

Guide to the Homer A. Halverson Collection

Special Collections & Archives

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives

Title: Homer A. Halverson Collection

Creator: Halverson, Homer A., 1903-2002

Identifier/Call Number: URB.HAH

Extent: 1.04 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1915-1977

Abstract: Homer Halverson worked for the City of Los Angeles as an Engineer in the 1920s, on his family's orange grove in the San Fernando Valley, in the early 1930s, and as a structural draftsman in the US Army Corps of Engineers from the mid-1930s to his retirement in 1965. The *Homer A. Halverson Collection* documents water history and related infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles area in the early- to mid-20 th century, especially the construction of containment and runoff systems within urban and suburban areas in the city. It consists primarily of photographs.

Language of Material: English

Biographical Information:

Homer Halverson, son of Ole and Laura Halverson, was born in 1903 in Minco, Oklahoma. After attending the University of Oklahoma, he moved to California in 1924, settling in the San Fernando Valley with his family. He met and married his wife, Millicent Scoltock, shortly after, with whom he had two daughters, Gail and Karen.

Halverson worked for the City of Los Angeles as an Engineer in the 1920s, but spent the early 1930s working on his family's orange grove in the San Fernando Valley. By 1936 he had become a structural draftsman in the US Army Corps of Engineers, based out of Glendale, CA. During his many decades with the US Army Corps of Engineers Halverson worked to address flooding in the valley and greater Los Angeles, designed structures to channel water and streams into larger river beds, constructed dams and reservoirs, and designed and built reinforced concrete flood control across Los Angeles.

In the early 1950s the Halverson family sold their San Fernando Valley citrus grove to the state of California, which used the land to build a satellite campus of California State University, Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley. The satellite campus eventually became San Fernando Valley State College, now called California State University, Northridge. Homer Halverson retired in 1965, and passed away in 2002.

Scope and Contents

The *Homer A. Halverson Collection* documents water history and related infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles area from the early- to mid-20 th century, especially the construction of containment and runoff systems within urban and suburban areas in the city. It consists primarily of photographs, but also includes magazine and newspaper articles, pamphlets, brochures, flyers, and other materials. The collection consists of two series: **Photographic Materials** (1915-1961) and **Personal Files** (1928-1977).

Series I, **Photographic Materials**, documents the construction of water management systems and water-related infrastructure in the city of Los Angeles from the early- to mid-20 th century, as well as existing water systems in the city and outlying areas, especially the Los Angeles River. It consists of photographs, negatives, color transparencies, and slides documenting various water-related construction projects and sites, in addition to those of numerous rivers, creeks, channels, reservoirs, and dams around Los Angeles. It also includes photographs of other Los Angeles infrastructure, especially freeways. The series dates from 1915 to 1961 and is filed alphabetically.

Series II, **Personal Files**, documents Halverson's interests outside of the water supply to Los Angeles, especially literature, drawing, and the western United States. It includes detached magazine covers, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, brochures, flyers, and other materials. The series dates from 1928 to 1977, and is filed alphabetically.

Arrangement of Materials:

Series I: Photographic Material, 1915-1961

Series II: Personal Files, 1928-1977

Electronic Format:

Digital reproductions of selected items in this collection are available electronically as a part of the [San Fernando History Digital Library](#) and [Water Works](#) project.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use:

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Karen Lenker, 09/11/2003.

Preferred Citation:

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

Processing Information:

Special Collections and Archives staff, 2013

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Ephemera

Documents

Photographs

Series I: Photographic Material, 1915-1961

Box 1, Folder 1	Caballero Creek, 1961 March 19
Box 1, Folder 2	Carbon Creek
Box 1, Folder 3	Cerritos Pump Station
Box 1, Folder 4	Gorey Ave
Box 1, Folder 5	Chino Creek, 1956
Box 1, Folder 6	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 7	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 8	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 9	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 10	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 11	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 12	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 13	Chino Creek Power Towers
Box 1, Folder 14	Chino Creek
Box 1, Folder 15	Aerial Photos of Northridge
Box 1, Folder 16	CSUN site, Northridge Silverlake Dam
Box 1, Folder 17	CSUN site, Northridge Silverlake Dam
Box 1, Folder 18	Higgins and Coldwater
Box 1, Folder 19	Isabella Lake
Box 1, Folder 20	Jones Brothers Breeding Stables
Box 1, Folder 21	Downtown Los Angeles
Box 1, Folder 22	Los Angeles Freeways
Box 1, Folder 23	Los Angeles River
Box 1, Folder 24	Los Angeles River, Upper
Box 1, Folder 25	Los Angeles River Left Bank at PE Bridge Station 252, 1956 January 23
Box 1, Folder 26	Los Angeles River Flood Damage and Installation of Cut Off
Box 1, Folder 27	Los Angeles River Freeway crossing near Hazelhurst, Upper Los Angeles River near Lancaster
Box 1, Folder 28	Los Angeles River, Army Corps of Engineers
Box 1, Folder 29	Maddock Channel
Box 1, Folder 30	Lopez Reservoir
Box 1, Folder 31	Marshall Creek and Freeways Flood Control
Box 1, Folder 32	Marshall Creek
Box 1, Folder 33	Marshall Creek
Box 1, Folder 34	Los Angeles River, Army Corps of Engineers
Box 1, Folder 35	Marshall Creek , Army Corps of Engineers
Box 1, Folder 36	Marshall Creek and Hillcrest Debris Barn
Box 1, Folder 37	Northridge

Box 1, Folder 38	Pacoima Wash
Box 1, Folder 39	Pacoima Wash
Box 2, Folder 1	Rio Hondo
Box 2, Folder 2	San Antonio
Box 2, Folder 3	San Antonio Dam
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Box 2, Folder 5	San Antonio Dam
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Box 2, Folder 7	San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 8	San Antonio Dam
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Box 2, Folder 21	San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 22	Santa Fe Dam
Box 2, Folder 23	Silver Lake Dam
Box 2, Folder 24	Upper San Gabriel
Box 2, Folder 25	Walnut Creek
Box 2, Folder 26	Wilson Mansfield
Box 2, Folder 27	Unidentified
Box 2, Folder 28	Unidentified color transparencies
Box 2, Folder 29	Unidentified photos and negatives

Series II: Personal Files, 1928-1977

Box 3, Folder 1	Easy Landscape Drawing, Grade 1
Box 3, Folder 2	Flyers
Box 3, Folder 3	<i>Literary Digest</i> Covers, 1928-1977
Box 3, Folder 4	<i>The Nash News</i>, 1928-1929
Box 3, Folder 5	Newspaper Clippings, 1928-1929
Box 3, Folder 6	Notes
Box 3, Folder 7	Owensmouth High School Commencement Program
Box 3, Folder 8	Pamphlets and brochures
Box 3, Folder 9	<i>Touring Topics</i> Covers, 1929
Box 3, Folder 10	Union Oil Bulletin cover, February 1928