

My parents met in the home of some friends of her parents. Herman, my Dad was playing cards with some of his friends at his brother's house. My mother's parents lived across the street from my Dad's brother and sister in law, Polly and Max Holtzman. Katie my mother had just broken off an engagement with another young man. Her parents and Herman's brother and sister in law wanted Herman to meet Katie.

Katie came home from work and was asked by her father, Abraham Richman to go and get her mother, Esther who was visiting with the Holtzman family. She was instructed to tell her mother to come home and prepare dinner. This was all preplanned as a way to introduce Herman and Katie. Katie, not knowing that the task had a different objective, went across the street to call her mother home. My mother entered the apartment. My Dad who was playing cards with some friends, stopped playing cards. He was so immediately attracted to my mother that he broke up the game. He invited Katie to go for a walk with him. He always claimed that it was love at first sight. That first walk was a long, cold walk. It was November with snow covering the ground and houses. My Mom did not have a hat. Her hair was white with the snow which was blowing. Herman offered his hat, but she was not used to wearing hats and did not accept the offer. Neither of them seemed to be unduly concerned with cold as they talked and became acquainted with each other.

He took Katie home and asked her for a date for the next night. She said, he would have to call her. This was a little perplexing to him since he was asking her in person. After returning to his brother's apartment, he called Katie for their first date. They dated three consecutive nights. On the third night he asked Katie to marry him.

Her response was No although he was a very handsome, well-dressed New York salesman who was very attractive to Katie. Katie had only two months previously broken off an engagement which had already set a marriage date. She was not anxious to start a new romantic involvement. Herman was aware of Katie's previous engagement and was very understanding of her standoffishness.

Being a traveling salesman, his evenings were free and uncommitted. Herman and Katie dated every night for two weeks. At the end of two weeks, Herman told Katie that if she had no plans to consider marrying him, he was leaving and returning to New York. Herman was very tender in that he considered himself a sophisticated New Yorker, 8 years older and more experienced than Katie, who had been brought up in a rural setting.

After two weeks Katie accepted Herman's marriage proposal. A fancy engagement party was held in Katie's home. Home baked goodies were prepared and friends and relatives invited to meet Herman, the handsome young man from the east. Herman quickly purchased a diamond ring which Katie sported the night of the party.

Herman had to return to New York. In order to make a steady living and also to be home with his future young bride, Herman purchased a laundry on Avenue U in Brooklyn. The young couple corresponded during December setting up a trip for Katie to come in January to New York to get acquainted with Herman's brothers and sisters-in-law.

This was Katie's first trip to New York, she was 23 years old. Herman's sister-in-law, Esther suggested that they marry in New York, instead of waiting until the June date that they young couple had set while in Montreal. Going along with this suggestion was attractive to Herman who saw the opportunity of having his young bride share his wedding bed a little bit sooner. The ceremony was a civil one that was held in the courthouse. All of Herman's brothers and their wives were in attendance.

That evening Herman expected that they would share his bed. However that was not Katie's idea at all. She intended to wait until a Jewish ceremony was held to bind their marriage religiously. She was not satisfied with the wedding at the court house. She spent the night in the home of Herman's brother and sister-in-law, *Bella* and *Harry* Holtzman. The next morning, Katie left for Montreal.

They corresponded through the next five months, making their wedding plans and future plans. The wedding date was set for June 8, 1929. Herman arrived a few days before the wedding. It was a very large wedding event, held in a hall with an orchestra. A Rabbi presided over the traditional Jewish ceremony. That night the newlyweds slept in the home of Polly and Max.

Next morning Katie and Herman boarded a train for New York. Ten hours later they arrived in New York. Herman escorted his new bride to their home which was actually a rented room in a private home. The house was located closed to the laundry business which Herman had started in January. Katie shared the kitchen with the owner while they saved up monies to move into their own apartment. Herman had spent his savings in opening up his new laundry business. The laundry required 4 employees, in addition to Katie who worked at the desk.

They lived comfortably in their rented room until Katie got pregnant. Mrs. Littenberg, their landlady recognized the need for the young couple to move out into their own apartment. She helped Katie locate a small apartment on Ocean avenue where Irwin was born. He was born June 30, 1931.

Irwin's birth was easy and he was a very easy baby to take care of. He was a happy baby who slept well and ate well. He started eating solid foods at 5 months. Once he was so eager to nurse that his tongue seemed to stick to the roof of his mouth. Katie put her hand into his mouth and she and Bernie took Irwin to the emergency. The doctor said it was a life saver because, Irwin could have choked on his tongue.

When Irwin was a year old, the family moved into 2177 E. 21st St. into apartment 206. When Irwin was 14 months old, he won a beauty contest. It was a contest held in Brooklyn. The photographer shot him in the nude which resulted in it not being accepted by the New York Daily News newspaper. However, the winning picture remained in the Brooklyn photographers window for 4 years.

When Irwin was three years old, the family moved into apartment 205 which was a little bigger. Irwin and his brother Jack, who was born two years after this move, were raised in that apartment. Katie and Herman remained there after the boys moved away and were married.

Primary

Public School 206, elementary school that did not have a kindergarten. It started with first grade and went to 7th grade.

Madison High School

Brooklyn Technical High School

High School

Brooklyn had all kinds of people that lived there. Once while playing in a school yard, a gang of boys about Irwin's age started to act beligerant toward Irwin. One boy had a knife and flashed it in a threatening manner towards Irwin. His Uncle Bernie saw what was happening and ran over to help. He was able to take the knife away and save Irwin from what could have been a tragedy.

Win attended a special a special high school.,

Win took French and his Mother Katie helped him.

Katie and Herman went to a basketball game. Win had been hurt during the game and Katie and Herman took him to a doctor following the game.