

[Buys, Kathryn Slingerland]

IN TRIBUTE TO MRS. JOHN L. BUYS
SERVICES HELD FOR WIFE OF ST. LAWRENCE PROFESSOR
Community Deeply Effectuated[sic] by Death of Talented Young Woman

Seldom have the sympathies of the people of Canton been so sincerely affected, or so distinct a loss to our community life been more deeply felt than in the death of Kathryn Slingerland Buys, the talented wife of Dr. John L. Buys, head of the Department of Biology at St. Lawrence University, and the daughter of Mrs. Effie E. Slingerland Yantis, of Rutland, Vt. Her death occurred at six Wednesday morning at The House of the Good Samaritan, Watertown, where she had been a patient the preceding nine days. Heart trouble, pneumonia and other complications completely baffled all that medical skill, science and devoted care could do to make possible her recovery. Following the birth of a daughter, Janice Lee, on August 7th, and her return home on August 27th, Mrs. Buys condition suddenly became such as to cause the gravest apprehension to her family and friends, and her removal to the Watertown hospital was in the hope that it might be possible to successfully combat her illness, but this proved unavailing.

Her death, such a tragic sorrow to the delightful home of which she was the devoted wife and mother, is a real loss to the life of this community. In many ways this gifted and brilliant woman has contributed to the civic interests of Canton. Not long after she and her husband had moved here in the fall of 1923 she and a group of friends organized a child study group. She later was of that number who organized the St. Lawrence County branch of the A.A.U.W., of which she became President. Within this organization a group of young mothers entered upon a program of child study which has developed into one of the most useful phases of Canton community service. From the original child study group has grown Canton's child welfare movement, now carried on by the Community Children's Council with its program of pre-school clinics, welfare and other educational work.

In making her contribution to this splendid program, Mrs. Buys found a field of work in which she was deeply interested. In creating a greater appreciation for dramatic art, particularly in the field of children's dramatics, she found an opportunity to give expression to her talents for the benefit of others. Under her guidance and that of several of her friends, many children's plays have been presented, and of this program the people of Canton and Northern New York will always remember her activity in not only producing home talent marionette plays, but she was personally instrumental in having professional marionette artists, such as the celebrated Tony Sarg, tour this section to the delight of hundreds of school children and adults.

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In the beautiful residence which she and her husband built on Hillside avenue they included a children's playroom in the basement and there one found a children's theater. Here with her children and their playmates Mrs. Buys would fashion the many marionette figures which were to appear in the plays to be presented both privately and in public here with the children and other interested friends, the delicate and intricate mechanism with which the marionettes were operated, and the stage settings and scenery prepared. When these plays were perfected and completed they were produced many times for the enjoyment of others.

The interest which she found in this particular field was but a part of her broad outlook on life and the inspiration which this interest and her efforts have afforded others have aided in a worthwhile type of community service. In teaching the members of the Girl Scout troops nature study, in her work in connection with the Universalist Sunday School, in her interest in Canton's schools and the development of the school program, her influence has been useful.

By her parentage and her early life and its associations, Mrs. Buys had been fortunately endowed with the opportunity of developing her talents. Her father the late Mark Vernon Slingerland was professor of entomology at Cornell University, Ithaca, where she was born on June 2, 1895. Professor Slingerland was not only a gifted educator but also widely known for text books he had written. Her mother, Mrs. Effie Slingerland, is a woman of marked attainment and interest in progressive education and the welfare of youth and humanity. After the death of Prof. Slingerland [Effie] the month later married the Reverend Arnold Yantis, a Universalist clergyman.

During her high school years the family was located at Auburn, N.Y. and following her graduation from the high school there Kathryn Slingerland entered Smith College from which she graduated in 1918 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She then received her Master of Arts degree at Cornell University in 1919. The following year she was on the faculty of Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky as a teacher of biology. Returning to Cornell she studied for her doctorate degree and it was there that she became acquainted and worked under Dr. Buys, as his assistant instructor in entomology. She received the degree of Ph.D. from Cornell in June, 1922 and that fall, on September 9, 1922, was married to Dr. Buys at Manchester, N.H.

The year 1922-23 was spent at Akron, Ohio, where Dr. Buys was Professor of Biology at the University of Akron. In the fall of 1923 they moved to Canton where he had accepted the position he has since held as head of the Department of Biology at St. Lawrence. For the first half-year of their residence here she assisted her husband both in the classroom and the

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laboratory, aiding him in establishing the program from which the splendid number of courses in that department are now given.

It has been during their residence here that their three delightful children, Marilyn Jean, 12, Norman Slingerland, 10, and the daughter, Janice Lee, have been born. In 1931 Dr. and Mrs. Buys purchased one of the most attractively located lots on Young Development, and there erected their English type home, which with its delightful appointments and choice landscaping has made it one of the most attractive residences in Canton.

Here their many friends have found a generous and delightful hospitality, for in the building of the home, as in the rearing of their family, Dr. and Mrs. Buys found the same mutual interest and understanding which had been of such joy to them in their chosen field of scientific study.

It was with a realization that the loss to the community is large, but small as compared to the sorrow brought to this home, that the many friends paid their tributes at the services held in the Universalist church on Friday afternoon. Rev. Emerson Lalone, pastor, officiated and Mrs. Buys' ashes were laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery on Sunday. The bearers at the funeral were Edwin G. Sykes, Prof. Lewis T. Cook, Prof. Lee Hunt, Prof. Floyd Callward, Ralph H. Michaels and Harry Eggleston.

Mrs. Buys was a member of the Alpha Pi sorority, Cornell University chapter, and of the Sigma Xi national honorary scientific society. She had served as a member of the St. Lawrence University Dramatic Society, was a patroness of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, a past president of the St. Lawrence County Branch of the A.A.U.W., and was a trustee of the First Universalist church of Canton.

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