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#55 Francis, Karen Sue, Collection, 1972 – 2002
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INTRODUCTION

A collection of materials relating to two grand jury investigations conducted in Harper County, Kansas. The investigations concern the death of William “Billy” Earl Detwiler in 1974 while he was in police custody, and the investigation of the Harper County commissioners and other county officials in 2002, regarding the Tri-County Landfill issue.

DONOR INFORMATION

Karen Sue Francis of Danville, Kansas, donated the materials in this collection to Pittsburg State University on October 22, 2010.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection of materials was compiled by Karen Sue Francis, a resident of Danville, Harper County, Kansas, and the aunt of William “Billy” Earl Detwiler. The collection is divided into two series: the **Billy Earl Detwiler** series and the **Tri-County Landfill** series.

Included in the **Detwiler** series are records dating mostly from 1972 to 1975 that concern the death of William Earl Detwiler while in police custody in Harper County and the subsequent grand jury investigation. Detwiler died from asphyxiation when the building in which he was incarcerated caught on fire. Included in this series are attorney and investigator correspondence; Kansas Investigative Services reports and documents; witness statements; police department reports; grand jury petition and general information; Francis’ correspondence; miscellaneous notes relating to the investigation; newspaper clippings; photographs of the building; and items marked as “evidence.”

The **Landfill** series concerns the proposed location of a regional landfill to be located in Harper County, the creation of a Harper County Economic Development Council, the review of county records by Harper County citizens, the role of Harper County commissioners and other elected officials, the alleged violation of the Kansas Open Meeting Act concerning the landfill contract and operations by Waste Connections, Inc., and the subsequent grand jury investigation.

The materials in the Landfill series date primarily from 2001 and 2002. Included are general information about the issue; a Summary of events; a Memorandum decision; and the transcriptions of depositions and testimonies obtained by the Grand Jury.

FOLDER LIST

Detwiler Series

- f. 1 Attorney / Investigator correspondence, 1973-1974
- f. 2 Attorney / Investigator correspondence, 1975, 1998
- f. 3 Kansas Investigative Services, 1972-1975
- f. 4 Inquisition documents and transcriptions
- f. 5 Statements
- f. 6 Law enforcement documents
- f. 7 Grand jury petition and general information
- f. 8 General correspondence

Detwiler Series continued

- f. 9 Notes, miscellaneous
- f. 10 Notes, miscellaneous
- f. 11 Newspapers clippings
- f. 12 Cassette / Photographs / “Evidence taken from Cell”

Tri-County Landfill Series

- f. 1 General information
- f. 14 Summary of Events / Memorandum decision / Documents to request
- f. 15 Adelherdt, Cheryl – deposition / testimony
- f. 16 Foster, C. Bickley – deposition / testimony
- f. 17 Freund, William – deposition / testimony
- f. 18 Leland, Leroy – deposition / testimony
- f. 19 McClellan, Laurel – deposition / testimony
- f. 20 Peterson, Carol – deposition / testimony
- f. 21 Sharp, Robert – deposition / testimony
- f. 22 Williams, Kenneth – deposition / testimony

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