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| Juan Corona “The Machete Murderer” | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  Tamie Boegner  Holly Brickey  Melissa Bowles  Doug Crowder  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 1934 |  | Born in Mexico. | |
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| 1944 | 10 | Brother, Natividad, comes to America when WWII draft strapped California of its cheap labor. | |
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| 1950 | 16 | Following the footsteps of older brothers Natividad and Felix, Juan came to  California by slipping across the border from his native Autlan illegally. Juan picked carrots and melons in the Imperial Valley for three months before following the crops north to the Sacramento Valley. | |
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| May 1953 | 19 | At his brother’s suggestion, Juan returned to the Marysville-Yuba City area. | |
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| 1953 | 19 | Juan met and married his first wife in Reno. | |
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| December 23/24  1955 | 21 | A storm caused rain for two weeks. The rain swollen Yuba and Feather Rivers tore a 2200 feet gap in the west levee near Shanghai Bend. 38 people drowned in the first rush of water, which flooded 150 square miles.  The flood had a strange effect on Juan. Juan believed everyone had died in the flood | |

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|  |  | and that he was living in a land of ghosts. Juan spent most of his free time during this period reading the Bible. |
| 1956 | 22 | After being returned by his brother to Mexico, Juan returns to the United States legally with a green card to work. Juan now gives up drinking. |
| 01-11-56 | 22 | Natividad filed a petition in Yuba County Superior Court asking that his half brother be committed to a mental hospital. |
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| 01-17-56 | 22 | Juan was admitted to DeWitt State Hospital in Auburn, California and diagnosed as schizophrenic. (“schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type”) |
| 01-18-1956 | 22 | Without anesthesia, first shock treatment was administered, followed by 22 others. |
| 1957 | 23 | Corona met a friend, Ms. Lillard, at a snack bar saying he was “sick in the head, call the doctor, call the police” |
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| 1958 | 24 | Saw Mrs. Lillard again in town saying he was troubled, still sick and thinks bad things. |
| 1958 |  | Relationship with brother Natividad grows apart. |
| 1960 | 26 | Birth of his oldest girl Martha and new marriage to Gloria Moreno. |
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| 1962- 1963 | 28-29 | Mrs. Lillard, accompanied him after he asked her to bury “wino garbage” with him; when he was done it was breaking day and he didn’t want her to leave because he was scared that she would go tell his brothers… |
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| 1965 | 31 | Gloria Corona came to Mrs. Lillard saying Juan was “sick”… |
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| 1966 | 32 | Corona obtained the contract for the Sullivan ranch |
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| Summer 1969 | 35 | “Roughed up” Riley Smith after Smith was sent by a credit firm to inspect vehicles on the ranch because he was angry at some of the questions Smith had asked him |
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| Fall 1969 | 35 | Corona provided a crew to pick olives on the Johnson ranch (which was located adjacent to the slough where a body was found.) |
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| 2-25-70 | 36 | Romero Raya was discovered in the rest room of Natividad Corona’s café at 1:00 a.m. He had been hacked about the face and head. Natividad Corona called the police. It was Juan’s younger half brother Natividad who did it, he had a mental breakdown. |
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| March 1970 | 36 | Juan was committed to Dewitt State Hospital |
| March 1971 | 37 | With little farm work available Juan had for the first time in his life applied for welfare. The application had been turned down because he had too many assets; 2 houses and some cash in the bank. |
| 05-20-71 | 37 | A hole in the orchard of Kagehlro (a rancher) uncovered by deputy sheriff Steve Sizelove. The victim was Kennith Whitacre he had been stabbed in the left side of his chest, and the back of his head cleaved open at least twice. |
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| 05-25-71 | 37 | 9 bodies uncovered in the Louise orchard; police found paper receipts made out to Juan Corona on the bodies. Many of the bodies were discovered with their shirts pulled up over their face and arms and without pants; they had also been slashed in the back of the head. |
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| 5-26-71 | 37 | Judge Hauck signed a warrant to search the bunkhouse at the Sullivan Ranch as well |

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|  |  | as the house and the garage. Deputies confiscated knives from the kitchen, clothes from the house and garage and an array of tools. 27 items were booked as evidence.  Captain Little john and Detective Purcell placed Corona under arrest based on 9 counts and the evidence seized. Victims 10, 11, and 12 were also uncovered this day. |
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| 5-27-71 | 37 | Victims 13-23 were uncovered. |
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| 6-2-71 | 37 | The last two victims #24& #25 were uncovered, all the victims had been migrant workers; two crumpled Bank of America slips with Juan Corona’s name and address printed on them accompanied the bodies. |
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| 6-13-71 | 37 | Richard Hawk met with Juan Corona, Hawk became Corona’s new attorney and earned the name El Gavilan |
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| 6-18-71 | 37 | Corona began to suffer chest pains in his cell; he was rushed to Sutter General Hospital. It was assumed that Corona had a heart attack. |
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| 7-12-71 | 37 | After 6 separate sessions during the preceding 12 days Corona was indicted on 25 counts of first degree murder. |
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| 8-7-71 | 37 | Corona complained of chest pains again and was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a coronary insufficiency, his heart muscles were not getting enough blood. |
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| September 8-October 1, 1971 | 37 | Hawk went to court to seek a change of venue for Corona. The hearing lasted 3 weeks. |
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| 1-14-72 | 38 | Corona and Hawk signed a contract giving Hawk exclusive book, TV. and movie rights to the “Juan Corona Story”. |
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| 4-13-72 | 38 | The court of appeals granted Hawks writ of mandate that the trial be moved out of Sutter County because it is not possible for the defendant to receive a fair trail there. |
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| 9-11-72 | 38 | The trial began in the Solano County courthouse in Fairfield, CA, more than an hour from Yuba City. Jury selection took several weeks, and the trial itself another three months. |
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| January 1973 | 39 | The jury convicted Corona of all 25 counts of first-degree murder, more than anyone in America to date. Corona received 25 life sentences, with the possibility of parole. |
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| 1973 | 39 | Hawk published a book on the Corona case “Burden of Proof”. |
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| 7-30-74 | 40 | Juan’s wife Gloria was granted a divorce. |
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| 1978 | 44 | Corona's appeal was upheld and he set out to try to prove the lawyers during his first trial were inept because they never used his schizophrenia to plead insanity. He also pointed the finger to his brother as being the real killer. |
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| 1982 | 48 | Courts upheld the original guilty verdict. |
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| 1982 | 48 | Corona was involved in a prison fight. He received 32 razor cuts and also lost an eye. Supposedly other inmates attacked Corona. |
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| 1980s |  | Prison guard referred to Corona as a loner who was never accepted by other inmates. He spent a lot of time in isolation and although he bragged a lot seemed to fear other inmates. Other inmates looked at Corona as if he were “slime” according to one guard. | |
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| Today | 71 | Juan Corona is alive and lives in Corcoran State Prison. | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | Hispanic |
| Number of victims | | | 25 |
| Country where killing occurred | | | United States |
| States where killing occurred | | | California |
| Type of killer | | | Organized Lust |
| Height | | |  |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | 1934 |
| Location | | | Mexico |
| Birth order | | |  |
| Number of siblings | | | 3rd of 3 older brothers; One of which was a half-brother (Natividad and Felix) |
| XYY? | | |  |
| Raised by | | |  |
| Birth category | | |  |
| Parent’s marital status | | |  |
| Family event | | | Younger half-brother Natividad killed a man in his café. |
| Age of family event | | | 36 |
| Problems in school? | | |  |
| Teased while in school? | | |  |
| Physically attractive? | | |  |
| Physical defect? | | | No |
| Speech defect? | | |  |
| Head injury? | | | Unknown. Possible abnormalities stemming from shock therapy. |
| Physically abused? | | |  |
| Psychologically abused? | | |  |
| Sexually abused? | | |  |
| Father’s occupation | | |  |
| Age of first sexual experience | | |  |
| Age when first had intercourse | | |  |
| Mother’s occupation | | |  |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | | |  |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | | |  |
| **Cognitive Ability** | | | |
| Highest grade in school | | |  |
| Highest degree | | |  |
| Grades in school | | |  |
| IQ | | | 130 |
| **Work History** | | | |
| Served in the military? | | | No |
| Branch | | |  |
| Type of discharge | | |  |
| Saw combat duty | | |  |

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| Killed enemy during service? |  |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? |  |
| Types of jobs worked | Migrant farm worker who worked his way up through the ranks |
| Employment status during series | Employed as a labor contractor providing area ranchers with cheap labor. |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Bi-sexual |
| Marital status | Married; Divorced once |
| Number of children | 4 Daughters |
| Lives with his children | Yes |
| Living with | Spouse and children |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture |  |
| Fire setting |  |
| Bed wetting |  |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? |  |
| Abused alcohol? | Yes, but quit in 1956 |
| Been to a psychologist? | Yes |
| Time in forensic hospital? | Yes |
| Diagnosis | Schizophrenic |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? |  |
| Spend time in jail? |  |
| Spend time in prison? |  |
| Killed prior to series? Age? |  |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 25 |
| Victim type | Elderly alcoholics, social drop outs, and other misfits who worked as ranch-hands |
| Killer age at start of series |  |
| Gender of victims | Male |
| Race of victims |  |
| Age of victims | 40-68 |
| Method of killing | Stabbed in the chest and hacked about the back of the head. |
| Type of serial killer |  |
| How close did killer live? | Walking distance, drove to crime |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | No |
| Weapon | Machete, knife the serial killer brought with him |
| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | Sexually molested male victims |
| Tortured victims? |  |
| Stalked victims? |  |
| Overkill? |  |
| Quick & efficient? |  |
| Used blindfold? | Some victim’s faces were covered by their shirts. |

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| Bound the victims? |  |
| After Death Behavior | |
| Sex with the body? |  |
| Mutilated body? |  |
| Ate part of the body? |  |
| Drank victim’s blood? |  |
| Posed the body? | Their shirts were pulled up over their face and arms and pants were either pulled down or they were pant less. |
| Took totem – body part |  |
| Took totem – personal item |  |
| Robbed victim or location |  |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide |  |
| Left at scene, hidden |  |
| Left at scene, buried |  |
| Moved, no attempt to hide |  |
| Moved, buried | Buried on neighboring farms near workplace/homeplace |
| Cut-op and disposed of | Cut, but not excessively chopped. |
| Moved, too home |  |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | June 1971 |
| Date convicted | January 1973 |
| Sentence | 25 life sentences with chance of parole |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? |  |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? |  |
| Name and state of prison | Corcoran State Prison, California |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No. Killer was assaulted in prison. |
| Date of death | Still alive |
| **References**  Cray, Ed (1973). *Burden of proof: The Case of Juan Corona.* NY: Macmillian.  Talbitzer, Bill (1978). *Too much blood.* NY: Vantage Press.  Villasenor, Victor (1997). *Jury: The people vs. Juan Corona.* Boston: Little Brown.  *Juan Corona: The Machete Murderer.* Retrieved October 2005.  http://www.francesfarmersrevenge.com/stuff/serialkillers/corona.htm.  *Crime/Punishment* (2005). Retrieved October 2005. http://crime.about.com/od/serial/p/cornoa.htm. | |