

Herzog Family



The Herzog name became very well-known through a legacy of music. Johann Leonhard, a son of Johann Michael and Eva Herzog, married Anna Weber in 1899. Their son, Otto George Leonhard was born in 1902. In 1930, Otto married Clara Brenner.

They had 5 children, four that grew to adulthood: Marion (1931), Marv (1932), Hilda (Lynn) (1937) and Verna (1941).

Marv showed an early interest in music and when he was 9 years old his parents bought a player piano. Marv and his sisters would choose the rolls of music to play and Marv watched the keys. When his sister Marion began piano lessons Marv listened to the teacher explain the keys and notes. Each week the teacher played a song for Marion to learn for the following week, would leave the sheet music on the piano, and leave. Each week Marv listened to the song and when the piano teacher would leave, Marv would sit on the piano bench and play the song. When the teacher saw what Marv could do, all thoughts of music lessons stopped, because he knew Marv's musical ability was a gift and he would never sit still to learn notes and keys.

When Marv was twelve, a neighbor gave him an accordion and showed him how to play the bass on the left hand and the melody on the right hand. Marv practiced every day, playing the German songs his father taught him and the country songs he heard on the radio. Marv's gift of music enabled him to listen to a song, play it once in the key he heard it in, and then play it in any number of different keys. At fourteen, Marv, his Dad Otto who played banjo, and his friend Bill Brauetigam who played drums, performed their first job on New Year's Eve 1946.

During the next 56 years, Marv Herzog and his Bavarian Polka Band entertained millions of people in the United States and abroad.

Marv and his band produced 33 recordings. A clip from one of the albums is featured on Frankenmuth's web site.

In later years, Marv and the band traveled much of the United States in a renovated Greyhound coach performing for festivals and dances. Marv's popularity spanned the Atlantic Ocean when he and the band toured Germany and Austria for a number of years, performing for sold out audiences. Marv and the band were always well received because his unique style appealed to many people.

In 1978, Colosseum Recording Studio in Nürnberg, Germany recorded Marv and the band, giving Marv the distinction as the only American band the company had ever recorded.

In 1955, Marv married Margie Bowman and they had five children: Terri (1957), Rhonda (1958), Clint (1960), Heidi (1964), and Lisa (1969). Rhonda was a member of her father's band from 1978-1984 and Clint from 1985-1993. Marv and Margie divorced in 1978. In 1982, Marv married Teresa Doerr Hobson. Teresa had one son, John Hobson (1969).

Everywhere Marv and the band performed he encouraged people to visit the town of Frankenmuth, where he grew up, and of which he was so proud. Tourists came by the thousands.

In 2001 a portion of Heritage Park, near the Bavarian Inn Lodge, was dedicated to Marv and was named the Marv Herzog Fest Platz. The Platz features a rock with a bronze plaque honoring Marv as Frankenmuth's Ambassador of Goodwill.

In 2002 Marv Herzog died. He is buried in St. Lorenz Cemetery. Marv Herzog leaves behind a legacy of music that endures to this day.



Researched & Compiled by Bavarian Inn Lodge
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