

Imagine you're walking down the street towards a convenience store. This act is something that you have probably done countless times but this time was different because this time you wouldn't return home. This time a monster was out for a hunt and you were in the eye of the monster. In this case, there were two monsters. This first case is one that is close to my heart. Not because I knew the victim, the family or even the person who stripped the world of such a young life. It's because it's something that happened in my home state of Kansas, within the city limits of where I lived and still do and it rocked my families world because the victim was close to my age and wasn't taken too far from where I lived at. No, it's not BTK or the Carr brothers which I'm sure you all have heard of, but this is the case of Nancy Shoemaker.

I was six years old when this happened and my mother, who was a single parent, became paranoid and didn't let me out of her sight. It was something that happened not far from where I lived at the time and still do. It as something that rocked everyone to the core and I still think about it to this very day as I let the children that are in my own life out to play, I tell them to stay close and to watch for anyone strange. The year was 1990 and young Nancy Shoemaker, who was nine years old at the time, was walking to the Phillips 66 that was near her home. She was taken on July 30, 1990, by Donald Wacker and Doil Lane. Although Wacker stated in a later interview that he didn't want to have any part of this cruel act, he says that he was commanded to drive, taking them from Sedgwick to Sumner County where Shoemaker would be raped and strangled by Lane.

Search parties were formed, charities were held in order to aid anything that they could but nothing came from it until months later when her body was finally found, on February 18, 1991. Skeletal remains were found in a rural area near Belle Plaine, Kansas. After an analysis was done on the remains it was determined that she lost her life due to either strangulation or asphyxiation.

Years would go by without anything but finally, the police gained their main suspect after they were led by people stating that Doil Lane might have something to do with Shoemaker's disappearance. Police detectives asked if he would willing to go with them to the police department's EMC unit (Exploited and Missing Children Unit) where Lane was read his Miranda Rights and willingly talked although he was said not to be under arrest and could leave whenever he pleased. Lane also willingly signed a consent form, allowing the police to search both his home and vehicle. Inside Lane's home was said to be many missing person's posters with Shoemaker's picture, boxes of children's clothes and children's underwear. Lane also provided an alibi that was later found out to be fake and Lane stated that he wanted to speak to a lawyer, this halting the interview from going further although he stated that he had nothing to do with Shoemaker's disappearance.

During this time SRS workers also spoke to Lane's mother who stated that they had just relocated from Texas to Kansas. She also stated that her son didn't have anything to do with Shoemaker's disappearance nor the 1980 disappearance of eight-year-old Bertha Martinez, whose body was found four days after she had gone missing, to which the police were able to confirm that Lane was in San Marcos at the time of her disappearance and murder as well. Unknowingly, Lane's mother was also able to tie both Lane and Wacker together. In the end, Doil Lane confessed to both murders in 1991 and was convicted of the murder and rape of Martinez and is currently serving his sentence in Texas but still has

a sentence waiting to be served for crime against Nancy Shoemaker; sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole for sixty-six years. Lane has mental impairments and has been said to function at only a third-grade level, doctors believe that Lane was deprived of oxygen during birth. At the time of Doil's birth, his biological father was seventy-four years old and died soon after. His mother and step-father neglected him, followed by putting him through psychological and sexual abuse. He did poorly in school and finally, the state of Kansas intervened, taking him from this home and sent him to San Marcos to a treatment facility for children. Testing at this time in this life proved that his mental and emotional state was that of an eight to ten-year-old. Because of his mental capacity, Lane will not be executed in the state of Texas where he is currently imprisoned at.

As for Donald Wacker, the man that helped take Shoemaker from the street that fateful day, he is currently serving a life sentence in Kansas for his part in the abduction of Shoemaker. He has been up for parole and denied four times, the last being in 2017 that caused an uproar within the community when Shoemaker's family sat in on the parole board hearing and pled their case along with many others who were worried about allowing a child predator back onto the streets, proclaiming that he could do it again. Whether or not if Wacker had a hand in actually taking Shoemaker's life, he did help kidnap her and being that he could have been the one person to have helped her, he didn't and the life of Nancy Shoemaker was tragically cut short. His 2017 parole was denied but will be up again in December of 2019. Other than this, I couldn't find anything on Wacker's life, mainly wanting to focus on his upbringing.

Its stories like this that makes a parent become overly protective of their children. Its stories like this that remind you to always keep your child with you while out. Since this case was local I went to visit the grave of Nancy Shoemaker today. It was strange standing at the grave of a person I didn't know but still felt my heart breaking. In Wichita, it seems like everyone seems to know each other and since Nancy and I were close in age, it makes me wonder if perhaps we would have known each other. Maybe we would have been friends, co-workers or just had friends in common. Like any family, I know that her family still hurts from such a loss. Now living in Florida, they travel back for times like Wacker's parole hearing.

Below I've added pictures so you can put faces to the names.

Until next time –

Ali



Nancy Shoemaker



Doil Lane



Donald Wacker



The grave marker of Nancy Shoemaker