
Guide to the Herschel Rosenthal Papers

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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

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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

Abstract: 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 Artifacts, 1975-1998.

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, Democrat, served California as a State Assembly Member from 1975 through 1982 and as a State Senator from 1983 through 1998. He represented the 45th Assembly District, which included the Los Angeles communities of Beverly-Fairfax, Miracle Mile, Hollywood, West Hollywood, Hancock Park, Hollywood Hills, parts of North Hollywood, and Studio City. In 1982, he won election as State Senator to represent the 22nd Senatorial District. Rosenthal was endorsed by every major Democratic incumbent in the state. Subsequently, he took office as a member of the Legislature's upper house on December 6, 1982, where he served until 1998. His 22nd Senatorial District included the cities of Encino, Sherman Oaks, Beverly Hills, Pacific Palisades, West Los Angeles, Culver City, Santa Monica, Westwood, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills. After redistricting in 1991, Rosenthal's 20th Senatorial District included Canoga Park, East Los Angeles, North Hollywood, San Fernando, Van Nuys, Pacoima, Reseda, Panorama City, Sepulveda, and Sylmar.

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

Economic Problems in Timber and Related Industries, 1979-1982

Genetic Diseases, 1977-1982

Chairman 1979-1980

Health Sciences Education, 1975-1976

Landslide Prevention, 1979-1980

Assembly Special Subcommittees

Healthcare Investigations, 1975-1976

Medi-Cal Reform, 1979-1980

Senate Standing Committees

Business and Professions, 1983-1998

Elections and Reapportionment, 1987-1998

Energy and Public Utilities, 1983-1994

Chairman 1983-1992

Energy, Utilities and Communications, 1995-1998

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
Healthcare Delivery Systems 1987-1988
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
Healthcare Cost Management, 1983-1992
Health and Human Services, 1990-1991
Healthcare Reform, 1995-1998
Chairman, 1995-1996
Horseracing, 1991-1998
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

Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health, 1991-1996
Greenhouse Effect, Ozone Depletion, and Atmospheric Pollution, 1989-1990

Senate Joint Committees

1992 California Quincentennial of the Voyages of Christopher Columbus, 1989-1992
Energy Regulation and the Environment, 1989-1990
GAIN Implementation, 1987-1990
Lowering the Cost of Electric Services, 1995-1998
Workers Compensation, 1983-1984, 1997-1998

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

Artifacts, 1975-1998.

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

LP220:80-133,
LP433:1-265

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).

1975-1976 (4ff), AB233-AB4431, ACA106, ACR209, ACR220, HR29-HR60 LP220:80-83

1977-1978 (12ff), AB18-AB3721, AJR13, AJR83, HR26, HR58 LP220:84-95

1979-1980 (17ff), AB16-AB3482, ACR23-ACR144, AJR33, AJR71, HR28 LP220:96-112

1981-1982 (21ff). AB153-AB3806, ACR18-ACR133, AJR23, AJR102, HR24, HR38
LP220:113-133

1983-1984 (37ff), SB113-SB2303, SCA14, SCR28-SCR82, SJR26-SJR58,SR32, SB18X
LP433:1-37

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

1989-1990 (45ff), SB52-SB2869, SCR7-SCR77, SJR16, SR30-SR73 LP433:136-180

1991-1992 (17ff), SB178-SB2041, SCR23-SCR28 LP433:181-195

1993-1994 (22ff), SB166-SB1983, SJR46 LP433:198-219

1995-1996 (16ff), SB36-SB2045 LP443:220-235

1997-1998 (30ff), SB219-SB2102, SCR37 LP443:236-265

LP443:266-277

Series 2 **Bill Records 1975-1998**

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.

LP443:278-291

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.