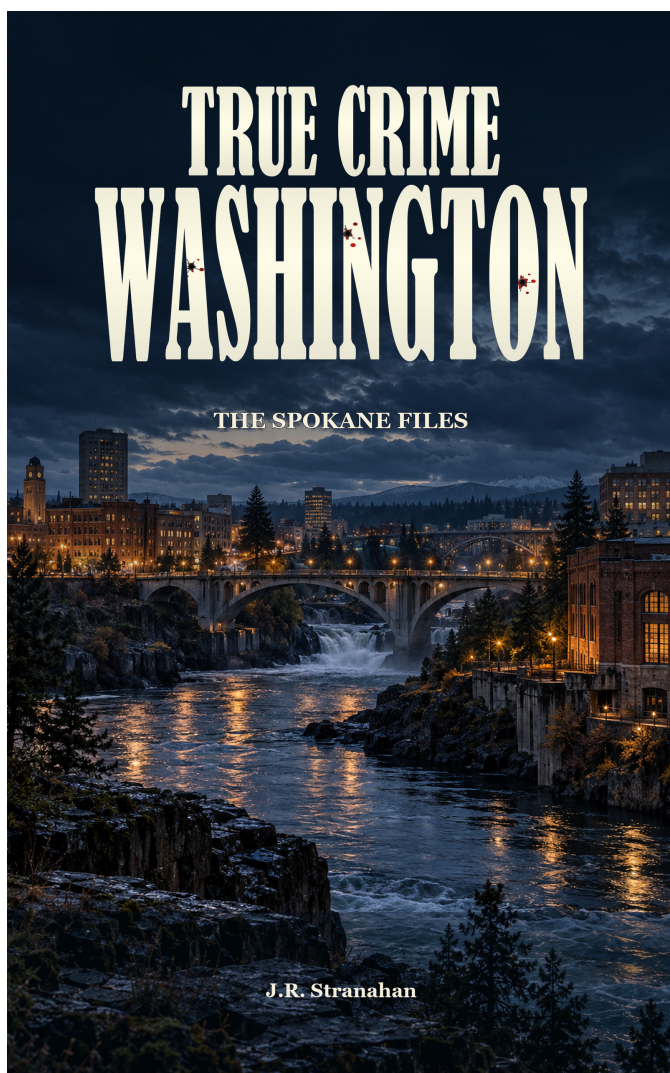


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File 1: The Burger King Murders

Place and period: Spokane, 1992-1995

Present legal status: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it.

This file belongs first to Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Two employees were found killed inside an Argonne Road restaurant in May 1992. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Burger King Murders. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Spokane, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it.

For Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. The locked business and missing property directed investigators toward a robbery inquiry. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the

community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1992-1995 record from Spokane contains a point that resists shorthand: Witnesses, statements, and physical evidence were presented at trial. The present legal posture is equally specific: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. A Spokane County jury returned two aggravated-murder verdicts. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Spokane determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1992-1995 marks the span over which the public learned it. Direct review examined guilt-phase and capital-sentencing claims. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Two employees were found killed inside an Argonne Road restaurant in May 1992. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in

the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. The locked business and missing property directed investigators toward a robbery inquiry. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community.

The first account

By the time The Burger King Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A Spokane County jury returned two aggravated-murder verdicts. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Direct review examined guilt-phase and capital-sentencing claims. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Spokane.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Two employees were found killed inside an Argonne Road restaurant in May 1992. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community at the same time.

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Consider the detail in its proper scale: Witnesses, statements, and physical evidence were presented at trial. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Spokane. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. The locked business and missing property directed investigators toward a robbery inquiry. In the Spokane record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Witnesses, statements, and physical evidence were presented at trial. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1992-1995. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time The Burger King Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A Spokane County jury returned two aggravated-murder verdicts. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it.

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The courtroom

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Direct review examined guilt-phase and capital-sentencing claims. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Tod Folsom, Dawnya Calbreath, their families, coworkers, and the Spokane community privately thought.

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Institutions

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Blake Richard Pirtle was convicted of two counts of aggravated first-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and the sentence then before it. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Burger King Murders

- Washington Supreme Court, State v. Pirtle: <https://law.justia.com/cases/washington/supreme-court/1995/60661-7-1.html>

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