



Florence Popoff

Dec 9, 1932- Aug 23, 2011

Florence was born in Pass Creek, BC on December 9, 1932 into the family of Fenya and Phillip Hadikin. She had a happy childhood and attended school not far from her home. From a very early age Florence had a deep Christian faith and she walked closely with God. As a child she learned to say her prayers and to sing. Growing up in an extended family setting, her family would gather together every Sunday and recite prayers, sing a psalm and then sing three hymns. In addition, every day they would say the Lord's Prayer before every meal. Then they would say a thank you prayer at the end of the meal. At bedtime they said two to three more prayers in their bedroom.

Florence worked alongside her own Mom in the garden. She also helped her Mom milk cows, make butter and cottage cheese. In her younger years Florence worked as a junior cook in logging camps. This started her legacy of cooking for large groups and she became a Head Cook at weddings, funerals and fund raisers. She loved cooking as well as baking, gardening, entertaining, travelling, camping, picking mushrooms and picking huckleberries. She enjoyed the outdoors immensely. She also had a special touch for animals with numerous pets thriving under her care.

As a teenager her hobbies included embroidering shawls and tea towels. It was a tradition in the Doukhobor

culture and she prepared most of her dowry herself. She became very proficient in embroidery. She embroidered and fringed many head shawls for ladies. Florence was very good at doing hand work on the delicate fabric. She excelled in her embroidery skills as she painstakingly did flawless reverse embroidery on dainty sheer fabric to create exquisite head shawls which are highly prized. She also taught people how to do the fringing, thus helping to keep the heritage of this unique craft alive for future generations.

Florence married Sam Popoff on July 18, 1953. Florence and Sam lived in Pass Creek where they raised their 3 children, Diana Parker, Hapa (Gary) Christiansen and Johnny (Neva) Popoff. After living for 52 years in Pass Creek, Sam and Florence moved to Castlegar where they resided for the past 6 years at Sandalwood Court. Florence and Sam were blessed with 5 grandchildren— Tanya (Michael) Christiansen Flood, Malcolm Christiansen, Eric and Jake Parker and Alexander Popoff.

Life on the old farm in Pass Creek included up to five milking cows, 500 chickens, a horse, dogs, cats, a garden and fruit trees. She milked the cows, made butter and cheese and processed eggs for selling. Florence did not have an easy life. The bulk of the homestead chores rested on her shoulders. There was no electricity or running water for years. She was extremely hard working. She canned many jars of pickles, corn, beans, peas, tomatoes, mushrooms and even clarified butter. She preserved food and shared her garden produce with countless people. She loved to share and would often give away things that she really needed herself. She was extremely generous. She was generous with her love, her time, her possessions and her prayers. When people dropped in for a visit, they seldom could get away empty-handed or empty-bellied. Florence

would feed you until you could not move and then send you home with a care package or a full car trunk. I remember her filling sacks full of corn or green beans or whatever was ripe at the time and loading them into peoples' vehicles. She loved cooking, baking and sharing her creations. Florence was well known for welcoming her family and friends into her home and especially at her dining table as a delicious meal was always served. She was very hospitable. She extended her love to everyone and always had a smile and kind word for all. Her home was always open house.

Florence liked a clean and tidy house, yard, motor home and garden. She liked to dress well. She enjoyed walking in the woods, picking mushrooms or just sitting and looking at the river. She loved travelling and going to prayer meetings and singing.

Florence could befriend anyone. She took the time to get to know people. She did it naturally and caringly without pretensions, but with genuine love for her fellow man. She had a very high standard for work ethics and values. She was often sought out by family and friends for advice. She took pride in everything she did and always strived to do her best.

Florence Popoff seemed to have an unlimited capacity to minister to people. She could sit beside someone for hours and days at a hospital and just gently and calmly love them, patiently supporting them as they suffered or grieved. She had a deep Christian faith and walked closely with God. She taught by example, never compromising her ideals and praying continually. She dedicated her life to serving God. Throughout all her years there was a consistent thread of love. Where there is God, there is love. Florence lived her faith. She made all sorts of sacrifices for others. She was a living example of

-serving others for Christ and never wanting to hurt anyone's feelings. Her coping strategies included: pray before starting, get started, pray some more and never take anything for granted. Pray with thanksgiving. Florence lived her life graced by prayer. She gave and gave and gave. She loved and deeply cared for her family and friends and acquaintances and anyone else whom she met. Now the legacy of her teachings, her life, her love, work, values and ethics will continue to live on in our hearts and in our memories.

Florence and Sam loved travelling. Their travels took them to the Soviet Union, across Canada in their motor home, down the Oregon Coast to California, along the Alaska Highway to the Yukon, as well as to various camping spots and hot springs such as Ainsworth and Nakusp.

Florence was a lifetime member of the USCC. She taught Sunday School, participated in the Pass Creek Local, volunteered at the Verigin Memorial Park and regularly participated in Doukobour functions, thus sharing her faith. Her many talents included singing psalms and reciting prayers. It was very important to Florence for her family to understand and live the Christian life in a Doukobour culture. Florence took great pride in her family, home and garden. Her husband, children, grandchildren and immediate family were most important to her. She taught her children the joy of singing and encouraged them to participate in choirs.

Florence belonged to cooking and baking groups at Pass Creek Hall and at the Brilliant Cultural Centre preparing meals for weddings, funerals and other gatherings. She was in the position of being a Head Cook for many years as well as serving on the Ladies Cooking Group Committees. She also mentored, taught and advised people on how to cook borsch, pyrahi, blintzi, plov and

dill pickles.

Florence was predeceased by her parents, her older sister Mabel (John) Zaytsoff, her younger siblings John (Alice) Hadikin and Annie (Fred) Sherstobitoff.

Florence went to be with her Lord on August 23, 2011. She will be sadly missed and will remain forever in our hearts.

Florence's Family would like to thank all of the doctors, nurses, medical staff and home support workers who assisted in Mom's care over the years. Thank you to all relatives, friends and neighbors who supported us with your kind words, visits, telephone calls, cards, flowers, food, gifts and donations. Thank you to the Grand Forks Funeral Home for your compassionate and professional services. Thank you to Ernie Verigin for officiating at Mom's funeral. Thank you to the psalmists and congregational singers and all those who came to support the family.

The following donations were made to ISKRA in memory of Florence Popoff: Mable Allan, \$25; Linda and Mark Foster, \$30; Steve and Mary Kinakin and Family, \$20; Harry and Nancy Vanjoff and Family, \$20; Paul and Mary Verigin, \$25; John and Elizabeth Voykin, \$20; Margaret Wasilenkoff, \$20; Laura Zaitsoff, Ron, Catherine and Nolan Zaitsoff and Debbie, Dean, Mike and Jason Scott, \$100; Mike and Mable Bondaroff, \$20; Bill and Laura Verigin and Family, \$25; Peter and Nettie Kazakoff, \$10; Nellie Voikin, \$10; George, Linda and Girls Soukeroff, \$20; Phil and Shirley Zaysoff, John and Violet Zaytsoff, Jim, Nancy and Mandy Crawford, Bernice and Randy Haviland and Marie and Leonard Bayoff, \$60; Nick Verigin, \$10. Total, \$415.

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