Alan Charles Thomson Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Alan Charles Thomson Papers
Collection Number: MS 630
Creator/Collector: Thomson (Alan Charles)
Extent: 1 box
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Sacramento, California 95814
Abstract: Papers documenting Alan C. Thomson’s membership in the Sacramento Area Chapter of the Friends of the
California State Railroad Museum, a predecessor to the CSRM Foundation.
Language of Material: English
Access
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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Biography/Administrative History
Alan Charles Thomson was born on April 1, 1917 in Oregon. He worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad as a local claims
agent in Sacramento. In 1969, he served as the Southern Pacific field representative for the Sacramento Gold Spike
Centennial Committee. He helped organize the ground breaking ceremony (April 25, 1969) for the Big Four Building in Old
Sacramento State Historic Park and traveled with the special Centennial Plaque train (May 1969). Alan C. Thomson was a
member of the blue ribbon committee of Sacramento civic and cultural leaders responsible for Railfair Sacramento 1981,
which celebrated the grand opening of the California State Railroad Museum’s Museum of Railroad History on May 2, 1981.
He also served as a board member of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the Friends of the California State Railroad Museum
from 1981 to 1987 until it was reconstituted as the California Railroad Museum Foundation. Alan Thomson died in
Sacramento on April 7, 1997.
Scope and Content of Collection
This collections includes: correspondence, agendas, newsletters, minutes, reports, and notices documenting Alan C.
Thomson’s membership in the Sacramento Area Chapter of the Friends of the California State Railroad Museum, a
predecessor to the CSRM Foundation. Also includes clippings, promotional material and correspondence documenting Alan
C. Thomson’s contributions to the Golden Spike Centennial Celebration Commission formed to recognize the 100th
anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah in 1869. There are photographs of
various Golden Spike Centennial events, including the groundbreaking for the Big Four Building in Old Sacramento (April 25,
1969) and the “Centennial Plaque Special” May 9, 1969, which traveled from Sacramento to Truckee to dedicate placques
at sites (Roseville, Rocklin, Newcastle, Auburn, Colfax and Truckee) along the historic Central Pacific railroad route.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.