

CENTRAL VALLEY POLITICAL ARCHIVE
HENRY MADDEN LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

DANIEL K. WHITEHURST (1948-)

PAPERS, 1948, 1956, 1964-2000
(bulk 1975-1985)
14.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The papers were donated by Daniel K. Whitehurst in 2005 and 2006.

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

AUDIOVISUAL: Audiocassettes and video in boxes 1, 6, 7 and 13.

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PHOTOGRAPHS: In boxes 15 and 16.

PROCESSED BY: Adam Wallace, 2007-2008.

Biography

Daniel K. Whitehurst was born in 1948 in Los Banos, California. In 1959, the Whitehurst family moved to Fresno where he attended San Joaquin Memorial High School, graduating in 1965. After high school, Whitehurst left Fresno to attend Saint Mary's College in Moraga, where he was editor of the school newspaper as well as student body president. While at Saint Mary's Whitehurst helped form the group Students for Progressive Action Now (SPAN), which lobbied the university's administration for changes in the curriculum, admitting women to the university, and changes in admissions and recruitment policies. He graduated from Saint Mary's in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in government. Whitehurst continued at the Hastings College of Law earning his law degree in 1972. After graduating from Hastings, Whitehurst was granted a fellowship in public affairs with the Coro Foundation in 1972. Whitehurst completed his education in 1973 by earning a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Occidental college in Los Angeles. Whitehurst returned to Fresno in 1973 and became an associate with the Baker, Manock and Jensen law firm.

In 1975, Whitehurst ran for Fresno city council and was elected, defeating eleven other candidates and becoming the youngest city councilman in the city's history. After serving two years on the city council, Whitehurst decided to run for the mayor's office, challenging then Mayor Ted C. Wills and narrowly defeating him by 114 votes, becoming the youngest mayor of a major American city. In 1981, Whitehurst ran for re-election and won, gaining sixty-five percent of the vote. During his time in office, Whitehurst strove to create a sense of community in the city of Fresno, promoting neighborhood watch programs and block parties. Whitehurst also worked to bring many county islands within the metropolitan area, in order to consolidate civic services such as police, fire and water. Whitehurst was also active in state and nationwide organizations such as the United States Conference of Mayors while in office. In 1981, Whitehurst launched a campaign for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in 1982 but ultimately lost the nomination to Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Deciding not to seek a third term as mayor, Whitehurst resigned in 1985 to take a teaching fellowship at the John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics at Harvard University.

Since leaving office, Whitehurst has focused on his business career, serving as President of the Fresno Economic Development Corporation from 1985 to 1987, President of Whitehurst California, Inc., his family's funeral home business, in 1987, as well as founding Farewell Funeral Service in 1995. In 1999, he became a director of the California State Automobile Association. Since 1985 he has been of counsel to the Dowling, Aaron and Keeler law firm. Whitehurst has also lent his political expertise, sharing his perspective in forums and on television news and radio programs. He provided commentary on TV channel KFSN from 1985 to 1993, and on radio station KJWL from 1998 to 2005. In 2000, Whitehurst took a break from radio commentary to run again for mayor, though he lost the election to Alan Autry. From 2001 to 2003, Whitehurst served as the director of the Maddy Institute at California State University, Fresno. He currently resides in Napa County.

Scope and Content Note

The Whitehurst papers measure 14.5 linear feet and date from 1948, 1956, 1964-2000. The papers are arranged in nine series: Biographical information, Campaign materials, Correspondence, Goals and objectives, Press and public relations, Professional career, Subject files, Photographs and Artifacts. The papers were amassed by Whitehurst during his career as city councilman and mayor, as well as through his other political activities.

The **Biographical information** series (1948, 1965-1983 and undated) contains information on Whitehurst's birth and education, short biographies written by him as well as genealogical information on his family.

The **Campaign materials** series (1975-1982, 2000) contains the records of Whitehurst's campaigns for election and reelection to the offices of Fresno city council member, Fresno mayor as well as his 1982 United States Senate Democratic primary bid.

The **Correspondence** series (1977-1985) contains letters written by Whitehurst to various businesspeople, politicians, interest groups, constituents, friends and relatives, as well as letters written from these sources to Whitehurst.

The **Goals and objectives** series (1977-1986) contains information on the platforms Whitehurst attempted to achieve while in office, as well as projects that he spearheaded such as urban unification and the organization of block parties.

The **Press and public relations** series (1964-2000) contains records of Whitehurst's public relations and press coverage before, during and after his two terms as mayor of Fresno.

The **Professional career** series (1973-1989) contains information on Whitehurst's law career, as well as his participation in his father's funeral home business and involvement in the funeral home industry in general.

The **Subject files** series (1970-1985 and undated) consists of correspondence, memoranda and agendas relating to various issues in the community, as well as Whitehurst's dealings with government bodies at all levels. The Subject files contain records of Whitehurst's participation in organizations such as the United States Conference of Mayors as well. This series also contains records of Whitehurst's travels abroad to Fresno's sister cities and as part of a delegation.

The **Photographs** series (1964-1984 and undated) consists of prints, slides and negatives depicting Whitehurst's time in office. This series includes photos of city council meetings as well as ceremonial functions Whitehurst performed in the community. The Photographs series also contains records of Whitehurst's travels abroad as well as appearances with influential politicians and private citizens.

The **Artifacts** series (undated) consists of one folder and contains buttons and pins from various foreign countries that Whitehurst visited during his two terms as mayor.

Summary Contents List

Biographical information, 1948, 1965, 1969-1970, 1972-1974, 1983 and undated
Box 1

Campaign materials, 1975, 1977, 1981-1982, 2000
Boxes 1, 16, CVPA map case drawer 7

Correspondence, 1977-1985
Boxes 1-3

Goals and objectives, 1977-1984, 1986
Boxes 3-5

Press and public relations, 1964-1965, 1968-1969, 1975-1991, 1993-1994, 1999-2000
Boxes 5-7

Professional career, 1973, 1975-1976, 1982-1983, 1986, 1989
Box 7

Subject files, 1970-1985 and undated
Boxes 7-13, 16, CVPA map case drawer 7

Photographs, 1964, 1976-1977, 1980-1981, 1983-1984 and undated
Boxes 15-16

Artifacts, undated
Box 15

Box no. Description

Box 1

Biographical information

General, 1948, 1969-1970, 1972, 1983 and undated

Education, 1965, 1969, 1972-1974 and undated

Campaign materials

Elections

Fresno City Council Post 1 (includes 1 cassette tape), 1975

Fresno Mayor, 1977

Fresno Mayor, 1981 [oversize: in box 16 and CVPA map case drawer 7]

Fresno Mayor, 2000 (2 folders)

United States Senate (includes 1 VHS tape), 1982 (3 folders)

Correspondence

Businesses and businesspeople, 1979-1984 (3 folders)

California Democratic Party, 1983-1984

California politicians, 1978-1984 (2 folders)

Churches and religious institutions

Local churches, 1979-1985

Other churches, 1979, 1980, 1984

Congratulations on mayoral election, 1977 (2 folders)

Box 2

Democratic National Committee, 1981

Educational institutions

Adult schools, 1982

Colleges and universities

California School of Professional Psychology, 1983

California State University Chancellor's office, 1983

California State University, Fresno, 1979-1984 and undated

California State University, Hayward, 1983

California State University, Northridge, 1979

California State University, Sacramento, 1982

California State University, San Diego, 1984

California State University, Stanislaus, 1984

Catholic University of America, 1982

Claremont Men's College, 1980

College of William and Mary, 1985

Columbia University, 1979

Cypress College, 1984

Fresno City College, 1979, 1982

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Box 2 (cont.)

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Educational institutions (cont.)

Colleges and universities (cont.)

Fresno Pacific College, 1983
Harvard University, 1979
Lewis and Clark College, 1984
Loyola Marymount University, 1984
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, 1980
New York Medical College, 1980
Pepperdine University, 1981
Rutgers University, 1982
Saint Mary's College, 1978, 1983
San Joaquin College of Law, 1983
Southwestern University, 1981
State University of New York, 1984
University of California, Berkeley, 1979-1980, 1982, 1984
University of California, Davis, 1984
University of California, Los Angeles, 1981
University of California, Riverside, 1984
University of Michigan, 1981
University of Santa Clara, 1981
University of Southern California, 1984
University of the Pacific, 1979, 1981
University of Toledo, 1984
West Coast Bible College, 1980, 1984
Willamette University, 1979
Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, 1984

Institutes

Community Development Training Institute, 1984
Dwelling Sculpture Institute, 1980
Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Governmental Affairs, 1981-84
Institute for Local Self Government, 1981
Institute of Politics, 1984
International English Institute, 1983
John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics, 1984

Local schools K-12, 1979-1984

Other schools K-12, 1979, 1981-1984

Form letters, 1980, 1982-1984 and undated

Foreign dignitaries, 1979-1984

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Box 2 (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

- Government agencies and departments
 - Federal government, 1979-1984
 - Fresno city and county governments, 1979-1985
 - Other city and county governments, 1978-1985
 - State government, 1979-1984
- Guidelines for writing letters, undated
- Hate mail, 1984 and undated
- Hospitals
 - Local hospitals, 1979-1984
 - Other hospitals, 1979, 1984
- Letters of recommendation, 1978, 1980-1982, 1984
- Local arts groups, 1981-1983
- Local residents, 1978-1984 and undated (3 folders)
- Military, 1979-1980, 1982-1984
- Museums
 - Local museums, 1978, 1980-1984
 - Other museums, 1978-1979, 1983-1984
- Non-constituents, 1979-1984
- Organizations and interest groups, 1978 (1 folder)

Box 3

- Organizations and interest groups, 1978 (1 folder)
- Other mayors, 1977, 1979-1984
- Other politicians, 1980-1984
- Personal correspondence, 1979-1985
- Public Technology Inc., 1984
- Resignation correspondence, 1985
- Senate campaign, 1981-1982
- Speaking invitations and thank you letters, 1980-1985
- United States Conference of Mayors, 1983-1984
- Miscellaneous, 1981 and undated

Goals and objectives

- Agricultural museum, 1978-1984 and undated
- Arts
 - General, 1977-1981, 1983 and undated (2 folders)
 - Ethnic heritage workshop, 1980
 - Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1979-1981
 - Heritage festival, 1977-1982 (7 folders)

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Box 4

Goals and Objectives (cont.)

Arts (cont.)

Humanities, 1980-1981

City beautification, 1981 and undated

City of Fresno Design and Economic Feasibility Study, 1977

Constituent services, 1980

Cost control study, 1979-1980 and undated

Economic development

General, 1979-1980, 1982

Agricultural trade center, 1980-1981, 1984 and undated

Downtown action plan, 1977, 1979-1980, 1982 and undated

Farmer's market, 1976-1977, 1980-1981

Industry, 1982

Market Fresno project, 1979-1980 (3 folders)

Theme park, 1980

Tourism, 1977-1979, 1981, 1984

Energy conservation

General, 1979-1981 (3 folders)

Recycling, 1980-1982

Ride sharing, 1979-1980

Solar energy, 1977-1978 and undated

Fresno Citizen Participation Commission, 1978-1981

Fresno Fitness Foundation, 1979-1980

Goals and projects, 1980 and undated

Historic preservation, 1977-1980

Human services program, 1980

Neighborhood identity, 1978-1982 (1 folder)

Box 5

Neighborhood identity, 1978-1982 (1 folder)

Unify Fresno program, 1978-1980 (2 folders)

Urban Design Task Force, 1986

Volunteer program, 1978-1980, 1984

Miscellaneous, 1980

Press and public relations

General, 1980 and undated

Books

A Portrait of Fresno, 1885-1985, 1985

Boxer, Richard and David Savageau. *Places Rated Almanac*, 1981

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Box 5 (cont.)

Press and public relations (cont.)

Books (cont.)

Broder, David S. *Changing of the Guard*, 1981

Journal and magazine articles

California Living, 1981 [oversize: in box 16]

Congressional Quarterly, 1981

Fresno City College Ram, 1977-1978

Fresno Magazine, 1978

Indianapolis Monthly, undated

Newsweek, 1984

Solid Waste Management News, 1980

U. S. News & World Report, 1981

Who's Who, 1981

Mayor's prayer breakfasts, 1978-1980, 1982-1983

Newspaper clippings

General, 1964-1965, 1968-1969, 1975-1987, 1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and undated (11 folders) [oversize: CVPA map case drawer 7]

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General, 1964-1965, 1968-1969, 1975-1987, 1990, 1993-1994, 1999-2000 and undated (12 folders) [oversize: CVPA map case drawer 7]

Senate campaign, 1981-1982 (14 folders)

News releases, 1980, 1982-1985 (2 folders)

Publications

Book review, Jack Germond and Jules Witcover, *Wake Us When Its Over*, undated

California Journal, 1985

The Freedom Forum: Reinventing Political Coverage in America, 1994

Los Angeles Times, 1982-1983

Proceedings, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 1986

San Jose Mercury, 1985

Speeches and statements

State of the city addresses (includes 1 VHS tape), 1979-1985 (2 folders)

Miscellaneous, 1979-1984 and undated (2 folders)

Box 7

Miscellaneous, 1979-1984 and undated (1 folder)

Television and video

ABC 30 Perspectives, 1988-1991 and undated (7 folders)

A.M. Fresno (VHS tape), undated

Chamber of Commerce dinner (VHS tape), 1985

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Box 7 (cont.)

Press and public relations (cont.)

Television and video (cont.)

Farewell party (VHS tape), 1985

Streets of Fresno: The Documentary (VHS tape), undated
277 ranking, 1984 (2 folders)

Professional career

Law practice, 1973, 1975 and undated

Whitehurst California Corporation, 1989

Whitehurst Funeral Chapel, 1976, 1982-1983, 1986 and undated

Subject files

General

Affirmative action, 1981

Airports: Fresno Air Terminal and Chandler Airport, 1981-1983

American Express, 1980

Amtrak, 1980

Appointment books, 1979-1983 (1 folder)

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Appointment books, 1979-1983 (2 folders)

Block parties, 1976, 1979-1980 (2 folders)

Budget review effort, 1981 (2 folders)

California State University, Fresno, 1979-1984

Census, 1980

Certificates of appreciation, 1982-1984

City hall planning and construction, 1979

Commencement address, Saint Mary's College, 1978

Complaints, 1982-1983

Computers, 1982

Convention center, 1976, 1979-1984

Convention center hotel, 1982-1983

Discovery Center, undated

Earthquake Public Education Program, undated

Economic development, 1975-1979, 1982-1984

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Energy crisis and conservation, 1979 and undated

Erhard Seminars Training (Est), 1977

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Subject files (cont.)

General (cont.)

Forestiére Underground Gardens, 1978-1980

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Fresno Art Museum, 1980-1981

Fresno Bee, 1979-1982

Fresno City Alarm Ordinance, 1984

Fresno City College, 1978-1984

Fresno County Clean Air Plan, 1983

General plan, 1981, 1983-1984

Highway City, 1978

Holy Spirit Parish, 1983

Housing, 1978-1984 (2 folders)

Image of Fresno, 1979-1980 (2 folders)

Infrastructure, 1982-1984

Invitations, 1976-1983 and undated

Japan/American Conference (includes 1 VHS tape), 1979-1981 and undated
(2 folders)

Lao-Hmong community, 1982-1983

Leon S. Peters building, 1983-1984

Letterhead and blank forms, undated

Logo of the city of Fresno, 1978-1980

Martin Luther King celebration, 1984

Mayor's 30th birthday celebration, 1978 [oversize: in box 16 and CVPA map case
drawer 7]

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Medical education in Fresno, 1970-1977, 1980-1981 (6 folders)

Memoranda, 1977, 1979-1984

National Guard Transportation Aircraft Repair Shop, 1976-1978

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Olympic torch bearers, 1984

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 1981-1982, 1984

Piccadilly Inn-University, 1984

Pornography on cable television, 1981

Presidential inauguration, 1981

Proclamations, 1982

Proposition 13, 1978-1979

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Saroyan, William, 1981-1984
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Shakespearean Festival, 1977-1981

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Shopping centers, 1978-1980 (2 folders)
Summer jobs program, 1982, 1984-1985
Taxes, 1982-1983 and undated
Taxi cabs, 1982
Tower district, 1983
United Way campaign pledge drive, 1982
Utility bill bailouts, 1980
Vietnam veterans, 1979-1980
Youth, 1979-1980 and undated

Government

Federal government

Congress of the United States, 1980-1983
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 1979-1984
President of the United States, 1980-1983
Miscellaneous, 1983-1984

Local government

City Attorney, 1979-1984
City Council, 1978-1985 (2 folders)
City Manager's office, 1978-1985
Development Department, 1982-1983
Finance Department, 1979, 1982-1985
Fire Department, 1979-1984

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Fresno County Board of Supervisors, 1979-1984
Fresno County Council of Governments, 1979-1981 (2 folders)
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, 1983-1984
Fresno Employment and Training Commission, 1979-1981
Fresno Unified School District, 1979-1984
General Services Department, 1982, 1984
Housing and Community Development Division, 1978-1981
Parks and Recreation Department, 1979-1985 (2 folders)
Personnel Department, 1979-1981, 1983-1985

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Planning and Inspection Department, 1979-1981 (3 folders)

Police Department, 1977-1984 (2 folders)

Public Works Department, 1979-1980

Traffic Division, 1979-1984

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State government

Agricultural Lands Task Force, 1974, 1980 and undated (2 folders)

California governor's office, 1979-1985

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California legislature, 1979-1981, 1984

Organizations

Alliance for the Arts (cassette tape), 1984

Downtown Association, 1977-1981

Fresno Chamber of Commerce, 1979-1984

Fresno City Employees Association, 1982

League of California Cities

General, 1979-1984 (3 folders)

Cities of Tomorrow Committee, 1978-1981 (2 folders)

Housing and Community Development Committee, 1979-1981

Mayors and Council Members, 1982-1983

Missouri Municipal League (cassette tape), 1983

National Conference of Democratic Mayors, 1978-1981, 1984

National Innovation Council, 1980 and undated

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United States Conference of Mayors

General, 1979-1984 (1 folder)

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General, 1979-1984 (8 folders)

Mayors' Leadership Institute, 1984

Public safety award, 1984

Travel

Armenia, undated

Jordan, 1983

Kochi, Japan, 1983

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Subject files (cont.)

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U.S.S.R., undated

Miscellaneous, 1981-1982, 1985 and undated

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Photographs

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Dan Whitehurst

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Early life, 1964 and undated

Family, undated

Portraits, 1976 and undated [oversize: in box 16]

City council meetings, undated [oversize: in box 16]

People

Boyington, Gregory "Pappy," 1983

Bradley, Tom, undated

Carter, Jimmy, undated

Carter, Rosalynn Smith, undated

Mondale, Walter, undated [oversize: in box 16]

Travel

Kochi, Japan, undated

Taiwan, undated

United States Conference of Mayors, 1984 and undated

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Artifacts

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Box 16

Oversize:

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Box no. Description

Box 16 (cont.)

Oversize:

Photographs

Dan Whitehurst

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Portraits, 1976 and undated

City Council meetings, undated

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Mondale, Walter, undated