

# Ted Bundy



Ted Bundy was shy and introverted at school, with no real idea of how to get on well with other people. He had an unhappy early childhood involving frequent name changes and house moves. He had been born to an unwed mother who told him that she was his sister and his grandparents were his parents. He spent his early life living with his maternal grandparents; some reports say his grandfather was mentally unstable and prone to violent outbursts. His father's identity remains a mystery. After he had found out the truth about his parentage his personality became more dominant and focused.

Once grown up, Ted was handsome and articulate, being described as an extremely bright psychology graduate studying law. He worked for local politicians during elections and also spent his spare time working with emotionally disturbed children. Starting in 1974, however, he battered, raped and murdered at least 36 young women, despite being in a permanent relationship with an attractive woman. Bundy lived in Seattle initially and found victims at the local halls of residence and at a lakeside beauty spot. Subsequently he moved to Salt Lake City to study law and then to Aspen, Colorado, where the murders continued. He drove a VW Beetle and took a mask and handcuffs with him; he had also removed the front passenger seat in order to pull his victims into the car more easily. He drove to a lonely mountain road to carry out the murders and dispose of the body, and then resumed his respectable life. Often he went out with his arm in a sling to appear even less of a threat, or pretended he needed help with a pile of books he was carrying.

Bundy escaped twice from prison after being arrested, spent years on Death Row once captured – during which time he married and had a child – and was executed on Jan 24 1989.

# JOHN WAYNE GACY



John Wayne Gacy was born in Chicago, the only son and second child of his parents. He was overweight and non-athletic. His father, a machinist, was alcoholic, physically abusive, and beat John Wayne occasionally with a leather belt. He strove to get his father's approval but rarely achieved this, frequently being called 'sissy' or 'Mama's boy'. He was molested aged 9 by a family friend and hit on the head with a swing aged 11, causing blackouts, although his father was convinced these were faked.

John Wayne worked as a shoe salesman in Illinois when he met and married his first wife and had two children. He was quickly promoted to manager at his company, but became involved in drugs, prostitution, wife-swapping and abusing teenage boys. He went to prison for sexual assault and completed 16 high-school courses while inside. On being let out, he divorced, married again, started a building contracting company which ultimately was turning over \$200,000 yearly. He was also involved in political campaigning and fundraising, and became a children's entertainer named Pogo the Clown. He killed at least 33 boys and young men, while continuing to run his company, by luring them to his home to talk about a job, their wages, or money for sex; alternatively he would pick them up off the street or from the local bus station. He killed them by tying them up and choking them in his own home and then storing the bodies in the crawlspace below, occasionally covering the bodies with quicklime or concrete. He spent 14 years on Death Row and was executed on May 10 1994.

# **RICHARD TRENTON CHASE**

Richard Trenton Chase had a sister four years younger than he was, and a father who was a strict disciplinarian. From an early age he showed an interest in setting fires and tormenting animals. As he grew older he dated several girls who said that he could not perform sexually. Later, roommates of his said he was weird: he was using drugs heavily and showing bizarre behaviour such as walking round naked in company. His life grew increasingly slovenly and after moving back in with his mother briefly he subsequently lived alone in an apartment provided by his father. He increasingly showed extreme thought disorders; he began to disembowel animals and eat them raw. His first murder victim was shot while getting groceries out of the boot of his car - several other reports occurred at the time of someone shooting randomly from his car.

Later he began to pick people by trying doors until he found one unlocked, and then murdering them in their own homes using knives from their kitchens. He mutilated their bodies leaving quantities of blood where the police were able to find fingerprints and footprints. Although he drove a station wagon he had walked from his home to some of the crime scenes. He committed suicide in prison in 1980.

