

Oral history interview with I. Mervin "Sonny" Gorasht, 2016

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Gorasht, Sonny
Title	Oral history interview with I. Mervin "Sonny" Gorasht
Dates	2016 (inclusive) 2016 2016
Quantity	Originals as received: 1 digital audio file (WAV) and 1 computer file (PDF)
Collection Number	6175 (Accession No. 6175-001)
Summary	Oral history interview with I. Mervin "Sonny" Gorasht
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	No restrictions on access.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

At age 17, after a "wonderful childhood" in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, a city of about 100,000 with a small Jewish community, I. Mervin (Sonny) Gorasht came to the University of Washington to study architecture. He had attended an after-school "Talmud Torah" Hebrew school in Calgary through the 9th grade. Upon receiving his architecture degree, limited by work restrictions on Canadian immigrants, Sonny worked for an architectural firm in Spokane and Sonny and bride Gena Berch Gorasht spent two years in Europe during which Sonny worked for a London architect and then traveled around the continent. Back in the U.S., in Spokane, by a fluke Sonny reconnected with his old firm and was sent on assignment to Seattle. Growing up around the Calgary Stampede, Sonny had long been interested in horses. A cousin got him into owning horses and then he became a breeder of race horses. Sonny worked on the conversion of the old Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath building to the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Theater, designed the new BCMH synagogue in South Seattle and Beth Am Reform Congregation in North Seattle and worked on developing the Seattle Hebrew Academy in the old Forest Ridge Academy building on Seattle's Capitol Hill. Sonny has been on the boards of Seattle Hebrew Academy and the UW Jewish Studies program board for many years as well as the City of Seattle Design Commission and Seattle Central Community College.

Content Description

Oral history interview with I. Mervin "Sonny" Gorasht conducted by Ruth Sassoon and Eleanor "Bunny" Rogers on 28 December 2016.

Other Descriptive Information

Forms part of the Washington State Jewish Archives.

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Administrative Information

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Jewish architects--Washington (State)

Jews--Washington (State)

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

Personal Names :

Gorasht, Sonny--Archives

Gorasht, Sonny--Interviews

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

Washington State Jewish Archives (University of Washington)
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