



BHC-MSS 0053
Guide to the Films of Ira F. Warner and Family
By Meg Rinn, August 2019

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Warner, Ira F.; other Warners

Title: Films of Ira F. Warner and Family

Dates: 1923-1950

Quantity: 34 rolls of 16 mm film

Abstract: As the son of Ira DeVer Warner, one of the key players in the Warner Corset Company, Ira Follett Warner was granted no small amount of wealth and privilege in his lifetime. These family films, some of them from as early as the 1920s when owning a home film camera was unusual, show Ira's branch of the Warner family on various vacations around the world.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History

Ira Follett Warner (about 1901-1973) was the son of Eva Follett (1871-1941) and Ira DeVer Warner (1840-1913), one of the two Warner siblings who founded the Warner Brothers Corset Company in 1873. The history of the Warners as it relates to their corset and later general undergarment company can be viewed as a part of the Records of the Warner Brothers Company (BHC-MSS 0021), also owned by the Bridgeport History Center. Ira's father died when Ira was young, and DeVere H. Warner acted as the trustee both for Ira's trust and his sister Eva's trust as well. Those records are also in MSS 0021.

Ira attended Yale, and while he served as a director at his family's company from 1933-1972, including being the company's first honorary director, the family business was not all he did. He worked as an insurance broker.

Ira had 1 child with his first wife Ada, named Eva Louise (1930-2015.) Following Ada's passing, Warner married his second wife, Hazel (1903-1990.)

When Warner died in 1973, he had three grandchildren, and died some time before his second wife.

Scope and Content note:

Originally, the Bridgeport History Center was not able to review the contents of the films themselves, due to a lack of equipment to play 16 mm film. But in 2023-2024, the films were converted to an accessible digital by an a/v laboratory thanks to a generous donation by descendants of the Warner Family

Based on the labels of all 16 films and the original description from the dealer, these are home movies of vacations - including Europe, Africa, and the Hawaiian islands - as well as stay at home vacations. The name "Restmore", which appears on several of the film canisters, refers to the family's home Restmore in Southport, Connecticut, built between 1910-1912 by Ira DeVer.

Restmore was originally meant to be the elder Ira's summer home, but upon his death in 1913 his wife Eva and the young Ira Follett lived in it year round.

As a man of considerable wealth, as Warner was, it is not surprising that he could afford early film cameras for making home movies.

UPDATE: as of Summer of 2024, most of these films have been converted to a digital format, the originals rehoused, and they will eventually be made available on the BHC website and CTDA. The conversion was made possible through a generous donation by the descendants of the Warner family.

Arrangement Note:

It is unclear if the previous archivist arranged these films or if their numbering was done by Ira F. Warner. As such, their present order has been maintained.

Bibliography

Normen, Elizabeth. "Bringing Back 'Restmore,' Home of Dr. Ira DeVer Warner" Connecticut Explored (spring 2018.) <https://www.ctexplored.org/bringing-back-restmore-home-of-dr-ira-dever-warner/>

Records of Warner Brothers Company, (BHC-MSS 0021), Bridgeport History Center.

Administrative information:

Provenance:

Purchased from a dealer in 1985. It is unclear how the dealer acquired these family films. Accession #1985.03

Preferred Citation:

Films of Ira F. Warner and Family (BHC-MSS 0053) Bridgeport History Center.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Warner, Ira Follett

Corporate names

Warner Brother's Company

Subject tracings

Amateur films

Detailed box and folder listing

Box1

1. January 1923. Gloria, Henry, McGuire, Mr. Bishop, etc. April 27, 1923; Ada, Ira, Deitz and Dusenburg. January 1923; Mother, Ada, Mr. Smoth, etc. Elmside, August 1923; Mother, Ada, Mr. Smith, etc. Restmore. Seeley.
2. 1925 House Party at Restmore; 1926 Golf at Fairfield. Trip to Canada; 1924 Max Marston John Anderson with a friend by Sasha and Warner; 1925 Charleston by Mrs. Warner, Ada, ?
3. Beach, summer, 1923

4. Rockerfeller at ?, Florida, 1924

Box 2

1. Wallstein, 1927
2. The Fairways, summer 1937 fall, color
3. Horseshow, 1940, 1944-1946; Thanksgiving Hunt 1943 and 1953
4. Eve and Ronay Wedding, May 6, 1950

Box 3

1. Eve and Ronay Wedding, May 6, 1950 [observe: Wedding, color, Fairfield]
2. Italy: Lido and Biarritz, 1930
3. Poland, Europe
4. India, Europe, Holland

Box 4

1. Evie: April 1932, March 1933
2. Russia 1930 Europe
3. Bermuda, Panama Canal
4. Africa

Box 5

1. India, East Travels
2. Egypt #10 IFW
3. Travels, India #9, IFW
4. Japan #3 Mrs. Calvin

Box 6

1. Hong Kong, Philippines, Moro Isle, Carinthia
2. Australia, Java, Ceylon #6 IFW
3. Ceylon, India #7, IFW
4. World travel #2

Box 7

1. Africa Travels #3
2. Africa #1
3. World trip, Carinthia, 1925-1926
4. Honolulu in color

Box 8

1. Honolulu, black and white #1
2. Honolulu #2, cut out scenes, 1949
3. Honolulu, black and white #2, Hawaii color
4. Hawaii IFW #2

Box 9

1. Hawaii-Maui, 1949
2. #5 IFW

