



Wayne Nance (1955-1986)

Serial murderer. A local boy who grew to become Missoula's serial murderer beginning when he was a teenager. Law enforcement will tell the chilling tale of his crimes and of how clues were used to piece together some cold case murders that have been now linked to Nance through DNA.

- **1955-Birth.** October 18, 1955 in Missoula Montana.
- **Education.** Wayne grew up in the Milltown and East Missoula areas graduating from Bonner Elementary School and Sentinel High School class of 1974.

****Note: It may never be known exactly who or how many murders were conducted by Wayne Nance but this is what is known per law enforcement documentation as of today –**

- **1974 - Donna Pounds.** On April 11, 1974, Donna Pounds, a minister's wife was found dead in the basement of her West Riverside home with gunshot wounds. Nance was friends with the Pounds high-school-age children and lived nearby. All evidence found at the scene and at the Nance home leads to Nance as the murderer.
- **1984 – Unknown women.** While Nance was a bouncer at the Cabin bar in East Missoula, women began disappearing. The following women are believed to be prey to Nance:
 - **Debbie Deer Creek.** A body discovered in a shallow grave on Deer Creek in December 24, 1985 with a gunshot wound to the head. This body was identified as Marcella Bachman in the spring of 2006 by DNA.
 - **Christy Crystal Creek.** A body found on Crystal Creek in September 1985 with a gunshot wound to the head. This body has not been identified to date.
 - **Betty Beavertail.** A body found in 1979 stabbed to death. This body was identified as Devonna Nelson.
- **1985 – Mike and Teresa Shook.** Ravalli County Sheriff, Dale Dye, contacted Missoula County Sheriff Dept. and advised that they had an unsolved double homicide that occurred on December 12. The suspect gained entry to the house in Ravalli County, tied up the couple, murdered both, and then set fire to the house almost killing four small children. Items missing from the house were a ceramic bugling elk and a kelgin knife. A search warrant was served locating both items at the Nance home with a photo of George Nance dated January 1986 receiving the elk as a Christmas present.
- **1986 – Kris and Doug Wells.** On the night of September 3, 1986 Doug and Kris Wells were at their home at 100 Parker Court. Kris was manager of Conlin's furniture in Missoula where Wayne was a delivery worker in the warehouse. Doug Wells was contacted by Nance outside the home and asked for a flashlight. Doug led Nance into the house and was hit on back of the head. Nance then forced Kris to tie Doug before Nance tied Kris in the bedroom. Doug was taken downstairs and tied to a support post. Doug was beaten before Nance stabbed him in the chest with an 8-inch knife. Doug testified that he became enraged when Nance wiped the bloody knife on Doug's pants. Nance left Doug in the basement and went upstairs to where he had left Kris bound on the bed. Doug escaped from the bindings and loaded one round into a model 99 Savage 250-3000 and made his way up the steps to the bedroom. Nance heard Doug approaching and met him on the landing. Nance was shot in the side. He crawled and staggered back to the bedroom while Doug continuously swung the rifle at him. In the bedroom, Nance retrieved his 22 revolver and shot three rounds. Nance eventually collapsed unconscious with a bullet wound to the head. 911 was called. Doug Wells suffered a stab wound to the chest, a bullet wound to his leg, head and chest bruises, and multiple contusions.
- **1986-Death.** Nance was pronounced dead at St. Patrick's Hospital emergency room on September 4, 1986.



Information provided by Missoula County Sheriff Department records.