

Names were never used. He was billed either as "curly" or "dimples."

In 1907, Vitagraph decided to star him by name.

"I agreed," he said, "but with the understanding that I was to perform no chores."

BY 1910, he was in the big money and the "pinup boy" of his era. Women were mad about him and mobbed him everytime he made a public appearance. His mail was flooded with marriage proposals.

That lasted until 1915 when he suffered a nervous breakdown.

In the 20s, the matinee idol days were over. Costello took bit roles, heavies or whatever he could get.

Costello was born in Pittsburgh of Irish parents. Educated in the public schools there, he left at the close of grammar school to take a job as a printer's devil.

THEN BEGAN a series of menial jobs as messenger boy and office boy which kept him in food while he nursed a desire to go on the stage.

He made his debut in 1894 in Pittsburgh as an Irish comedian in vaudeville.

From vaudeville, he graduated to stock companies and became a Broadway star, appearing in such hits as "Scotland Yard," "The Kentucky Feud," and "The Cowboy and the Lady."

In 1902, he and May Altshuk of New York were married. To them were born Dolores and Helene.

In 1910, when he hit the top in movie stardom, he began having marital troubles.

"I LOVED MY wife and babies but my domestic life went from bad to worse," Costello said. He blamed fame for the rift which was climaxed in 1914 when Mrs. Costello had him arrested on a charge of wife beating. This Costello denied.

Although he and Mrs. Costello were not on friendly terms, they didn't divorce until 1927. A family argument over Dolores' plan to marry the late John Barry caused the final rift.

Less than two years after the divorce, Mrs. Costello died.

In 1930, Miss Vivienne Sengler, 22-year-old writer and musician, sued Costello for breach of promise. She later dropped the suit.

FAMILY STRIFE broke out again in 1938 when Costello sued Dolores for nonsupport but that trouble later was patched up.

In 1939, Costello married Ruth Reeves, 30, the daughter of Federal Judge Alfred L. Reeves of Kansas City. They were divorced in 1941.

In recent years he came out of obscurity only occasionally to do a role in a radio "soap opera."

"Well, I guess that's life," he once told an interviewer. "It's better to be a has-been than a never-was."

Dr. F. W. Sassaman Passes Away Friday

Dean of Medical Profession in Charlotte, He had Practiced Here For About 43 Years

Franklin W. Sassaman, M. D., died of a heart attack about four o'clock last Friday morning at the residence, 301 W. Harris avenue. He had suffered a lesser attack about two hours before. Last summer he had a light stroke, from which he recovered and then he moved his physician's office from over the Behrens & Rowe drug store to his home. It was reported that a dozen patients called for medical advice at the residence the day before, when he apparently was in his usual health.

Dr. Sassaman, 82, was the dean of the medical profession here, the last of its older members. He had been city health physician for 22 years and had served on the Medical Advisory Board for Selective Service for the past ten years. He was born Aug. 27, 1867, at Edwardsburg, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Sassaman. He graduated from the Rush Medical school of Chicago in 1900 and served his internship at the University of Illinois and the Cook county hospital of Chicago. He practiced in Valparaiso, Ind., and Kalamazoo before coming to Charlotte about 43 years ago.

He was a member of Congregational church, the Elks lodge, of Kalamazoo, the Eaton County Medical society and the State Medical society. Survivors include the widow, Mattie; two daughters, Miss Verna Sassaman of Detroit and Mrs. Milo Newman of Fond Du Lac, Wis.; a son, Franklin, Jr., of Charlotte; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a broth-

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