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## **Guide to the Albert Zoraster Collection, 1948-1979**

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**Overview of the Collection**

**Collection Title:** Albert Zoraster Collection

**Dates:** 1948-1979

**Bulk Dates:** 1951-1979

**Identification:** URB/AZ

**Creator:** Zoraster, Albert

**Physical Description:** 1.51 linear feet

**Language of Materials:** English

**Repository:** Urban Archives

**Abstract:** A resident of the San Fernando Valley from 1920 to the mid-1970s, Albert Zoraster devoted much of his life to improving the quality of services in the community, particularly in the areas of transportation and municipal services. An active committee volunteer, Mr. Zoraster worked with the Los Angeles City Board of Education, the Mayor's Valley Transportation Committee, Los Angeles City Department of Airports, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, and California State University, Northridge. The *Albert Zoraster Collection* documents various aspects of Zoraster's civic career, covering such topics as Birmingham High School, city planning, land use, the proposed Malibu Freeway Project, transportation in the Valley, and the development of the Van Nuys Airport.

**Biographical Information:**

As a resident of the San Fernando Valley from 1920 to the mid-1970s, Albert Zoraster devoted much of his life to improving the quality of services in the community, particularly in the areas of transportation and municipal services. An active committee volunteer, Mr. Zoraster worked with the Los Angeles City Board of Education, the Mayor's Valley Transportation Committee, Los Angeles City Department of Airports, Valley Presbyterian Hospital and California State University, Northridge.

From 1954 to 1975, he served as the director of the West Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce, and served as president of the organization from 1958-1959, again from 1962-1963 and again in 1965. Mr. Zoraster was also actively involved with California State University, Northridge, serving as president of the CSUN Presidents Club from 1971-1973, a member and trustee of the CSUN Foundation in 1973-1974, and a member of the CSUN Advisory Club from 1973-1975. Some of his contributions to CSUN include the establishment of the Zoraster Pioneer Scholarship Fund and the Zoraster Endowment for Adaptive Physical Education, as well as a number of monetary donations to CSUN's Urban Archives Center.

Mr. Zoraster was a member and leader of several Valley rotary clubs and chambers of commerce including the Van Nuys Rotary Club which he was a charter member of from 1954-1975, and the Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce which he was a member of from 1928-1975. He also served on many advisory committees for the improvement of the Valley, most notably, the Industrial Association of the San Fernando Valley [now the Valley Industry and Commerce Association]. He received various civic awards, including the prestigious Fernando Award in 1975 for his philanthropy. Zoraster continued to donate his time to Valley causes throughout his retirement until his death after a long battle with cancer in April 1995.

**Access Terms**

This Collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

**Corporate Name:**

Birmingham High School (Van Nuys, Calif.)  
Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles  
California State University, Northridge  
Industrial Association of the San Fernando Valley  
Los Angeles (Calif.). Dept. of Airports.  
San Fernando Valley State College  
Valley Industry and Commerce Association  
Van Nuys Airport

**Genre/Form of Material:**

Maps  
Paper records  
Photographic material

**Geographic Name:**

Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Census -- Maps

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San Fernando Valley (Calif.)  
San Fernando Valley (Calif.) -- Maps  
Van Nuys (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Van Nuys (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Maps

**Topical Term:**

City planning -- California -- Los Angeles County  
Dams -- California -- San Fernando Valley  
Land use -- Law and legislation -- California  
Land use, Urban -- California -- Los Angeles  
Land use, Urban -- California -- Los Angeles -- Maps  
Roads -- California -- San Fernando Valley -- Maps  
Transportation -- Los Angeles -- Los Angeles County

**Processing Information:**

Robert G. Marshall, Claire C. LaFia; November 1985

**Conditions Governing Use:**

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**Conditions Governing Access:**

The collection is open for research use.

**Preferred Citation:**

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

[Industrial Association of the San Fernando Valley Collection](#)

[West Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce Collection](#)

**Scope and Contents**

The Albert Zoraster Collection documents various aspects of Zoraster's civic career, covering such topics as Birmingham High School, city planning, land use, the proposed Malibu Freeway Project, transportation in the Valley, and the development of the Van Nuys Airport. The collection is especially conducive to the study of legislative lobbying techniques. The records date mostly from 1948-1979, with the majority of records dating after 1951, and includes correspondence, maps, minutes, newspaper clippings, photographs, press releases, reports, resolutions, and speeches. Of particular interest are the files pertaining to the Malibu Freeway controversy, issues surrounding the growth of San Fernando Valley Airport and the Van Nuys Airport, studies of population and housing in the San Fernando Valley, the development of transportation systems in the San Fernando Valley, and San Fernando Valley's early attempt to secede from Los Angeles County in 1976. The files are arranged in alphabetical order by subject, and chronologically within.

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Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Albert's Manufacturing &amp; Supply Company: correspondence; memoranda, 1951</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Birmingham High School Stadium: correspondence; memorandum; resolution, 1965</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Capital Improvement Financing - Los Angeles: report, 1967</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Children's Hospital: correspondence; rosters, 1957-1958, 1960-1961</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Citizen of the Year: correspondence, 1963</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>City Planning: article; correspondence, 1961, 1967</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>City Planning: report, "Population and Housing Inventory, City of Los Angeles", 1963</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>City Streets: assembly bill; correspondence; press release, 1958-1960, 1962-1964</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>Corman, James C.: correspondence, 1961-1963, 1967</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>Education and Taxes: correspondence; reports, 1960; 1962, 1966-1968</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b>Gas Tax Diversion: report, 1971</b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Hollywood-Burbank Airport: report, 1976</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Malibu Freeway: articles, 1966, 1970</b>

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Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Malibu Freeway: correspondence; memorandum; telegram, 1964-1965, 1970</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>Malibu Freeway: maps, 1966</b>
Box 1, Folder 16	<b>Malibu Freeway: presentations; resolutions, 1961, 1964-1967, 1970</b>
Box 1, Folder 17	<b>Malibu Freeway: reports, 1967, 1970</b>
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Box 1, Folder 19	<b>Newspaper Clippings: general, 1960-1961</b>
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Box 1, Folder 26	<b>Newspaper Clippings: general, 1969-1972, 1974-1975</b>
Box 1, Folder 27	<b>Newspaper Clippings: general,</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Office of Appropriate Technology: organization; program and purpose, 1976</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>195th Air Transport Squadron: correspondence; memorandum, 1965-1966</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation: correspondence; master plan, 1960, 1970, 1973</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Population: census, 1970</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>Population: maps, 1968</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Population: statistics, 1960, 1966, 1968, 1970-1979</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Population: quarterly bulletin, 1970, 1973-1978</b>
Box 2, Folder 8	<b>Proposition A - Elementary Tax Limit Increase: fact sheets; general information, 1959</b>
Box 2, Folder 9	<b>Propositions 8 [Owner Occupied Dwellings Tax Rate] &amp; 13 [Property Tax Limitation]: correspondence, 1978</b>
Box 2, Folder 10	<b>Rehabilitation Services: correspondence; minutes, 1963</b>
Box 2, Folder 11	<b>San Fernando Valley Airport: correspondence, 1948, 1956, 1957, 1959</b>
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Box 2, Folder 17	<b>San Fernando Valley Health Consortium: article; correspondence; membership list; minutes; newsletter, 1972-1974</b>
Box 2, Folder 18	<b>San Fernando Valley State College [CSUN]: memorandum; statements, 1969-1970, 1979</b>
Box 2, Folder 19	<b>Southern California Association of Governments: report, 1978</b>
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Box 3, Folder 9	<b>West Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce: correspondence, 1958-1963, 1969</b>
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Box 3, Folder 11	<b>Whitnall - Simi Freeway Controversy: correspondence; reports, 1962, 1964-1966</b>

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Box 3, Folder 12	<b>Woodley Avenue - Right of Way: correspondence; lettergram; maps; report, 1959, 1962-1966</b>
Box 4, Folder 1	<b>Photograph of Albert Zoraster Speaking at Rotary Club</b>
Box 4, Folder 2	<b>Aerial Photos of Route 64, Malibu Freeway</b>
Box 4, Folder 3	<b>Aerial Photos of Route 64, Malibu Freeway</b>
Box 4, Folder 4	<b>Aerial Photos of Route 64, Malibu Freeway</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 1	<b>Malibu Freeway: Alternatives to Malibu Canyon for Route 64</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 2	<b>Malibu Freeway: Proposed Route 64 Freeway</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 3	<b>Malibu Freeway: Proposed Route 64 Freeway [anr. copy]</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 4	<b>Population: Census Tracts Statistical Areas and Councilmanic Districts of the City of Los Angeles, August 1968</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 5	<b>San Fernando Valley Airport, Master Plan - Land Acquisition</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 6	<b>Woodley Avenue - Right of Way: Woodley Ave. bet. Roscoe Blvd. &amp; Sherman Way, 1963 May 21</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 7	<b>Woodley Avenue - Right of Way: Woodley Ave., Land Use Plan Sepulveda District City Planning Commission, 1969 June 25</b>
Flat File Cabinet 2, Folder 1, Item 8	<b>Van Nuys Airport, Master Plan Drawing Number 60-1, 1960 February 8</b>
Flat File Cabinet 4, Folder 2, Item 1	<b>Malibu Freeway: Route 64 Freeway, January 1964</b>
Flat File Cabinet 4, Folder 2, Item 2	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation: Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area, Master Recreational Plan, July 1960</b>
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