



Timeline of Parker case

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1954: Darrel Parker, 23, is hired as Lincoln's first forester after graduating from Iowa State University.

Summer 1955: Parker's wife, Nancy, joins him in Lincoln. She gets a job developing recipes for flour and noodles produced at Gooch's.

Dec. 14, 1955: Nancy Parker is found dead in their home in Antelope Park. Darrel Parker confesses during an interrogation but recants the next day.

May 1956: Darrel Parker is sentenced to life in prison. His appeal to the state Supreme Court is denied.

1969: A federal appeals court reverses Parker's conviction, then the U.S. Supreme Court reverses that ruling.

1970: Parker is paroled.

1971: Parker marries Eleanore Jeanne Vandling; they make their home in Moline, Ill.; he works his way up to parks director in the Quad Cities.

1975: Wesley Peery kills Marianne Mitzner in a Havelock coin shop and is sentenced to death.

Late 1970s: Peery confides to a pair of Lincoln lawyers that he had committed more killings, including that of Nancy Parker, but makes them pledge not to share the confession until after his death.

1988: Peery dies of a heart attack.

1989: State denies Parker a pardons hearing.

1991: State pardons Parker, but he still seeks full exoneration.

2010: "Barbarous Souls," a book by former Lincoln resident David Strauss detailing the case, is released by Northwestern University Press.