Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Homer A. Halverson Collection
Dates: 1915-1977
Identification: URB/HAH
Creator: Halverson, Homer A., 1903-2002
Physical Description: 1.04 linear feet
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Urban Archives

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-20th century, especially the construction of containment and runoff systems within urban and suburban areas in the city. It consists primarily of photographs.

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.

Genre/Form of Material:
Ephemera
Paper records
Photographic material
Publications

Processing Information:
Special Collections and Archives staff, 2013

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Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

Arrangement of Materials:
Series I: Photographic Material, 1915-1961
Series II: Personal Files, 1928-1977
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-20th 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-20th 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.

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
Box 2, Folder 4  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 5  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 6  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 7  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 8  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 9  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 10  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 11  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 12  San Antonio Dam
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Box 2, Folder 16  San Antonio Dam
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Box 2, Folder 18  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 19  San Antonio Dam
Box 2, Folder 20  San Antonio Dam
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  *Literary Digest* Covers, 1928-1977
Box 3, Folder 4  *The Nash News*, 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  *Touring Topics* Covers, 1929
Box 3, Folder 10  Union Oil Bulletin cover, February 1928