

No Business like Show Business

By Susanne Tenpenny

I have always been drawn to the stage. Whether it was a barn loft, a patio or a tree stump, it became a platform for my self-expression. Sometimes the audience was real, but more often imaginary. Finally, the time arrived, when my magnetic passion for show business drew me out of the shadows and propelled me into the spotlight. I performed in my first community play in 2002. Since that opening night, I have played in 25 productions, including several plays from ArtAge Productions:

The Committee (*Mildred*)

Make Mine Metamucil (*Gladys*)

Old Hams

Reunion at Mt. Sanguine (*Alice*)

In addition, I wrote and performed in a Christmas radio play, *The Midnight Rider*. Originally, Radio WJLE manager, Ralph Vaughn, asked me to write a skit for his morning radio show. It was played in 3 segments and received great reviews from the listeners in DeKalb County. Later, my play was revised and performed on the community stages of Murfreesboro Little Theater and the St. Clair Senior Center to a great response. Radio WGNS in Murfreesboro played a recording of *The Midnight Rider* on Christmas Eve morning to heighten the yuletide spirit.

Art takes many forms and my sporadic focus has been on writing plays, poetry, puppet shows, and music. I play a jazz piano by ear and have written and composed music.

After retiring from a 30-year teaching career, my husband and I volunteer for the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. As a result, we won the prestigious "2000 year Humanitarian Award of Rutherford County." For six years, we performed with the 'Kids on the Block' Puppets in all the third grade classrooms of Rutherford County. I became a certified clown under the instruction of famed, international clown, Tommy E. Boy, and joined the Happy Clowns of St. Clair as Jumpin' Joy.

For me, my life is show Biz