

# Herbert Gross – Missing Person

Sunday, May 5, 1996

Every Sunday morning without fail, 68-year old Herbert Gross would visit his sister in Elmwood for lunch. However, on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996, Herbert never arrived. He has not been seen or heard from since.



Police search for the body of Herbert Gross (inset) in the Summit Road landfill. No body was found. He's listed as a missing person.

The last time Herbert was seen alive was on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which time he had lunch with his girlfriend at Kildonan Place Mall. Herbert was supposed to meet his girlfriend again the following day for lunch; however, he never showed up. As his failure to meet his sister and girlfriend for lunch was so out of character for Herbert, the police were requested to check on his well-being.

On Sunday afternoon, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the police visited Herbert's suite at the Portage Village Inn, 311 Portage Avenue (since torn down, now the site of Browns Socialhouse) but found nothing amiss. His room was clean; his clothes were hanging in the closet, and his bed was made. There was nothing to suggest foul play. However, two days later, on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, an employee of the nearby Shoppers Drug Mart found seven (7) boxes full of clothing,

books, household items and other personal property scattered about the garbage dumpster behind their store. The police were notified and the property was identified as belonging to Herbert Gross, the same property that had been neatly put away in Herbert's suite just two days earlier.

The police subsequently re-canvassed the tenants at the Portage Village Inn to see if they had seen anything suspicious. At this time it was learned that both the Assistant Manager and the Maintenance Man at the hotel had seen a younger male coming out of Herbert's suite earlier that day carrying a box of clothing. The male was asked what he was doing, and he replied; *"we are cleaning up his (Herbert's) room, we're picking up his books"*. No attempt was made to stop this man and he has never been identified.

This male was described by the hotel staff as:

***white, the mid-'20s (today mid-'50s), 5'7" in height, weighing 140-150 pounds. He was clean-shaven and had short brown hair.***

He was also wearing a dark shirt, faded jeans and white runners. The hotel staff indicated that they had not seen this male before and that he was not a resident of the hotel.

As Herbert had not been seen or heard from since May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1996, there was a strong suspicion that he met with foul play. Considering the location of his belongings near a garbage dumpster, the police spent a week digging through the Summit Road landfill (since closed) looking for evidence of his remains, but to no avail.