

# Guide to the Adams T. Rice papers 1922-1960

Adams T. Rice papers  
1922-1960

## Title Statement

Guide to the Adams T. Rice papers 1922-1960

**Subtitle:** Adams T. Rice papers C0238

**Author:** Finding aid prepared by Greta Kuriger Suiter

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

**2019-02-13**          Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

C0238

### Unit Date

1922-1960

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Adams T. Rice papers consists of newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and programs relating to theatre in Detroit, Michigan, the Federal Theatre Project, and Rice's lecture "The Magic of Science." Material was collected by Rice and dates from the 1920s to 1960, with the bulk of the material dating from the 1920s to the 1930s.

### Creator

Rice, Adams T., 1892-

### Physical Characteristics

2 linear feet (3 boxes)

### Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Adams T. Rice papers must be obtained from Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

## Acquisition Information

Donated by Adams T. Rice's daughter Olivia Hudson on October 11, 1979.

## Processing Information

Processing completed by Greta Kuriger Suiter in September 2013. EAD markup completed by Greta Kuriger Suiter in September 2013.

## Preferred Citation

The Adams T. Rice papers, C0238, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

# Biographical note

Adams T. Rice was born in 1892 in Newton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Newton Technical High School and received his PhD from Brown University in 1915. He also attended classes at the Rhode Island School of Design and the Boston Museum School of Design and completed a certificate in Engineering at Pratt Institute.

In the early 1920s Rice married the actress Helen Elizabeth Morrow. Rice and Morrow worked together at the Bonstelle Stock Company in Detroit, Michigan. In total Rice worked for 18 years with the Bonstelle Stock Companies (Detroit Civic Theatre) as a Stage Manager, Technical Director, and Stage Director. Throughout his career in the theatre he held jobs as Stage Manager for the Northampton Players, The Copley Players in Boston, and Director for the Clair Tree Major Players. He was both owner and director of "The Detroit Players" a traveling dramatic tent show, and spent five summers with various circuses as Lot Superintendent and Transportation Manager. He created the traveling lecture "The Magic of Science" and performed it on the east coast from New York to Boston. Later in his career he was the Director of Video Effects for the Bunin Motion Picture Studio, and created video effects for the Lucky Pup TV program. He also spent time teaching, working as an electrical engineer, designing exhibits for the N.Y. Worlds Fair, and wrote several children's plays.

# Scope and Content

The Adams T. Rice papers consists of newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and programs relating to theatre in Detroit, Michigan, the Federal Theatre Project, and Rice's lecture "The Magic of Science." Material was collected by Rice and dates from the 1920s to 1960, with the bulk of the material dating from the 1920s to the 1930s.

Material related to the Federal Theatre Project includes newspaper clippings and programs for the productions: American Holiday, Class of '29, Ethiopia, A Hero is Born, It Can't Happen Here, Murder in the Cathedral, and the Sun and I. Also related to the Federal Theatre Project is the publication Red Spotlight, the WPA Federal Theatre Unit Communist Party newsletter. The scrapbooks document the Rice's work with the Bonstelle Company, the Detroit Players, and the Federal Theatre Project.

# Related Material

The Works Progress Administration oral histories collection, the Federal Theatre Project collection, the Federal Theatre Project photograph collection, as well as numerous other personal papers.

# Index Terms

## Persons:

Bonstelle, Jessie.

Rice, Adams T., 1892-

## Corporate Names:

Federal Theatre Project (U.S.)

## Subjects:

Actors--Photographs.

New Deal, 1933-1939.

Performing arts.  
Theater--United States.

## **Document Types:**

Scrapbooks.

## **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

## **Contents List**

### **Bonstelle Playhouse,**

**Unit Date** 1920s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Scope and Content**

Programs and photocopies of newspaper clippings

### **Detroit Civic Theatre letterhead; Helen Morrow membership card,**

**Unit Date** 1928

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

### **Federal Theatre Project: American Holiday newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** February 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

### **Federal Theatre Project: Class of '29 newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

### **Federal Theatre Project: Ethiopia newsclipping,**

**Unit Date** circa 1936-1939

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

### **Federal Theatre Project: A Hero is Born,**

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

### **Federal Theatre Project: Highlights of the First Production Conference in New York City,**

**Unit Date** July 22-24, 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

## **Federal Theatre Project: It Can't Happen Here newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

## **Federal Theatre Project: Murder in the Cathedral newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

## **Federal Theatre Project: Playbills,**

**Unit Date** 1936-1939

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Folder)

## **Federal Theatre Project: Red Spotlight,**

**Unit Date** May 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

WPA Federal Theatre Unit Communist Party newsletter

## **Federal Theatre Project: The Sun and I newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 12 (Folder)

## **The Magic of Science,**

**Unit Date** circa 1940s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 13 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Photographs and program for lecture

## **Newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1920s-1930s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 14 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** circa 1927

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 15 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** circa 1932

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 16 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** 1935-1936

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 17 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings,**

**Unit Date** June 13, 1937

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 18 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: Ann Harding,**

**Unit Date** October 21, 1926

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 19 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: The Barretts of Wimpale Street,**

**Unit Date** 1932

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 20 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: Detroit Players tent show,**

**Unit Date** 1929

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 21 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: The Goose Hangs High, The Magic Cloak,**

**Unit Date** 1927

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 22 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: 'Let's Feed Our Own' slogan of dinner club for actors,**

**Unit Date** February 1, 1932

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 23 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: New York Herald Tribune,**

**Unit Date** April 22, 1935

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 24 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: Saint Joan,**

**Unit Date** April 3, 1928

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 25 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings: The Water Babies,**

**Unit Date** circa 1920s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 26 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings and programs,**

**Unit Date** 1928-1960

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 27 (Folder)

## **Newsclippings, programs, memos,**

**Unit Date** 1920s-1930s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 28 (Folder)

## **Photographs,**

**Unit Date** 1920s-1930s

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 29 (Folder)

## **Photographs,**

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 30 (Folder)

### **Scope and Content**

Theatre production photographs, portraits, Helen Morrow

## **Resume,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 31 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook: Bonstelle Company,**

**Unit Date** 1925-1929

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 32 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook: Bonstelle Playhouse,**

**Unit Date** 1927-1929

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 33 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook of newsclippings (1 of 2),**

**Unit Date** 1922-1927

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook of newsclippings (2 of 2),**

**Unit Date** 1922-1934

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook of newsclippings covers,**

**Unit Date** 1922

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

## **Scrapbook,**

**Unit Date** 1928-1930

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

### **Scope and Content**

Newspaper clippings about the Detroit Players.

## **Scrapbook,**

**Unit Date** 1930

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

### **Scope and Content**

Dr. Charlotte Richmond, The Detroit Players publicity. Includes newspaper clippings, programs, letters, and handwritten notes.