

Retired Farmer

Slout...

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posite her husband, she doubled as show designer and advertising manager.

Her interest in antiques probably prompted her husband to decide to spend his later years planning antique shows.

Verne first broke into the circuits with the Lillian Lyons company of Muir in the days when a trunk was a must. He told this story:

He answered an ad for actors, got an appointment, but was a disappointment, to his interviewer when he appeared without the trunk (traditionally loaded with costumes for any type of act).

PROMISE NEEDED

Some fast talking finally landed him the job, but not until he promised to purchase a dress suit. In Grand Rapids, he stopped at a pawn shop to purchase the suit. Five dollars was an awful lot to pay for a suit. Verne said he decided the three pieces weren't essential and settled for the coat and vest for \$2.50. The pair of dark blue trousers he had on would serve to complete the ensemble. His brown shoes, instead of the black conventional footwear, would suffice. They wouldn't show much the stage at night, anyway. His career was launched.

In World War I, he spent 15 months overseas—a year in Russia entertaining troops there. On returning, he continued his stage work.

The next 30 years brought him and his tent shows to the 48 states where he continued to develop the character of Toby, the rural yokel with red hair, several missing teeth and attired in the homespun of a country bumpkin.

ALWAYS A 'MUST'

His character became so beloved that when the Slout troupe presented such old time Broadway attractions as "Twin Beds," or "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath," with the Toby character missing, the audience seemed to resent his absence.

Mr. Slout was graduated from Vermontville high school in 1912, and after working a summer with a circuit entered Albion college, using his summer vacations to keep his acts in shape. Never for one minute did he intend to forsake the stage.

His education stood him in good stead, for he wrote many of his own plays, "Whittlin," "Other Fellows' Shoes," "Rodeo Ranch," "Absent Minded Professor," "Wandering Spooks," "Mother Goes on a Strike" and others which are still used by stock companies in the country.

Mr. Slout was a booster for the maple syrup festival held here annually.

His son, William, a New York actor, who has made several television appearances, was flying home after learning of the news of his father's death.

Surviving besides the widow and son are a daughter, Mrs. William Grube, Detroit, and the mother, Mrs. William Slout of Vermontville, and three grandchildren.

In the last several years, he had conducted theater workshops in schools and colleges during the winter months.

Funeral services will be held Fri-

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day at 2:30 p. m. from the Meth- odist church with Rev. Marcius Taber officiating. Burial will be in Kalamo cemetery.

NELLIE MIX DIES

AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Services To Be Held Saturday

Mrs. Nellie Jane Mix 49, wife of Harry Mix, Vermontville twp farmer passed away at the farm home early Wednesday morning following a long illness.

Mrs. Mix was born December 23, 1905 in Chester township the daughter of John and Matie Hodgman Ames and had been a life long resident of this area moving to Vermontville 16 years ago. On Dec. 5, 1928 she was married to Harry L. Mix at Angola, Ind.

Surviving besides the husband are a daughter, Mrs. Gerald (Barbara) Horton of Vermontville, one brother, Alva Ames of Vermontville, three sisters, Mrs. Ruby Bursley and Mrs. Myrtie Conner of Charlotte and Mrs. Daisy Burno of Eagle and one grand child.

The body is at the Otto funeral home where it will remain until Saturday when it will be taken to the Congregational church for services at 2:30 p. m. Rev. F. Willard Kime will officiate.

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