

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 299

**Title:** Holy City

**Extent:** 1 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 1956-1969

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Santa Cruz, California

**Abstract:** This collection consists of copies of newspaper articles about the community.

**Historical Notes:** William E. Riker established the Perfect Christian Divine Wat in the early twentieth century as a vehicle for his teaching of a kind of Christianity that embodied stringent white racism. He attracted a few dozen followers and 30 of them founded Holy City, a colony in California's Santa Cruz Mountains, in 1918. They built what became a tourist attraction for travelers driving between San Jose and Santa Cruz, and the community eventually grew to include hundreds of residents. In 1942, Ricker, an admirer of Adolf Hitler, was arrested for sedition. Holy City, by then, was already in decline, and fires destroyed much of the property in the late 1950's. In 1960, the remaining acreage was sold to a real estate development company. **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2015. pg. 210.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Commune; Cults

## Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
<b>Blum, Walter. "Holy City" San Francisco Examiner: San Francisco. 1961. pg. A30</b>	1961	Filing Cabinet	Folder	1 Filing Cabinet 13-D

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<b>Hansen, Ken. "Holy City 'Faithful' Carry On." San Jose Mercury: San Jose. December 28, 1956</b>	1956	Filing Cabinet	Folder	1	Filing Cabinet 13-D
<b>"Famed 'Father Riker' of Holy City is Dead." San Jose Mercury: San Jose. December 5, 1969: pg. 36</b>	1969	Filing Cabinet	Folder	1	Filing Cabinet 13-D

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