

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



Phares H. Hertzog (1880 – 1988)

Phares Huntzinger Hertzog was born on September 9, 1880, in West Cocalico Township Pennsylvania. He was married to Erel Catherine (Graybill) Hertzog (1888-1965).¹ Hertzog graduated from Bucknell and received his master's degree from Princeton in 1914. "For 39 years he had been the head of the science department at the Peddie School in New Jersey, where he had taught Adlai Stevenson, sportscaster Red Smith, and actor/governor George Murphy."²

Hertzog was appointed to direct all science laboratory activities as well as serve as a part-time instructor at the college in the fall of 1953. Hertzog was a beloved figure at the College. "Over the years he donated a baseball scoreboard, his personal butterfly collection valued at \$6,000, and another collection of plant samples. He helped to plant myriad trees and shrubs on campus, and was also active in the Boy Scouts, from whom he received scouting's highest honor, the Silver Beaver. He was well known for knot tying and gave lengthy presentations on the subject, as well as on herpetology."³ In his retirement, Hertzog was known for his Snake Lore Tent and stage presentations at the Lancaster County Folk Festival.⁴



¹ "Phares Huntzinger Hertzog," Find a Grave, accessed July 2, 2024.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26562767/phares-huntzinger-hertzog>.

² Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 191-193

³ Ibid.

⁴ Robacker, Earl F.; Robacker, Ada; Gehman, Henry Snyder; Snyder, Mabel; Hertzog, Phares H.; Mook, Maurice A.; Troyer, Lester O.; Heller, Edna Eby; Bryan, William Jay; Barrick, Mac E.; and Winey, Fay McAfee, "Pennsylvania Folklife Vol. 17, No. 4" (1968). Pennsylvania Folklife Magazine. 33.

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“After his “second retirement” from the College, he visited dozens of schools in the area, charming and frightening generations of children with his snakes and other reptiles.”⁵ He died on January 27, 1988, at the age 107, and was buried at Mellinger’s Cemetery.⁶



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⁵ Williamson, 191-193.

⁶ Find a Grave, n.d.

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