

DeKalb History Center

Ben S. Forkner Collection

Scope and Content: This collection contains materials related to Ben S. Forkner, prominent Avondale real estate developer, DeKalb County Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce board member, and father of Waffle House founder Tom Forkner. Of particular note is an extensive collection of 1920s-era 8 X 10 photographs depicting architecture, interiors, and events of the City of Avondale Estates and the former City of Ingleside. The collection contains two scrapbooks, primarily relating to Avondale Estates (Judge Candler's Mileybright dairy farm), news and garden clippings, and an 1878 Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms.

Provenance: Gift of Terry Martin-Hart, 2008. (Accession #2008.60)

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item, Forkner Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives

Processed by Ben Zdencanovic, Archivist, 2008; Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2011.

Size: 1 manuscript box and one record center box.

Biographical Sketch of Ben Sands Forkner: Forkner was born in Tennessee and in 1905 he married Bessie Allison of North Carolina. They moved to Georgia in 1912 and he went into the dairy business. He was, in 1924, superintendent and manager of Avondale Estates and also formed a realty company, which employed most of his children and sold Avondale Estates properties. He was also superintendent of the Avondale school district for 16 years. He is listed as an inductee to the Oglethorpe University Sports Hall of Fame; he played football there and was a member of the kappa Alpha fraternity.

Description: The Ben Forkner Collection is primarily photographs of Avondale Estates and its houses, as they were being built in the 1920s. There are scrapbooks and newspaper clippings as well. The Ingleside photographs that preceded Avondale Estates show cows and empty fields. There are home interior shots and a large scale site plan. There are also some letterhead examples from Ben Forkner when he was an attorney and G.F. Willis, the President of Avondale Estates, Inc.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main Entry: Forkner, Ben S. (xxxx-1948)

Subject/Added Entries: Forkner, Tom
 Willis, G.F.
 Avondale Estates (Ga.)
 Waffle House
 Oglethorpe University (Atlanta, Ga.)
 A&P Tea Company

Folder List

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	1	Architectural model of Avondale Estates, photo	
	2	A&P opening, newspaper clipping	1926
	3	Avondale Estates citizens	
	4	Avondale Estates miscellaneous	
	5	Avondale Plaza individual homes	
	6	Avondale Plaza shots, A&P, picnic area, Playground, M. Reinhardt and pony	
	7	Berkeley Road homes	
	8	Forkner burial information	
	9	Clarendon Avenue homes	
	10	Covington Road homes	
	11	Dartmouth Avenue homes	
	12	Fairfield Plaza	
	13	General plan for Avondale Estates	
	14	Home interior shots	
	15	Ingleside	
	16	Kensington Road homes	
	17	Kingstone Road homes	
	18	Lakeshore Drive homes	
	19	Miscellaneous Family, Waffle House photographs, <i>The Waffle House Story</i>	
	20	Miscellaneous Photographs, mostly houses	
	21	Photograph photocopies, Ben and farmhouse	
	22	South Avondale homes	
	23	unidentified Avondale Photographs	
	24	Willis and Forkner letterhead	
2		Scrapbook with newspaper clippings, photographs, name tags Loose newspaper articles 2 oversized photos of Lakeside homes	

Large Ben Forkner photograph with envelope
Hill's Manual of Social and Business Forms, 1880, very fragile
1914 yearbook used as a scrapbook, very fragile