

SELF-PROFESSED SERIAL KILLER GETS LIFE TERM IN KIDNAPPING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, October 2, 1991

Author: Associated Press

BILOXI, Miss. -- Donald Leroy Evans, who claims to have killed more than 70 people, received a life sentence Tuesday for kidnapping a 10-year-old homeless girl.

Evans, 34, had pleaded guilty Aug. 19 to the federal charge.

A sentencing hearing had been scheduled for Oct. 24 in U.S. District Court in Biloxi but Evans asked that it be held sooner. Judge Walter Gex III agreed and sentenced Evans to life on Tuesday, said Evans' attorney, Fred Lusk.

Evans still faces a capital murder charge in the death of the homeless girl, Beatrice Louise Routh, whom he kidnapped on Aug. 1 from a Gulfport beach. Evans was arrested Aug. 5 in Louisiana and he led authorities to the girl's naked body in southern Mississippi on Aug. 11.

After his arrest, Evans told authorities he killed more than 70 people across the country and in Canada, starting after he was discharged from the Marine Corps for health reasons in 1977.

Evans, a drifter from Galveston, Texas, has been charged with first-degree murder in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in the 1985 murder of a prostitute. Also, police in Daytona Beach, Fla., want to interview Evans about the 1985 slaying of a pregnant transient.

But Evans' other claims, including the claim that he killed one person in **Michigan**, haven't been substantiated. He took officials to the Arizona desert north of Phoenix in late August to search for the bodies of three women he said he killed and buried there, but the search was fruitless.

Evans could be sentenced to death if he is convicted of capital murder in Routh's death.

Edition: METRO FINAL CHASER

Section: NWS

Page: 4A

Index Terms: KIDNAPPING ; SENTENCE ; HOMICIDE ; MULTIPLE ; MISSISSIPPI ; DONALD ; LEROY EVANS

Dateline: BILOXI, Miss.

Record Number: 9102060818

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