



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
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Phone: 780-496-6226 Fax: 780-496-6054

Louis Podersky

(1883-1976)

As a pioneer businessman, Louis Podersky founded one of the first auctioneering businesses in the Edmonton area.

Louis Podersky was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1883, a year before the family relocated to a homestead in Lacombe, Alberta. After years of living in Lacombe, Louis Podersky left the farm and began living and working in Edmonton. He worked as a rug salesman until he opened a small furniture auctioneer business in 1912.

As a young man, Podersky established himself as a dealer of good used furniture. After only a couple of years in the business, he purchased his own store, Podersky Furniture Exchange, located on the corner of 98 Street and Jasper Avenue. The store expanded very quickly and relocated several times in order to accommodate to consumer demand. The store name was later changed to Crescent Furniture Company.

Podersky is credited with introducing business ideas such as “easy credit terms” and “group specials” to the Edmonton business scene. He was also one of the first businessmen to introduce the “bargain basement”.

The Podersky family was very involved in the Jewish community. Louis’ wife, Anna, was active in community service for many years. She was a former president of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Hadassah Wizo, and the National Council of Jewish Women. In an article written about Anna, it was said that, “Her home was a well loved drop-in centre, a home away from home, for many friends...”

Louis Podersky passed away in 1976 at the age of 93. He and Anna had celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in February of 1975. The couple had four children and six grandchildren.

*Written by: Danielle Ferchoff
February 2013*

CITATION ON FILE

“Podersky Once Lacombe Farmer,” Edmonton Journal, 28 September 1954. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

“Couple celebrate diamond wedding,” Unknown Source, 6 February 1975. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.



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“Alberta pioneer dead at 93,” Unknown Source, 4 August 1976. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

“Anna Podersky,” Edmonton Journal, 17 March 1985. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

Archives Canada. “Anna and Louis Podersky fonds.” Accessed 7 February 2013.

http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/search/ItemDisplay.asp?sessionKey=999999999_142&l=0&lv1=1&v=0&coll=1&itm=246031&rt=1&bill=1

Heritage Resources Management Information System. “Mr. and Mrs. Louis Podersky.” Accessed 7 February 2013.

<https://hermis.alberta.ca/PAA/PhotoGalleryDetails.aspx?cp=241&sort=date&ReturnUrl=%2FPAA%2Fphotogallery.aspx%3D241%26sort%3Ddate&dv=True&DeptID=1&ObjectID=A2453>