

Home Mountain

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Home Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. history

Sometime prior to 1906 Herman F. Heimberg, a Lutheran Elementary School teacher, installed a hand fed printing press on the back porch of his home in South Bend, Indiana. He was attempting to supplement his annual salary of \$400.00. The printed product was calling cards for the residents of the city.

In 1906 Mr. Heimberg purchased a larger printing press. This press would not fit on the house porch so a chicken coop on the property at 752 Cottage Grove was converted to handle the press and extra space needed for the business. This is when the family has stated that the business was founded because the company had a dedicated building. The name of the company was derived from translating the German name of Heimberg to English. Heim translates to Home, berg translates to Mountain.

The business grew and Herman F. Heimberg gave up his teaching position in order to run the printing business full time. A partnership was formed with the principals being Herman F. Heimberg, Herman G. Lutz and Carl H. Bade. Business growth centered on printing of materials for Lutheran Churches in the Missouri Synod with the main product becoming monthly newsletters for the churches. Due to this product Publishing became part of the official company name. With the continued business growth a two story cement block building was constructed on site in 1910.

With the death of Herman F. Heimberg, his ownership went to his daughter, Althea C. Heimberg. Business management continued under Herman G. Lutz. On the death of Herman G. Lutz in 1933, the business partnership was bought by Althea C. (Heimberg) Klemz, Grace Lutz (wife of Herman G. Lutz) and Cari H. Bade as subscribers and incorporated on January 19, 1933 as Home Mountain Publishing Company, Incorporated. The purchase price was \$12,000.00.

The business was managed by Althea C. Klemz until May 4, 1939, when Clarence Bryant was appointed Business Manager and Althea continued working as a Linotype operator for \$35.00 per week. On February 8, 1941, all shares of Home Mountain were purchased by Althea C. Klemz and her husband, Reine C. Klemz with a minority interest to Agatha (Heimberg) Klemz, daughter of founder Herman F. Heimberg. Althea continued to manage the business until October 25, 1946, when the business was sold to Harold F. Keller.

In 1951, the company was moved to Valparaiso, Indiana, in order to give better service to Valparaiso University, the Lutheran University located in Valparaiso. The business continued to print a wide variety of products for Lutheran Churches across the nation, materials for the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church and expanded the operation to service industry in the Porter County area.

In 1978 Larry A. Klemz, grandson of founder Herman F. Heimberg, and Walter K. Schmidt purchased the company. The production plant was expanded to 10,000 square feet in 1980. In 1991 Larry A. Klemz purchased all stock of the company.

In 1994 the printing operation was moved to 2102 N Calumet Avenue, Valparaiso, to a remodeled building of 20,000 square feet. Business continued to grow expanding to 32 full time employees along with the addition of full color printing on the non heatset web press and a six color sheet fed printing press.

In 2006 an existing 40,000 square foot building at 3602 Enterprise Avenue, Valparaiso, was purchased and remodeled. This will be the new business location starting in October. In the past two years, Justin and Douglas Klemz, great grandsons of the founder, joined the company. The expectation is that the fourth generation will continue to move the company forward.