

Charles "Tex" Watson

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Changes

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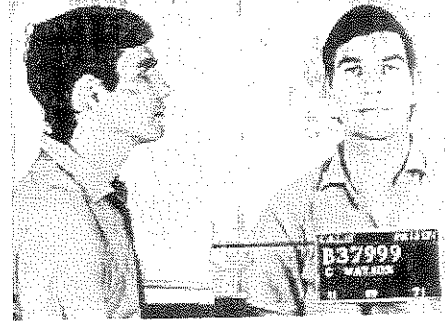
Charles Denton "Tex" Watson (born December 2, 1945) is an American murderer who was a central member of the "Manson family" led by Charles Manson.^[1] On August 8, 1969, Watson led other Manson followers into a house in Benedict Canyon, Los Angeles, and murdered pregnant actress Sharon Tate and four other people. The next night, Watson traveled to Los Feliz, Los Angeles and participated in the murders of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca, as part of Manson's "Helter Skelter" vision. Watson was found guilty of murder in 1971, and has been in prison ever since.

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In March 1978, Watson's book *Will You Die For Me?* was released, taken from recordings with his attorney in 1969, which is *an* accurate description of his participation in the crimes.

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Charles Denton Watson



Watson on a Californian prison mugshot in 1971.

Born	Charles Denton Watson December 2, 1945 Dallas, Texas, U.S
Other names	Tex, Charles Montgomery, Mac <i>Charlie</i> ← <i>not true if you can't change that</i>
Criminal penalty	Death, commuted to life in prison after the California Supreme Court overturned the death penalty
Criminal status	Incarcerated
Spouse(s)	Kristin Joan Svege (divorced 2003)
Parent(s)	Denton and Elizabeth Watson
Conviction(s)	Murder

if you can't change that, then it is a case

Early life, college, Charles Manson and the Spahn Ranch

Watson grew up in Copeville, Texas, the youngest of three children. *In the early 60s* at Farmersville High School, he was an honor student, star athlete and editor of the school paper. He worked summers at an onion packing plant saving for college. Beginning in August 1964, he attended North Texas University for three years, joining a fraternity. In January 1967, he began working for Braniff Airlines as a bag handler and eventually a crew bus driver. After visiting a frat brother, who had moved to Los Angeles, he moved there to escape his fear of failure in the summer of 1967. He briefly attended the University of California, but quit to work at a wig shop. In early 1968, he picked up a member of the Beach Boys hitchhiking, Dennis Wilson, who invited him to his rented home on Sunset, where he met Manson. Dropping out of society, Watson moved to Spahn's Ranch in ~~October~~ 1968, with the Manson family, where George Spahn nicknamed him "Tex". In March 1969, Manson began prophesying a race war bringing on Helter Skelter influenced from the Beatles White album. Watson's *first* arrest was for under the influence in July 1969. [2]

Cal State University

~~Cielo Drive murders~~ *OKAY*

On August 8, 1969 Watson, following Manson's instructions, took Susan Atkins, Linda Kasabian and Patricia Krenwinkel to, in Manson's words, "that house where Melcher used to live" and "totally destroy everyone in [it], as gruesome as you can." The accidental occupants of the house were movie actress Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Wojciech Frykowski and Abigail Folger.

Watson, who had been to the house on at least one other occasion, climbed a telephone pole near the gate and cut the phone line. When an unknown car approached driven by an unwitting 18-year-old named Steven Parent, Watson ignored his pleas for mercy and shot him four times in the chest and abdomen.

After pushing the car further up the driveway and traversing the front lawn, Watson cut the screen of a window, and let Atkins and Krenwinkel in through the front door. When Frykowski awoke on the living room couch, Watson kicked him in the head and said "I'm the devil, and I'm here to do the devil's business." Upon Watson's direction, Atkins found the house's three other occupants and with Krenwinkel brought them to the living room. Watson tied Tate and Sebring together at the neck with rope and slung it up over a beam. After shooting Sebring ~~and taking \$70 from Folger's purse, Watson stabbed Folger seven times.~~ Frykowski was stabbed a total of 51 times. The pregnant Tate was stabbed 16 times. ~~Watson later recalled that Tate cried, "Mother... mother..." as she was being killed.~~ Since Manson had told the women to "leave a sign ... something witchy", using the towel that had bound Frykowski's hands, Atkins wrote "pig" on the front door in Tate's blood.

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References*

Watson assisted Krenwinkel in killing Folger.

LaBianca murders

The next night, six "Manson Family" members, Leslie Van Houten, Steve "Clem" Grogan and the four from the previous night were driven into Los Angeles by Charles Manson (who was displeased by their performance and pledged to show them "how to do it"). In March 1968, Manson and other Family members had attended a party at the rented home of Harold True in Los Feliz, located at 3267 Waverly Drive. Manson didn't want to kill True because he thought it could be traced back to him, so he settled for the house next door where Leno and Rosemary LaBianca lived. After driving their car up and down the street, and waiting, Manson and Watson got out of the car, disappeared walking up the driveway and entered the home together. According to Watson's book *Will You Die For Me?*

(<http://www.aboundinglove.org/main/books/will-you-die-for-me>), Manson held the occupants at gunpoint while Watson tied them up. Manson returned to the car to say he had tied up the house's occupants and sent Krenwinkel and Van Houten into the house. Rosemary LaBianca was taken to her bedroom by Krenwinkel and Van Houten as Watson murdered Leno LaBianca in the den. Rosemary LaBianca was then murdered in her room, primarily by Krenwinkel and Watson, with additional (and possibly post-mortem) wounds inflicted in her back by Van Houten. Both victims were stabbed numerous times and the word "WAR" was carved into Leno LaBianca's stomach; a fork was also left protruding from his stomach. Phrases from or inspired by then recent Beatles lyrics such as "WAR," "Healter Skelter" (sic), "RISE", and "Death to Pigs" were smeared onto the walls and various surfaces in the victims' blood by Krenwinkel.

Conviction

On October 2, 1969, Watson fled the ranch and headed back to his native state of Texas. On November

30, 1969, Watson was arrested in Texas for the Tate-LaBianca murders. He and his lawyers fought the extradition back to California for nine months. Upon returning to California, Watson began regressing to a catatonic state. He stopped talking and eating, losing 55 pounds. He was admitted to Atascadero State Hospital for a 90-day evaluation period to determine if he was suitable to stand trial. He stayed there until February 1971, when he was deemed able to stand trial.^[3]

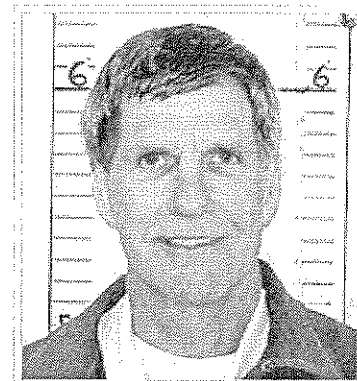
On October 12, 1971, Watson was convicted of seven counts of first degree murder and one count conspiracy to commit murder. A week later, the same jury took only two and a half hours to determine that Watson was sane.

On October 21, 1971, Watson was sentenced to death. He escaped execution when the California Supreme Court's *People v. Anderson* decision resulted in the invalidation of all death sentences imposed in California prior to 1972.^[4] Watson was found guilty of the murders of seven persons, and his seven counts were to be served concurrently. His minimum eligible parole date was November 26, 1976, but he has been denied parole 14 times. Watson remains incarcerated at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione, California. His last hearing was in November 2011. He received a five-year denial, rather than a 7-10-15 year maximum.

His next scheduled parole hearing is in November 2016.

Later years

Watson became a born-again Christian in 1975 and through non-incarcerated friends operates "aboundinglove.org" (<http://www.aboundinglove.org>). He has written about his role in the murders, stating that he believes that God has forgiven him.^[5] *Will You Die For Me?*, Watson's autobiography, as told to "Chaplain Ray" (Ray Hoekstra), was published in 1978.^[6] In 1979, he married Kristin Joan Svege. Through conjugal visits they were able to have four children (three boys, one girl), but those visits for life prisoners were banned in October 1996. After 24 years of marriage, Svege divorced Watson after meeting another man in 2003.^[7] Svege and Watson remain friends as parents of their children. He graduated from California Coast University in 2009 with a B.S. in Business Management.^[8]



Watson in a prison photograph (2004).

~~In August, 1982, a Southern California-based citizens group, Citizens for Truth, submitted some 80,000 petition signatures and several thousand letters opposing parole for "Tex" Watson. The group received help from one of Watson's victims' mothers – Doris Tate, mother of slain actress Sharon Tate. The group was successful in convincing the California Board of Prison Terms to deny parole for Watson, Charles Manson's main killer. In later years the group, along with Doris Tate, and her daughters, Patricia and Debra, submitted petitions totaling more than two million signatures.~~

In 2012, Watson disputed a request to release recordings of conversations between himself and his attorney. The recordings became part of a bankruptcy proceeding involving the deceased attorney's law firm. Members of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said they believed the recordings might contain clues about unsolved murder cases involving the Manson family. Watson asked the presiding judge to allow police to listen to the tapes but not take possession of them.^{[9][10]} The LAPD did acquire

the tapes, which allegedly contained Watson confessing to other murders, but reported that they did not contain any new information. In September 2014, Richard Pfeiffer, an attorney for Leslie Van Houten, said that he was considering subpoenaing the tapes to look for information that might help Van Houten in her next parole hearing.^[11]

see my enclosed references from 2013 wikipedia.

References

1. Watson, Charles as told to Ray Hoekstra, *Will You Die For Me?* Cross Road Publications, 1978.

1. <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/manson/mansonaccount.html>

2. Bugliosi 1994, pages 514-15 *change*

3. *Helter Skelter - The True Story of the Manson Murders 25th Anniversary Edition* pages 661-2, Epilogue. 4. Bugliosi, 1994, pages 661-2.

4. Broughton, Ashley. "Aging Manson Family members long for freedom" (<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/03/30/manson.family.aging/index.html>) CNN. March 30, 2009.

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5. okay leave here

5. *Manson's Right hand Man Speaks Out!* (<http://www.aboundinglove.org/sensational/manson/mrhmso-01.php>)

6. "Library of Congress catalog record on *Will you die for me?*".

7. Manson Family Timeline (<http://www.charliemanson.com/timeline-1980-today.htm>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20061027142220/http://www.charliemanson.com/timeline-1980-today.htm>) October 27, 2006 at the Wayback Machine

3. Bugliosi, Vincent with Gentry, Curt. *Helter Skelter - The True Story of the Manson Murders 25th Anniversary Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company, 1994. ISBN 0-393-08700-X, Pages 514-15. *readie*

8. Parole Board Hearing Transcript 2011.

9. Martinez, Michael; Cary, Michael. Judge declines to reverse order giving Manson follower tapes to police (<http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/13/justice/texas-manson-tapes/index.html>) CNN, 13 June 2012

10. Esposito, Richard. Manson Possibly Tied to Homicides (<http://gma.yahoo.com/open-homicides-possibly-linked-manson-041716313--abc-news-topstories.html>) ABC *Good Morning America* 19 October 2012

11. Healey, Patrick. "Attorney May Try Subpoena To Pry Open Recording by Convict Who Killed for Charles Manson". *Channel 4 NBC-Los Angeles*. NBC Los Angeles. Retrieved 13 December 2014.

External links

- Abounding Love Ministries (<http://www.aboundinglove.org/>), supporters' website
- Will You Die For Me?* (<http://www.aboundinglove.org/main/books/will-you-die-for-me>), Watson's Manson memories, first published in 1978
- Manson defendants profiles (<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/manson/mansondefendants.html>)
- Manson murders entry, crimelibrary.com (http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/notorious/manson/prosecution_7.html)

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Categories: 1945 births | American spree killers | Living people | 20th-century American criminals | American Christians | American people convicted of murder | American prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment | Criminals from California | Criminals from Texas | Crimes involving Satanism or the occult | Manson Family | People convicted of murder by California | Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment by California | People from Dallas, Texas

Charles "Tex" Watson

Charles Denton Watson (born December 2, 1945) is a convicted American spree killer from Copeville, Texas, and former member of the Manson Family. In 1971, he was convicted of the murders of Sharon Tate, Steven Parent, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski and Jay Sebring, which took place in the early hours of August 9, 1969, in the Tate residence in Benedict Canyon, and the murders of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca at the LaBianca residence in Los Feliz the following night.^[1]

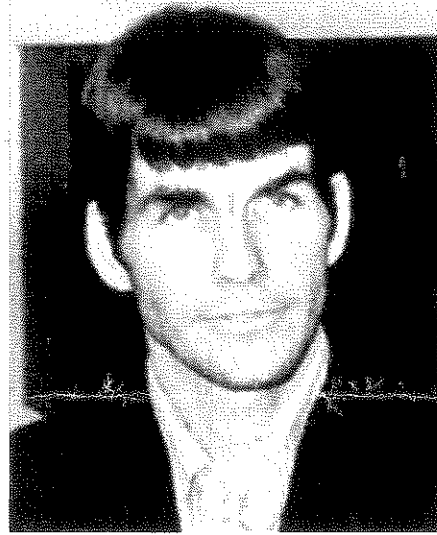
In June 1975, Watson converted to Christianity; he co-authored an autobiography entitled *Will You Die For Me? Once Ready to Die for Charles Manson, Now Living A New Life for Christ* in 1978.

Early life[edit source | editbeta]

Watson grew up in Copeville, Texas. He was a star athlete during high school in Farmersville. He worked summers at an onion packing plant to save for college. He attended college for three years at University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Due to fast living, Watson says he lost interest in college. During his junior year, he worked as a baggage handler for Braniff International Airways, which afforded him travel opportunities. After visiting a college friend who had moved to California, he decided to move there to escape his fears and insecurities in 1967. He briefly attended college, but soon dropped out and opened a wig shop called Love Locs, which quickly failed. One night in 1968, Watson says he picked up Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys who was hitchhiking and was invited back to Wilson's home on Sunset, where he met Manson.^[2]

Use to be like this!

Charles "Tex" Watson



Tex Watson during the Tate-La Bianca trial

Born	Charles Denton Watson December 2, 1945 (age 67) Dallas, Texas
Penalty	Death, reduced by abolition of death penalty to seven-years-to-life in prison.
Spouse	Kristin Watson (m. 1979-2003; divorced)

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