

Finding Aid to the Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson Papers

(#1990-15)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson Papers

Collection Number: 1990-15

Physical Description: 4.5 linear feet (two cartons, three manuscript boxes)

Creator: Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson

Date (inclusive): 1921 - 1987, bulk 1984-1987

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson were a couple who attempted to establish a gay intentional community to be called Stonewall Park in rural Nevada. The bulk of the collection spans the years 1984-1987 and pertains to the business of Stonewall Park and related ventures, as well as of the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG) and Lavender Press.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson Papers (#1990-15), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Roy D. Baker in December, 1990.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Andrew Matsas in 2023.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Fred Schoonmaker and Alfred Parkinson were a couple who attempted to establish a gay intentional community to be called Stonewall Park in rural Nevada. Prior to moving to Nevada, the two lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. During their time living in San Francisco, the couple owned and operated an ice cream shop called Munchkin's while also operating Lavender Press and the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG). In the last three years of Fred's life, as Munchkin's failed to stay open and as they had to close their ice cream business, Fred and Al decided to embark on a new dream to open up a gay intentional community in rural Nevada which would be named Stonewall Park. Schoonmaker and Parkinson dreamed of creating a "safe and peaceful place" where they could live without interference as a gay interracial couple (Schoonmaker was white, Parkinson African American). They first tried to build on a ranch in the existing town of Silver Springs, and then ultimately attempted to build Stonewall Park in the ghost town of Rhyolite. Both attempts to purchase land for their community were thwarted by local homophobia and hate. The final attempt was the successful purchase of land near Thunder Mountain in rural Pershing County, but this work, too, was halted after opposition and threats. Their venture left Schoonmaker and Parkinson destitute. In 1987, Fred Schoonmaker was diagnosed with AIDS and he died that same year.

Scope and Content: The bulk of the collection spans the years 1984-1987 and pertains to the business of Stonewall Park and related ventures, as well as of the National Association of Lesbians and Gays (NALAG) and Lavender Press. It includes organizational and real estate records, board materials, correspondence, financial records, marketing materials, news clippings, and court records from a lawsuit filed against Fred Schoonmaker by former Stonewall backer Robert Ascue and partner Margeret Ascue who Fred and Al were doing business with regarding Stonewall Park. The collection also includes materials related to Munchkin's and other more personal matters such as family papers; Schoonmaker's Bible and high school ring; materials from their family member's memorials as well as Fred's passing; and photographs of family and friends, including pictures of Fred and Alfred.

Indexing Terms:

Gay men
African Americans
LGBTQ
People of color
Activism

AIDS (disease)
Long-term relationships
Nevada--Rhyolite
Nevada--Silver Springs
Nevada--Pershing County

Container Listing

Box 1:1 Correspondence, 1987

Incoming business mail to The Lavender Press and the associated Stonewall Press as well as to the National Association of Lesbians and Gays

Box 1:2 Correspondence, 1987

Incoming business mail to The Lavender Press and the associated Gay Life publication as well as to the National Association of Lesbians and Gays

Box 1:3 Family Materials, 1960

Fred Schoonmaker's Bible and high school ring

Box 1:4 Family Materials, 1940 - 1968

Documents related to Fred E. Schoonmaker, Sr., Fred Schoonmaker's father, including a Chauffeur's Permit for the City of Reno, buttons, materials related to the father's memorial (1968), and high school diploma

Box 1:5 Family Materials, 1927

Certificate of Naturalization for Theresa Burger and contact information for various people

Box 2:1 Financial Records, 1984 - 1987

Wage statements for Fred Schoonmaker working at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino, food stamp identification card, denial letter for Social Security Disability Benefits, Notice of Award for Social Security Administration Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Box 2:2 Bankruptcy for Munchkin's Ice Cream, 1983

Materials involving Munchkin's Ice Cream's bankruptcy

Box 2:3 Stonewall Park Resorts: Resignation Letter, 1986

Resignation letter of Pamela Dallas who was a member of the Board of Directors of Stonewall Park Resorts, Inc.

Box 2:4 Stonewall Park Association, Inc: Incorporation and Stock Certificates, 1984

Article of Incorporation and stock certificate for Stonewall Park Association, Inc

Box 2:5 Stonewall Park logo, undated

Logo for Stonewall Park, advertising rates for the newspaper The Voice, and a stamp of Fred and Al's business address

Box 2:6 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation documents: Summons, Complaint, Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, and Affidavit of Robert Ascue

Box 2:7 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation documents: Answer and Counterclaim

Box 2:8 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation documents: Affidavit of Mailing, and Opposition to Motion for Temporary Restraining Order

Box 2:9 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation documents: Affidavit of Mailing, Motion to Amend

Box 2:10 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation document: First Amended Answer and Counterclaim

Box 2:11 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1980 - 1986

Notes on legal cases, including material from another case involving Robert Ascue from 1982

Box 2:12 Ascue vs. Hawkins, 1979 - 1980

Material from Ascue vs. Hawkins with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 2:13 Ascue vs. Bank of Fresno, 1980

Material from Ascue vs. Bank of Fresno with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 2:14 People vs. Ascue, 1983

Material from The People of the State of California vs. Ascue with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 2:15 People vs. Ascue, 1983

Material from The People of the State of California vs. Ascue with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:1 People vs. Ascue, 1983

Material from The People of the State of California vs. Ascue with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:2 Ascue (Simpson vs. Haga), 1985

Material from Simpson vs. Haga

Box 3:3 Benzler vs. Ascue, 1982

Material from Benzler vs. Ascue with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:4 Target Publications vs. Ascue et al, 1981

Material from Target Publications vs. Ascue et al with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:5 Security National Bank vs. Ascue et al, 1980

Material from Security Pacific National Bank vs. Ascue et al with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:6 Willows vs. Ascue, 1983

Material from Willows vs. Ascue et al with the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno

Box 3:7 Ascue Legal Cases, 1981

Stray pages from litigation between Target Publications and Ascue

Box 3:8 Family Photographs, circa 1945-1977

Photographs of the Alfred Parkinson, Fred Schoonmaker, Fred's sister Linda, an anonymous family member of Fred and Linda

Box 3:9 Photographs, 1921-1977

Photographs of Alfred and his family including Alfred's sister Elizabeth Stocks, of Fred and his family, and of scenes at their ice cream shop Munchkin's

Box 3:10 Beefcake Photos, circa 1980s

Photographs of various people

Carton 1:1 Business Documents, Organizational Documents, 1983 - 1986

Organizational documents such as article of incorporation and declaration of trusts as well as meeting notes and other correspondence as well as the 2nd Floor Sprinkler Plan for the proposed Stonewall Park

Carton 1:2 Business Documents, Organizational Documents, 1984 - 1987

Land acquisition documents for the purchase of Stonewall Park, organizational documents of Stonewall Park Resorts, Inc., and the Certification of Dissolution of NALAG among other business and organizational documents

Carton 1:3 Business Documents, Organizational Documents, 1984 - 1987

Business and organizational documents pertaining to NALAG and Stonewall Park Association, Inc. and financial statements of Stonewall Park Association, Inc.

Carton 1:4 Business Documents, Organizational Documents, 1983 - 1987

Rhyolite City Charter incorporating the City of Rhyolite in Nye County, Nevada, financial statements of Stonewall Park Association, Inc., and land acquisition documents for purchase of land for Stonewall Park, among other documents

Carton 1:5 Business Documents, Organizational Documents, 1984 - 1987

Stocks and related documents for Stonewall Park Association, Inc. and organizational documents related to NALAG among other papers

Carton 1:6 Clippings, 1986 - 1987

Various newspaper clippings around the activity with building Stonewall Park

Carton 1:7 Clippings, 1986 - 1987

Various newspaper clippings around the activity with building Stonewall Park

Carton 1:8 Clippings, 1985 - 1987

Various newspaper clippings around the activity with building Stonewall Park

Carton 1:9 Correspondence, 1985 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:10 Correspondence, 1985 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:11 Correspondence, 1985 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:12 Correspondence, 1984 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:13 Correspondence, 1986 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:14 Correspondence, 1986 - 1987

Personal and business correspondence, primarily around NALAG and Lavender Press/Gay Life as well as the Stonewall Park venture

Carton 1:15 Envelopes, 1983 - 1987

Various envelopes containing materials delivered to Fred and Alfred regarding business and personal matters

Carton 2:1 Financial Materials, 1982 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:2 Financial Materials, 1984 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:3 Financial Materials, 1982 - 1986

Primarily statement of earnings for Fred's job at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino as well as receipts and checks among other financial materials

Carton 2:4 Financial Materials, 1983 - 1987

Primarily statement of earnings for Fred's job at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino as well as receipts and checks among other financial materials

Carton 2:5 Financial Materials, 1983 - 1987

Primarily statement of earnings for Alfred's job at El Dorado Hotel and Casino as well as receipts and checks among other financial materials

Carton 2:6 Financial Materials, 1984 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:7 Financial Materials, 1980 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:8 Financial Materials, 1984 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

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Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:10 Financial Materials, 1984 - 1987

Receipts, invoices, bills, bank statements, statements of earning, and other financial materials for Fred and Alfred

Carton 2:11 Other Business (Notes, Drafts), circa 1984 - 1987

Notes, sketches, and mock ups for Alfred and Fred's various businesses as well as names and addresses for their publication

Carton 2:12 Other Business (Notes, Drafts), circa 1987

Primarily a database list of names and addresses for their publication as well as code for printing

Carton 2:13 Other Business (Notes, Drafts), circa 1984 - 1987

Printed mailing labels, database lists of names and addresses for their publication, as well as notes, sketches, and mockups for Alfred and Fred's various businesses

Carton 2:14 Personal, 1936 - 1987

Fred Schoonmaker's birth certificate, Social Security Card of person related to Fred and/or Alfred, astrological almanac, instructions for creating astrological charts, condolences cards for a death related to Fred, brochure by San Francisco AIDS Foundation for living with AIDS, and other medical documents pertaining to Fred among other personal materials

Carton 2:15 Personal, 1983 - 1987

Funeral and condolences materials for deaths related to Alfred, cards between Alfred and Fred, materials related to Fred's health such as daily log of diet and grocery list, and materials related to Fred's health among other personal matters

Carton 2:16 Photographs, 1938 - 1986

Photographs of Alfred, Fred, their families and friends, and of Rhyolite and of other moments and landscapes in Nevada

Carton 2:17 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1984 - 1986

Litigation documents: Complaint, Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction, Request for Submission of Motion To Amend Counterclaim, Default Judgment, and Affidavit of Robert Ascue

Carton 2:18 Ascue vs. Schoonmaker, 1986

Litigation documents: Complaint, correspondence, personal notes for Robert and Margaret Ascue for payments, and other materials

Carton 2:19 Personal, undated

Church Covenant by Reverend A. R. Reddick