Korricks

After working in Nathan and Isaac Diamond's New York Store in El Paso, Texas, Sam Korrick moved to Phoenix and opened a store of the same name in 1895. Needing help with the business, Sam invited his younger brother Charles, who was still living in Poland, to join him; Sam died in 1903 of pneumonia, at age 33.

"All the merchants in the town closed their stores for a day because they felt such great respect for Sam Korrick," including the Diamonds and the Goldwaters, said Ed Korrick, Charles' son, in a 2000 oral history taken by the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

Charles recruited his younger brother, Abe, to help him in the business, and in 1915, after two decades of success, the Korrick brothers moved their store to a larger building at 106 E. Washington St., Phoenix, and renamed it Korricks. The store directory lists departments such as a hosier, budget lingerie, the Pin Money shop, garden shop and the Bird Cage Tearoom.

The business flourished, and in 1961, Korricks opened a second location at Chris-Town Mall in Phoenix. The company was sold to The Broadway in 1962, although the brothers still had offices in the downtown store until it closed in 1966.

Charles Korrick was a leader in the Jewish community for decades; he was a longtime member and supporter of Temple Beth Israel, was the founding president of the Phoenix Jewish Community Council and was one of the first local people to be honored by the State of Israel Bonds Organization in 1959, among other honors and titles.

An editorial in the Jewish News after his death in 1972 reads, "Charlie Korrick, the history of the Jewish community and the history of Phoenix itself are too deeply intertwined and interwoven to be capable of separation.

"We needed him then, just as today we need the memory of Charlie Korrick to serve as constant proof of how vast an influence the life of one man can have."

Clockwise from top: Korricks at Chris-Town Mall; Jewish News ad; Sam Korrick's New York Store in Phoenix in 1895, courtesy of AZJHS; interior photo of Korricks in downtown Phoenix, courtesy of departmentstore museum. blogspot.com; Jewish News ad; Jewish News file photo of Charles Korrick

