

Guide to the Hank Greenspun Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Greenspun, Hank (Herman Milton)
Title:	Hank Greenspun Papers
ID:	MS-00138
Date [inclusive]:	1962-1966
Physical Description:	1.4 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	1.9 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Hank Greenspun Papers date from 1962 to 1966 and are comprised of draft manuscripts of the books <i>Where I Stand: Records of a Reckless Man</i> written by Hank Greenspun and Alex Pelle, and drafts of the manuscript <i>Rebel with Many Causes</i> , originally entitled <i>Idol Smasher</i> , a biography written about Hank Greenspun by Ed Reid.

Preferred Citation

Hank Greenspun Papers, 1962-1966. MS-00138. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Hank (Herman Milton) Greenspun (1909-1989) was editor and owner of the *Las Vegas Sun* newspaper in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was also a prominent businessman in the Las Vegas Valley, responsible for founding two local broadcasting stations, a cable network, and Green Valley, the first master-planned community in Nevada. He was known both locally and internationally for his outspoken and passionate political views, as well as his willingness to take on powerful political opponents in his quest for social justice and government accountability.

Born in Brooklyn on August 27, 1909, Greenspun attended St. John's Law School and fought in World War II before he moved to Las Vegas in 1946. There he founded an entertainment magazine called *Las Vegas Life* and worked as a publicity agent for the Flamingo hotel, but soon shifted his attention to Israel's struggle for independence. Greenspun helped send money and arms to the Haganah (predecessor to the Israel Defense Forces) in violation of the U.S. Neutrality Acts. In 1950 this resulted in a felony conviction, a \$10,000 fine, and the loss of his right to vote, but in 1961 he was pardoned by President John F. Kennedy.

When he returned to Las Vegas in 1949 he bought the *Free Press* newspaper, and in 1950, changed its name to the *Las Vegas Sun*. Greenspun authored a colorful front-page column called "Where I Stand," which the crusading journalist used to go after politicians that he opposed. Two of his most prominent enemies were Senator Pat McCarran and Senator Joseph McCarthy. Greenspun himself ran for office once, in the 1962 Nevada gubernatorial race, but lost the primary to Las Vegas Mayor Oran Gragson. Greenspun's participation in local politics also included the mediation of the Moulin Rouge Agreement, which desegregated Las Vegas resorts in 1960.

After a fire in 1963, the *Sun* suffered financially and never fully recovered. Greenspun was involved in other business ventures besides the newspaper, though. He founded CBS affiliate station KLAS-TV Channel 8, which he sold to Howard Hughes in 1969. He developed the master-planned community Green Valley for the city of Henderson, Nevada. He also founded Prime Cable, which had more than 300,000 subscribers when Cox Communications bought an 80 percent interest for \$1.3 billion in 1998. A philanthropist in life, his family continued giving in his memory after his death from cancer in July 1989. The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs and the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are named in his honor.

Sources:

"Herman 'Hank' Milton Greenspun." July 11, 2005.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lasvegas/peopleevents/p_greenspun.html.

Hopkins, A.D. "H.M. 'Hank' Greenspun." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. September 12, 1999.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/hm-hank-greenspun>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Hank Greenspun Papers date from 1962 to 1966 and are comprised of draft manuscripts of the books *Where I Stand: Records of a Reckless Man* written by Hank Greenspun and Alex Pelle, and drafts of the manuscript *Rebel with Many Causes*, originally entitled *Idol Smasher*, a biography written about Hank Greenspun by Ed Reid.

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Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged by source author.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Accession number T29.

Processing Note

In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez created the collection description and brought it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hana Gutierrez entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Nevada -- History
- Biography -- Nevada
- Jews -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Where I Stand Draft, 482 pages, no epilogue, contains authors annotations, undated	box 01
Where I Stand Draft, 487 pages with epilogue, sparse author annotations, undated	box 01
Where I Stand Draft, 373 pages with epilogue, sparse author annotations, undated	box 01
Where I Stand Draft, 487 pages with epilogue, heavy author annotations, 1962-1966	box 01

Where I Stand: Records of a Reckless Man Draft, 487 pages with epilogue, heavy author annotations, 1966 August 09	flat file 01
Rebel With Many Causes Draft by Ed Reid, 266 with epilogue, unknown annotations, undated	box 01
Rebel with Many Causes Draft Author Ed Reid, 372 pages, no annotations, undated	box 01
The Idol Smasher Draft by Ed Reid, 266 pages, no epilogue, sparse annotations, undated	box 02
Separated sections of Rebel with Many Causes by Ed Reid, heavy annotations, undated	box 02
Separated sections of Where I Stand, sparse annotations, undated	box 02
Rebel with Many Causes, Draft Galley Proof by Ed Reid, unknown page count, heavy annotations, undated	box 02