

## Frank Richards

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### **Frank B. Richards Dies of Cancer of Throat**

#### **Former Newspaper Man and Press Agent Succumbs at the Casualty Hospital**

Frank B. Richards, a newspaperman of the old school and former press agent, died yesterday at Casualty Hospital of cancer of the throat. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

The deceased is survived by his wife and one son, Frank B. Richards, jr, a member of the reportorial staff of the New York Evening Telegram

Mr. Richards was born in New York city about fifty five years ago. One of his first newspaper assignments was on the New York Sun. He became famous as a newspaper correspondent during the Spanish-American war, when he was sent to Key West to take charge of the New York Sun press dispatch boat. On one occasion while scouting around on this boat, which formerly had been a fruit steamer, several shots are said to have been fired at the craft from Admiral Sampson's flagship, which mistook it for a Spanish boat. He knew the true story of the Schley-Brooklyn loop off Santiago, but did not testify in the naval inquiry.

Mr. Richards was well known not only in New York, but as manager of the old Duquesne Theater in Pittsburgh, and later the Grand Opera House in Chicago. He worked for a decade on Washington newspapers, but was last employed in the publicity department of the Roosevelt pre-convention campaign, being forced to retire on account of failing health.

He was for a number of years press agent for Nell Burgess, who won fortune and fame with the old favorite play "The County Fair." In "The County Fair" Mr. Richards developed, with the producer, many new stage effects, among which was a horse race

Between seven and eight years were spent by Mr. Richards in traveling with Nell Burgess. The play finally returned to Boston where it ran for one year.

At one time he was press agent for Lotta Crabtree, a star of many years ago. Miss Crabtree, known as "Lotta" to thousands of theatergoers, was a sister of Mrs. Nell Burgess. Mr. Richards was responsible in large measure for her early popularity.