

On the morning of Monday, January 29, 1979, Brenda Ann Spencer (aged 16) began shooting from her home at children who were waiting outside Cleveland Elementary School for principal Burton Wragg to open the gates. She injured eight children. Wragg was killed while trying to help the children. Caretaker Mike Suchar was killed while trying to pull Wragg to safety. A police officer responding to a call for assistance during the incident was wounded in the neck as he arrived.

After firing thirty rounds of ammunition, Spencer barricaded herself inside her home for several hours. While there, she had a telephone conversation with a journalist who reported that she had said "I don't like Mondays" in reply to his question why she had done it. She also spoke with police negotiators, telling them those she had shot had made easy targets, and that she was going to "come out shooting." Spencer has been repeatedly reminded of these statements at parole hearings. Ultimately, she surrendered. Police officers found beer and whiskey bottles cluttered around the house, but said Spencer did not appear to be intoxicated at the time of her arrest.