

# L.A. SHERIFFS' MUSEUM

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Los Angeles Sheriffs' Museum

## THE GLAMOUR GIRL SLAYER: HARVEY GLATMAN CASE

Back in 1927, when Harvey Glatman was born, and during his lifetime, not a lot was known about serial killers. Glatman, however, changed all that as he became the first killer profiled by the FBI.

## HARVEY GLATMAN'S CHILDHOOD

When he was a child, Harvey displayed deviate, sadomasochistic sexual tendencies, a behavior that deeply disturbed his parents. He felt sexual pleasure from giving or receiving pain or humiliation. After walking in on him as he was involved in some bizarre acts, they took him to their family doctor who said that it was just a phase and that he would outgrow it. As a teenager, Glatman began to break into apartments, tie up the women and fondle, but not rape them. He would then force them to pose for him as he took pictures to remember them by.

## CRIMES IN COLORADO

In May 1945, Glatman tied Eula Jo Hand to a telephone pole while holding her at gunpoint. After he molested her, she reported it to the police, saying she recognized him because he was a fellow student at East High School. Police arrested him, but his mother bailed him out. While out on bail, Glatman bound, gagged and sexually molested Norene Lauer in Boulder, Colorado. He was arrested and convicted on that charge, spending eight months in prison for the second crime.

## SERIAL KILLER EARLY WARNING SIGNS

Deputy Chris Miller worked for over 25 years in the Video Production Unit of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, producing over 500 law enforcement training programs. During this time, he interviewed investigators, criminals and subject matter experts, as well as researching news articles, publications and documentaries on these subjects. He learned about the early warning signs that indicate the likelihood of a child becoming a serial killer, knowledge that was not available during Harvey Glatman's time. Serial killers don't necessarily display all of the indicators, but they do display many of them.

Substance abuse, child abuse and an unstable family life are indicators that a

child may grow up to become a serial killer, but these weren't applicable to Harvey Glatman, who grew up in a normal family. The indicators that did involve Glatman were antisocial behavior, arson, torturing animals, voyeurism, having trouble keeping jobs and using his superior intelligence to manipulate others.

Glatman was an only child with no social skills and no friends as he was growing up. He was not a good looking boy. In fact, he had the nickname of weasel, which didn't help his self-esteem or his interaction with girls. As a child living in New York, Glatman was arrested for setting buildings on fire and was also known for torturing animals.

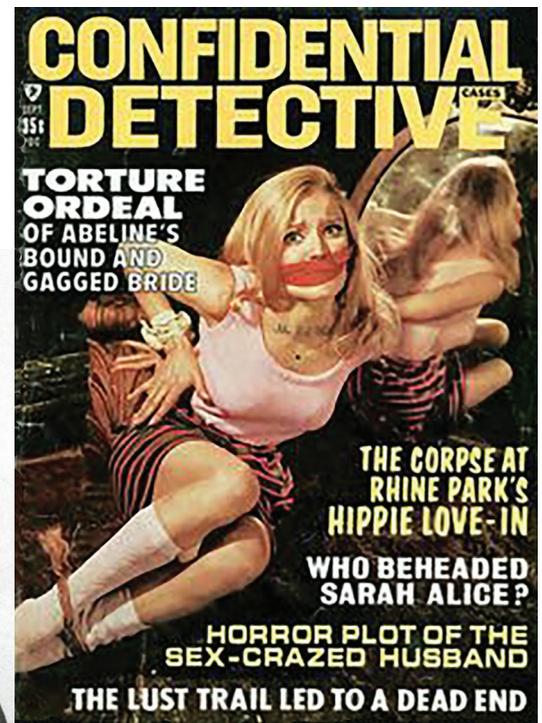
As a teenager, Glatman was a social outcast. Since he could not get a date, he would sneak around the homes in his neighborhood and spy on girls and women. Although quite intelligent, he felt no sympathy or empathy, which made him even more dangerous because he could do terrible things to people without being affected.



## DETECTIVE MAGAZINES DEPICTING VICTIMS OF BONDAGE AND TORTURE

During the 1950s, so-called "detective magazines" became quite popular. They contained shocking or disturbing stories about actual crimes. On the covers of these magazines were staged photos of crime victims, many depicting women tied up and gagged, often with a look of terror on their faces.

Harvey Glatman did not have a steady job, working off and on as a TV repairman. After moving from Colorado to Los Angeles, the amateur photographer portrayed himself as a professional



photographer, placing ads looking for models to do crime scene reenactments for the covers of detective magazines.

Believing it was part of a photoshoot, the unsuspecting models allowed Glatman to tie them up. Once they were bound and gagged so they couldn't get loose, he sexually assaulted them, all the while taking photographs to capture their pain as he raped them over and over. Once he was through raping them, he tortured them until they displayed the most horrible terror on their faces, photographing the helpless women as they trembled and cried, begging him to stop. He reveled in all of these



horn-rimmed glasses, 29 years old, 5 feet 9 inches, 150 pounds, brown hair and olive complexion.

A few days after Judy Dull's disappearance, her ex-husband Robert Dull petitioned the court and was granted full custody of their daughter, Suzanne.

## THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB

Glatman was concerned that Dull's roommates had seen him and that the Sheriff's Department may have distributed a drawing of him to the women doing modeling work in the area. He didn't want to take the chance that one of the models he hired might identify him, so he decided to take a different approach. Seeing an ad for a lonely hearts club, he decided to join.

## VICTIM SHIRLEY ANN BRIDGEFORD

Shirley Ann Bridgeford was a divorced 24-year-old who lived with her mother and two children in Sun Valley. Bridgeford had joined a lonely hearts club in Los Angeles in order to start dating again. On March 9, 1958, she was contacted by Harvey Glatman, who identified himself as George Williams. When Glatman picked her up at her mother's home, he met Bridgeford's mother and several other relatives. Glatman and Bridgeford left that night to go out dancing and she was never seen again. When police checked the dating club's registration, the description of Williams didn't match the man who picked Bridgeford up. His residence turned out to be a nonexistent address in Pasadena.

This murder caused news reporters to refer to the suspect as "The Lonely Hearts Killer." Later, when it was determined that the majority of the

murder victims were models, they referred to him as "The Glamour Girl Slayer."

## VICTIM RUTH MERCADO

Deciding to target models again, Harvey soon found his next victim. Ruth Mercado had just moved from New York and was working as a pinup model and stripper under the name of Angela Rojas. Her landlord said that she left with an unknown man for a photoshoot and never returned. Days later, when her landlord finally decided to unlock the door to her apartment, he found an unpleasant surprise. Mercado's dog and two parakeets were near death, having gone without food or water for four days. The landlord notified the LAPD to report her missing.

## VICTIM LORRAINE VIGIL

Lorraine Vigil, who had just registered with a Hollywood modeling agency, finally brought Glatman's crime spree to an end. After agreeing on all the photoshoot details, Glatman arrived to pick her up. They entered his car and drove onto the Santa Ana Freeway at a high rate of speed toward Orange County. Vigil became very upset when she realized that Glatman was not going in the right direction. She voiced her concerns, but Glatman just stared straight ahead, ignoring her. He refused to look at Vigil or answer any of her questions.

He finally turned off the freeway onto a small road in a desolate area and brought the vehicle to a stop, saying he had a flat tire. Instead of getting out, however, Glatman pulled a gun and pointed it directly at Vigil, who, panicking, frantically grabbed the barrel. Glatman was enraged. He had

never before had a victim fight back. Although incensed by her nerve to grab his gun, Glatman was not a very big man and was unable to wrestle the weapon back from her. Glatman threatened to kill her if she didn't let go, but Vigil held on to the barrel of the gun with all her might as they continued struggling to gain control. As Vigil was yelling at him, Glatman grabbed a piece of rope and attempted to force her free hand behind her back. When that didn't work, he then tried a different tactic, trying to convince her that if she cooperated, he wouldn't hurt her. But Vigil refused, knowing he would kill her if she let go. Suddenly, the gun fired! The bullet lodged in the car's seat missing them both, but in doing so, made a hole in Vigil's favorite dress! She went into a rage!

Using her free hand she managed to open the car door and, still struggling over the gun, they both fell out and tumbled onto the shoulder of the road. As cars passed by, they rolled around on the ground fighting over the gun. Intent on getting the weapon away from him, Vigil bit Glatman's wrist and he immediately let go. Having the gun in her possession, she began beating him. This continued until he began crying and begging her to give the gun back so he could leave. Vigil would have shot him if she could, but having never fired a gun before she didn't know how. Still, he didn't know that. The Highway Patrol was driving by and observed a woman pummeling a defenseless man. At first they thought that Vigil, who was assaulting Glatman, was the suspect, but after talking to both of them, realized that Glatman had assaulted and attempted to rape Vigil.

## THE CONFESSION

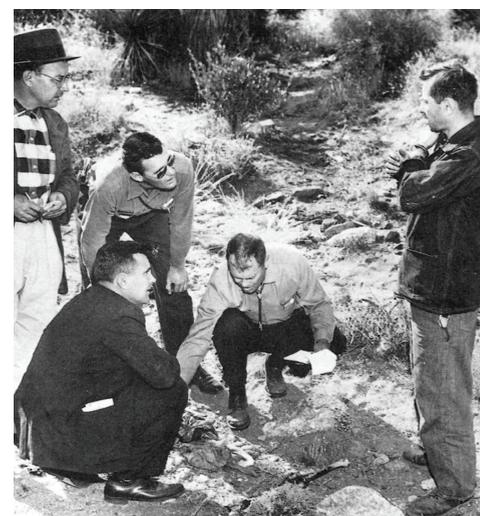
The Highway Patrol officers transported and booked Glatman into the Orange County jail.



Shirley Ann Bridgeford



Lorraine Vigil describes her ordeal with Glatman.



Glatman shows investigators where he killed Judy Dull.



A deputy handcuffs Glatman after his arraignment. Deputies wore cross-draw holsters in those days.

until they were tortured and killed. Even hardened homicide investigators were deeply disturbed by the graphic photos.

### GLATMAN'S MURDER SPREE ENDS

Harvey Glatman was never to rape again. After being tried and convicted, he was executed in the gas chamber at San Quentin on September 18, 1959.

### ONE LAST VICTIM: DOROTHY HOWARD

Sylvia Patten, a crime historian, was writing a book on Harvey Glatman. While researching women in

Glatman lived there, she read about Dorothy Howard. The 18-year-old was reported missing from Phoenix, Arizona, in March 1954. On April 8, 1954, the naked and battered body of a young woman was found on the banks of Boulder Creek in Boulder, Colorado. The woman's body remained unidentified until 2009 when Sylvia, convinced that Dorothy was a victim of Glatman, contacted the police. The body was exhumed and a DNA test identified the remains as those of Dorothy Howard. Although Glatman had already been executed and would not be charged for the murder, the discovery allowed closure for her family.

### APPEARANCE ON DETECTIVE MAGAZINE COVERS

Glatman's models thought they were going to be on a magazine cover portraying crime victims. Instead, each unsuspecting young woman who voluntarily allowed herself to be bound and gagged realized too late that she was the one who was going to be the crime victim. It was only after reaching this point of no return did they realize the gravity of their situation, and the horror reflected in their faces was photographed by a sadistic man who's goal in life was to control, rape, torture and murder.

The lie Harvey Glatman told these young women ultimately became the truth.

After his execution, word of the heinous crimes spread and publishers obtained photos of the victims during the last moments of their lives. Harvey Glatman shared these covers as well. The faces of the victims may have shown terror, but Harvey Glatman was, himself, the face of terror. ☆

### Hunt Armed Escapee, Woman, Baby



## MAN ADMITS SLAYINGS OF THREE L.A. MODELS

L.A. Alarms Held Needless as Nevada Atom Tests End

See No Fall-out Danger

It's Got to Be Knowland

Last Shot Fired in Tunnel

Attempts to Kill 4th Victim

Armed Escapee Hunted With Woman and Baby

Knowland to Go on TV in 20-Hour Telethon

THE WEATHER



Dorothy Howard with her ex-husband

When interviewed by detectives, he confessed to the other killings, describing how he bound and gagged the victims and, while torturing them, they begged for him to kill them. The concerned agencies were notified, and after talking to Glatman, determined that he was the murderer for whom they had been searching. Judy Dull was killed in the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, while Shirley Ann Bridgeford and Ruth Mercado were killed in LAPD's area.

### DISTURBING EVIDENCE DISCOVERED

A search of his home provided detectives with a toolbox containing rolls of film, which, when developed, revealed images of Judy Dull, Shirley Ann Bridgeford and Ruth Mercado from the time each victim was bound and gagged