and one high school dropout)
Method of killing	1 st murder- Beat victim with rocks; 2 nd & 3 rd murders- It is speculated that he strangled them with a cord that went to his guitar but it was never proven.
Weapon	Killer found at scene
Was gun used?	No
Type	N/A
Did killer have a partner?	1 st Killing: Yes 2 nd /3 rd Killings: No
Name of partner	1 st Killing: Mary French and John Saunders
Sex of partner	1 st Killing: Male and Female
Type of serial killer	Mixed Thrill Killer/Revenge Seeker

How close did killer live?	Drove out to desert in Tucson to commit 1 st murder; Killed victims at his home in 2 nd and 3 rd .
Location of first contact	He met Alleen at the local hangouts, he saw Gretchen at the swimming pool, then went to her house pretending to be a pots and pans salesman.
Location of killing	1 st : In the desert on the outskirts of Tucson; 2 ^{nd/3rd} : In his home.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	1 st murder, No. 2 nd and 3 rd murders, Yes.
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	No
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Does not say, but was insinuated.
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
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	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	Yes (1 st Victim)
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes (2 nd and 3 rd Victims), and partially buried, then went back and buried more thoroughly later.
Moved, buried	Partially (2 nd and 3 rd murders)
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	11/10/1965
Date convicted	03/01/1966
Sentence	Death for the murders of the Fritz sisters, 50 years for Alleen Rowe.
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Arizona State Prison near Florence, AZ
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	Yes (10 day after wounds suffered by attack that happened in prison)
Date of death	March 30 th , 1975

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