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**MS 1324  
Walter and Ewing Cross Collection  
1898 - 1973****DESCRIPTION**

This small collection consists of mostly photos supplemented by newspaper clippings and official documents highlighting the activities of Walter and Ewing Cross, with the bulk of the collection falling between the years 1920 and 1960. The photos, both loose and contained within four photo albums, showcase the family, friends, travels, and social events of the Crosses. Of particular interest to Tucson historians are the photos detailing the Tucson Rodeo Parade and accompanying social events over the years, as well as historical shots of Tucson landmarks in the 1930's such as the University of Arizona Campus, San Xavier Mission and Sabino Canyon. Those who are interested in tourism in the 1920's and 1930's might also be interested in the collection, as it contains photos from various tourist locations and national parks from as far west as California to as far east as Chicago, and up north into Oregon and Alaska. The diary entry titled "From Colorado to California in a Model T" may also be of interest to these individuals, as well as to anyone interested in the workings of antique cars. There are also additional photos of antique cars and aircraft contained within the collection. The newspaper clippings, mostly concentrated in a scrapbook, document the social events and activities of Ewing Cross, notably the Tucson Women's Club and the Pilot Club. There are also photos and newsletters relating to the Tucson Rotary Club, of which Walter Cross was a member. These are excellent references that detail the activities of not only the Crosses, but other members in the clubs and organizations of which they were members. The official documents, such as garage inventories, wedding announcements, birth certificates, and house titles, provide additional insight into the lives of the Crosses and anyone interested in the history of the land their house was built on or the inner workings of an auto garage in the 1950's.

6 Boxes, 5.5 linear ft.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Walter Cross was born in Kingman, Kansas on August 3, 1896. He served in the 138<sup>th</sup> Division in World War I, gaining experience as an automobile and aircraft mechanic. He traveled through Tucson on a trip in 1919 and enjoyed the climate and scenery so much he decided to relocate to Tucson from Colorado. After working at various automotive facilities he opened his own garage in 1930, which he operated for twenty years. After selling the garage, he went to work for O'Reilly Motor company until his retirement. Walter was very active in the Tucson Rotary Club, which participated in the Tucson Rodeo Parade every year, the Antique Car Club, and local aviation clubs.

(Lina) Ewing Fortney Cross was born October 15, 1900 in Colombus, Missouri. She graduated from college with her teaching certificate and went to Colorado, where she met Walter Cross. The couple married in 1921, after which they moved to Tucson. Ewing's parents relocated to Tucson from Missouri following the couple's move and took up residence next door to them. Ewing worked full time in the office at her husband's garage as well as being heavily involved in activities such as the Tucson Women's Club and the Pilot Club.

## **ACQUISITION**

Donated by Walter Cross in 1987. Supplemental materials donated by Tom Peterson in 1988 and 2008.

## **ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

## **COPYRIGHT**

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

## **PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Allison Tinkler in September 2007.

## Box and Folder Listing

### Box 1

- Folder 1: Inventories, "Model T" Diary Entry, Marriage Certificate  
f. 2 Abstract of Title to 1618 E. Helen St.  
f. 3 Photos of Ewing Cross and her parents  
f. 4-5 Rodeo Parade Photos  
f. 6 Rodeo Parade Photos; Antique Car photos  
f. 7 Social Event Photos  
f.8 Social Event Photos; Photos of Walter and Ewing Cross with various others  
f.9 Walter Cross Portrait; Humorous Photos; Postcards  
f. 10: Misc. Portraits  
f. 11: Misc. Portraits; Misc. Group Photos  
f. 12: Misc. Group Photos; Christmas Cards  
f. 13: Misc. Damaged Photos; Negatives

### Box 2

- Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings relating mostly to Tucson Women's Club and Pilot Club, 1930's.  
f. 14: Loose items taken from scrapbook; Ewing Cross' birth certificate, Walter and Ewing's wedding invitation, Rotary Club photo, newspaper clippings.

### Box 3

Scrapbook #2 and #3 containing Rotary and Woman's Club activities in clippings from 1936 to 1939

### Box 4

- Photo Album #1; mostly travel photos  
Photo Album #2; mostly Walter Cross' family  
f. 15: Loose items taken from Photo Album #2; Greeting cards and newspaper clippings.

### Box 5

- Photo Album #3; family and travel photos  
Photo Album #4; mostly Ewing Cross' family and travel photos, 1920's  
f. 16: Loose items taken from Photo Album #3; Photographs, Rotary Club newsletters.  
f. 17: Loose items taken from Photo Album #4; Photographs.

### Box 6

Photo Album #5 with few images of people on grounds of University  
Images of people and events not identified  
Cross Family Bible with clipping inside of obituary of Walter Cross - 1987