Guide to the Maury M. Travis Collection 1905/1989

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: Maury M. Travis Collection
Dates: 1905-1989
Identification: MS-0401
Creator: Travis, Maury Marion, 1905-1990
Physical Description: 3.75 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Note:
Other Information:
Since 2007, the Jewish Historical Society of San Diego has transferred numerous collections to Special Collections and University Archives. Click the link below to view other materials from the Jewish Historical Society of San Diego.
Additional information may be found at http://scua2.sdsu.edu/archon/index.php?p=core/search&q=%22jewish+historical+society+of+san+diego%22&content=1

Biographical Information:
Maury Marion Travis was born Moses Marion Kornfeld in West Virginia in 1905 to a large Orthodox Jewish family. He attended school in Tulsa, Oklahoma and graduated high school in 1922. He received a BA and Graduate Degree in Geology from Stanford University and entered the professional field of Petroleum Geology. Travis also served in the USAAF in the Corps of Engineers from 1929 to 1943.
He legally changed his name to Maury Marion Travis October 29, 1946 as a final severance of his Jewish roots due mostly to his objections to Zionism and the founding of the State of Israel, which he felt would precipitate "bloody wars." He had at one time been a member of Lessing Rosenwald's American Jewish Council for Judaism, strongly opposing the formation of the Jewish State in Palestine.
Travis converted to Christianity and was baptized June 22, 1952 at Abraham Lincoln's New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, but continued to support the Jewish Anti-Defamation League his entire life. Travis was a resident of San Diego from the late 1970s until his death in late 1989 or early 1990.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Family Name:
Kornfeld family

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Publications

Geographic Name:
Israel -- Politics and government -- Philosophy

Personal Name:
Travis, Maury Marion, 1905-1989 or 90 -- Archives

Topical Term:
Antisemitism

Christian converts from Judaism -- California -- San Diego -- Biography -- Sources
Guide to the Maury M. Travis Collection

Petroleum geologists -- California -- San Diego -- Biography -- Sources
Zionism -- Philosophy

Custodial History:
Dr. Lawrence Baron donated this collection to the Jewish Historical Society of San Diego November 1, 1999 (JHSSD #1999.01.) It was transferred to the Library and Information Access May 22, 2008.

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Conditions Governing Access:
This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Maury M. Travis Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of personal papers, correspondence, and press clippings which document Travis's personal life. It includes birth records, legal name change documents, and family correspondence with Travis's siblings, parents, and other extended family members. His profession as a Petroleum Geologist, along with his interest in the formation of the State of Israel, the Middle East in general, and his interest in anti-Zionism, are well represented. The collection also contains significant primary documents concerning anti-semitism in general, and in San Diego specifically, with publications of White Supremacy organizations. The collection is loosely filed chronologically.

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