



Mike Popoff 1927 - 2014

Mike Popoff passed away peacefully at Talarico Place in Castlegar, BC in the early morning hours of Monday, April 14, 2014. Talarico Place had been Mike's "home" for the past year. When Mike's health began to fail at the start of the weekend, his younger son Gary, stayed close at his dad's bedside through the weekend, along with other relatives. He was 86 years old at the time of his passing.

Mike entered the world on November 27, 1927, the second of three sons to John and Grace Popoff of Perry Siding. Mike was fortunate to have a number of half brothers and sisters to play with, all of whom he shared fond adventures with, which often involved swimming near Perrys Bridge within walking distance of home, or simple treks along the train tracks, sometimes to Passmore and other times as far as Slocan City. When his older half brother Bill bought a truck, Mike and other siblings would load in the back of the pickup and drive into Slocan City for various weekend events, and then further to Crescent Valley and the big city of Nelson, which Mike loved. He enjoyed days of fishing in the creeks and Slocan River often with his childhood friends and siblings.

When Mike became old enough, he moved to Nelson and got hired at Kootenay Forest Products.

He eventually met his future wife Nellie Gritchen, from Goose Creek, near Crescent Valley. They were married in 1957, and in 1958 their first son, Mitch was born. Two years later, in 1960, they were blessed with a second son, Gary.

The family lived in Nelson, raising their family for the next 10 years. During these years Mike gained a passion for buying used vehicles, fixing them up, and then reselling them. He became friends with Mel Buerge who owned a car dealership in Nelson at the time. During this time, Mike and Nellie ended their marriage and Nellie moved with their two sons to Vancouver for a time. Mike figured out a crafty way to visit his two sons, by convincing Mel Buerge to let him drive down used dealership vehicles for resale to Vancouver. This gave Mike the opportunity to always stay in contact with his sons until they moved back to the Kootenays.

Mike became seriously ill with asthma and other breathing related problems in the late 60s. The doctors didn't hold hope for a recovering prognosis and little hope for a long life. Mike had to leave his job at KFP, and delved into his passion of finding good used vehicles and repairing them. At the same time, he sought other health solutions. The winter conditions in the Kootenays were difficult for his breathing, so Mike began to travel to Arizona during winter months and

travelled to Mexico one year with his friend Paul Swetlishoff. During this time he soon heard of a man named Bernard Jensen from California who was a well respected international nutritionist who Mike thought may help him. Mike travelled to California, met Dr. Jensen personally and was evaluated for a long stay program at the healing ranch with Bernard Jensen International. Mike was immediately put on a nutritional diet, and a tailor made program to bring Mike's health back. This was Mike's last hope, and Mike was always grateful for this life saving miracle.

After being given a second chance at a quality of life, Mike was able to return to work. He was hired by the City of Nelson as their Animal Bylaw Control Officer. He worked at this job until his retirement. During these years, Mike spent much time with his siblings, particularly his younger brother Andrew with whom he was close, as well as his sister Anne Soukeroff. He was also actively involved with his two sons. His oldest, Mitch got married and began a life in Kamloops, where Mike was blessed with the birth of two grandsons, Adam and Joel. Mike enjoyed taking trips there to visit them. When his son Mitch began to build a home, Mike helped him with that. After retirement, Mike had some savings, and along with Mitch, they bought some acreage on Doukhobor Road, near Shoreacres where Mike's sister Anne lived. Along with his younger son Gary, Mike moved from Nelson to this property where he lived many years, and enjoyed working on his hobby with Gary, of fixing used vehicles for resale as well as spending time with his son.

Mike also enjoyed spending much of his time with his brother Andy who also had a common passion in fixing vehicles, motors and other equipment, as

well as his sister Anne who lived close by.

Ten years ago, Mike made a decision to move to Scotch Creek, near Kamloops, to help his son Mitch, who had become ill. He lived there until this last year, and enjoyed spending time with new friends there, being on Shuswap Lake, and enjoying his 'golden years'.

Mike always tried to stay in contact with his relatives and numerous nieces and nephews through his lifetime. He also had a close relationship with his brother-in-law, Louie Gritchen of Thrums, BC – who faithfully went to visit Mike throughout this past year at Talarico. Mike was blessed to have lived at lengths of time with each of his sons, throughout their lives and always helped them in every way he could.

Mike will be sorrowfully missed by his son Mitch Popoff of Scotch Creek, BC, and grandsons Adam and Joel. Equally he will be missed by his younger son Gary and Michelle Secord, of Nelson, BC. Mike also leaves behind his remaining brother Andrew Popoff of New Denver, BC. and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mike was predeceased by his brother Johnny Popoff, his sister Anne Soukeroff and six half brothers and sisters.

The family extends their deep appreciation to staff at Talarico Place, to Bill Strilaeff and the Castlegar Funeral Chapel, and to all who were able to come and share in the loss of our beloved father.

“Our dad wished to be buried at Perry Siding – with most of his departed family members – we will always keep him in our thoughts and heart.”



**In Memoriam**  
**Vechnaya Pamyat**

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends