

**Donor / Source :** Douglas County Sheriff's Department

**Collection:** Adolph Coors III murder investigation collection, 1960-1961.

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**Identity Statement:**

Title: Adolph Coors III murder investigation collection, 1960-1961.

Physical description: .36 cubic ft. (1 box 26 x 13 x 32 cm.) + 1 carton photographs

Arranged chronologically. Photographs arranged chronologically and by size.

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**Repository:** Douglas County History Research Center, Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, CO.

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**Collection Identification:**

Object ID: 2000.003

Accession#: 2000.003

Other#: 33025005131899

Container:

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**Conditions of Access & Use:**

Access conditions: Douglas County History Research Center material is non-circulating, requires staff retrieval and is available by appointment during normal library hours.

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Language of material: English

Finding Aids: Finding aid available in the Douglas County History Research Center and on the internet.

Received as Gift

Received date 2000

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**Archival History:** Donated to the Douglas County History Research Center by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office

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**Scope and Content / Abstract:**

Contains notes, Douglas and Jefferson County Sheriffs' departments reports, warrants and other materials relating to the investigation into the disappearance and discovery of the body of Adolph Coors, III.

On Sep. 14, 1960, the body of Adolph Coors, III was found in a dump area near Shamballa in Douglas County, Colo. He had been abducted and murdered Feb. 9, 1960, by Joseph Corbett, Jr., in an apparent attempt to kidnap and hold him for a ransom of \$500,000. Corbett was captured in British Columbia in Nov. of 1960, and served 18 years in person.

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**Creditline:** Adolph Coors III murder investigation collection, 1960-1961. Courtesy of the Douglas County History Research Center, Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, Colorado.

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**Processed By:** Boyd, Shaun

**Processing Date:** 09/23/2009

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**Structure:**

System of Arrangement: Arranged chronologically within one binder box. Photos are at the back.

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**Context:**

Dates of accumulation: 1960-1961

Name of Creator or Compiler of the Collection: Douglas County Sheriff's Office

Administrative / Biographical history: 1916 (January 12) - Adolph Coors, III, born in Golden, Colorado.

1928 (October 25) - Joseph Corbett, Jr. is born in Seattle, Washington, where he attended elementary and high schools and three years at the University of Washington, majoring in Physics.

1932 - "Ad" Coors graduates from Cornell University with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

1946 - Corbett runs a typing business while attending the University of Washington.

1950 (July 17) - Corbett applied for admission to the University of California at Berkeley. (September) - Corbett begins classes at Berkeley.

(October 13) - Corbett withdraws from Berkeley.

1951 (March) - Corbett pleads guilty to second-degree murder in San Rafael County, California, and was sentenced to a term of five years to life. He was confined to San Quentin Penitentiary, California Medical Facility at Terminal Island and California Institution for Men, Chino, California.

1955 - (August 1) - Corbett escapes from California Institution of Men, Chino, California.

1956 (March 19) - Corbett is employed at Benjamin Moore Paint Company, Denver, Colorado as an alkyd cooker.

1957 (June 8) - Corbett buys a revolver through mail order.

1958 - According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Report Coors Family moves from Denver to Morrison Colorado, Corbett had apparently been planning an abduction during 1958, but could not continue with his original plan.

1959 (February 24) - Corbett purchases leg irons from a navy surplus mail order company.  
 (April 25) - Corbett purchases handcuffs by mail-order  
 (October 2) - Corbett quits job at Benjamin Moore, telling them that he is returning to school.  
 (October 8) - Corbett buys typewriter on which he will eventually type the ransom note.  
 (December 9) - Two people talk to Corbett at a mine located about 150 yards west of the Turkey Creek Bridge.  
 (December 23) - Corbett sells his 1957 Ford.

1960 (January 8) - Corbett registers 1951 yellow Mercury four-door car under the name Walter Osborne. Residents living near Turkey Creek Road and Soda Lake Road in Jefferson County, Colorado see this car sitting on the bridge several times before February 9, 1960.  
 (January 25) - Corbett receives a speeding ticket from Colorado State Patrol near Morrison, Colorado.  
 (February 9) - 8:00 Adolph Coors, III leaves his house in Morrison, Colorado en route to work at the Coors Brewery in Golden, Colorado. Resident living near Turkey Creek Road and Soda Lake Road in Jefferson County, Colorado hears shouting and a crackling sound which sounded like lightning hitting a tree.  
 8:15 Resident living near Turkey Creek Road spots Coors' truck running on the bridge.  
 10:00 Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is called, arrives at the scene.  
 Afternoon. A cap, hat and pair of glasses are found at the crime scene.  
 (February 10) - Early Morning. Corbett moves out of his apartment in Denver. Ransom note demanding \$500,000 arrives addressed to Mrs. Adolph Coors, III. Postmark is February 9, 3PM.  
 (February 17) - Corbett's car is seen burning in Atlantic City, New Jersey.  
 (March) - By this time, police are telling people to actively look for Corbett.  
 (September 11) - Coors' key chain is found below a dump on Jackson Creek Road near Sedalia, Douglas County, Colorado.  
 (September 12-14) - Additional investigation of the site uncovers most of Coors' body.  
 (September 15) - Mr. Coors skull is located.  
 (September 22) - Criminal Complaint issued against Corbett.  
 (September 28) - Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Warrant is issued against Corbett.

1978 - Joseph Corbett, Jr. is paroled.

#### Allied Materials:

Existence of copies:

#### Notes

Updated/by 09/24/2009 09:45 AM Shaun

Dataset

### Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Description		B. Lewis Hawley, Undersheriff, Jefferson County, CO	9 February 1960	Report.
		2 p. [A first person account of the Sheriff's Department's activities on the first day of the investigation.]		
Description		Ryder, Dale. Laboratory Technician, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, CO	17 February 1960	Report.
		4 p. and map. [A first person account of the Sheriff's Department's activities during the first week of the case. Includes hand drawn map of Turkey Creek Bridge crime scene, interview with optometrist about Coors' glasses and investigation of blood which turned out not to be related to the case.]		
Description		Bray, Harold E. Captain - Investigation. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, CO	6 March 1960	Report.
		2 p. [Information concerning suspect Robert James Everhart.]		
Description		District Attorney's Office, First Judicial District, Lakewood, CO	n.d.	Description
		1 p. [Description of Joseph Corbett, Jr. with list of aliases, scars, previous confinement date, FBI file number, etc.]		
Description		Arfsten, Ardell. Douglas County Sheriff's Office, CO	After 15 September 1960	Report
		1 p. "Subject: Adolph Coors -- Body or remains found at Dump Site of Shambalia [sic.]/ Report of Activities during that time." [Douglas County Sheriff's Department report of finding the body.]		
Description		Toll, Henry W., M.D.	n.d.	Report.
		2 p. "Addendum Report Upon Bones Located in the Vicinity of Dump Site, General Direction West of Sedalia 9/12/60 and Subsequent Thereto." [This		

	Toll, Henry W., M.D.	n.d.	Report.
<b>Description</b>	1 p. "Work Remaining to be Considered" [This is part of a letter transcribed by the DCHRC. Offers a "to do" list of activities to be done by the FBI or Douglas County Sheriff's Department.]		
<b>Description</b>	Arfsten, Ardell. Douglas County Sheriff's Office, CO	20 September 1960 (4:15 P.M.)	Report.
	1 p. [Meeting with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Information about Coors Truck being moved by milkman.]		
<b>Description</b>	Werner, Scott J., Special Agent in Charge. Federal Bureau of Investigation.	21 September 1960	Report.
	16 p. and Cover Letter. [Cover letter is in poor condition, addressed to Mr. Leo W. Rector, District Attorney, 4th Judicial District, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Report gives detailed information on investigation of Joseph Corbett and the Coors Murder. Descriptions of vehicles, clothing, ransom note, kidnapping supplies purchased by Corbett, eyewitness accounts of Corbett's activities, etc.]		
<b>Description</b>	Arfsten, Ardell, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, CO	22 September 1960	Report.
	1 p. [Details investigation of a telephone call placed to Dr. Howard Swanson, Denver, and the movement of a trailer, probably at the Shamballa Dump, and in connection with the Coors Case.]		
<b>Description</b>	Toll, Henry W., M.D.	24 September 1960	Report.
	1 p. "Bones, Revised List of 9/24/60" probably by Henry W. Toll, M.D. 1 pp. [Part of letter from Henry W. Toll, M.D., see below. Description of bones found at Shamballa Dump site, and ones that were still missing as of 9/24/1960.]		
<b>Description</b>	Toll, Henry W., M.D.	26 September 1960.	Letter.
	1 p. Letter. Henry W. Toll, M.D. to Leo Rector, District Attorney. Fourth Judicial District, Colorado Springs, CO. 26 September 1960. [Letter states this is as final a report as he is able to give, recommends turning investigation over to FBI Laboratory, states that he is too busy to continue working on the case. Enclosed reports (see above) are: "Addendum Report upon bones located in the vicinity of dump site, general direction west of Sedalia 9/12/60 and subsequent thereto," "Bones, Revised List of 9/24/1960," and "Work Remaining to be Considered." All are nearly unreadable mimeos or photocopies of mimeos. Paper is brittle and in poor condition. Transcriptions have been made by DCHRC for research purposes.]		
<b>Description</b>	O'Kane, Barney. District Attorney, 1st Judicial District	27 September 1960	Letter.
	1 p. Letter. Barney O' Kane, District Attorney, 1st Judicial District, to Leo Rector, District Attorney, 4th Judicial District. Forwarding a copy of the Complaint and Warrant Issued on Joseph Corbett, Jr. 27 September 1960.		
<b>Description</b>	O'Kane, Barney. District Attorney, 1st Judicial District	27 September 1960	Letter.
	1 p. Letter. Barney O' Kane, District Attorney, 1st Judicial District, to Donald Brotzman, U.S. District Attorney, Denver. Requesting an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Warrant on Joseph Corbett, Jr. Forwarding a copy of Complaint and Arrest Warrant.		
<b>Description</b>		22 September 1960	Criminal Complaint against Joseph Corbett, Jr.
	1 p. [Poor Condition - paper is fragile, mimeo or duplicate, transcription has been made.]		
<b>Description</b>		n.d.	Arrest Warrant against Joseph Corbett, Jr.
	1 p. [Poor Condition - paper is fragile, mimeo or duplicate, transcription has been made.]		
<b>Description</b>	O'Kane, Barney. District Attorney, 1st Judicial District	29 September 1960	Letter
	1 p. Letter. Barney O' Kane, District Attorney, 1st Judicial District, to Arthur W. Wermuth, Sheriff, Jefferson County. 29 September 1960. [Forwarding copy of Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Warrant on Joseph Corbett, Jr.]		

<b>Description</b> 1 p. [Poor Condition - paper is fragile, mimeo or duplicate, transcription has been made.]	n.d.	Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Warrant on Joseph Corbett, Jr.
	Turner, Terry. Life Chief	5 January 1961 Letter.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Letter. Terry Turner, Life Chief to Douglas County Sheriff John Hammond. 5 January 1961. [Forwarding four prints of photographs taken by Life Magazine.]		
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Letter. John Hammond, Douglas County Sheriff to Terry Turner, Life Chief. 6 January 1961. [Thanking for the pictures.]	Hammond, John. Douglas County Sheriff, CO	6 January 1961 Letter.
<b>Description</b> 1 p.	n.d.	Notes. Interview with Dr. Swanson.
<b>Description</b> 1 p.	Berry, Thomas D.	n.d. Note. Re: activities of 15 September 1960.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Calls on 5/28/60 and 3/26/60 Re: animal corpses.	Berry, Thomas D.	n.d. Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Envelope. Barney O'Kane to Douglas Andrews, Douglas County Coroner. 5-Lincoln 4 cent stamps.	O'Kane, Barney	n.d. Envelope
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Notes on suspect Everhart.		19 September 1960. 8pm Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. [Description of car, address, driver's license info.]	Gibran, Donald L.	n.d. Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. [Merritt Hampden Wilson. and Alvie Guilan]		n.d. Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. [Names of several doctors. ]		n.d. Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. [Re: finding clothing]		14 Sept 1960 Note.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Letter. Barney O' Kane, District Attorney, 1st Judicial District, to Leo Rector, District Attorney, 4th Judicial District. 30 September 1960. [Forwarding Photographs and list identifying locations.]	O' Kane, Barney. District Attorney, 1st Judicial District.	30 September 1960 Letter.
<b>Description</b> 1 p. Memo. "Memo of Investigation of area where remains of Adolph Coors III were recovered" n.d. [Description of Shamballa Dump Scene. Used with photographs.]		n.d. Memo.
	2000.003	1960
<b>Description</b> Photos (see individual photo records)		