

JOHN WAYNE GACY

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BACKGROUND - EARLY LIFE

- John Wayne Gacy was the middle child of two sisters, who lived in an abusive home
 - His father was verbally and physically abusive to all three siblings
- Due to his poor health, his father would constantly belittle him, comparing him to his siblings
- He was sexually abused as a child by a family friend's daughter throughout the ages of 6-10
- He did not have many friends, as he had a difficult time bonding with other children his age



BACKGROUND - BEFORE THE MURDERS

- Although he never graduated high school, he did graduate from Northwestern Business College in Chicago
- He got involved in politics and started to become more popular in his community due to his charisma and performances as “Pogo the Clown” at different community events
- In 1971, Gacy started his own contracting company, which was called PDM Contractors
 - This is where he would find most of his victims



THE FIRST CRIME

- In 1968, Gacy was accused of sexually assaulting a teenage boy and nearly another
 - He was only convicted of the assaults after persuading one of his employees to assault the victim to not testify in court which was unsuccessful
- He was convicted and charged, receiving a 10-year sentence, but only served 18 months due to good behavior
- He was arrested for the same charge again 1 year later, but was dismissed when the victim did not show up for court



THE MURDERS

- Gacy lured his first known murder victim to his home for sex, the next morning after Timothy McCoy was murdered by Gacy
 - This is when Gacy first found the “thrill” of murder, claiming he had sexual satisfaction due to the power he had over McCoy and future victims
- Many times after, he would lure his victims to his home to discuss overdue pay or upcoming contracting work
 - After he would get done sexually and physically torturing his victims, he would kill them and put them in the crawlspace under his home



Here are crime scene photos of Gacys home

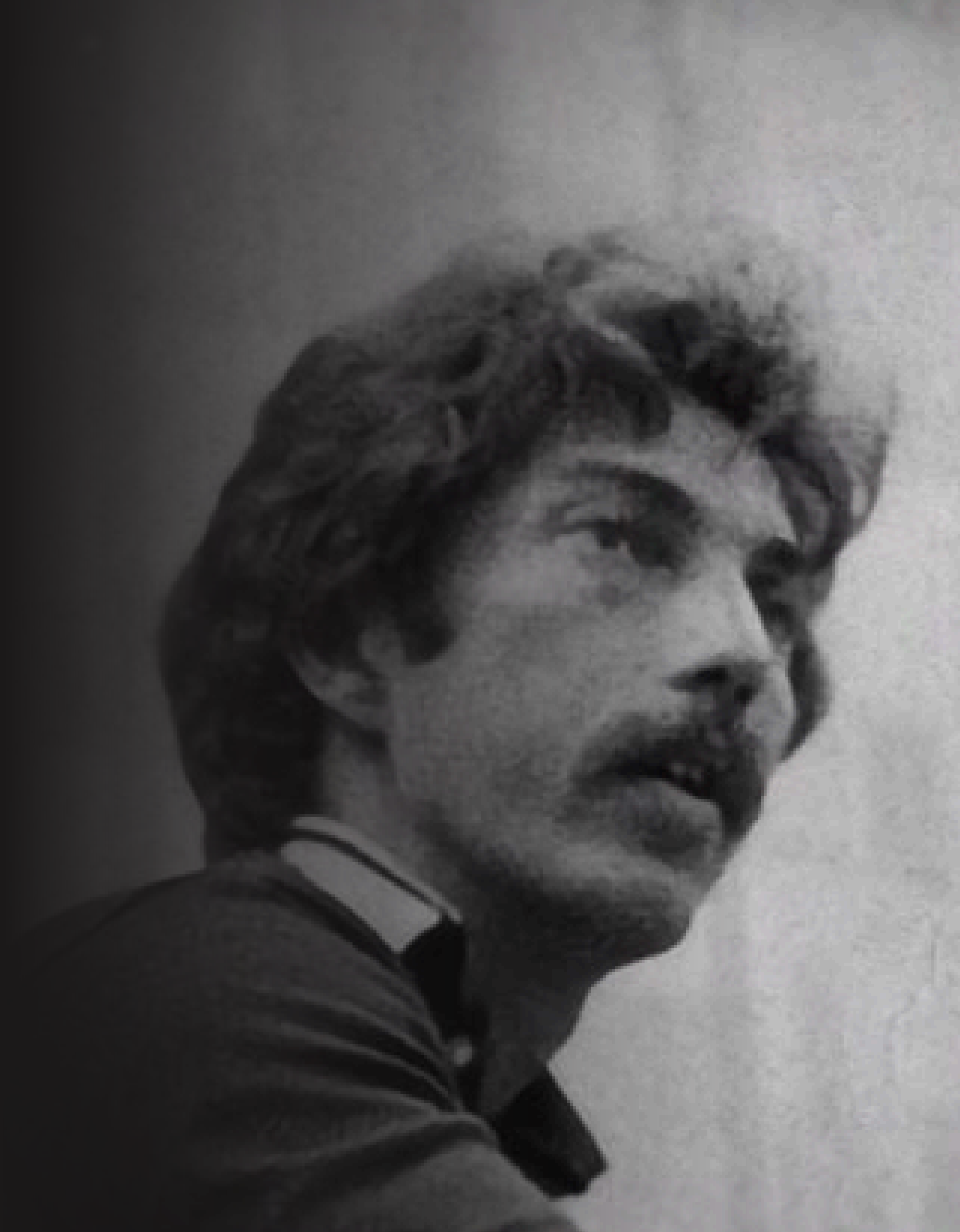
INVESTIGATION

- Police continued to question Gacy after parents continued to grow suspicious over Gacy
- Finally in 1978, police searched his home after a 15-year-old went missing after he met with Gacy
- The police found items that belonged to prior victims, and soon discovered the crawlspace that contained trenches filled with the bodies of his victims
- Gacy confessed to killing at least 30 people
 - There were more bodies found, with only 27 being identified



THE LONE SURVIVOR

- Jeffrey Rignall was the only victim to escape from Gacy
- Jeffrey Rignall was openly bisexual and was walking to a local gay bar before being approached by Gacy in 1978
 - Gacy offered him a ride and an opportunity to smoke with him before using chloroform to knock him out and take him to his home
- The next morning he woke up under a statue in Chicago's Lincoln Park
 - He tried to contact authorities but no one believed him, causing Gacy to claim 4 more victims



PROSECUTION

- Gacy's trial began on February 6, 1980, with the biggest argument was whether or not Gacy could be declared insane
- He claimed to have multiple personality disorder, causing him to go through multiple psychological tests and countless hours with doctors.
- On March 12, 1980 he was found guilty of 33 murders and was imprisoned for 14 years
 - Many times throughout his imprisonment he would try to backtrack and claim he was innocent and appeal his court order, but was denied
- On May 10, 1994 he was executed by lethal injection



ACES

- Throughout his life, you can see how his childhood and early life experiences had influenced his behaviors
 - He was abused psychologically, physically, and sexually
 - He was also socially isolated from his peers due to his poor coordination skills and many health issues he had throughout his early life
- It is hard to say if treatment could have helped Gacy
 - Getting Gacy out of his fathers care would have stopped the abuse he had faced when he was younger, and hopefully the future abuse he put on others
 - If Gacy had a supportive and caring family, this would likely have been avoided



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