

Murder on Foothill Drive: The Grisly Deaths of Robert and Sondra Glasgal

By Jeff DiCello
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Unlike San Francisco, few folks have waxed poetically about San Mateo, the county just south of San Francisco that forms the bulk of “The Peninsula,” that thumb of land, less than 10 miles wide and 60 miles long, that separates the bay’s brackish waters from the briny Pacific Ocean.

There are two major north-south routes on the peninsula — U.S. 101 and Interstate 280.

Much of the land east of 101 in San Mateo County was marshland until it was drained and filled in the 1950s-1960s.

The county’s 455 square miles are studded with expensive real estate. At \$1.5 million, the median home price is the fifth highest in the U.S.

Despite its affluence and scenic location, San Mateo County eschews the limelight, content to exist modestly in the shadow of iconic San Francisco.

Still, San Mateo County is no slouch. It is the gateway to Silicon Valley, the home of YouTube and Meta, the parent company of Facebook. Even the San Francisco International Airport is technically in San Mateo County.

San Mateo produced the likes of *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune* creator, Merv Griffin, NFL quarterback Tom

Brady, and Oakland Raiders coach and broadcaster John Madden.

San Mateo County is where Robert Allan Glasgal and Sondra Elinore Grossman met in the late 1950s, at the apex of the post-World War II economic expansion.

Sondra, born in 1937, grew up in San Francisco, where she attended the city’s top-rated Lowell High School.

After high school, Sondra went to Stephens College, a private all girls university in Columbia, South Carolina.

Robert, born in 1927, was raised in New York City with his younger brother, Mortimer (“Morty”).

Their father, Jack, was a pharmacist. Mom, Florence, was a housewife.

Robert did his undergrad studies at New York University and eventually graduated from the Columbia University College of Dentistry.

Robert and Sondra publicly announced their engagement in December 1958.

Their wedding the next year at the San Francisco’s posh Fairmont Hotel, garnered coverage in the Jewish society pages.



Honeymooning in Arizona before returning to a home in Belmont are Dr. and Mrs. Robert Allan Glasgal who were married recently at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo. The bride is the former Sondra Elinore Grossman, daughter of the Harold Grossmans of San Francisco. Her husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Glasgal of New York City. Mrs. Charles Gandelman was matron of honor and Dr. Mortimer Glasgal was best man. Photo by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Domestic Tranquility

By 1967, at the apex of the war in Vietnam, the Glasgals would have three children, Russel, Steven, and Lauren.

Despite the waning influences of the post-war boom, and the upheaval of the 1960s, the Glasgals seemed to ride out the tumultuous decade with equanimity.

Their kids, too young to have gotten involved in the counterculture or anti-war movements, were snugly ensconced in suburbia — the 20-mile buffer between San Francisco insulating them from the hippie culture, hallucinogenic drugs, anti-war sentiment, and free love debauchery of the Summer of Love.

Despite the volatile times, Robert Glasgal's orthodontic practice thrived, and the couple began making financial investments that eventually would earn millions.

Sondra, like many women at that time, did not work outside the home, but that did not mean she was not busy.

The Glasgals social lives revolved around their Jewish faith and their membership in Peninsula Temple Beth El, where they had been married and where their children would be confirmed and have their bat and bar mitzvahs.

Robert and Sondra served on various temple committees and helped the temple raise money for Jewish causes, such as the Jewish Welfare Federation.

In 1960, Dr. Glasgal was honored for his fundraising prowess as one of five dentists who made the JWF's honor roll.

Sondra was a tennis player and a painter. Some of her art was displayed in Dr. Glasgal's office. She organized fashion shows and volunteered at a hospital.

She was a charter member of a group part of a group whom Elaine Stritch would have called "ladies who lunch."

Robert occasionally assisted Rabbi Sanford Rosen, with temple services.

What brought Robert to the Bay Area is not entirely clear. He perhaps was drawn by his older brother, Mortimer, also an orthodontist, who had a practice on the peninsula.

Following their Arizona honeymoon, the Glasgals first settled in Belmont.

Around 1960, the Glasgals moved into a five bedroom, three bath home at 708 Foothill Drive in San, near the San Mateo Golf and Country Club. A modest home there today can go for \$3 million.



Above: The Glasgal home at 708 Foothill Drive in San Mateo as it looks today.

All the Glasgal children went to local grammar schools and Aragon High School.

A close family friend described Robert Glasgal as the proud but affable patriarch of a tightly knit family for whom he set a standard of high achievement.

The elder Glasgal, who made himself a millionaire with his orthodontic practice and real estate investments, spoke publicly of his three children only with praise.

Fortunate Son

Russel, the oldest child, sought the limelight, perhaps to earn his father's praise.

Russel's talent as a magician emerged prominently in a 1977 feature in the *San Mateo Times* describing the performance of his magic act on a Mediterranean cruise ship, and at a Temple Beth El talent show.

The temple took out a large ad listing Russel's name along with the other performers in the local Jewish newspaper.

A photograph accompanying the Times article captured the dapper young performer in a frilly white shirt and black jacket, his radiant smile revealing the perfect teeth that his orthodontist father would have admired.

Magic ran in the family. Dr. Glasgal had often used to use magic in his dental practice to distract skittish children before injecting them with Novocain.

The Glasgal children went to Aragon High School. In the early 80s, Lauren and Russel were away at college. She in San Diego, Russel at USC.



College Life

Russel majored in public affairs at USC, where he joined the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. (See photo below).

The frat's website today describes Lambda Chi Alpha as "based upon Christian ideals," however, members need not profess Christianity to join.

Why Russel, who was Jewish, joined a fraternity organized around Christian principles is not known.



Perhaps he was attracted by Lambda Chi Alpha's pledge that, "We accept men of all religions and do not discriminate dependent on creed." Or maybe, like the fraternity, Russel believed that "Christian ideals are, simply, a guide for the way a man of honor should live."

Russel's fraternity brothers described him to a reporter at the university's newspaper, *The Daily Trojan*, as "intelligent and ambitious."

“He always had business ventures going on — T-shirts, buttons. He was always selling. Not big stuff, just nickel and dime (items),” said frat member, Bob Doty. Russel was active in the frat until about two years before the murders of his parents, when he went on inactive status for failure to pay his dues.

Frat brothers recalled that Russel had claimed to have had a small part in the 1973 film *American Graffiti*, which was filmed in the Bay Area, but I could not confirm that. He did, however, produce an independent adult film he showed to his brothers at the frat house.

Murder on Foothill Drive

In September 1983, Ronald Reagan laid his head to rest most nights in the White House thanks to his landslide victory over incumbent Jimmy Carter in the 1980 presidential election.

By the middle of September, baseball fans on the peninsula resigned themselves to Frank Robinson’s Giants having another losing season.

Monday September 16, 1983, as Bay Area football fans were rehashing the 49ers 35-16 victory over the Atlanta Falcons the day before, the Glasgals’ friends and neighbors, were stunned by the news that Robert and Sondra Glasgal were dead, apparently the victims of a violent attack in their own home.

Their bodies were discovered by the Glasgal’s youngest son, Steven, then 16, when he returned home from school after 3:00 p.m. Both Glasgals suffered severe head injuries in what police described as a shocking attack.

Both parents had suffered brutal head injuries. The 55-year-old orthodontist was sprawled on a family room chair with his bathrobe tied loosely around him. Mrs. Glasgal, 45, was seated on the bathroom floor wearing a blouse and jogging pants. Both Glasgals were sitting in pools of blood and had gaping head wounds.

The coroner said it appeared the Glasgals were beaten with a heavy instrument like a lead pipe.

There was no evidence of a struggle, no signs of a forced entry and nothing was taken from the house.

Because of this, police believed the Glasgals were taken by surprise or knew their assailant.

Russel’s fingerprints were ubiquitous throughout the house, a product of his recent residency there.

The Glasgals’ 1977 Buick was missing.

But neighbors said they were unaware of anything unusual happening at the house on the day of the killings.

The Prodigal Son

Like the son in the Biblical parable, Russel was thought to have coveted his inheritance. He left home for college, where he was rumored to have dabbled in drugs and made a porno film. He blew his tuition money on a dubious business venture.

When his parents found out what he had been doing, they summoned him back to San Mateo and kept him on a short leash.

While the prodigal son was satisfied to return home as a slave, Russel chafed against the restrictions his parents placed on him. Was this enough to push him over into violence or awaken a trait that was already lurking in his psyche?

Russel's public-facing persona was anything if not polite. Sue Lempert, a former member of the San Mateo City Council, knew the Glasgals. One of her children had gone to elementary school with Russel.

Writing in a 2016 newspaper column, Lempert recalled an Eddie Haskell-like encounter with Russel in the fall of 1983, a week before his parents' slayings.

"I went over to say hello and Russel could not have been more polite. 'How are you, Mrs. Lempert? How's the family?'" Lempert was impressed that Russel, who would have been about 20 "had grown into a very handsome and well-behaved young man."

In the weeks and months before Lempert's encounter with Russel, Lempert recalled hearing the rumors that Russel was into gambling and drugs.

In fact, in February 1983 Russel's parents discovered he had used his USC tuition money to invest in his business — a discount coupon book and calendar. Some reports estimated Russel lost \$25,000 in the failed venture.

Russel's parents summoned him home from college and he took up residence in his childhood home. The plan was for Russel to enroll in Golden Gate

University in San Francisco. Meanwhile, the Glasgals kept Russel on a short leash — he could not contact friends or drive the family car.

This episode marked "the first time (he) failed at anything he ever attempted," said William Nissinoff, a real estate investor who organized some of the Glasgal family's real estate investments.

"February was when everything hit the fan," Nissinoff said. The family advisor said he was aware of Russel's struggles, and he recommended that Robert Glasgal help his son navigate the pitfalls of running a business.

Later, after Russel's arrest for the murders, his uncle, Arleigh Grossman told a reporter that "Russel was the star of the family. He was their pride and joy. That's why this is so incomprehensible to us."

Some noted a change in Russel's mood since his return home. "Russel seemed a little quiet," Nissinoff said.

The Beach and the Lake

On Friday, September 16, 1983, Russel's father took pity on him because he knew that Russel had planned a weekend in Tahoe with his girlfriend but was short of funds.

Dr. Glasgal gave Russel one of his business credit cards to use. Father and son decided to keep this a secret because Mrs. Glasgal would not have approved.

On Friday afternoon, before the discovery of his parents' bodies, Russel said he left home to buy some sunflower seeds in his parents' Buick. He then

drove to Half Moon Bay, a small beach community south of San Mateo, where he said he took off his clothes except for his briefs and left them on the beach with his car keys.

He played some beach football with people he did not know.

When he returned to pick up his clothing, it was gone. The thief, however, left Russel's car keys behind.

Fortunately, Russel said he had left his wallet in the car along with some old clothes.

He then drove to pick up his girlfriend, Lisa Wolfin, a recent graduate of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles.

The couple spent Friday evening in a hotel near the San Francisco Airport before making the nearly four-hour trip to South Lake Tahoe the next day.

The Tahoe Arrest

On Saturday September 17, at Temple Beth El, shocked worshippers preparing for Yom Kippur learned about the grisly discovery on Foothill Drive.

The rumor was that Russel was missing, but at the time no one seriously thought of him as the perpetrator.

On Sunday night, two days after the Glasgals' bodies were found, San Mateo police issued an all-points bulletin for Russel's arrest.

Just before 4:00 a.m., deputies from the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office in South Lake Tahoe, California seized Russel in the parking lot of the Fantasy Inn, a \$250 a night love nest featuring

heart shaped beds and closed-circuit TVs showing soft core porno films. Russel ran up \$1,000 in charge on his father's credit card on the trip.

Russel had checked in the night before with a female companion, Lisa Wolfin, 21.

Deputies also found the Glasgals' missing Buick at the motel.

The First Trial

Russel spent the next seven months in the San Mateo County Jail awaiting trial. His trial on double murder charges began in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City on April 4, 1984.

Russel, who testified in his own defense, told the jury of nine women and three men about his activities on the day of his parents' death, including his stop in Half Moon Bay as well as the weekend trip with his girlfriend.

At one point, Russel's defense attorney Gordon Rockhill approached Glasgal carrying a lead pipe during the and asked the man if he beat his parents to death.

"No, I did not," the neatly dressed defendant answered in a steady voice.

Moments later Glasgal burst into tears as he recalled learning from police that his parents had been murdered. "Oh, my God. I just saw them Friday. Where are they?"

He said on learning from the police that he was a prime suspect in the killings, he reacted with shock "for about two seconds, and then I started screaming, crying and hyperventilating."

Russel's siblings, Lauren and Steven, supported their brother's denials.

Hung Jury

On April 4, 1984, Russel's trial ended with a hung jury (7 to 5 for conviction).

Prosecutors refiled the murder charges and prepared for a second bite at the apple.

Glasgal's attorneys were concerned that he could not get a fair trial in San Mateo County, population then around 606,000.

They moved for a change of venue, citing a poll of 400 San Mateo County residents that revealed almost half (47%) of potential jurors believed Glasgal was guilty or had strong negative impressions about him.

The court granted the change of venue motion and moved Glasgal's second trial to Sonoma County, about 100 miles to the north. Sonoma, now world famous for its award-winning wines, Michelin-starred restaurants and uber touristy towns, was in 1984, a much sleepier version of what it would become two decades later.

Although Sonoma County was relatively close to San Mateo, it was unlikely many potential jurors in Sonoma had ever heard anything about the case because the news coverage rarely made it past San Francisco to the north or Santa Cruz to the south.

A Change of Scenery

When Russel's second trial got under way on November 19, 1984, I was a young corrections officer (CO) in the

Sonoma County Jail, where Russel, still unable to afford bail, had been moved following the change of venue.

Russel was housed the jail's second floor on row A, which had two-and four-man cells with a dayroom and shower at one end.

From the beginning, it was obvious to us COs that Russel was not the typical inmate. He was a well-mannered, handsome, dark-haired, preppy type. He no longer sported the mustache he wore during his San Mateo trial, making him look even younger than his 23 years.

Some jail staff would reportedly slip Russel extra food. Russel, ever the performer, would do his magic act for the staff. Once he reportedly demonstrated a Houdini-like escape from a pair of handcuffs.

The Second Trial

During Russel's second trial in Sonoma County, the narrative shifted, and doubts emerged about the reliability of his siblings' supportive testimony in the first trial.

Russel's sister and brother, as well as friends and family, were now convinced that he had murdered his parents. Russel allegedly had his brother Steven lie on his behalf in the first trial by threatening to commit suicide if his brother did not say Russel had a good relationship with his parents.

However, jurors in the second trial did not believe the brother and sister. Russel's attorney believed Lauren and Steven turned on Russel because they

wanted to exclude him from his parents' \$3 million estate.

Along with other COs, I escorted Russel to and from the court-holding cells during his retrial. Reaching the court-holding cells from the jail was possible without ever having to go outside. The jail and courthouse were connected by overhead corridors built on the jail's third floor. Jail staff called these "the court tunnels."

The bailiff in the courtroom where Russel's trial was held was a kind older deputy sheriff named Ted Bader. At the end of each trial day, Deputy Bader would radio the jail to tell us Russel was ready for pickup. We would escort Russel through the tunnels back to the jail, have him exchange his civilian garb for jail attire, and return him to his cell in time for dinner at 5 p.m.

This ritual occurred virtually every weekday as testimony went on for almost six weeks. Some days I was the officer to escort Russel back to his cell; some days it was others. It was all routine and unexciting really.

Finally, in early January 1985, the defense and the prosecution rested their cases, closing arguments were given, the jury was instructed on the law, and the panel began deliberates.

The Verdict

I don't remember how long the jury took to return, but on January 10, 1985, I was on duty when I heard Deputy Bader's familiar, avuncular voice come over the radio, letting us know to bring Russel back to the courtroom because the jury had returned with a verdict.

We got Russel dressed in civilian clothes and escorted him through the "tunnels" over to the courthouse to face the jury.

When jurors returned a not guilty verdict on all counts, Russel exclaimed, "I knew it!" as he clenched his fists, turned and hugged a family friend. "I'll be out soon," Russel said. "They made the right decision, thank God," one Glasgal supporter told a reporter.

Pale from months in jail, Glasgal took off his coat and tie and embraced several jurors after the judge excused the panel and closed the case.

After the verdict, defense attorney Gordon Rockhill called the case against Glasgal largely circumstantial, contending police "fastened upon the person first to come to their minds because he (Glasgal) wasn't home" after the bodies were discovered.

The elected San Mateo County District Attorney, James Fox, who handled Russel's retrial himself — a somewhat unorthodox move in a county of that size — was angry at the acquittal. Fox conceded that the case was largely circumstantial but insisted that Glasgal is "getting away with murder, two murders. . . . The jury is going to have to explain it to themselves for the rest of their lives." The Glasgal retrial was the only case Fox, who served seven terms as D.A. from 1982 to 2010, handled personally while in office, and he lost it.

Years later, Fox's successor as D.A., Steve Wagstaffe, faced a similar situation: whether to try a murder case personally as opposed to having one of

his deputies handle it. The source of Wagstaffe's dilemma was the 2012 retrial of a high-profile murder case. Mohammed Haroon Ali was charged with the 1999 strangling of his girlfriend, Tracey Biletnikoff, at a drug and alcohol treatment center during a fight over whether Ali had relapsed.

Tracey Biletnikoff was the daughter of Fred Biletnikoff, a Hall of Fame wide receiver who played fourteen seasons with the Oakland Raiders.

In an interview before the Ali retrial began, Wagstaffe reflected on Fox's loss in the Glasgal retrial. "I don't want my last case to be one like that," Wagstaffe said. (Ali was convicted and sentenced to 55-years to life in prison.)

Reaction to the Verdict

Jury member Kathy Wyatt, a 29-year-old Petaluma salesclerk, said the jury was split when deliberations began Jan. 2. "It was half and half for a while," she said. "I thought he was guilty at first," she said. "But it wasn't proven beyond a reasonable doubt."

Wyatt said she was the last hold-out juror for a conviction when deliberations resumed Monday after the weekend recess.

"I requested Russel's testimony be re-read," she said, requiring a two-day recitation of the defendant's testimony.

"It cleared up a lot of things. I guess I just believed him," she said. Another juror said the panel was unmoved by the testimony of Glasgal's brother and sister. "That didn't prove he was guilty," the juror said.

Glasgal's grandmother said she was "very happy my grandson, Russel, has been vindicated. Thank God there was justice done. It's just a pity they threw him in jail when they had nothing, absolutely nothing."

Steven's college roommate, however, called the jury's verdict "hard to believe." The roommate, Danny Bradford, said that he thought Steven would be "shocked" when he learned of the decision.

Unexplained and unidentifiable fingerprints found in the home and several open doors in the house also caused jurors to speculate that the killings could have been committed by someone other than Glasgal, according to juror Donna Nelson of Santa Rosa. She said the failure of police to dust for fingerprints on the garage and patio doors led her to conclude that it might not have been Glasgal.

Another juror, Clay Miller, of Healdsburg, said Glasgal's behavior was "not consistent with someone who had killed his parents." Miller said Glasgal was "so desperate to establish an alibi," that it was difficult to believe he was guilty.

The Release

When Deputy Bader dropped Russel off in the jail following his acquittal, the jail administration was eager to release Russel immediately.

As we were processing Russel out, he took a moment to address me and two other officers. "Thanks for the decent treatment," he said.

One of the other COs asked Russel what he would have done if he had been convicted. Russel, matter-of-factly, said, "If I had to go to prison for something I didn't do, I'd rather be with my parents, so I would have found a way to end it all." Moments later, Russel walked out of jail, met by his attorney and a single newspaper reporter.

After the Acquittal

Glasgal immediately went into seclusion at the San Carlos home of Janet Eckstein, a friend of his late mother. A day after his acquittal, Glasgal refused to talk to a San Francisco Chronicle reporter outside the San Carlos house where he was staying.

The night before, Glasgal had a minor encounter with San Mateo police on his first day of freedom in 16 months when he returned to the family home.

Apparently unaware that the home had been sold recently by the estate, Glasgal went to the house, knocked on the door and introduced himself to the new owners' 12-year-old daughter.

The youngster refused to let Glasgal in, and the police were called to the house. Officers arrived as he was preparing to leave. "He apparently didn't know the house had been sold. That's all there was to it," said San Mateo Police Sergeant Phil Derr.

Legal and Financial Woes

Following his acquittal, Russel's brother, Steven, sister Lauren, and Uncle Mortimer, filed a wrongful-death suit that contended Russel killed his parents. In 1986, the parties settled the

case, the terms of which were undisclosed.

In December of 1986, Glasgal agreed to pay back \$190,000 in taxpayers' money used to pay two court-appointed attorneys for his defense in his second trial in Sonoma County. Glasgal's family members paid for private attorneys in his first trial in 1984, but when relatives began to doubt his innocence, he applied to the county, saying he could not afford counsel. He was assigned the same attorneys for his second trial.

The Aftermath

Steven Glasgal graduated from San Diego State University and earned a master's in business administration from the University of Southern California. He and a partner started a clothing line company in Los Angeles. Steven took his own life in 2016.

A 2024 Google search indicates Lauren, now 61, has lived most recently in Los Angeles and may have married. Her occupation is not clear.

While his brother Steven found success in business, he tragically took his own life in 2016.

Uncle Mortimer died at age 88 in Santa Barbara, California.

Today, Russel Glasgal's name remains largely absent from the public eye. A Google search results in fewer than a dozen hits, most of them to old newspaper clippings about his parents' murders.

California's unclaimed property website says he has over \$800.00 in unclaimed cash waiting for him from a Bank of

America savings account, a Johnson & Johnson stock dividend, and interest from Plains Marketing, LP an oil and natural gas company.

The undated Bank of America entry on the unclaimed property website lists an address for Russel at an apartment complex near USC.

Reddit

A 2018 Reddit thread on the murder case asks, "Who murdered Robert and Sondra Glasgal?" The discussion was started by a poster who mentioned that Dr. Glasgal was his orthodontist.

Several comments paint Dr. Glasgal in a poor light. One stated, "He was mean. I used to have nightmares about going in for my appointments. The parents of the patients were not allowed in the back rooms with their kids. He was charming to the parents, but he would yell and talk mean to the kids. I was in high school and was afraid of him." Another said, "Sadly, the orthodontist was actually rather an asshole. He was not very nice and most definitely did not have a bedside manner."

More than one post on the Reddit thread mentioned Russel being verbally abused by his father. Another mentioned that Russel had attempted suicide while at USC, but this is not confirmed.

One comment said the Glasgal home was being renovated at the time of the murders and many workmen were in and out of the house.

Sue Lempert, the former neighbor of the Glasgals is quoted in the Reddit thread

as saying that the D.A. who tried the case told her if forensic DNA analysis had been available in 1983, "Russel never would have gotten off."

Presumably the D.A. Lempert spoke to surmised that DNA testing on the clothing Russel wore on the day of the murders would have revealed his parents' blood on his clothing. But that clothing was never found. Russel maintained his duds had been stolen from a Half Moon Bay beach while he went skinny dipping.

Conveniently the thief left Russel's car keys behind on the sand, enabling him to retreat to his parents six-year-old Buick where he changed into some spare clothing he said was in the car.

Another poster in the Reddit recalled his mom hiring a young Russel Glasgal to perform his magic act at a birthday party.

This same poster, who also remembered Googling Russel's name years ago and finding "a strange account of him" gambling on foreign cruise ships, admits to wondering about what ever became of him, adding, "my curiosity about this case lingers..."

"The Female Companion "

I published a much shorter version of this story on a Reddit thread dedicated to the Glasgal case in the summer of 2024.

In June, I got a call from a documentary film producer in Atlanta. She had seen the Reddit discussion about Glasgal, including my comments.

The producer's company was considering making a film about people of privilege who had been accused of committing crimes.

Later in the summer I published a version of this story on my freelance paralegal blog. My website gets little traffic from non-lawyers, so with some surprise, I received a contact message about Glasgal through my website from a "civilian." The message said:

Hi Jeff, Russel's x-girlfriend here... I would appreciate it if you would correct your story as Russel did not enter my arms when he was released from jail. His lawyer may have been there (,) but I was not... Thank you. His name is spelled incorrectly, it only has one L at the end of Russel. He did tell me how nicely he was treated and that you guys would bring him better food and that he would perform magic tricks for you guys. He said he would show you guys how he got out of handcuffs... May I ask you a personal question, did you think he was innocent or guilty? Thank you, X-girlfriend...

The message from Russel's x-girlfriend included a Hotmail email address, which appears on several websites associated with an artist named Lisa Wolfen. Information found on the internet showed that Wolfen has worked in a variety of artistic media and is the founder of an art foundation in Vancouver, Canada.

After hearing from Wolfen, I found the 1983 Daily Trojan story that identified her by name as Russel's "female

companion" when he was arrested in South Lake Tahoe two days after the murders.

While Wolfen has an inescapable connection to Glasgal, what if any relationship she has with him today is uncertain.

There is no crime in Googling the name of an ex-boyfriend. I do not know about her internal thought processes. But, by contacting me to correct a record that few would ever see, Wolfen not only revealed her identity, but she confirmed that Russel is never far from her mind.

Wolfen would not be the first woman to be attracted to a "bad boy" or wonder what an ex-boyfriend is doing now.

That trope has been a mainstay of popular entertainment from the time James Cagney mashed a grapefruit in Mae Clark's face (*Public Enemy*), to Lorraine Bracco being "turned on" when Ray Liotta gave her a bloody gun to hide in *Goodfellas*.

Russel was not the first young man, who, freed from the yoke of parental control, pushed the envelope in terms of partying, engaging in risky behavior, etc.

If the murders were committed by someone else, Russel's two trials and 16 months in jail were quite a hefty price for sowing a few wild oats. ♦