

“Mr. Shadey” (“Mr. Shades Creek”)
A Fictional Character Originated by Peggy Lowery and Implemented by
James Lowery with Objects He Has Found in Shades Creek and
Its Major Urban Tributaries in the Birmingham Area

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The following is what we know about Mr. Shadey and his family based on the items listed that have been found in Shades Creek and its tributaries and in a few other local rivers such as the Cahaba River:

What Mr. Shadey Wears: Various pieces of Mr. Shadey’s clothes (constituting an entire outfit for him):

- Hat
- Shirt
- Underpants
- Dress pants
- Shoes (2, not a matched pair)
- Socks
- Patagonia fleece jacket
- Gloves (6, all different, all work gloves)
- Sunglasses (2 different pair)

What Mr. Shadey Looks Like: A Polaroid photograph of a family has been found in Shades Creek, so we assume that it is “Mr. Shadey and his family.”

Where Mr. Shadey Lives: Tuscaloosa – Tuscaloosa County trailer license tag has been found in the creek.

Mr. Shadey’s Automobile:

He owns, or has owned, the following vehicles:

- Jeep Cherokee (ENTIRE vehicle in Shades Creek)
- Pontiac (hubcap found)
- Plymouth (hubcap found)
- Dodge (hubcap found)
- Cadillac (hubcap found)
- Ford (hubcap found)
- Saab Scania (emblem found – replacement value over \$50.00) (Apparently, the Saab Scania was acquired when Mr. Shadey turned in an old “clunker” vehicle because the Saab emblem was found in the creek at the end of the government’s “Cash for Clunkers” program.)

The license plate for one of his automobiles is Alabama AS67399.

He pulls a trailer – Tuscaloosa County trailer license tag number Alabama 63-0080.

He uses Shell Rotella brand SAE 15W-40 motor oil (gallon container found).

The following parts of his car have been found in the creeks:

- Exhaust system – All pipes still intact including catalytic converter.
- Metal automobile bumper (Volkswagon-size front or rear bumper)
- Batteries (TWO found):
 - DuraLast brand
 - Second Battery -- unknown brand
- Radio Antenna (Slightly bent, but usable)
- Sparkplug
- Alternator
- Fuel filter (Two different ones found at different times.)
- Fan belt
- Rubber floor mat

Automobile license plate
Vehicle trailer license plate – Tuscaloosa County
Hubcaps from various models of vehicles
Lead wheel weights
Tires – LOTS of tires – Many different brands and varieties

Where Mr. Shadey Shops:

Gift cards from the following businesses have been found in the creeks:

Shell Oil
WalMart
COSTCO
Big Lots
Publix
Borders
Toys “R” Us
Cheesecake Factory
Logan’s Roadhouse
Circuit City
Logan’s Steakhouse
\$20 Nextel card
Cingular Reward card

Wachovia VISA charge card was found in Shades Creek.

Wells Fargo VISA Platinum debit card was found in Shades Creek – Valid card – Reported to bank by Mr. Shadey as a lost card.

Mr. Shadey’s Political Leanings:

Sometimes Democrat – “Another Bright Blue Dot in a Really Red State” bumper sticker

Sometimes Republican – Gary White campaign yard sign and stand

Mr. Shadey Recently Had a Robbery And a Fire At His House:

Yellow police “Caution” tape was in the creek.

Several fire hoses were in the creek.

After the Fire, Mr. Shadey Painted and Remodeled His House in Preparation for Selling It:

Paint roller holder/handle	Paint stirrer
Section of paint roller extension rod	Paint scraper handle
Full-size, folding metal ladder	Asphalt roofing shingle
PVC pipe with cut-off valve	Ten-foot piece of PVC pipe
Large piece of channel iron	Electrical wire-nut
Floor tile (UPC # 98802 10349)	Toilet water feedline connector
Real Estate “For Sale” Sign	Toilet floor seal ring (iron and rubber)
Long aluminum gutter nail	Sandpaper – fine grit, 3M P400
Dumpster in Shades Creek for construction wastes	

What Mr. Shadey Eats and Drinks:

Corn on the cob – Nibbler size – Cooked, fresh, complete, and still “edible” – was found in creek.

Avocado – Label still affixed to skin reads “Organic Calavo Avocados from Mexico #94225 EMP 263” – Complete, and still “edible”

Watermelon – Growing on a vine on a gravel bar in the middle of the creek

Eggs – Half of chicken egg shell

Oysters (TWO shells found):

Oyster shell

Double Oyster shell – Articulated (both halves in tact and still connected together)
Beach Cliff Sardines can lid
Golden Flake Cheese Curls bag (empty)
Famous Amos Chocolate Chip bag (empty)
Coffee – Blue coffee pot and a “Joe Muggs” plastic cup
Barber’s Milk – Cultured Whole Buttermilk one quart container was found.
Likes to eat at Hooters – “I Love Hooters” uninflated balloon.
May have a “drinking problem” – Lots of beer cans (24 in one place), an UNOPENED can of Miller Lite,
wine bottles, wine bottle corks, and a vodka miniature bottle.
SEE ALSO ITEMIZATION ON LAST PAGE OF THIS LIST.

Mr. Shadey Likes To Cook:

Large, heavy-duty stainless steel cooking pot with two handles – excellent condition
Stainless steel spoon; Stainless steel fork
Plastic kitchen bowl; Plastic knife
Tupperware freezer container – Hand-written label still on it reads “2 Duck Ba. 12/01”
Six-cup plastic food storage container with lid – No brand indicated
Salt shaker
Double kitchen sink

Mr. Shadey’s Household Appliances:

Vacuum cleaner front cover – Kenmore – Model: Inteliclean Progressive with Direct Drive, HEPA filter

Mr. Shadey’s Hobbies:

Golf
Over 440 golf balls
Sand trap rakes (TWO found):
Sand trap rake (Found during a Shades Creek cleanup)
Sand trap rake (Found and collected by young Jack Freeman)
Tennis (over 80 tennis balls)
Fishing
Fishing rod and reel
Long-handled fish landing net
Fishing line
Fishing bobbers
Bow hunting (metal arrow)
Playing poker
Poker chip
Four-of-spades playing card
Card table complete with legs still extended
Bowling (TWO bowling balls found):
Bowling ball found in Shades Creek near Irondale
Bowling ball found in Shades Creek during a creek cleanup
Listening to music
CD – Luther Vandross Greatest Hits
CD – T. I. Trap Musik
Homemade CD’s of favorite music

Mr. Shadey’s Lawnmower:

Gas-powered, Murray brand, fairly new lawnmower was found in the creek.
Lawnmower air filter

What Else We Know About Mr. Shadey:

Is in the Army Reserves – Canvas Army duffle bag; Large pocket knife.

Is a smoker:

Nine unsmoked Marlboro cigarettes in a pack

Metal cigar case

BIC disposable cigarette lighters

Al Capone brand Sweets Filter, Cognac Dipped cigarillos (made in Honduras) (2-pack container).

Chews tobacco – Tin of smokeless tobacco was found.

Graduated from Auburn – Auburn hugger/coozy was found.

Is on welfare and gets food stamps – Alabama Department of Human Resources Electronic Benefits Transfer card found

Likes to buy sunflower arrangements for his wife – Handful of cut sunflowers were found in Shades Creek.

Is a member of “Quincy’s at Birmingham” Club – Membership card was found.

Uses ball-point pens.

Uses AA size batteries – RayOVac alkaline, DuraCell alkaline, and one unknown brand.

Uses a Nokia cell phone.

Uses the Internet a lot

Computer was found in Shades Creek

Parallel printer cable was found, but some of the wires and connectors are broken

TWO Pre-paid Let’s Surf America Internet cards were found.

Is a workman for a living – Six work gloves (various styles); Earplugs.

Attends church – Medal and molded-plastic chair like is used in church educational facilities

Uses Duracell brand batteries – 9-volt battery

Uses Degree brand deodorant – “Clean Slate” scent.

Likes to listen to music on CD’s – A lot of music CD’s have been found – One still plays!

Likes FUTURAMA – “The Beast with a Billion Backs” DVD was found.

Needs to get a replacement Employee Identification Badge – He lost his ID badge in the creek.

Rents a self-storage unit – Public Storage key and key fob was found in the creek, and a Public Storage padlock was found in the creek.

Owned a horse many years ago – Horseshoe – Very old and very rust encrusted

Has a dog – Dog chew toy with bell inside and pet silent fence flag

Mr. Shadey and His Family Like to Travel:

Goes to Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans – Mardi Gras beads

Likes to take his family to the beach – Lots of beach balls, a Birmingham Zoo child’s plastic sand bucket, and a swim fin.

Takes Olympus camera on vacation trips – Lens cap

Stays at the following motels on trips (motel room keycards found):

Days Inn

Marriott

Microtel Inns

Unity Motels

Super 8 Motel

What We Know About Mr. Shadey’s Family:

First names of some of the family (based on Identification Badges or club cards found):

Ian (Toys R Us employee)

William (Quincy’s at Birmingham Club)

Beverly (Birth date May 31, 1952)

Yolanda (BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama health insurance card)

Erika (Welfare/Food Stamps electronic benefits transfer card)

His wife uses reading glasses.

His wife uses metal nail files.

Has a young baby:

Baby's pacifier

Baby's sippy cup

Has other school-age children:

Flipcards to learn numbers

Pony tail hair tie

Child's play cup

Child's umbrella

Child's soft baseball

Child's inflatable swimming pool – four feet by six feet

Toy wheelbarrow

Toy wagon (12 inches long)

Toy leaf blower

Section of child's train track

Child's 12-inch school ruler

Book backpack – Jansport brand

Child's fold-up scooter – Razor brand – Everything works and wheels turn.

Inline skate – Razors brand – Complete boot and wheels that still turn.

Deflated child's balloon with string still attached

Mr. Shadey's Children Participate In a Lot of Sports:

Baseballs

Baseball bats (wooden and plastic)

Lacrosse balls

Softballs

Volleyballs

Badminton racket

Footballs

Soccer balls

Basketballs

Miniature (2-inch) plastic "NBA" toy basketball

Field hockey stick

Track and field hurdle (regulation race size)

Archery (metal arrow)

Lawn bowling item

Croquet ball

Frisbee

Marble

Ping Pong ball

Boogie Board (water sport bodyboard)

Mountain Bicycles (TWO found):

Speed Ridge brand mountain bicycle

Fuji brand mountain bicycle, 1995 model (Found and collected by young Jack Freeman)

Dirt bike helmet

Bicycle helmet

Bicycle cable lock

Bicycle warning flag and pole

Small "cheerleader's" megaphone – Rocky Ridge School

What Mr. Shadey and His Family Drink

By James Lowery

All of the following 39 flattened cans were found at one location on August 4, 2009, just upstream of the Elder Street Bridge where we water test. This was my personal record for the number of flattened cans found at one time at one spot. Strangely, only flattened cans are found at this location, probably because the runoff from the Eastwood Village Shopping Center parking lot enters the creek here.

Beer

7	Bud Light
4	Budweiser
2	Miller Lite
1	Milwaukee's Best
1	Natural Light
1	Natural Ice
1	Icehouse
1	Coors Light
1	Hurricane High Gravity Lager
1	Steel Reserve 211 (High Gravity)
1	Malt liquor (unknown brand)
21	TOTAL

Soft Drinks, Colas, Fruit Juices, etc.

3	Mtn. Dew
2	Sprite
2	Pepsi
2	Mellow Yellow
1	Diet Coke
1	Coca-Cola [sic]
1	Cola (generic)
1	Sunkist
1	Hawaiian Punch
1	Fayo Kiwi Strawberry
1	Sun Pod Grape
1	Wild Strawberry
1	Original Jumbo Orange
18	TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL FLATTENED CANS THIS ONE DAY AT THIS LOCATION: 39