
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1185
Judd, Winnie Ruth, 1904-1998
Papers, ca. 1941

DESCRIPTION

Handwritten reminiscences (42 pages) written by Winnie Ruth Judd in the Arizona State Hospital. They describe Judd's childhood and young married life. She relates her husband's drug addiction and their life in Mexico. She describes moving to Phoenix and her life there before the murders. Her relationships with Jack Halloran, and Anne LeRoi and "Sammy" Samuelson are included. She also gives her version of the night of the murders including Jack Halloran's involvement in packing up the bodies. She also recounts her arrest and treatment in prison and in the state hospital. The account ends suddenly and is undated, though evidence suggest that it was written around 1941.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted in 1931 for the murders of her friends Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson. She was sentenced to death, but pleaded insanity to avoid execution. She spent most of her life in the Arizona State Hospital (though she escaped several times) and was finally paroled in 1971. The case was a notorious case in Arizona after the women's bodies were cut up and packed away to Los Angeles in trunks. Judd was known as the "trunk murderess" but there was a great deal of controversy over whether or not she actually committed the murders. Judd died in 1998.

ACQUISITION

Provenance is unclear, though it is believed that the papers came from one of Judd's attorneys.

ACCESS

The original manuscript is restricted due to its fragile condition; a photocopy is available for research use.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in December 2000.