

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/06/29/charges-abducted-utah-train-worker-left-to-die-in-wyoming.html>

HOMICIDE

Charges: Abducted Utah train worker left to die in Wyoming

Published June 29, 2016

Associated Press



FILE - This image provided by the Davis County Sheriff shows Flint Wayne Harrison. Flint Wayne Harrison and his son, Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, on the run from police after tying up five women in a Utah basement, abducted and killed a rail line worker, Wyoming prosecutors said Tuesday, June 28, 2016. The Lincoln County Attorney's Office charged Flint Wayne Harrison and his son, Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, with first-degree murder and kidnapping in the death of Kay Porter Ricks. (Davis County Sheriff via AP, File) (The Associated Press)

SALT LAKE CITY – A Salt Lake City train worker who was kidnapped during his shift by a father and son on the run from police died just over two hours later in the wind-swept Wyoming countryside, beaten beyond recognition and his neck slashed, authorities said.

Flint Wayne Harrison and Dereck James "DJ" Harrison left Kay Ricks to die and went to a fast-food drive-thru, prosecutors said in charges filed Tuesday.

Ricks was beaten to death by the Harrisons on their way to a remote Wyoming hideout, dodging police who say they tied up five women in a Utah basement. The pair was arrested after a five-day manhunt, prosecutors said.

The new kidnapping and murder charges filed in Lincoln County, Wyoming, offer the first detail into how authorities believe the 63-year-old Ricks, a family man and veteran Utah Transit Authority worker, was killed on May 12.

The case could carry the death penalty, though County Attorney Spencer Allred declined to say whether he'll seek it. It's not clear why the pair took Ricks with them as they fled Salt Lake.

The Harrisons had been lying low for two days when Ricks reported to work at about 3 p.m., according to documents written by Special Agent Mike Carlson of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.

Ricks left the authority yard in his white, Ford F150 pickup truck to work at the 9th Street Substation. At around 5 p.m., a radio dispatcher heard a commotion over Ricks' radio. Then it went silent.

Investigators estimate the father and son crossed into Wyoming with Ricks in his truck at about 6:24 p.m. About 45 minutes later, they turned down a dirt road leads to Cumberland Bridge, spanning the North Fork of Little Muddy Creek.

Authorities say the Harrisons beat Ricks with a blunt object for 18 minutes and dragged his body under sagebrush.

That night, both UTA and Ricks' wife reported him missing.

His body was found five days later. Investigators also found a bloody utility knife under Ricks' left foot and an autopsy found he suffered cuts to his neck and defensive wounds to his forearms and hand.

The Harrisons were caught after Flint Harrison, 51, turned himself in. He told authorities his son, 22, was hiding at a campsite nearby and warned that he would shoot it out with officers, according to Carlson's statement.

"F. Harrison told the investigator that D. Harrison was a 'killer' and he had killed people in the past and how D. Harrison would steal a vehicle to get away," Carlson wrote. Dereck Harrison was spotted near a roadblock a few hours later and arrested.

The Harrisons are being held on separate kidnapping and other charges in Utah, and it unclear when they will be brought to Wyoming to face charges there. Utah lawyers for the two men said they could not comment on the Wyoming case.

Utah prosecutors say the Harrisons lured a woman and her four teenage daughters to a house Centerville, Utah, with an invitation to a barbecue, then tied them up and beat them with a baseball bat on May 10. Authorities claim the men had been using methamphetamine and wrongly believed the mother had turned them in to authorities.

The Harrisons drove away after the women got free and abandoned their own vehicle shortly afterward, police said. The police search grew to include Pinedale, Wyoming, some 240 miles from Salt Lake City, because Flint Harrison has a home there and his ex-wife told investigators he was likely to hide out there.

Ricks' Utah Transit Authority truck was also found near the suspects' hideout, the transit authority markings painted over with spray paint, investigators said.

A spokesman for the Ricks family said he was sickened by the events.

"How could somebody do this?" Richard Massey said. "We're just sad, to tell you the truth."

'How can you not be shocked?': Father, son charged with murder in UTA worker's brutal killing

By [JESSICA MILLER](#) AND [BOB MIMS](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune
First Published Jun 28 2016 08:42AM • Last Updated Nov 06 2016 09:23 pm

Wyoming court » If convicted of murder in the brutal slaying, Flint and Dereck Harrison may face the death penalty.

Kemmerer, Wyo. • A Utah father and son abducted Utah Transit Authority worker Kay Porter Ricks from a Salt Lake City TRAX platform last month, drove him to a remote location in Wyoming, beat him in the face and head, slashed his throat, dragged him behind sagebrush and left him to die, according to charges filed Tuesday.

Afterward, Flint Wayne Harrison, 51, and Dereck James Harrison, 22, used fluorescent green spray paint to hide the UTA logo on Ricks' work truck, then drove about 15 miles north to Diamondville, where they stopped at an Arctic Circle drive-thru before continuing north to Pinedale, charges state.

Police officers found the body of the 63-year-old American Fork man near a dirt road five days later, on May 17.

"How can you not be shocked?" said Ricks family spokesman Richard Massey after reading the charging documents.

"The sheer brutality is incomprehensible," said Massey, adding: "I'm not looking forward to the meeting I'm having tonight with the family."

The Harrisons — who are in jail in Utah on unrelated charges — were each charged in Wyoming's 3rd District Circuit Court with four counts in connection with the abduction and slaying, and the theft of Ricks' truck: murder in the first degree with premeditation and malice, murder in the first degree while perpetrating a kidnapping, kidnapping and wrongful taking or disposing of property.

Lincoln County, Wyo., attorney Spencer Allred said at a Tuesday afternoon news conference that the murder charges carry the potential for the death penalty, but he declined to say whether he will seek it.

Ricks died from "crushing wounds" to his face and head, according to charges, which describe the Harrisons repeatedly hitting the victim in the face and head with a blunt object,

"which was swung with great accuracy and control." An object was found near the scene May 23, charging documents state, that matched the facial injuries; the documents do not detail what the item was. Allred also declined to further identify the object that facilitated the fatal blows.

At some point, the Harrisons also sliced Ricks' throat, charges allege, though the cutting wounds were mostly superficial. A blood-covered utility knife was under one of Ricks' legs, according to charges.

The Harrisons then dragged him behind a sagebrush and left him to die from blood loss and aspirating his blood, charges state.

The UTA truck was found, and the Harrisons were arrested, near Pinedale in neighboring Sublette County a few days after Ricks' body was found.

When the Harrisons allegedly abducted Ricks on May 12, they apparently were trying to elude a Utah manhunt that was sparked by their alleged short-lived abduction on May 10 of a Centerville woman and her four teenage daughters — who all quickly escaped despite being bound with zip ties.

The motive for the Centerville abduction and assaults, police have said, appears to have been meth-fueled paranoia that the mother had informed police on their drug activities.

The Harrisons each have been charged in Utah's 2nd District Court with five counts of aggravated kidnapping, a first-degree felony, and five counts of aggravated assault, a third-degree felony, in connection with the Centerville episode. They remained in the Davis County jail Tuesday. No trial dates have been set, though Flint Harrison is expected to have a preliminary hearing next month.

"Once felony procedures in Utah are completed, it is my intention to bring the Harrisons to Wyoming for trial," Allred said Tuesday.

Massey, who traveled to Kemmerer for the news conference, said the Ricks family appreciates all the work police have done in investigating the homicide.

The family is not hoping or searching for anything, he said, but they want those responsible to be in prison for the rest of their lives.

"The family just doesn't want these two men outside of a jail cell again," Massey said in response to questions of a possible death-penalty outcome.

Massey also said the family doesn't want to watch or participate in any trial for the Harrisons, unless police and prosecutors believe their presence would be critical to the case.

UTA police have said Ricks' maintenance truck was last seen May 12 at 5:10 p.m. near the Ballpark TRAX station, at 1300 South and 200 West in Salt Lake City. The Harrisons, meanwhile, had been staying at a hotel 2 miles from where Ricks was working before his disappearance.

According to the charging documents, a "commotion was transmitted" over Ricks' radio before it was turned off about 5 p.m.

"The male sounded hurried and higher pitched as if someone was stressed," charges state.

Charging documents do not detail how the Harrisons kidnapped Ricks, but investigators note that Ricks suffered an injury to his right temple "well-prior to his death." Police believe that after the kidnapping, the Harrisons drove along I-80 and crossed into Wyoming just before 6:30 p.m.

Less than an hour later, the Harrisons arrived in the Little Muddy Creek area, where police believe the Harrisons assaulted Ricks for 18 minutes before attempting to paint the truck and driving away. A store security camera in Diamondville, Wyo., photographed the UTA truck, according to charges, and two women who were in line behind the truck at the Diamondville Arctic Circle also spotted the truck. They eventually reported the sighting to police.

The truck later was recovered near Half Moon Lake, near Pinedale.