



Case File: 001

Overview of

# THE KEDDIE CABIN MURDERS

15 Minutes of Murder

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# CASE SUMMARY

**Case File: The Keddie Cabin Murders**

**Location:** Keddie, California

**Date:** April 11-12, 1981

In the small Sierra Nevada resort town of Keddie, California, what began as an ordinary spring night ended in one of the most disturbing unsolved massacres in American history. Inside Cabin 28, the Sharp family—Glenna “Sue” Sharp and her five children—were spending the evening when an unknown assailant or assailants entered. By morning, Sue, her son John (15), and John’s friend Dana Wingate (17) were found brutally murdered, their bodies bound with medical tape and electrical wire. Sue’s 12-year-old daughter, Tina, was missing—her remains wouldn’t be discovered for three years.

Despite a crime scene filled with potential evidence, including two bloody knives and a hammer, the case was mishandled from the start. Over the decades, theories have ranged from a personal vendetta to small-town cover-ups. In 2016, new DNA evidence reignited interest in the case, but to this day, no one has ever been charged.

The Keddie Cabin Murders remain a haunting testament to rural isolation, law enforcement missteps, and the lingering question of what really happened in Cabin 28 that night.

# VICTIMS & SUSPECTS

# VICTIMS

# SUSPECTS



**Glenna Sue Sharp (age 36)**



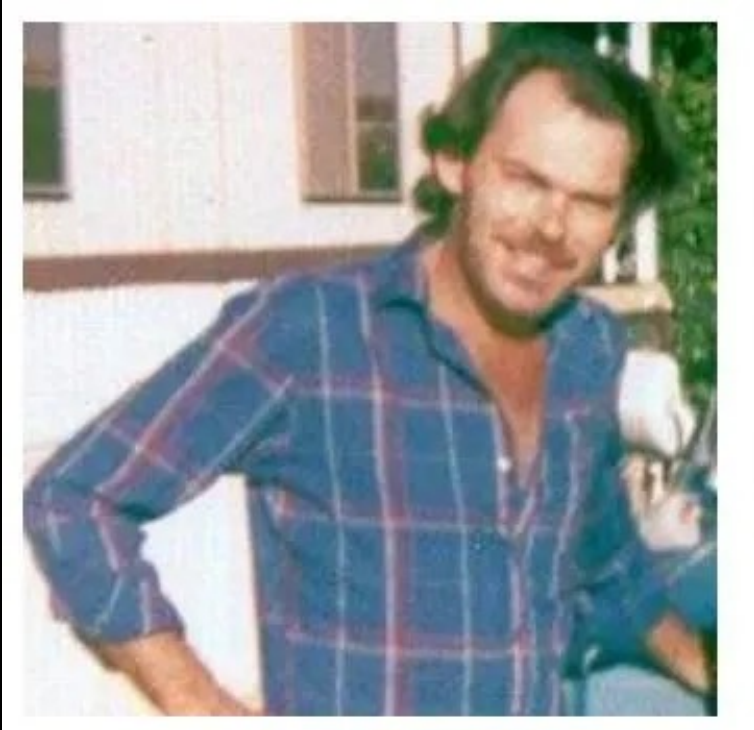
**John Sharp (age 15)**



**Tina Sharp (age 12)**



**Dana Wingate (age 17)**



**Martin Smartt:** A neighbor



**John Boba:** A friend of Martin Smartt

**Other individuals:** Investigators believe more people may have been involved in the murders.

# TIMELINE

April 11th, 1981

**Victims:** Glenna Sharp, her son John, and John's friend Dana Wingate were found bludgeoned and stabbed to death. Their bodies appeared to have been moved and staged.

**Discovery of remains:** Tina Sharp's skeletal remains are found in a remote area of Butte County.

Subsequent Developments

**Ongoing investigation:** Despite the passage of time, investigators believe the case is still solvable and continue to work on it.

1984

**Discovery:** A 14-year-old girl, Sheila Sharp (one of Glenna's daughters), discovered the bodies in Cabin 28 after her mother didn't answer the door.

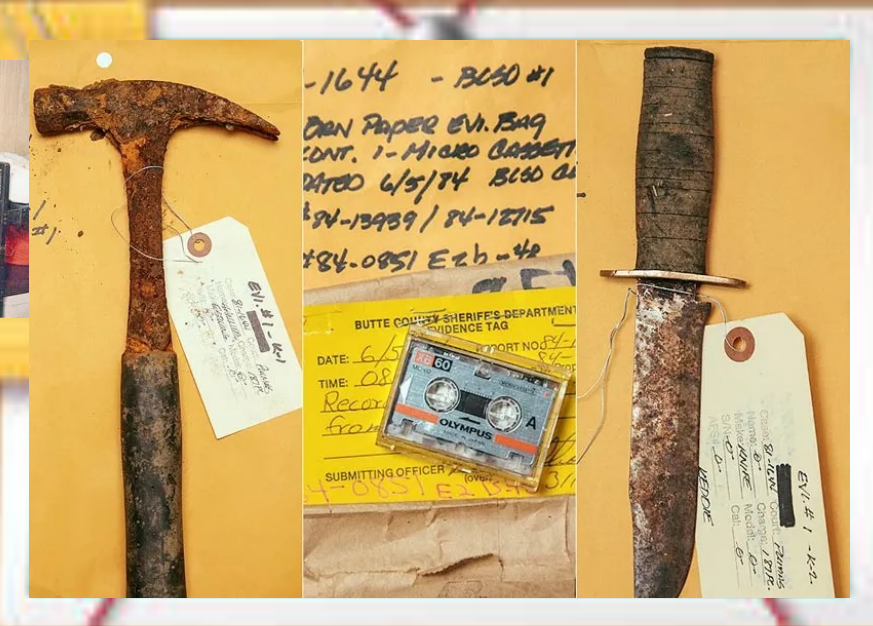
**Missing child:** The murder of Tina Sharp was initially considered a kidnapping as she was not immediately found at the scene.

**Mysterious phone call:** A mysterious phone call is made to the Plumas County Sheriff's Office, providing specific details about the case that were not yet public.

**Suspects die:** Both primary suspects, Martin Smartt (d. 2000) and John Boubede (d. 1988), have since died.

**Cabin demolished:** The cabin where the murders occurred was later condemned and demolished.

# EVIDENCE BOARD



"I've paid the price  
of your love & now  
that I've bought it  
with four people's  
lives, you tell me  
we are through.  
Great! What else  
do you want?"  
-Marty



What pieces  
are still out  
there waiting  
for someone to  
find?

# THEORIES & BREAKS



## Potential Motives Raised Over the Years

- **Personal Vendetta:** Some believe the murders were targeted—possibly involving a grudge or a past conflict, given the brutality.
- **Criminal Connections:** Rumors of drug activity or local criminal networks have circulated, suggesting the victims may have been caught in someone else's crosshairs.
- **Domestic Disputes Carried Over:** Longtime speculation that someone close to the family—or a friend of a friend—was involved, knowingly or unknowingly.
- **Random Violence:** A less popular but still viable angle: wrong place, wrong time.

## Suspect-Adjacent Theories

- **Known associates** whose behavior changed after the murders.
- **Individuals who inserted themselves** into the investigation or had suspiciously detailed knowledge.
- **People tied to the area** who left suddenly, avoided questioning, or gave conflicting accounts.

## Breaks in the Case

- **New testimony decades later**, including sudden recanting or shifting of alibis by people close to the original suspects.
- **Previously overlooked evidence** reportedly found in archives—raising questions about the completeness of the original investigation.
- **Reevaluated forensic material**, including potential DNA advances that were never publicly explained.
- **The sudden reemergence of old files** that seemed to vanish, leaving gaps in what investigators can publicly confirm.

## Things That Feel 'Off'

- Missing evidence, missing reports, missing statements—too many “missing” pieces to call accidental.
- People who should've been re-interviewed... never were.
- Conflicted timelines that don't neatly map out, even today.

# THE AFTERMATH



## Impact on the Community

- Fear and unease gripped the small town for years, reshaping how locals viewed outsiders—and one another.
- Parents reported keeping children inside long after the headlines faded.
- Community trust in law enforcement took a hit that some locals say was never repaired.

## Law Enforcement & Institutional Consequences

- Questions linger about procedural missteps.
- Internal disagreements reportedly caused delays, lost leads, and strained relationships within the force.
- The case became a quiet reminder of how easily small departments can become overwhelmed.

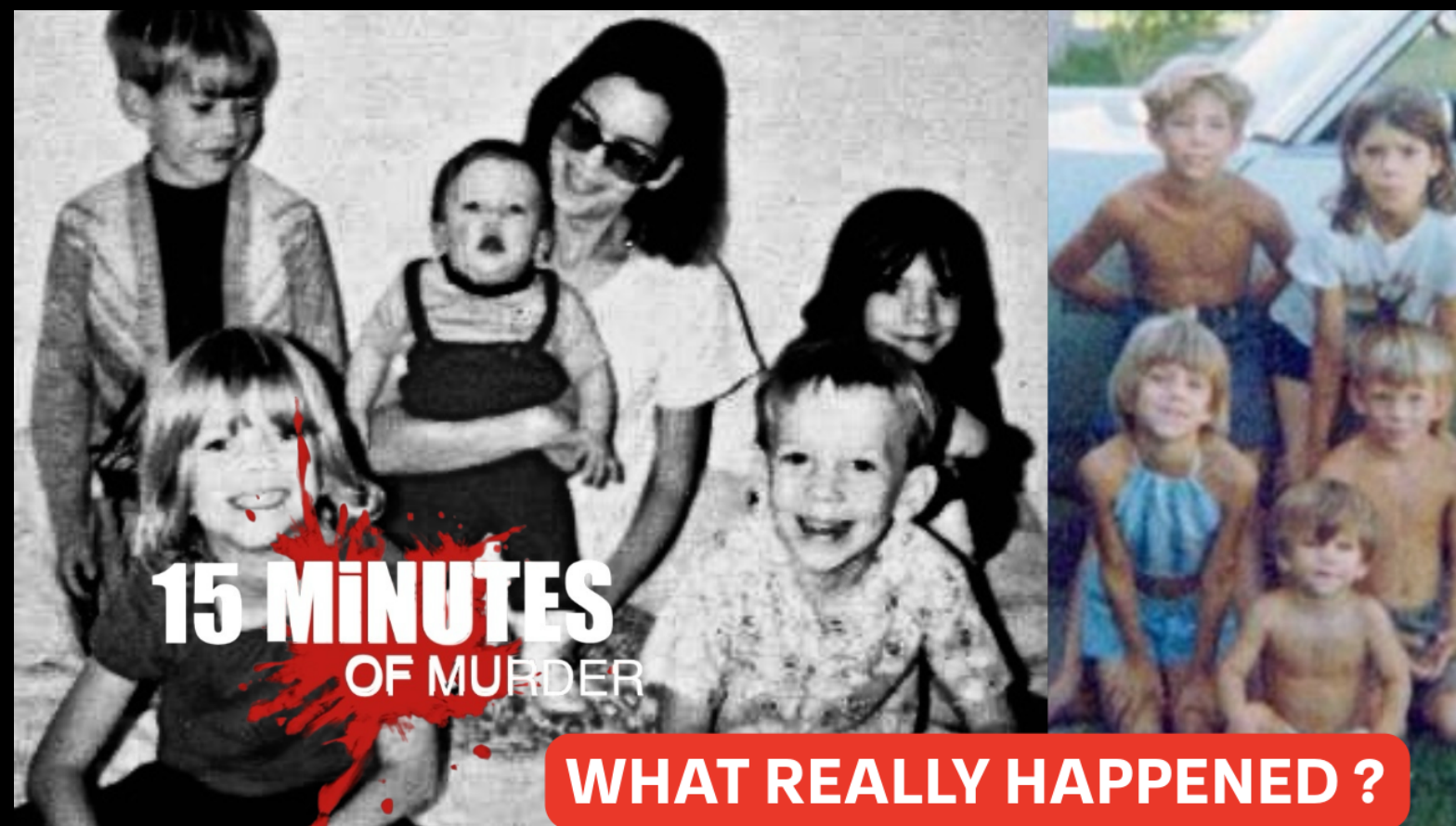
## Families Left Behind

- Survivors grew up under the long shadow of the crime, each carrying a different version of the truth—or what they believed the truth might be.
- Some pursued answers relentlessly; others retreated from the public eye entirely.
- A mix of hope, frustration, and resignation defined their relationships with investigators over the decades.

## Cultural Legacy

- The case became a staple in true-crime circles, forums, and documentaries.
- New generations discover the case every few years, often reigniting interest and uncovering forgotten angles.
- Rumors and theories continue to expand with each retelling—almost making the story as elusive as the killer.

# UNANSWERED QUESTIONS



## About the Night Itself

- Who was *really* in or near the cabin that night?
- Why were some victims targeted with such extreme violence while others were left alive?
- Were there signs of a struggle that never made it into the official record?

## About Evidence

- What evidence was lost, misplaced, or never processed?
- Was every item collected—and if not, why?
- Are there pieces of forensic material still sitting in storage untested?

## About the Investigation

- Why were certain individuals seemingly protected from deeper questioning?
- Were early suspects dismissed too quickly—or was something else at play?
- Were law enforcement disagreements the reason leads went cold?

## About Motive

- Was this personal, professional, or random?
- Did someone seek revenge, silence, or chaos?
- Was this meant as a message—to someone still unknown?

## Bigger Questions

- Why do some crimes leave more echoes than answers?
- How do small communities shape or hide the truth?
- And most importantly: **What pieces are still out there waiting for someone—maybe a viewer—to find?**



## Credits

**Tanisha Slater** - creator / producer / host / editor

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**15 Minutes of Murder**

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