

DAVID KARSNER, 51; WROTE BIOGRAPHIES

Author of 'Silver Dollar' and
'Debs,' Copyreader on Post,
Dies in Hospital Here

BECAME REPORTER AT 17

Former Managing Editor of
Call Had Been Associate of
Well-Known Liberals

David Karsner, biographer and copyreader on The New York Post, died on Thursday in Downtown Hospital of a heart attack. He was 51 years old and lived at 1131 Halsey Street, Brooklyn.

He was the author of many biographies of prominent persons, but was probably best known for his "Silver Dollar," a book on the life of H. A. W. Tabor, Colorado millionaire, and the Tabor family. The book, published in 1932, was produced the next year as a motion picture starring Edward G. Robinson.

Mr. Karsner, at one time managing editor of the old New York Call, Socialist newspaper, was born in Baltimore and educated at the McDonough School there. He became a reporter at the age of 17 in Chicago, covering a beat near the Stock Yards. There he became acquainted with Upton Sinclair, who was doing research for his fictional exposé of the packing industry, "The Jungle."

Friend of Many Liberals

His association with Mr. Sinclair caused him to become interested in socialism and for the next twenty years he was an intimate of many liberals. One of the latter was Eugene V. Debs, who furnished the subject for two of Mr. Karsner's books—"Debs," an authorized biography, and "Talks With Debs in Terre Haute."

Among Mr. Karsner's associates during the Chicago period were Carl Sandburg, Theodore Dreiser, Sherwood Anderson, Clarence Darrow and Jack London.

After coming East in 1911, Mr. Karsner worked on the old New York Tribune, The Philadelphia Public Ledger and The New York Daily News. During his service with The Call, he also was employed for a time as Sunday editor of that newspaper.

He had worked also as a writer for motion pictures in Hollywood. One picture, "I Loved a Woman," was based on his Chicago stock yard story originally entitled, "Red Meat."

Wrote Work on John Brown

Mr. Karsner, who had been employed by The Post for about four years, also was the author of "Andrew Jackson," "John Brown, Terrible Saint," "Sixteen Authors to One" and "Traubel."

A few minutes before he died Mr. Karsner told a staff member of The Post:

"If this is the last time I see you, tell the boys on the copy desk that my name, David Karsner, just fits into a Number 4 head."

The Post used a Number 4 headline yesterday on its obituary of Mr. Karsner.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Esther Ebersson Karsner; a daughter, Mrs. Walta Ross of Los Angeles, and a sister, Mrs. Grace Jones of Baltimore.

A funeral service will be held at 3 P. M. tomorrow at his home, with cremation later at the Fresh Pond Crematory, Glendale, Queens.