

DeKalb History Center

Paul Estes

Scope and content: The Paul Estes Collection includes newspaper clippings from his time as DeKalb County coroner, in the 1940s, and some photographs of his involvement in the Decatur Pool and the American Legion Harold Byrd Post 66. There is a Decatur Boys' High School yearbook from 1946 that is dedicated to Estes included in the collection.

Provenance: Gift of Ginny Bailey, ACC # 2013.1.

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Reproductions of photographs and 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; Paul Estes Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2013.

Size: 12 folders

Biographical sketch of Paul Estes (1898-1945): William Paul Estes was born August 15, 1898 in Rex, Clayton County, Georgia to James H. and Emma Askew Estes. His mother passed away in 1907 when Paul was 9. Afterwards his father remarried and the family relocated to Atlanta. Estes was drafted in 1917 for service in World War I and entered the Army at age 19. Nine months later he lost both legs to a train accident in Atlanta, which caused health issues for the remainder of his life. He spent many months in the Veteran's Hospital at Fort McPherson and at one point was treated with cobra venom for nerve pain. Estes entered Emory Law School in 1921 in hopes of establishing a law career, but withdrew due to health issues a few months later. In 1925, Estes married Martha Gaar (also spelled Garr) and they moved to 202 Fifth Street in Decatur across from Fifth Avenue School. In 1938 he was elected to the office of the county coroner and he served until his death in September 1945. He was a member of the Harold Byrd American legion post 66 in Decatur. He also worked as a part-time manager of the city of Decatur pool.

Description: The collection consists primarily of newspaper clippings of inquests conducted by Estes. There is a scrapbook from 1944 of his cases, an account book for his time working at the Decatur Pool, and a group of clippings on his work on the Atlanta banker Henry C. Heinz murder 1943-1945. There is also the yearbook of Decatur High School, the Caveat Emptor from 1946, which has a dedication page to Estes. There is also correspondence relating to the family trying to get compensation from the Army proving that the loss of his legs caused circulation problems that eventually lead to his heart attack in 1946. There is an interesting letter a citizen sent trying to get Estes to stop selling liquor at the Decatur Cemetery.

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

Main entries: Estes, W. Paul

Subject/Added entries: DeKalb County (Ga.)
 Decatur (Ga.)
 Harold Byrd Post 66, American Legion
 Heinz, Henry C.
 Blalock, Horace
 Ansley, Dr. Robert B.
 Alexander, Hooper
 Davis, Rep. James O.

Folder List

Folder	Contents	Date
1	Caveat Emptor	1946
2	Bolling inquest transcript	1942-1945
3	Correspondence	1942-1963
4	Decatur Heights Baptist church	
5	Henry C. Heinz trial clippings	1943-1945
6	loose in scrapbook	
7	Newspaper clippings, access	
8	Newspaper clippings, original	
9	Photographs, account book	
10	Ration books	
11	Rich's suit	1939
12	Scrapbook of inquests	1944