

Henry Wener

Passed away October 30, 2000 1 Cheshvan 5761

I did not have the honour of knowing Henry Wener personally, but in speaking with his family and friends over the past few days it is apparent that he was a well liked and respected member of the Edmonton community.

After visiting him in the hospital on the weekend I mentioned his name to a few of my older friends and their faces immediately lit up as they began to reminisce about Henry. He will be remembered fondly by many people *as a true gentle man.*

Henry Wener was born in Montreal in 1907. In 1915 his parents, Max Benjamin and Bertha Wener together with Henry and his brothers Sam, Martin and Charlie moved to Alberta. They first settled in the Westlock area where Max Benjamin operated a farm.

Henry went to university for a year in 1923 but left to work in a raw fur shop. His father had also entered this business and soon Henry moved to Grande Prairie where he bought furs for his father's company. Henry remembered his days in the north and spoke often about his time there playing for the Grande Prairie hockey team and working as a sports reporter for the newspaper.

In 1947 Henry purchased the Pig & Whistle restaurant on Jasper Avenue in Edmonton. This was an ideal situation for him as it was well known as a hang out for local sports celebrities. Henry had continued to compete in sports as a champion long distance ~~runner~~ runner, and the clientele at the Pig & Whistle kept him involved in the sports scene. The restaurant was open all night and a book could probably be written about all the characters that passed through its doors. *Henry was a true*

Unfortunately it was ^{also} during this time that Henry's first wife, the former Pearl Dunn, passed away at an early age ^{man} leaving Henry to raise their children, Larry and Deborah. ~~A few~~ ^{ten} years later he married Rae who has been at his side for ~~43~~ years.

Henry was also able to continue his love of sports and the food business by operating the concessions at the Menorah Curling Club and a few other rinks in the city.

Another side of Henry came out when he left the restaurant business to become a coin and stamp dealer. Here he made a whole new set of friends as he developed a reputation for his honesty. His friend Dr. Max Dolgoy remembers that this admirable trait may have even allowed a few people to take advantage of him. Max remembers visiting Henry in his shop in the McLeod Building where they would reminisce about friends in Edmonton's Jewish community. Even after the store closed Henry continued to do a little business out of house until he finally retired just a few years ago.

Although not active in the Jewish community over the past few years, Henry ensured that a place was reserved for him here at the Jewish cemetery where he will rest with his parents and one of his brothers.

His participation in active sports gave him the gift of a long and healthy life only

with the help of the rest of his family

1940s-50s! well it was a "real" sports he was probably complimentary about the politics of the government of the day.

suffering in the past few weeks until he passed away peacefully yesterday at the age of 93.

There is a special reading that I enjoy which I believe is a fitting memorial to this loved and respected man.

*“Blessed is the person who lives with a good name
And departs this world with a good name.”*

Of such a person did the Bible say:

“A good name is to be treasured above precious oil.”

*Wealth, like health, may pass away,
But a good name can live on forever.*

It can adorn a person throughout life;
It can be bequeathed as a precious inheritance,

*Conferring honor on family and friends,
Inspiring and challenging those who carry on.*

Therefore our ancient Sages taught:

*“The righteous need no monuments;
Their good deeds are their memorials.”*

*The earth of the grave does not cover them;
The hand of time does not erase them.*

The kindness they have shown, the love they have given,
Remain in everlasting remembrance.

*Their achievements are more lasting than granite,
Their devotion is an enduring legacy.*