Guide to the Herschel Rosenthal Papers

Collection number: LP220:80-133, LP443

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Date Completed:
January 2012
Encoded by:
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Guide to the Herschel Rosenthal Papers
Dates: 1975-1998
Collection number: LP220:80-133, LP443
Creator: Rosenthal, Herschel
Collection Size: 18 cubic feet of textual records and 14 artifacts
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California


Physical location: California State Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Herschel Rosenthal Papers, LP[number]:[folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Agency History

Herschel Rosenthal was born on March 13, 1918, in St. Louis, Missouri. His father worked as a pattern cutter in the garment industry, and his mother was a homemaker. Herschel established residency in California in 1929 and lived in the Boyle
Heights area of Los Angeles. He attended UCLA where he studied at their School of Engineering. During World War II, he served in the Navy. Then, in 1946, he married Patricia (Staman) Rosenthal, with whom he had two children, a son, Joel Rosenthal, and a daughter, Suzanne Hellerstein. The Rosenthal's marriage lasted over 62 years until Herschel's death in 2009.

Rosenthal was very active in the Jewish Centers movement. He was President of the Westside Jewish Community Center, Vice President of the Jewish Centers Association, President of the American Jewish Congress, President of the National Association of Jewish Legislators, and was a member of the American Jewish Committee as well as the Jewish Community Alliance. He also served as Commissioner for the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency and was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans with Disabilities Association, California Delegation to Democratic National Convention, Common Cause, International Typographical Union No. 174, the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Herschel Rosenthal died on June 19, 2009, at a nursing home in Hollywood, California shortly after being treated for a case of pneumonia.

During his term in the California Legislature, Rosenthal served on the following committees according to the California Legislature at Sacramento (Handbooks) and the California Blue Book

**Assembly Standing Committees**
- Aging, 1979-1981
- Energy and Natural Resources, 1981-1982
- Governmental Organization, 1975-1982
- Vice Chair, 1975-1976
- Health, 1975-1982
- Labor and Employment, 1981-1982
- Rules, 1977-1982
- Ways and Means, 1977-1978

**Assembly Subcommittees**
- Health Care Investigations, 1977-1978
- Health Personnel, 1977-1982
- Joint Rules, 1977-1982
- Land Use, 1977-1978
- Mental Health and Development Disabilities, 1975-1976
- Motion Picture Development, 1975-1982
- Social Benefits and Services Advisory Board, 1977-1982

**Assembly Select Committees**
- Genetic Diseases, 1977-1982
- Chairman 1979-1980
- Health Sciences Education, 1975-1976
- Landslide Prevention, 1979-1980

**Assembly Special Subcommittees**
- Medi-Cal Reform, 1979-1980

**Senate Standing Committees**
- Business and Professions, 1983-1998
- Chairman 1983-1992
- Governmental Organization, 1983-1998
- Health and Human Services, 1983-1994
Industrial Relations, 1983-1998
Insurance, 1993-1998
Chairman 1997-1998
Insurance Reform, 1993-1994
Local Government, 1995-1996
Natural Resources and Wildlife, 1991-1992
Revenue and Taxation, 1991-1992
Toxics and Public Safety Management, 1987-1990

**Senate Select Committees**
California Quincentennial, 1991-1992
Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health, 1997-1998
Entertainment Industry, 1997-1998
Horseracing, 1997-1998
Insurance Reform, 1993-1994
Motion Picture, Television, Commercial, and Recording Industries 1983-1988
Chairman, 1983-1990
Northridge Earthquake 1995-1996
Chairman 1995-1996
Women in the Workforce 1987-1998

**Senate Subcommittees**
Bioethics, 1987-1994
Cable Television, 1983-1988
CEQA, 1995-1996
Diseases, 1983-1984
Energy Costs and Industrial Development, 1985-1990
Health and Human Services, 1990-1991
Healthcare Reform, 1995-1998
Chairman, 1995-1996
Mental Health, 1983-1984
Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Genetic Diseases, 1985-1994
Nuclear Facility Safety, 1985-1986
Prescription Drugs, 1993-1998
Women in the Workforce, 1983-1990

**Senate Special Committees**
Greenhouse Effect, Ozone Depletion, and Atmospheric Pollution, 1989-1990

**Senate Joint Committees**
1992 California Quincentennial of the Voyages of Christopher Columbus, 1989-1992
GAIN Implementation, 1987-1990
Lowering the Cost of Electric Services, 1995-1998

**Scope and Content**
The Herschel Rosenthal Papers consist of 18 cubic feet of textual records and 14 artifacts and cover the years 1975 to 1998. The records are organized into the following record series: Bill Files, 1975-1998; Bill Records, 1975-1998; and

The Bill Files document his legislative activity during his term as a member of the California State Legislature. The Bill Records provide a summary of the bills introduced by Rosenthal during each legislative session. The bills introduced by Herschel Rosenthal pertain to a wide array of subjects including public utilities, health, horseracing, and the environment. He played a major role in passing legislation to protect the Santa Monica Mountains (SB1323 (1989-1990) and was a leader in the efforts to create more locally based film industry jobs by encouraging California-based production (SB2293, SB2294, SB2295, SJR26 all from the 1985-1986 session). A strong supporter of Israel, two particularly intriguing bills in this collection are SJR54 as well as SJR 58. SJR54 concerned the release of Dr. Yosef Begun from his exile in Siberia, while persuading the government of the Soviet Union to permit his emigration to Israel. SJR 50 requested that the President and Congress support and ratify the Genocide Convention.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
California Legislature Senate

Series 1 Bill Files 1975-1998

Physical Description: 319 file folders

Arrangement
Bill Files are arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

Scope and Content Note
Bill Files were created by Herschel Rosenthal while he served as a state legislator from 1975-1998. The bill files may include bill analyses, amendments and resolutions, author's statements, testimony, press releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and committee statements. The bill files include amendments, analyses, letters and position statements in support of opposition, Legislative Counsel opinions and conflict letters, author's floor and committee statements and press releases, newspaper clipping, background information, and other documents regarding implementation.

The bills introduced by Rosenthal concerned a wide array of subjects. He authored bills concerning public utilities (SB799, SB845, SB909, from the 1995-1996 session); health (AB154, AB194, AB534, from the 1981-1982 session); horseracing (SB2405, SB2430, and SB2450 from the 1985-1986 session); and the environment (SB2143, SB2297, and SB2547 from the 1987-1988 session).

1977-1978 (12ff), AB18-AB3721, AJR13, AJR83, HR26, HR58 LP220:84-95
1985-1986 (51ff), SB47-SB2585, SCR8-SCR100, SJR9-SJR66 LP433:38-88
1987-1988 (47ff), SB37-SB2752, SCA38, SCR54-SCR83, SJR3-SJR41, SR7 LP433:89-135
1997-1998 (30ff), SB219-SB2102, SCR37 LP443:236-265

Physical Description: 12 file folders
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by legislative session.
Scope and Content Note
Bill Records provide a summary of the bills introduced by Herschel Rosenthal during each legislative session. Summaries note whether the bill was chaptered, died, or dropped.

Series 3 Artifacts 1975-1998

Physical Description: 14 artifacts
Arrangement
Arranged by type of artifact.
Access Information
Contact reference archivist for access to artifacts
Scope and Content Note
The collection of artifacts from the office of Herschel Rosenthal include: a plaque from the California State Assembly, framed Assembly and Senate license plates, a plaque from California Beer and Beverage Distributors, a goat statuette labeled “Herschel’s Race Horse.” A plaque from the California Derby Club, a paperweight from Stillwater Geothermal Plant, Arco’s California’s medallions (one missing), a plaque from the Association of Rural Northern California Energy Providers, a Calaveras County Frog Jump award ribbon and commemorative plaque, a certificate of appreciation from the 51st District Agricultural Association, a framed Assembly Bill 65 (1981) signed by former Governor Jerry Brown, and a plaque from the California Trial Lawyers Association.