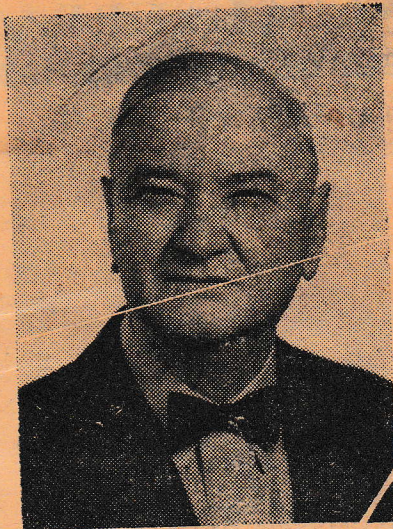


“30”



1885 Albert Reay Link 1954

It is with deep regret and grieving hearts that one of our first tasks is to chronicle the death of our dear friend and former employer, Ray Link.

Ray had intimated for several years past that it was his desire that we be his successors, and it was with true gratification, yet a sense of nostalgia, that only a few days ago he signed the papers to transfer The Index, with which he had been associated for fifty years, to our ownership. It was our only wish that we could prove worthy of the trust he had placed upon us, and that he would be here for many years to give us advice and counsel.

But time took its toll, swiftly and definitely, on Saturday afternoon, when he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage at 1:30 o'clock. He was at home, where he had spent so many confining months and with him were his faithful wife, Cecelia, and his nephew, Haws Lambourn. He was hastily removed to St. Mary's hospital, Streator, in fervid hopes that he would respond to treatment, but he did not regain consciousness and at 12:30 a. m. passed away.

The body was brought to the Thierry funeral home where he lay in state until the time of the funeral at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Scores of friends came to pay their last respects to this man who was

learned the trade which he was to follow the rest of his life.

He came to Wenona, October 31, 1904, when his good friends, Madge and the late George Braymen advised him of a vacancy at The Index office. On November 1, he was hired by the late Otis Montgomery, as printer and remained with him until the time of his death, October 30, 1930.

During the ownership of N. F. Purcell, Ray retained an interest in the paper but was not an active member of the staff. Mr. Purcell died in September, 1942, and on the following January 1, Ray became the owner and publisher of The Index. He gave the community a clean and wholesome paper with the betterment of the community foremost in his mind. He assisted every worthwhile project, the churches, the schools, the clubs and organizations.

In spite of physical handicap and much suffering for many years with a rheumatic condition, Ray continued to manage the publications until June 13, 1953, when he was unfortunately struck by a bicycle on Chestnut street and thrown to the sidewalk, the result which confined him to the hospital and later to his home for many tedious months.

Due to his continued inability to return to the office and assume his duties as editor and publisher, he re-

The body was brought to the Thierry funeral home where he lay in state until the time of the funeral at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Scores of friends came to pay their last respects to this man who was esteemed by all who knew him. The numerous beautiful floral pieces, also tributes to his memory, were in charge of Mrs. George K. Braymen, Mrs. Gary Metzger, Miss Minnie Huwald and Mrs. Ralph Goodwin.

Rev. Dee W. Walburn, a close friend of Ray's since coming to Wenona five years ago, read from the Scripture and spoke comfortingly to the bereaved. He stated that he would not eulogize but to those who heard him, his talk was a sincere and fitting eulogy of a man who had successfully edited a small town paper. Rev. LaVern Justis of the Presbyterian church offered prayer and the benediction. Mrs. Wayne Wright expressed the living doctrine of the deceased in the reading of Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar."

Pallbearers were Floyd Robinson of Toluca, Julian Woolf of Libertyville, Don Kane, John Marks, Roscoe L. Ball and Floyd L. Johnson. Burial was in Wenona cemetery with Masonic services conducted by Clyde Barr and prayer offered by Roscoe Ball, chaplain.

Ray is survived by his devoted wife, the former Cecelia Haws, whom he married September 15, 1938, in Pekin, and two half-brothers, Gail Link and Harry Link, of Chicago.

Albert Reay Link, son of Robert and Fannie (James) Link, was born December 13, 1885, in LaHarpe. His early years were spent in the town where he was born and where he

sidewalk, the result which confined him to the hospital and later to his home for many tedious months.

Due to his continued inability to return to the office and assume his duties as editor and publisher, he regretfully relinquished ownership of The Index, effective May 1.

Ray has had many interests. One of them was baseball, and for many years was manager of the Wenona ball team. He was one of the first exhibitors of moving pictures that came on reels. With the late George Braymen he managed the old Scope theatre in the building that now houses The Index equipment.

Many of the outstanding home talent and high school plays were a product of Ray's competent direction.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Knights Templar.

Crossing the Bar
Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of
the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems
asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the
boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of
farewell,
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time
and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.