

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 | WISCONSINRAPIDTRIBUNE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

# DAILY TRIBUNE

## INFAMOUS INMATES

Dassey, Dahmer among those held at Wisconsin's Columbia Correctional

Anderson Dahmer Scarver Oswald Dassey

**Sarah Razner** Food & Life Reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

**P**ORTAGE — More than 200 years ago, it was a strip of land that determined Portage's fate. In the 1800s, fur traders, missionaries, Native Americans and explorers used the Wisconsin and Fox rivers to reach the vast waterways of St. Lawrence and Mississippi. As the travelers switched from river to river, the lush land between them acted as a port, and from this, the small city sprung.

The city came to be known for attractions such as the Fort Winnebago Sargeant's Quarters, one of the state's first houses in the Indian Agency House, where the government's liaison to the Ho-Chunk tribe lived in the early 1800s, homes to two Pulitzer Prize winners at Society Hill, and a bustling downtown.

See **INMATES**, Page 4A

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY RAGAZZA, USA TODAY NETWORK

### I've had it with telephone scams: Six I hate the most

**Andy Thompson**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WI

hear victims' stories of losing large sums of money. Many are retired or elderly and are devastated by the staggering losses.

Like many of you, I get plenty of scam calls and solicitations.

Here are six that stand out:

I received a call from a guy who said he was with Microsoft. He said there was a problem with my desktop computer that I needed to have fixed. I told him I didn't own a desktop. So he switched gears and said it was my laptop that was having problems. I lied and told him I didn't have a laptop, either. Then he went into a tirade, saying I had to have either a desktop or a laptop.

See **SCAMS**, Page 2A

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### Inmates

Continued from Page 4A

Goof and "the chosen one."

On June 1, 1990, Scarver followed the voices and returned to the workplace to demand money from Feyn. Feyn stated he had no money and, in response, Scarver shot another worker who was present — Steve Lohman — in the head to show his seriousness. He shot Lohman four times in total and forced Feyn to write a \$3,000 check.

Police found Scarver that night sitting on his girlfriend's couch, where he told them he'd "planned to turn himself in because he knew done wrong," according to The New York Times. In 1992, he was sentenced to life in prison, and imprisoned at Columbia Correctional Institution, according to USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin archives.

While there, Scarver developed negative feelings toward two inmates — Dahmer and Anderson. Dahmer crafted human limbs out of food from the cafeteria, cooking them with ketchup, said Scarver in an interview with the New York Post in 2015. Scarver described him as "unrepentant," and said that he tried not to interact with Dahmer as to not be targeted by him.

As for Anderson, Scarver claimed he defaced a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. by placing a dot of blood in the center of the civil rights leader's forehead, which led Scarver to believe Anderson was a racist, he said. His anger was also fueled by Anderson telling law enforcement his wife had been stabbed by two black men, according to the New York Post.

These tensions came to a head on Nov. 28, 1994, as the trio of Scarver, Dahmer and Anderson were assigned to clean bathrooms unbacked and relatively unsupervised. Scarver said he felt his back poked by a mop, and found Dahmer and Anderson checking.

As the men split up to clean, Scarver followed Dahmer. From the weight room, Scarver took a 65-pound metal bar and confronted Dahmer with a newspaper article he kept in his pocket detailing Dahmer's crimes, asking if he had done acts described. As Dahmer tried to leave, Scarver beat him in the head, killing him. Walking to the locker room, Scarver then beat Anderson, according to the New York Post.

Scarver was sentenced to serve an additional two life sentences, and after multiple prison transfers, as of 2015, was being held at Centennial Correctional Facility, according to the New York Post.

### James Oswald

A string of robberies that resulted in the murder of a police officer landed James Oswald in Columbia Correctional Institution.

Born on March 4, 1945, James Oswald worked as an accountant for many years before he and his son, Theodore, became known in the state for robbing banks in Wisconsin and Illinois. The decision to rob banks came as a result of not being able to find jobs, according to the Racine Journal Times, and their belief that doing so would allow them to avoid "becoming slaves in a system they viewed as fascist" and break on making them "disgraced peasants," according to the Chicago Tribune. Their far-right beliefs included touches of theories from Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher, and Norse mythology. They spoke of attacking Warren Buffet, and discussed Waco. To train, the pair practiced at their farm in Watertown, and bought weapons, including those that could be used to "assault an unarmed man," according to the Chicago Tribune.

Their robberies began on Feb. 12, 1993, at Medical Systems Credit Union based out of Waukesha, with another one following on Dec. 30, 1993, at Bank of America's Landmark Credit Union. Evidence found in their home linked them to "at least five hold-ups" in 1993 in the state, as well as to kidnapping a businessman in Minnesota, according to the Racine Journal Times.

On April 28, 1994, dressed in body armor, the Oswalds robbed Valley Bank One branch of \$14,000, and were chased by Waukesha Police Capt. James Lutz and another officer. When the police attempted to stop the car, the pair shot and killed Lutz, who Oswald later said was killed by another officer, according to the Racine Journal Times.

After killing Lutz, the Oswalds ditched their getaway vehicle at a Peewee's printing shop, and shot out the patio door of a home to break in. The woman inside was forced to drive the Oswalds into police gunfire and, before the van hit a tree, she jumped out of the car "with a shoulder wound," according to the Racine Journal Times. Dozens of

police officers waited for the Oswalds after the impact.

The two appeared in court with injuries. James Oswald listened to the judge from a gallery, and later defended himself in his trial from a wheelchair, according to the Racine Journal Times. During the trial, Oswald was said to have winked at Lutz's wife, Diane, who sat in the front row throughout proceedings.

Family members claimed that the Oswalds acted as part of a larger group, but no connections were found, according to the Chicago Tribune. In total, Oswald was convicted of 20 charges — including one charge of first-degree intentional homicide, nine charges of attempted intentional homicide, and three charges of robbery, according to the Racine Journal Times. He was sentenced to two life terms, with an additional 625 years. His son received two life terms and an additional 565 years, according to the Associated Press.

Throughout his term, he has stayed in multiple Wisconsin prisons, including Columbia Correctional Institution. He is currently in Wisconsin Secure Program Facility in Boscobel, according to Wisconsin Offender Locator.

### Brendan Dassey

Convicted as party to the murder of Teresa Halbach, Brendan Dassey became known outside Wisconsin when his story was profiled in the Netflix documentary series "Making a Murderer."

Born on Oct. 29, 1989, to Peter and Barb Dassey (now Janak), Dassey grew up in Manitowish County with his brothers, Bobby, Blaine and Bryan and his half-brother Brad, according to USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin archives. Like many teenagers, he enjoyed watching "WrestleMania" and playing video games, according to Complex.

However, on Oct. 18, 2005, his life diverged onto a different path from the typical adolescent when Halbach was murdered. His uncle, Steven Avery, had called Halbach, 25, to the Avery Salvage Yard to take a photo of a minivan for Auto Trader magazine. Three days later, she was reported missing, and on Nov. 25, her car was found on the property, according to Forbes.

In addition to Halbach's Toyota RAV4, law enforcement found bone fragments in a burn pit matching Halbach, as well as teeth. In the RAV4, officials found blood matching Avery, and

in his home, Halbach's keys.

Over a series of interrogations, Dassey's story changed from being called over to Avery's house to have a bonfire, to Avery telling Dassey to assault Halbach as she was tied up in Avery's bed. Avery then took her outside and stabbed her, telling Dassey to do the same, before showing her, he said in an interrogation, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The Netflix series called into question these interrogations, as Dassey was interviewed multiple times without a lawyer or parents present, even though he was a minor, and his IQ is believed to be around 70, which is on the border of "intellectual disability," according to Rolling Stone. The documentary also states he was coerced into making the confession and led by the investigators' questions.

In March 2006, Dassey was arrested, and despite recanting his confession, in August 2007, found guilty of party to the crime of first-degree intentional homicide, mutilation of a corpse, and second-degree sexual assault. He is sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole in 2048, according to USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin archives. That same year, he began serving his time in Columbia Correctional, and for a time also served in Dodge Correctional and Green Bay Correctional, according to Wisconsin's Offender Search.

Since the documentary aired, Dassey's new lawyers from the Center on Wrongful Convictions of Steven, Dr. David and Laura Nirider, stated his constitutional rights had been violated "because false promises were made during interrogations" and his confession was involuntary because of his age, intellectual abilities and lack of a parent present, according to USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin archives.

A federal magistrate overturned his guilty conviction in 2016, a day before he was to be released from jail on bond, that was overturned by a higher court. In 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals once again overturned his conviction, but he was not released and his conviction was later reinstated, according to USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin archives. His petition to have his case reviewed by the Supreme Court was denied in 2018.

Dassey was transferred in April 2019 to Oakdale Correctional Institution. Alison Gitz, Steven Avery and Andy Thompson contributed to this report.

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