

Collection: MILBURN, T[HOMAS] YANCEY, Papers
Durham, N. C.

P.C. 1540.1-1540.2

1936-1974

Physical Description: 220 items; correspondence, brochures, newspaper clippings, photographs, lists, scrapbook.

Acquisition: Donated January 22, 1974, by T[homas] Yancey Milburn, [redacted], Durham, 27707.

Description: T. Yancey Milburn, born 1891 in Staunton, Kentucky, is the son of the late Frank P. Milburn [See "Frank Pierce Milburn, 1868-1926, a Major Southern Architect," by Lawrence Wodehouse in the North Carolina Historical Review, Summer, 1973]. The younger Milburn attended Phillips Andover Academy, studied engineering at the University of North Carolina and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, and served with the army engineers during World War I. On the death of his father he became president of Milburn, Heister and Company in Washington, D. C., an architectural firm responsible for several buildings in Durham. In 1935 Milburn branched out as a consulting engineer and became vice-president for a variety of large corporations until 1950, when he retired to Durham.

In 1955 Yancey Milburn began a new career as executive director of the Durham Committee of 100 which was formed to spearhead ambitious plans for increased industrial development of that city. In 1957 he was appointed a civilian advisor to the N. C. Military District to provide guidance and suggestions for the improvement of civilian-military relations. After fifteen years of post-retirement public service, Yancey Milburn retired in 1970. [See folder of biographical information for further details.]

The papers contain almost no reference to Mr. Milburn's pre-1950 careers. The correspondence is evenly divided between two topics: Committee of 100 and the Army Advisory Program. Letters of the former

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were frankly labeled "puff" in Mr. Milburn's files and consist of tributes to his administrative ability and to the "aggressive thinking of a 20 year old youngster with 50 years experience." There is an illuminating account of a weekend in the fall of 1958 when 325 high-echelon business executives of railroads, airlines, banks, tobacco companies, etc., gathered in Durham at the invitation of the Committee of 100. Apparently, this example of the "soft sell" of a city was unique in the experience of these pleased executives. That his endeavors also touched development of the Research Triangle is illustrated in a 1958 letter from banker George Watts Hill, "For several years you so high-pressured numerous key people that eventually Governor Hodges assumed statewide leadership and organized the Governor's Research Triangle Committee." Letters indicate that Milburn was responsible for a large portion of the Triangle Park being in Durham County instead of in an earlier chosen site. A scrapbook contains clippings and photographs relative to Milburn's achievements, 1958-1973. [Note: Working papers of the Committee, according to Milburn are in the office of the Chamber of Commerce in Durham.]

Correspondence with the army concerns arrangements for the dedication and naming of an army reserve building in Durham; for a 1960 seminar at Fort Benning, Georgia, on American cold war strategy; and for showing of an army film to an invited group of ca. 150 Durham couples. A few letters from army generals, 1960-1969, refer to dangers of international communism; acquisition of modern weapons; shortage of medical officers. [1969] letters propose and cancel plans for speeches by Vietnam veterans on tour because of civil unrest in Durham. Also included are 1957 and 1968 handbooks for army advisors.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Durham Rotary Club in 1965 is memorialized by a brochure, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

Arrangement of Papers:

P.C. 1540.1 Correspondence, etc., 1936-1974
1540.2 Scrapbook, 1958-1973

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card
Date Cards
1958-1959
1960-1969

1936-1974

Finding Aids (Cont'd):

Geographic Cards

Durham County

Autograph Cards

Adams, Paul D. [Lt. General]

Hill, George Watts

Ives, H. D. [Maj. General]

Throckmorton, J. L. [Lt. General]

York, Robert H. [Lt. General]

Subject Cards

CIVIL DISORDER

CORPORATIONS

DURHAM

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

RETIREMENT CAREER

WAR--Vietnam

U. S. ARMY/NAVY

Finding Aid completed 30 January 1974, by Ellen Z. McGrew.