

Juan Corona
 “The Machete Murderer”



Information researched and summarized by

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Date	Age	Life Event
1934		Born in Mexico.
1944	10	Brother, Natividad, comes to America when WWII draft strapped California of its cheap labor.
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.
May 1953	19	At his brother’s suggestion, Juan returned to the Marysville-Yuba City area.
1953	19	Juan met and married his first wife in Reno.
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

		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.
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"
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.
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...
1965	31	Gloria Corona came to Mrs. Lillard saying Juan was "sick"...
1966	32	Corona obtained the contract for the Sullivan ranch
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
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.)
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.
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 Kagehro (a rancher) uncovered by deputy sheriff Steve Sizelove. The victim was Kenneth Whitacre he had been stabbed in the left side of his chest, and the back of his head cleaved open at least twice.
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.
5-26-71	37	Judge Hauck signed a warrant to search the bunkhouse at the Sullivan Ranch as well

		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.
5-27-71	37	Victims 13-23 were uncovered.
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.
6-13-71	37	Richard Hawk met with Juan Corona, Hawk became Corona's new attorney and earned the name El Gavilan
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.
7-12-71	37	After 6 separate sessions during the preceding 12 days Corona was indicted on 25 counts of first degree murder.
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.
September 8-October 1, 1971	37	Hawk went to court to seek a change of venue for Corona. The hearing lasted 3 weeks.
1-14-72	38	Corona and Hawk signed a contract giving Hawk exclusive book, TV, and movie rights to the "Juan Corona Story".
4-13-72	38	The court of appeals granted Hawk's writ of mandate that the trial be moved out of Sutter County because it is not possible for the defendant to receive a fair trial there.
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.
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.
1973	39	Hawk published a book on the Corona case "Burden of Proof".
7-30-74	40	Juan's wife Gloria was granted a divorce.
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.
1982	48	Courts upheld the original guilty verdict.
1982	48	Corona was involved in a prison fight. He received 32 razor cuts and also lost an eye. Supposedly other inmates attacked Corona.

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.
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General Information		
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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	
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Date of birth	1934
Location	Mexico
Birth order	
Number of siblings	3 rd 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	
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Highest grade in school	
Highest degree	
Grades in school	
IQ	130

Work History	
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Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	

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.

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-up 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

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