Dick Townsend Dies at Chicago, Ill
Noted Hotel Man and Former Manager of Randall Succumbs to Illness

Dick Townsend nationally known as a Hotel man of prominence and formerly manager of the Randall House of this city, died at ll o'clock yesterday morning at his apartment on Harper Ave, Chicago. Announcement of his death was received yesterday by friends both here and in Decatur. Suffering from a nervous breakdown (some time?) ago, Mr. & Mrs. Townsend went to Chicago where he could receive treatment from a specialist. He later suffered from a severe cold, a relapse setting in and his condition gradually becoming weaker until his death.

Mr Townsend who was 53 years of age was a native of Adams Co and was born in Monmouth, Ind. He was acclaimed throughout the US as one of the best known hotel managers in the country. He started in the business at Decatur when he was (?) with his grandfather in the old Burt House where he worked his way up until he became the manager. Coming to Ft Wayne from Decatur about (?) he assumed management of the Randall House which under the 8 years of his skillful management became one of the most popular hotels the city has ever had. He was also at one time head of the Oliver Hotel at South Bend, the National at Peoria, Ill., the Great Northern Chicago, and popular hotels in Indianapolis, Kansas City, Paducah, Ken and other places.

His health beginning (to fail to fall?) about a year (after?) (when?) he retired from the business and he and his wife formerly Miss Iantha Gregory made their home at Decatur. Mr. Townsend was a prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity and had attained to 32nd degree in the Scottish rite.

He is survived by the widow, one son Burt of Chicago, a sister Miss Maggie Jeffery (M____--may say Missouri). The body will arrive at Decatur Thursday over the Erie Railroad and will be taken to the family home on Madison Street. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Contributed by Jim Cox