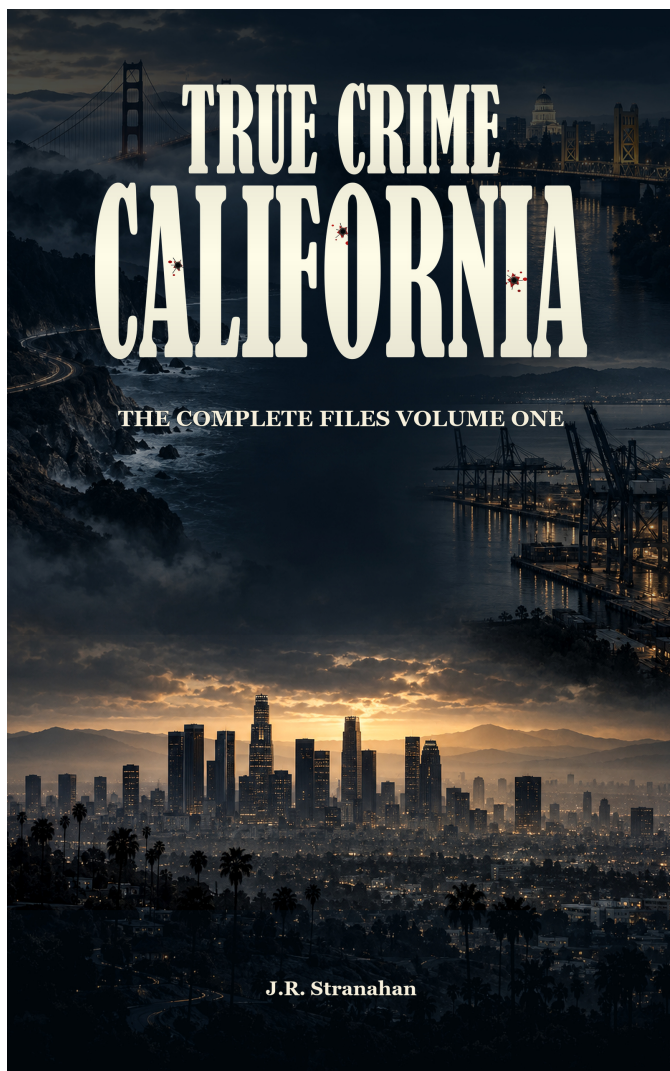




True Crime California: The Complete Files, Volume One

J.R. Stranahan

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The Tate and LaBianca Murders

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File 1: The Tate and LaBianca Murders

Place and period: Los Angeles County, 1969-1976

Present legal status: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant.

This file belongs first to Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno LaBianca, Rosemary LaBianca, and their families. 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

Seven people were killed at two Los Angeles County residences over two nights in August 1969. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Tate and LaBianca Murders. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Los Angeles County, 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: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant.

For Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno LaBianca, Rosemary LaBianca, and their families,

the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Investigators connected physical evidence, witness accounts, and statements made within Manson's circle. 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 1969-1976 record from Los Angeles County contains a point that resists shorthand: The California Court of Appeal affirmed the principal convictions while addressing separate claims by each appellant. The present legal posture is equally specific: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant. 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. The events and proceedings belong to Los Angeles County; claims from other jurisdictions are not silently imported into this file. 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 Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno LaBianca, Rosemary LaBianca, and their families privately thought.

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This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Seven people were killed at two Los Angeles County residences over two nights in August 1969. 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: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant.

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The first account

By the time The Tate and LaBianca Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The events and proceedings belong to Los Angeles County; claims from other jurisdictions are not silently imported into this file. 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: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The account distinguishes documented evidence, attributed allegations, trial findings, appellate rulings, and unresolved questions. 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 Los Angeles County.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Investigators connected physical evidence, witness accounts, and statements made within Manson's circle. In the Los Angeles County 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.

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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

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The courtroom

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Appeal and review

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Institutions

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Seven people were killed at two Los Angeles County residences over two nights in August 1969. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1969-1976. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Investigators connected physical evidence, witness accounts, and statements made within Manson's circle. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Tate and LaBianca Murders. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. In Los Angeles County, 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: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant.

For Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno LaBianca, Rosemary LaBianca, and their families, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. The California Court of Appeal affirmed the principal convictions while addressing separate claims by each appellant. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1969-1976 record from Los Angeles County contains a point that resists shorthand: The events and proceedings belong to Los Angeles County; claims from other jurisdictions are not silently imported into this file. The present legal posture is equally specific: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. 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. The account distinguishes documented evidence, attributed allegations, trial findings, appellate rulings, and unresolved questions. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Sharon Tate, Jay Sebring, Abigail Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Parent, Leno LaBianca, Rosemary LaBianca, and their families privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Los Angeles County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1969-1976 marks the span over which the public learned it. Seven people were killed at two Los Angeles County residences over two nights in August 1969. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel, and Leslie Van Houten were convicted in proceedings arising from the murders; later parole and resentencing histories differ by defendant. 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 Tate and LaBianca Murders

- The Tate and LaBianca Murders reference:

<https://law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/3d/61/102.html> -

California appellate opinions: <https://supreme.courts.ca.gov/opinions>

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