

A BIOGRAPHY OF HERBERT G. HERTZ AND HIS FILM

Herbert Hertz (Nov 6, 1907–July 6, 1961) was the first child of Elizabeth nee Kosta and Emanuel Hertz, one of the 3 Hertz brothers who founded Hertz Brothers in New Leipzig in 1910. (Two other brothers remained in the Menno, SD area where they, too had a store.)

In 1924 Herbert was in the first graduating class of New Leipzig High School. He attended what was then Dickinson Normal School when 16 years old and received his certificate of teaching. It was there he met Hattie Greve, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Greve of Bentley, ND. Hattie, a 1924 graduate of Bismarck High School worked part-time at the Quain & Ramstad Clinic in that city. She, too, received her teaching certificate and taught in several schools in North Dakota including New Leipzig.

After a year of teaching Herbert decided it would not be his life's work. He joined the US Navy in 1926 and served as medical corpsman on the USS Saratoga, an aircraft carrier, until completion of his tour in 1930. (The USS Saratoga received heavy damage in the Pacific Theater in WW II and was used to study the effects of the first atomic bomb test at the Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.)

Upon his return from service, Herbert joined his father, Emanuel, at Hertz Brothers. He and Hattie Greve were married Aug. 8, 1932, in Bentley. They raised two children: Joanne– Mrs. Jack H. Townsend, born January 4, 1934, and Timothy Hertz, born May 11, 1945. Both children moved to Michigan.

In the late 1930's the village of New Leipzig decided to sponsor weekly movies at the city hall. Herbert managed the weekend operation and his good friend, Victor Provolt, was the projectionist. The city fathers were interested in filming special events of the area. Herbert did the filming, starting with B & W film but soon changing to color. The city provided him with a 16 mm camera . Soon, because of the cost the city planned to discontinue the project. But, Mr. Hertz, thinking the concept invaluable, bought the equipment from the city and continued to film events of interest and importance to the area. Special times of year and for fund raisers "Herb," along with Dic Provolt, would show them at City Hall, to all who wished to see them.

Mr. Hertz was very active in the community and one could find him on many committees and projects. He was Boy Scout Leader, worked in boards for Immanuel Lutheran Church, President of the Commercial Club twice (the city governing body), to name just a few. Concerned for the health care of the area he was on the steering committee (and later the board) to build an area hospital, once called Jacobson Memorial Hospital in Elgin. Statewide, Mr. Hertz was a Republican National Committeeman, served as the President of the North Dakota Hardware Association, and at the time of his unexpected death was Red Cross National Vice President of Fund Raising for the State of North Dakota and attended the National board meetings.

Mr. Hertz loved his state and was a firm believer in that things can always be done to improve its destiny. It is our hope that future citizens of the State of North Dakota will enjoy his chronicle. He would be very pleased.

**Joanne Elizabeth Hertz Townsend
(Mrs. Jack H. Townsend)
Montague, Michigan**