



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

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Percy R. Elmer

(1872-1950)



Percy R. Elmer was born in St. Thomas, Ontario in about 1872. While in his youth, he worked for the Great North Western Telegraph Company. He later worked as an operator for the New York Central Railway, transferring in 1899 to the Canadian Pacific Railway. When he came west as an operator, he was employed by Canadian Pacific Railway in Regina, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon.

In 1902, Elmer was transferred to the Dominion Government Telegraphs and remained with the company until 1948. He was first station at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan where he remained until 1924 when he was appointed to Edmonton as a circuit manager. In 1944, he was appointed superintendent, supervising 2,000 miles of government telegraph lines in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Peace River Block in British Columbia.

Percy R. Elmer was one of the most popular telegraph officials in western Canada. He retired in April of 1948 after 46 years of service as a telegraph official. In 1950, he passed away at the age of 78, leaving behind three sons.

*Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
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CITATION ON FILE

"Telegraph Veteran Percy Elmer Dies," Unknown Source, 24 July 1950. City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.