

Bruno Lessing

Bruno Lessing Dies In Tucson TUCSON, Apr. 29 — (UP) — Rudolph Block, better known to thousands of American newspaper readers as Bruno Lessing, writer of the column "Vagabondia", died at the Desert Sanatorium here today after an illness of six weeks. He was 69 years old. At his bedside when death came were his wife Verda and two sons, Rudolph III and Albert. Lessing had been confined in the sanatorium here since mid-March. His physicians said he was suffering from a liver ailment. At 8:30 o'clock this morning Dr. Roland Davidson announced that Lessing had sunk into a coma. Death occurred at 8:50 o'clock, ending a career of newspapering that began a half century ago. Lessing, globe-trotting columnist and author, was born December 6, 1870, in New York. "Vagabondia", a chronicle of observations of his world travels, had not been published for more than three months because of his failing health. The column was started in 1928 when Lessing's health first became bad, and he expressed a desire to leave more strenuous newspaper work and start traveling. He returned ill from his last trip, and several weeks later, about the first of the year, abandoned his work. He was brought to the sanatorium here in March. His wife and sons rushed to his bedside from Los Angeles, where the Blocks maintained a home. Lessing also had a home in New York. He was educated at the College of the City of New York. In 1888 — when he was 18 — he obtained his first newspaper job as a reporter on the *New York Sun*. From the Sun he went to the old *New York Recorder* as Sunday editor and later joined the *New York World* as reporter. Fellow newspapermen said he had a "knack" of putting down his observations and reflections in a pithy style. He was hired in 1896 by the Hearst newspapers, and worked for them the rest of his life. Lessing found time to write several books, the best known of which were "Children of Men" in 1903, "With the Best of Intentions" in 1914 and "Lapidowitz" in 1915. His hobby was collecting rare items he found on his travels. He acquired a scientific collection of canes made from 1,400 different kinds of wood. It was exhibited in the Smithsonian Institute and the New York Botanical Gardens. He was a member of the Rome and London press clubs. Writing his column took him many times around the world, roaming into strange and out-of-the-way places. He delighted in describing the scenery, life, folklore and gastronomic bits he found in his wanderings. The body will be taken to Phoenix tomorrow for cremation.

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