

# Obituary of Herman J. Toevs

*Father of Elda M. Andres, Dorothy L. Miller, and Florence M. Bartsch*

**June, 1924**

***As written by his father, John Toevs, in the German language, translated by Agathe Toevs Piper (sister of Herman Toevs) into English by request. Edited and annotated by Gary D. Bartsch.***

Herman J. Toevs was born June 13, 1892, near Newton, Kansas, on the parental farm. His youth was spent in the home of his parents, from where he attended the country school.

In the year 1907, at the age of 15,<sup>1</sup> he, together with his parents, brothers and sisters, moved to Idaho, where they settled near a small town called Aberdeen, where his parents had acquired a farm. Herman worked faithfully together with his brothers and sisters to assist his parents in those early pioneer days, to make the land ready for irrigation.

In the year 1910, at the age of 18,<sup>2</sup> he was baptized by Rev. J. B. Baer. On the 8th of November, 1917, he was married to his now ~~sorrowing~~<sup>3</sup> bereaved wife, Susanne Neuman. The young couple made their home on the parental farm, one half mile west of Aberdeen.

A little more than two years ago, he was stricken with the flu, from which he recovered, but which apparently left him with an ailment which at various times recurred with severe pains over his left hip. When these attacks became more frequent and more severe, they consulted their home doctor, who consulted with one of the Pocatello doctors, who suggested surgery. This, however, did not improve his condition, but instead increased the pain more intensely. This led to the decision that he and his sister go to the famous Clinic of Mayo Brothers in Rochester, Minnesota, to try and find help from the medical profession there, and if it was God's will, to find healing from his ailment. After a thorough checkup, the Doctors diagnosed his case as Sarcoma, and incurable. However, it was their advice to give him deep X-Ray treatments, which they believed would relieve his pain, and prolong his life from one to five years, to remain with his family.

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<sup>1</sup> Age of 15: Ages were not included in the original obituary. I took the liberty to add them myself. I also did some minor editing of Agathe Piper's translation throughout, wherever needed.

<sup>2</sup> Age of 18: See note above, Age of 15.

<sup>3</sup> Sorrowing: The word, sorrowing, is included, but crossed out, in Aunt Agathe's translation. I included it here also, just as it is in hers.

The first series of treatments given during the first visit to the Mayo Clinic seemed to prove successful, and he firmly believed that he would be well again.

With great hopes, he, together with his wife, returned the second time to the Mayo Clinic for further painful treatments, which, however, proved unsuccessful.

From then on he became noticeably weaker, with increased severe pain. It was during this time that he completely committed his will into God's Will.

On April 12, 1924, our faithful Lord received him into his Eternal Home, at the age of 31 years, 10 months, and 1 day. Their marriage lasted a little more than six years. He leaves to mourn his bereaved widow, Susanne,<sup>4</sup> with three little ones, Elda Mabel, Dorothy Louise, and Florence May, his parents, John and Agatha (Suderman) Toevs, three brothers, John L. Toevs, Edgar E. Toevs, and Jacob (Jake) C. Toevs, two sisters, Anna Wenger and Agathe Piper, parents-in-law, George and Elizabeth (Lizzy) Neuman, and brothers- and sisters-in-law, and many relatives and friends. Rev. M. J. Galle officiated the memorial service at the farm home, with the reading of Psalm 23 and John 14 and prayer.

In the service at the Emanuel Church, Rev. Galle spoke in the German language on Isaiah 66:13, and Rev. A. Heinrich, from the German Baptist Church in American Falls, on John 14:2, in the English language:

Isaiah 66:13<sup>5</sup> "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem." NASB

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."<sup>2</sup> NASB

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<sup>4</sup> Susanne: The original obituary contained no names in this paragraph. I took the liberty to add them.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 66:13; John 14:2: Only the Scripture references were listed in the original. I added the texts here.  
Gary D. Bartsch 7/25/2003