

# BTK suspect reportedly has given confession

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■ A source close to the investigation said serial-killer suspect Dennis L. Rader has confessed to at least six of the BTK murders.

WICHITA, Kan. — (AP) — The man suspected in 10 slayings attributed to the BTK serial killer confessed to at least six of those killings, according to a source with direct knowledge of the investigation.

Investigators now believe Dennis L. Rader may have been responsible for as many as 13 slayings — including at least one that occurred after the death penalty was reenacted in Kansas, the source told The Associated Press on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

Rader made the confession on Friday, the same day as his arrest, according to the source.

"The guy is telling us about the murders," the source said.

Police spokeswoman Janet Johnson declined to comment.

Rader, suspected in the killings that terrorized Wichita residents for more than three decades, was being held Sunday on \$10 million bail and could appear in court as early as today, though more likely Tuesday, prosecutors said.

At that appearance, Rader, 59, would stand in front of a judge on video while prosecutors recite yet-to-be filed criminal charges against him.

The judge would also review Rader's bail and set a permanent amount.

Police were confident Rader's arrest last week would bring to an end 30 years of fear about the BTK killer, whose self-coined nickname stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill."

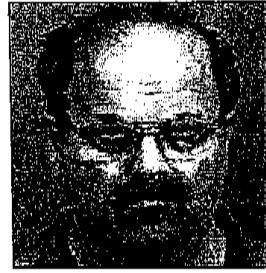
## UNSETTLING

But as residents pored over news of a suspect's capture, the knowledge that he may have been hidden among them all along left many feeling unsettled.

Rader, a married father of two, a Cub Scout leader and an active member of a Lutheran church, was anything but a recluse.

His job as a city code enforcement supervisor required daily contact with the public, and he even appeared on television in 2001 in his tan city uniform for a story on vicious dogs running loose.

The Wichita Eagle reported that Rader also once worked at ADT home security company, where he



SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARRESTED: Dennis Rader seemed an unlikely suspect.

held several positions that allowed him access to customers' homes, including a role as installation manager.

He worked at ADT from 1974 to 1989, the same period as a majority of the killings.

At his church and around town, many expressed shock that Rader was accused of being the man responsible for at least 10 killings attributed to BTK.

"Disbelief, absolute disbelief," said a tearful Carole Nelson, a member of Christ Lutheran Church, where Rader was an usher and the president of the church council.

"I never would have guessed in a million years," she added.

The church's pastor, Michael Clark, said Rader's wife, Paula, was in a state of shock when he visited the family, who remained in seclusion Sunday.

"Her demeanor and voice indicated she was suffering," Clark said.

Just days before his arrest, Rader brought spaghetti sauce and salad to a church supper, even though he was unable to attend himself, church member Paul Carlstedt said.

"The guy that walked in here was not the face of evil," said Bob Smyser, an usher at the church.

## DNA EVIDENCE

Police disclosed little about how they identified Rader as a suspect and have said they will not comment further on the case, but bits and pieces of the investigation have filtered out.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius told The Associated Press that DNA evidence was the key to cracking the case.

It was unclear whether BTK's letters helped lead to the arrest.

Police have said they obtained semen from the crime scenes even though the killer did not sexually assault his victims.