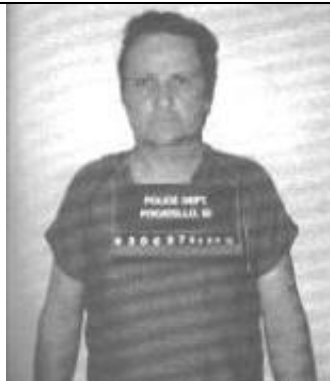


## James Edward Wood



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Date	Age	Life Event
12/09/1947	0	Born on December 9, 1947 as James Godwin.
1949	2	Father incarcerated at a federal prison. His mother, Hazel Godwin, took James and moved to Pocatello, Idaho and remarried shortly after.
1953	6	Developed a hatred for police/ authority figures
1955	8	Mother died in a potato processing plant fire.
1956	9	Started having violent sexual fantasies
1961	14	James received counseling at St. Anthony's Youth Correction Center in Idaho (one of 3 stays).
1961	14	Stole a car and set fire to dumpsters
1961	14	Became a ward of the state
1964	17	James was released from reform school under the condition that he leave the state and live with his natural father in Louisiana where he began to work in his father's business of selling and installing chain fences.
1964	17	He escaped from prison by threatening a guard's life with a knife ( His only successful escape out of seven attempts)
1966	19	Killed a colt that was tied to a tree as a Christmas gift
1967	20	Married first wife, Angie Bell, and had a child. Angie filed for divorce a few months later after learning about James' sentence to prison.
1969	22	Wood commits his first rape
1974	27	Remarried Angie and had another child, but a few months later Angie filed for a final divorce.
1986	39	James was released from Angola State Penitentiary and moved to Texas and lived with his half brother Earnest Arnold. Went to work as a truck driver for a carnival out of Tyler, Texas. Moved out of Arnold's home after Arnold disapproved of James' relationship with a gay man named Jimmy Twiggs that he had met at Angola.
1990	43	James injured his left hand, severely cutting three of his fingers. The fingers were surgically repaired but his hand still remained weak.
10/1992	45	Denver, Colorado – robbed a Pizza Hut.
10/31/1992	45	Pocatello, Idaho – James arrives at his cousin's, Dave Haggard, and asks for a place

		to live. Haggard agrees to let him stay until he could get back on his feet.
Fall 1992	45	Got a job as a dishwasher at Tina's Ox Bow Restaurant, but used his spare time to make paintings on old handsaws and began to sell them.
11/28/1992	45	Abducted and raped 15 year old Beth Edwards from a Pizza Hut parking lot.
1993	45	Robbed a Subway Sandwich Shop
Early Spring 1993	45	Wood raped a 14 year old Karen, Daughter of his girlfriend
1993	45	Robbed Sizzler Steak house in Salt Lake City
1993	45	Raped a Women after picking her up off street in Salt Lake City (same day as Sizzler Steak house Robbery)
6/29/1993	45	Wood abducted and killed Jeralee Underwood, age 10, a newspaper carrier in the area. He brought her into the woods and shot and dismembered her body as she got out to use the bathroom.
07/06/1993	45	Wood is arrested for the murder of Jeralee Underwood
01/14/1994	46	Wood is sentenced to death by lethal injection for the murder of Jeralee Underwood. Wood confessed to killing s Louisiana woman in 1976.
07/25/1995	47	Sixth district judge rejects Wood's appeal
10/09/1998	50	Idaho State Supreme Court rejects Wood's appeal for the third time
12/22/1998	51	Supreme Court justice O'Connor signed a stay of execution until Wood's death sentence appeal could be heard by the entire U.S Supreme Court
05/16/1999	51	U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear Wood's appeal
02/01/2004	56	Died from a heart attack while on death row.

#### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	Convicted of killing 1(believed to have killed dozens), confessed to 2 murders, raped 85 women, responsible for 185 robberies
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	LA, AR, ID
Cities where killing occurred	Pocatello, ID
Type of killer	Disorganized
Height	5'9"-5'10"

#### Childhood Information

Date of birth	December 9, 1947
Location	Louisiana
Birth order	Only child of mother (Hazel Godwin)
Number of siblings	One older step-brother (Earnest Arnold)
XYX?	Not determined
Raised by	Uncle Gene and Aunt Mildred Wood after mother died in 1955; due to James' problems the Wood relatives relinquished their custody and James became a ward of the state.
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Divorced; mother remarried
Family event	Father incarcerated at a federal prison when James was 2 years old; at this time James and his mother moved to Pocatello, ID where his mother remarried. His mother died in a fire while working in a potato factory when James was 8 years old. James was in school right across the street and watched the fire.
Age of family event	2 & 8
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	No

Physically attractive?	A 160-180lb Caucasian male with short brown hair---fit in and was not noticeable physically by others around him.
Physical defect?	1990 – Severely injured 3 fingers on his left hand while using a power saw – had surgery, but still had problems using his hand.
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	None reported
Physically abused?	James claimed he was physically abused by his step-father.
Psychologically abused?	James claimed he was psychologically abused by his step-father.
Sexually abused?	James claimed he was sexually abused by his step-father.
Father's occupation	Business selling and installing chain fences
Age of first sexual experience	9-years old had violent sexual fantasies
Age when first had intercourse	N/A
Mother's occupation	Worked in a potato factory
Father abused drugs/alcohol	N/A
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	None mentioned
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	Most of teenage years he was in a youth correction center and attended a reform school in Idaho until 17.
Highest degree	Never received a diploma
Grades in school	
IQ	N/A
Source of IQ information	N/A
<b>Work History</b>	
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?	James had trouble holding down jobs where he was fired or he just quit and would not return to that place of employment to work.
Types of jobs worked	Installed chain fences, carnival truck driver, painted old saws and metal milk jugs with wild life scenes for money & dishwasher, but he usually stole money to survive. Wood did not like to work because it was "too boring".
Employment status during series	Unemployed
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual - homosexual tendencies began in prison
Marital status	Divorced
Number of children	3 – 2 sons and 1 daughter
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Cousin Dave Haggard
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	Yes
Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	N/A
Abused alcohol?	Yes

Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	Impulsive, anti-social, no conscience, lack of remorse, sexual sadism, violent outbursts, sensitive to criticism, unpredictable, loner
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Armed robbery and rape
Spend time in jail?	Yes/incarcerated 3 times before murder conviction
Spend time in prison?	Served 4.5 years in Angola State Penitentiary (1967-1971). Served a second sentence of 6 years out of 10 for robbery and rape. He was released for good behavior.
Killed prior to series? Age?	?
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	Not certain- Convicted of 1 killing and suspected of multiple others
Victim type	Young women
Killer age at start of series	29
Date of first kill in series	1976
Date of final kill in series	Summer of 1993
Gender of victims	Females
Race of victims	Caucasian
Age of victims	Early adolescent to teenager
Type of victim	Females/ no particular preference
Method of killing	Shot in head; Jeralee Underwood was dismembered.
Weapon	Killer brought with him
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Handgun (.22 semi-automatic)
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	N/A
Sex of partner	N/A
Type of serial killer	Disorganized lust
How close did killer live?	Lived within a few neighborhoods of the victims
Location of first contact	Killer's home
Location of killing	Woods/ near lake
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Abducted
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	Jeralee- He knew her newspaper route
Overkill?	Jeralee- Killed and dismembered body
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
<b>After Death Behavior</b>	
Sex with the body?	Yes
Mutilated body?	Yes
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	Yes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	Yes/ Threw body into lake
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Last killing
Cut-up and disposed of	Last killing
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	Tuesday, July 6, 1993
Date convicted	January 14, 1994
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	No, but was on death row (died of natural causes)
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Idaho State Penitentiary
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No, died from a heart attack
Date of death	February 1, 2004

#### **References**

Adams, T., Brooks-Mueller, M., & Shaw, S. (1998). *Eye of the beast: The true story of serial killer James Wood*. Omaha, NE: Addicus Books, Inc.