

Finding Aid to the J. Edward Tufft Papers

J. Edward Tufft

J. Edward Tufft Papers, 1915-1939

.2 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 3043

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OVERVIEW

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BIOGRAPHY

James Edward Tufft was born September 22, 1886 on a farm in the St. Thomas, ND area that was homesteaded by his parents, George W. and Letitia (Grow) Tufft. He graduated from high school at St. Thomas in 1906. He taught a country school a year before he entered Highland Park College at Des Moines, Iowa in 1907. After graduation he and others were editors and publishers of the *Dayton Review* in Iowa from 1909 to 1911. On Nov. 27, 1913 he married Ruby Lucille Scott at Webster County, Iowa. She was born Oct. 18, 1888 at Dayton, Iowa to Lincoln H. & Elizabeth (Watson) Scott. In 1918-1919 he

was city editor of the Dickinson, N.D. *Recorder-Post* and state editor for the *Grand Forks Herald* for 1918-1928. He moved to California in 1928 and for several years was a special correspondent for a number of business journals. In 1942 he joined Occidental Publishing Company at Los Angeles as editor of *Optometric World* which he held until retirement in 1956. For a number of years he was president of the North Dakota Association of Southern California. There he organized and presided over the annual North Dakota picnics in Los Angeles. For many years prior to his death he contributed articles for *The Walsh County Record*, writing under the heading "The Gay Nineties." The book *The Cheerful Plowman: Prose Poems on Life in the Country in Other Days Reflections on Old-Time Farm Life* by J. Edward Tufft was published of many of his writings. J. Edward Tufft died January 11, 1960 in California and Ruby on June 15, 1973 in Los Angeles.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The J. Edward Tufft Papers have been organized into three series: Articles, Published Articles and General Files.

The **Article Series** consists of numerous typed articles written by J. Edward Tufft that he wrote and submitted for various publications. They are not article copies taken directly from the publications. They are organized alphabetically by article title. Most also have the date of publication spanning from 1915 to 1939 and a label that likely indicated the name of the column in which they were published. Among the labels are: Am. Thresh, Around the Neighborhood, B.B.J., B.J., B. Jones, C.P., Cheerful Plowman, Ill. Farmer, Farm Life, Flicker Tales, For Successful Farming, Illinois Farmer, Mer Trade Jour., Milk the Milkman, Rhyming Farmer, Tickle Grass and Foxtail. Some of the articles are also included in the publication *The Cheerful Plowman*. One article 'The Swede Barber' (5 pages) does not have his name on it so not sure if written by Tufft.

The **Published Articles Series** includes published copies of four articles by Tufft. The "The Float" article does not have his name so not sure if written by Tufft. Not all have copies in the Article Series.

The **General Files Series** consists of a single letter Tufft wrote Feb. 6, 1934 to Mrs. John T. Bartlett of Boulder, Colorado. The Listing file likely includes various businesses and possible articles from 1938 and 1942 used by Tufft as reference items. Another item from 1942 is regarding 'Day Zone Warden' related to calling in an emergency in California. Its heading has 'ARW VOLUNTEER August 17, 1942'.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
1/1	Finding aid
1/2	Biographical material

Articles Series

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'A' Articles:

- "The Absentee Landlords", Nov. 4, 1924
- "An A. C. Course", June 23, 1923
- "Advertising Suggestions" [no date]
- "Advice on Leasing", Dec. 18, 1924
- "Afraid to Try the Ladder", Aug. 28, 1928
- "Again I Have Delayed", Oct. 28, 1938
- "Airing His Troubles", Nov. 12, 1922
- "Alarming News", Dec. 7, 1928
- "The Amateur Inventor", [no date]
- "An American Anthem", Feb. 20, 1921
- "Analyzing the Farmer's Job", March 7, 1922
- "Ancestor Worship", Feb. 6, 1924
- "The Arrogant Clerk", Dec. 17, 1923
- "Asking the Way", March 4, 1924
- "Aunts", [no date]

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'B' Articles:

- "Back-Seat Driving", Jan. 31, 1938
- "Backward, Turn Backward", Aug. 30, 1917
- "A Balanced Ration", Feb. 28, 1924
- "Balanced Rations", April 15, 1924
- "Barking at the Moon", April 9, 1929
- "The Barn Dance", [no date]
- "Bathing, Sans Plumbing", [no date]
- "Beating Kline to It", [no date]
- "Beauty Added to Work", Oct. 28, 1938
- "Being the Goat", Sept. 1, 1922
- "A Benefit, Not a Nuisance", Dec. 19, 1937
- "Better Doctors", April 9, 1929
- "The Birthday Party", June 7, 1922
- "Blessing on Thee, Graduates!", May 22, 1915
- "The Blues!", Oct. 6, 1922
- "The Boaster", June 24, 1924
- "Boosting for the Mid-Winter Fair", Jan. 11, 1924
- "The Boss", Aug. 8, 1928
- "The Boxing Match", Sept. 28, 1927
- "Browsin' Roun", Dec. 18, 1922
- "Browsing 'Round", Oct. 22, 1919
- "The Budget System", Sept. 21, 1924
- "Building Up Pete", Jan. 30, 1922
- "The Bulldog and the String!", March 8, 1929

“Business Always”, March 19, 1923
“Business Men”, Dec. 21, 1923
“The Busy Bee”, [no date]
“The Busy Fly”, May 25, 1915
“Buying at Home”, Jan. 30, 1929

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‘C’ Articles:

“Calling the Land Shark!”, March 14, 1929
“Can’t Can Too Much”, Oct. 21, 1924
“Cats!” [no date]
“The Cellar Reserve”, Nov. 10, 1924
“The Cellar’s Full!”, Oct. 29, 1923
“Chain Farming”, Dec. 28, 1928
“Changing Men”, Jan. 15, 1924
“A Cheering Aunt”, April 9, 1929
“Christmas Accidents”, Jan. 2, 1929
“The Clerk Untaught”, Feb. 22, 1924
“Climbing the Tree”, Dec. 8, 1928
“Clubs for Kids”, Sept. 15, 1921
“Color Harmony and Other Ideas in New Radio Center Restaurant”, July 26, 1938
“A Compliment from a Child”, April 8, 1929
“Complete Outfit”, March 22, 1929
“Concerning Living Costs”, Dec. 8, 1928
“Copy Cats!”, April 17, 1937
“Correlative Events”, Nov. 19, 1915
“The County Fair”, July 11, 1920
“Courting Tragedy”, Dec. 29, 1928
“Curing the Kicks”, Feb. 23, 1924
“Cutting Down On It”, Dec. 9, 1928

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‘D’ Articles:

“Dads Are Improving”, Sept. 30, 1929
“The Dangling Reins”, [no date]
“The Defender of Fruit”, Sept. 4, 1924
“Depends on Who Says It.”, Dec. 29, 1928
“Destroying Our Legends”, Dec. 31, 1928
“Didn’t Own Me”, Jan. 29, 1929
“Diet and Exercise”, March 1, 1929
“The Difference”, Jan. 30, 1929
“The Difference” [no date]
“The Discouraging Teacher”, Dec. 21, 1928
“Don’t Give Up the Ship”, [no date]
“Dreaming in the Mow”, Aug. 15, 1926
“Dressed Up, But No Place to Go”, Jan. 31, 1929

“A Drop in Temperature”, June 10, 1916

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‘E’ Articles:

“The Early Day Horse Doctor”, Dec. 19, 1924

“Enhanced by Him”, [no date]

“Enlarging Christmas”, Nov. 10, 1924

“The Evolution of a Home”, Sept. 15, 1931

“Extreme Carelessness”, Dec. 22, 1928

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‘F’ Articles:

“The Family Album”, June 13, 1924

“Farmers and First Aid”, Aug. 1, 1924

“A Farmer’s Job”, Oct. 2, 1923

“A Farmer’s Public and Private Duty”, Aug. 30, 1923

“Father and His Taxes”, Aug. 18, 1926

“Feeding the Calf”, June 20, 1922

“The Fence Row”, Dec. 29, 1928

“Finding the Click”, Dec. 10, 1928

“A Fine Winter”, Jan. 7, 1921

“Fire Insurance”, Feb. 15, 1922

“Following a Fancy”, Dec. 28, 1923

“Fool Stunt Flying”, Dec. 31, 1928

“Forgetting Friends”, Aug. 9, 1928

“Former Estimates”, March 2, 1929

“The Free Pig”, Nov. 15, 1923

“Fresh Air for Animals”, Jan. 2, 1929

“The Fussy Baby”, [no date]

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‘G’ Articles:

“Gems of the Caverns”, May 23, 1915

“Getting Ready”, March 22, 1929

“Give and Take”, Dec. 19, 1937

“Gives Up Too Many”, March 5, 1929

“The Glories of Autumn”, Oct. 3, 1921SS

“Going, Going, Gone,-Why?”, Nov. 11, 1921

“Going in for Permanence”, Nov. 25, 1924

“Good Buildings”, Nov. 13, 1923

“Good-Bye Dobbin”, June 22, 1938

“Good Enough for the Old Folks?”, Dec. 10, 1928

“Good Spirits and Salesmanship”, Jan. 14, 1929

“Goose Like Some People”, April 9, 1929

“The Government Bulletin”, Jan. 14, 1929

“The Greenies”, Nov. 24, 1915

“The Grim Mistake”, Jan. 15, 1925

“Guarding One’s Health”, Oct. 5, 1927

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‘H’ Articles:

“Half Way Along in Life”, [no date]
“The Haughty Merchant”, Jan. 15, 1923
“He Borrowed a Dollar”, Sept. 21, 1928
“He Called it a Sale”, Jan. 29, 1929
“He Carried His Point”, Nov. 18, 1916
“He Couldn’t Stand it”, Jan. 30, 1929
“He Should Help Out”, Jan. 16, 1925
“He Wanted a Salary”, April 8, 1929
“He Wouldn’t Help”, March 14, 1929
“Head off Depreciation”, Sept. 21, 1924
“Heaping Coals of Fire”, Aug. 4, 1922
“Helped by Torture”, Dec. 16, 1924
“Helping About the House”, Oct. 30, 1923
“Helps Competitors When They Are Blue”, May 15, 1937
“The ‘High Pressure’ Salesman”, Aug. 20, 1924
“Hired Girl Fired”, [no date]
“His First Puppy Love”, Dec. 17, 1916
“Home Sweet Home”, Dec. 18, 1924
“The Horse”, Feb. 19, 1924
“Hose Orders for Spring”, Dec. 11, 1925
“Housing Machinery”, Nov. 20, 1924
“Howdy, Folks!”, Dec. 6, 1924

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‘I’ Articles:

“I Always Gain Something, Anyway!”, May 15, 1937
“I Learn From Customers”, Dec. 8, 1938
“I Ought to be Ashamed”, March 8, 1929
“I Still Have Hope”, Dec. 31, 1932
“I Wanted to Link the Teacher”, [no date]
“I Won’t Play!”, [no date]
“I’d Like to Link the Teacher”, [no date]
“I’ll Not Shirk the Blame”, Dec. 8, 1938
“I’ll Take the Chance!”, Oct. 28, 1938
“I’m No Boss”, Oct. 23, 1928
“Important Moment”, Nov. 19, 1928
“In Sacred Surroundings”, Dec. 31, 1928 & Jan. 30, 1929
“Ink vs. Think”, Aug. 27, 1937
“Inter-Departmental Sports”, May 14, 1937
“Inviting Nightmare”, Jan. 29, 1928
“It Might Be Worse!”, May 3, 1938
“It’s a Kink, Not a Law”, Aug. 28, 1937

"It's Mostly in the Mind", Dec. 8, 1928

"It's Too Bad --- But!", April 8, 1929

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'J' Articles:

"J.B.", Dec. 31, 1928

"Just a Letter", Jan. 29, 1929

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'K' Articles:

"The Kangaroo and the Giraffe", [no date]

"Keep Cool", July 20, 1924

"The Kids and the Pony", March 4, 1924

"Kind to Anybody and Everybody", March 5, 1929

"Kind to the Mail Carrier", Dec. 29, 1928

"Kindness Pays", Jan. 28, 1929

"Kindness to Animals", Dec. 21, 1923

"Knowing His Onions", Dec. 21, 1928

"Knowing One's Own Mind", April 10, 1927

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'L' Articles

"L' Allergro and Il Penserosa", Jan. 26, 1915

"The Last Fly of Summer", Sept. 19, 1921

"Learn to Labor and to Wait", Nov. 14, 1921

"Lessons from the Farm", Sept. 23, 1919

"Lessons from the New Job!", [no date]

"Let's Look Ahead, Not Backward!", Feb. 6, 1934

"A Letter from a Friend", Jan. 30, 1929

"Life Insurance", Sept. 19, 1922

"Life Insurance", Jan. 21, 1924

"The Little Red Hen", Aug. 23, 1922

"Living By the Way", Sept. 18, 1922

"The Log House Still Stands", April 9, 1929

"Looking Away Off Some Place Else!", Jan. 30, 1929

"Lots of Curry-Comb", Dec. 3, 1923

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'M' Articles:

"Make Up is Make Up", Dec. 8, 1928

"Make Your Twenty Rounds", March 22, 1929

"Making and Unmaking", [no date]

"Making Good with Reluctance", Jan. 14, 1925

"Making Money Grow and Work", Jan. 25, 1924

"The Man of Temperament", Sept. 1, 1924

"The Man Who Won't Lend", Sept. 4, 1924

"The Melancholy Days", May 10, 1922

"The Middle Man", Dec. 9, 1916

"Mike's Goes Fishing", June 22, 1938
 "Miranda Stepping Out", Oct. 24, 1922
 "Miranda's Coming Christmas", Dec. 2, 1920
 "Missing the Glories", March 1, 1928
 "A Mistaken Idea", Dec. 7, 1928
 "Mixing 'Em", Aug. 19, 1924
 "The Month of April", Feb. 6, 1924
 "More Organizations", Dec. 29, 1928
 "More Than Half Gone", April 24, 1923
 "Mortgages and Meals", Nov. 20, 1922
 "Moving Back", Oct. 10, 1922
 "Murder Will Out", Sept. 23, 1919
 "Mrs. O'Grady's Gratitude", Dec. 29, 1928 & Jan. 30, 1929
 "My Diary", Aug. 29, 1928
 "My Diary", Oct. 23, 1928
 "My Friend, the Dog", Dec. 28, 1923
 "My Own Lumber", Sept. 30, 1929
 "My Place in the Sun", Nov. 20, 1921
 "My Savings Account", Dec. 8, 1938
 "My Silo", Aug. 29, 1924

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'N' Articles:

"Naming the Farm", Dec. 31, 1928
 "A Near Martyr", June 22, 1916
 "Need of Human Element", Jan. 14, 1925
 "Never Talks Back", May 14, 1937
 "The New Kid and the Old", Dec. 12, 1921
 "New Sign-Boards", June 22, 1938
 "A New Sweeper", March 5, 1929
 "The New Uniform", Nov. 19, 1928
 "A New Year's Resolution", Nov. 21, 1923
 "New Year's Resolutions", Dec. 9, 1929
 "Nice Things for the House", Nov. 15, 1923
 "No Big Stick", Oct. 22, 1928
 "No Business Ability", Jan. 29, 1929
 "No Car Insurance", March 2, 1929
 "No Clock Watchers", Dec. 8, 1938
 "No Fear of Slamming Door", Dec. 8, 1938
 "No 'Likker' at Country Dances", April 9, 1929
 "No Old Days for Me!", March 5, 1929
 "No Padlock", Jan. 11, 1925
 "No Picture!", March 22, 1929
 "No Small Talk", Jan. 31, 1938
 "None Too Much, at That!", Sept. 16, 1924

“Noon on the Farm”, [no date]
“Not As the Fathers Intended”, Dec. 31, 1928
“Not Only in Spring”, Jan. 29, 1929
“Not Satisfied”, Dec. 8, 1928
“Not Spreading It”, Jan. 2, 1928
“Not Spreading It”, Jan. 2, 1929

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‘O’ Articles:

“Off the Trail”, Jan. 8, 1929
“Oh, the Little Busy Fly”, [no date]
“The Old Barn Cat”, [no date]
“The Old Farm Dog”, July 21, 1922
“The Old Fashioned Doctor”, May 13, 1923
“The Old Feather Tick”, Dec. 8, 1928
“The Old Horse”, April 9, 1929
“Old Mag”, April 29, 1922
“The Old Maid and the Kid”, Aug. 25, 1924
“The Old Quadrille”, Nov. 21, 1923
“The Old School Reader”, July 9, 1915
“The Old Straw Stack”, Nov. 26, 1917
“On Good Roads”, May 23, 1923
“One Bill, Only”, Nov. 5, 1922
“One’s Own Labor”, Oct. 26, 1938
“Opposed to Child Labor”, March 14, 1929
“Orderly Sleeping”, July 3, 1939
“Our Day in the Woods”, [no date]
“Our Public Contact Man”, Dec. 8, 1938

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‘P’ Articles:

“Parking Enters Into It”, Dec. 10, 1928
“Parking Troubles”, [no date]
“The Passing of the Roller Towel!”, Jan. 15, 1925
“The Passing of the Sad-Iron”, Jan. 15, 1925
“Pete Develops Further”, Feb. 6, 1922
“The Pig”, [no date]
“The Pilgrim Father”, [no date]
“Plant Some Trees”, March 14, 1929
“Pleasant Help in Time of Need”, Aug. 27, 1937
“The Pollyanic”, Dec. 31, 1928
“Practice What You Preach”, [No date]
“Premature Cleaning Up”, March 31, 1922
“A Prophet at Home, and Away”, Jan. 30, 1929
“The Pull of the Window”, May 5, 1924
“A Punk Present”, Jan. 29, 1929

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'Q' Articles:

"Quality Stuff Counts", Nov. 25, 1924
 "Quit Fussing", Aug. 1, 1924

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'R' Articles:

"Ready for the Throne", [no date]
 "A Real Bathtub", March 2, 1929
 "Real Christmases!", Nov. 20, 1924
 "Realizing on Discounts", Dec. 11, 1925
 "The Record and the Horn", Dec. 9, 1916
 "A Relapse", [no date]
 "The R.F.D. Man", Dec. 16, 1924
 "The Rhyming Farmer", Aug. 15, 1927
 "The Right of It", Jan. 29, 1929
 "The Road Between", [no date]
 "Running Water", Nov. 15, 1923
 "The Rural Veterinary", Dec. 7, 1928
 "Rushing the Season", Dec. 7, 1928

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'S' Articles:

"Sane Threshing", Aug. 3, 1922
 "Sanely Progressive", Dec. 5, 1922
 "Savings Accounts", Jan. 21, 1934
 "Seeing Me Once Only", Dec. 10, 1928
 "Seeking the Cows", March 2, 1928
 "Seeking the Poles", Dec. 28, 1928
 "Sending Away", April 20, 1923
 "Settling the Hired Girl Problem", Oct. 20, 1921
 "She Wouldn't Grow Old!", Jan. 30, 1929
 "She's Already Hired!", March 16, 1924
 "Shooing Away the Wise Ones", Jan. 1, 1923
 "Silly Testimonials", Dec. 31, 1928
 "Smiles, if They're Really Smiles", Jan. 29, 1929
 "Soap Box Oratory", Oct. 13, 1919
 "The Social Game", Dec. 28, 1923
 "The Social Whirl", Nov. 20, 1924
 "Soothing 'Averages'", Jan. 9, 1924
 "Soothing the Kids", Aug. 18, 1922
 "Speed Friends", Aug. 1, 1924
 "Spoiling the Meeting", March 1, 1929
 "The Spring Joy Craze!", April 16, 1920
 "Stiffling a Soul", Sept. 3, 1924
 "Still Beefing", Dec. 10, 1928

“Still Human”, Sept. 12, 1934
 “Stingy!”, Sept. 16, 1924
 “Stopping His Papers”, Dec. 7, 1928
 “Stopping the Policies”, March 21, 1922
 “Stopping the Policies”, Jan. 15, 1925
 “Summer Resort Just Outside”, Aug. 27, 1937
 “The Swede Barber”, [no date]
 “Sweetening the Job”, June 4, 1923
 “Swing Me Higher”, March 2, 1929
 “The Swivel Chair Farmer”, Jan. 9, 1922

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‘T’ Articles:

“Take the Air!”, Dec. 19, 1924
 “A Taste in the Mouth”, Dec. 31, 1928
 “The Teacher Will Not Be Fired”, March 14, 1929
 “Teaching Tree Growing”, April 9, 1929
 “Telling Tales Out of School”, Sept. 13, 1928
 “Telling Tales Out of School”, Oct. 23, 1928
 “A Test of Friendship”, Aug. 9, 1928
 “They Still Hate It”, Nov. 17, 1928
 “The Thirty-One Year Old Binder”, [undated]
 “Three Paces Behind”, Dec. 15, 1921
 “Thrift Still is Correct”, May 3, 1938
 “Time to Sleep; No Time for Church!”, March 14, 1929
 “To Town Saturday Night”, Dec. 7, 1928
 “Tomorrow!”, March 1, 1929
 “Too Hot, Too Cold”, Dec. 7, 1928
 “Too Many Automobiles”, Dec. 29, 1928
 “Too Much Married”, Dec. 31, 1928
 “Too Much Visiting in the Field”, July 3, 1939
 “Trading Horses”, Dec. 4, 1922
 “A Trained Memory”, March 5, 1929
 “Treatment of Strangers”, Nov. 14, 1923
 “The Tree “Claim”, March 14, 1929
 “A Twenty Year Narrative of an Old Neighbor”, Jan. 28, 1925
 “Twinkle, Twinkle, Movie Star!”, Jan. 30, 1929
 “Two Greenies”, [no date]
 “The Two Hired Men”, April 9, 1929

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‘U’ Articles:

“Undeserved Criticism”, Jan. 2, 1928
 “The Ungrateful Goose”, May 10, 1924
 “An Unkind Act”, Jan. 29, 1929
 “Unseasonable!”, April 19, 1937

“A Useful Life”, March 2, 1929
“Using Care”, Jan. 29, 1929
“Using Kerosene”, Dec. 8, 1928
“Using the Dictionary”, Dec. 8, 1928
“Using the Library”, June 22, 1938

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‘V’ Articles:

“The Virtue of Shaving”, Dec. 7, 1928
“Visiting”, March 14, 1922
“Visiting School”, Dec. 4, 1922
“Visitors from the East”, Nov. 29, 1923
“Visits from Relatives”, Dec. 4, 1922

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‘W’ Articles:

“Watch That Cat!”, May 15, 1937
“The Way to Reduce”, Sept. 17, 1924
“We Can Argue Peacefully”, Aug. 27, 1937
“Weather Not All Important!”, Jan. 30, 1929
“The Weed Problem”, April 10, 1922
“When Father Was a Kid”, Aug. 18, 1926
“When Father Was a Kid”, [no date]
“When Ideals are Swatted”, Oct. 30, 1922
“When June Comes”, April 25, 1924
“When the Threshing Rig Game”, Jan. 30, 1929
“Where Figures Lie”, Dec. 18, 1922
“Which Pays Best?”, Dec. 1, 1923
“Whiskers”, [no date]
“Why Ben’s a Tramp”, Jan. 31, 1929
“Why Boys Leave the Farm”, [no date]
“Why Does It Matter?”, April 19, 1937
“Why Grow Big?”, Dec. 31, 1928
“Why Grow Old”, Dec. 29, 1928
“Why I Didn’t Hire Him”, March 22, 1929
“Why the Anti-Milkers?”, Dec. 3, 1923
“Wider Horizons”, Nov. 17, 1928
“Winter Pastime, A Social Game”, Jan. 11, 1924
“The Winter Solstice”, [no date]
“Winter Work”, Oct. 17, 1921
“Women and Threshing Time”, March 21, 1923
“Won’t Play”, Aug. 9, 1922
“Work and Diet Needed!”, Oct. 6, 1927
“Wrong-Angle Praise”, May 23, 1923
“Wrong Spirit in Spanking”, Dec. 10, 1928

1/26 **'Y' Articles:**
 "A Year of Optimism", June 2, 1915
 "You Must Come Back", Jan. 2, 1929
 "Youth Not Afraid", July 3, 1939

1/27 **Published Articles Series**

 "Baths Without Plumbing", [no date] in 'Trickle Grass and Foxtail'
 "Buying Wheat", April 1, 1930 in 'Trickle Grass and Foxtail'
 "The Float", [no date] in 'Mike the Milkman'
 "The New Uniform", June 1929 in 'Mike the Milkman'
 "Training Others", [no date] in 'Mike the Milkman'

General Files Series

1/28 Letter, 1934
1/29 Listings, 1938, 1942