

# My Record

by Hans Bartsch  
(June 3, 1884 to 1959)

## **1899 to 1906**

After finishing high-school at 14 and one year at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, I went to work as printer's apprentice in a country newspaper office, father having taken sick never to recover. Coming years gradually shoulder me with support of my parents, seven-year old brother, and a baby sister.

## **1906 to 1912**

Went to St. Louis and having worked at various job offices as journeyman printer, joined up with Buxton & Skinner Printing Co. as compositor. Enrolled in night class of spring term of Washington University's School of Fine Arts and studied Anatomy from plaster casts under Prof. Edmund Wuerpel.

After the close of art school for the summer I joined the "Brush and Pencil Club" and studied the human figure from life three nights a week.

## **1912 to 1916**

Took up commercial art at night including lettering, working at the printing trade during the day at George D. Barnard and Co.

## **1916 to 1919**

With American Color Engraving Co., designing labels in four colors and gold and making working drawings of them for the engravers to make zinc plates from them for the label printers. Again took up the study of the human figure at night. Luck was with me - I got married.

## **1919 to 1929**

With Woodward and Tiernan Painting Co., offset printers and lithographers of catalogues, calendars, and labels, making layouts, designing labels, and proportioning paintings to the format required by the calendar by either adding or cropping at either sides or ends. Continuing the study of drawing and illustration at night uninterruptedly.

## **1929 to 1933**

Went in for free-lancing for four years to secure better type of commercial art work. Failed in this effort as depression had set in, so I moved my family to Wichita and

## 1933 to 1938

joined the "Wichita Eagle", Kansas' largest daily, as pen-and-ink artist. Made pencil sketch of dining, bed, and living room suite at furniture store in the morning, inked it in at the office in the afternoon, so engravers could have plates ready for press that night. Also on scene sketched pen-and-inks of street happenings for the reporter and helped Art Director and Advertising Manager Joe Thompson lay out adds for salesmen to take to their clients.

## 1938 to 1941

J. H. Buettner of Buettner's Furniture Store of Stamford, Conn., widowed brother of my wife, asked us to move to Stamford, my wife to take charge of his large home at 1872 Bedford St. In this in some respects unfortunate transit my portfolio of printed label, pen-and-ink, and layout samples was lost without a trace. Besides taking care of all their furniture drawings I got up eight pages of adventure booklet: "Trip to the Milky Way," for which I was offered \$13.00 a page of 406 illustrations to continue it. I dropped it and soon after made three washdrawing illustrations and took them to "Red Book" magazine. The art director told me to come back in another year. Brother-in-law died in spring of 1941 and we moved to New York City where I had to get a job immediately.

## 1941 to 1951

It consists in tracings and free-hand lettering for the most part. In the evenings of these ten years I prepared 30 illustrations to show as samples, but only the last six of these will be shown. As a result of having shown these to my present employers I am promised a promotion to layout work in the near future.

Although I reached my 67<sup>th</sup> year I have at least sixty more working years coming. Knowing I'd be late for the illustrator's career I adopted a 70% raw diet with the result that the softening of the arteries is now proceeding faster than their hardening and the rejuvenating action both physically and mentally that has been going on for some time with me with an ever increasing pace will be something of a revelation in physical culture circles and unprecedented as far as my knowledge goes.

I don't think that at this time I am able to grasp the full significance of what really is transpiring with me as a result of having determined to obey God's or nature's laws as they have been revealed to me due to the helpful knowledge of experts in this field of nutrition and my own humble experiences. <sup>1</sup>

- Hans Bartsch

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Though in 1951 at the age of 67 Hans Bartsch whimsically predicted sixty additional working years of his life, his time table was not God's. He went to meet his Maker in 1959 at the age of 75. Was he ready? Unfortunately, Great Uncle Hans's autobiographical employment record does not explicitly answer that question in the affirmative. Great Uncle Hans had a checkered past. Reports from both my parents, my Uncle Paul Bartsch, and my Great Aunt Helen Bartsch, Hans's sister, reveal that he practiced the occult art of levitation of furniture in his New York City apartment. On the other hand, he painted a beautiful picture of an elderly, bedfast woman dying and her lithe, youthful spirit body ascending to meet Jesus. Great Uncle Hans remains an enigmatic figure. (- James T. Bartsch, June 22, 2003)