



Nick Samuel Strukoff 1922 - 2013

Nick Strukoff was born October 11, 1922 in Grand Forks, BC to his parents Sam and Tina Strukoff, and his grandparents Sam and Fenya Strukoff and Nikola and Nadejda Plotnikoff. Nick grew up in the Doukhobor Sion Community in the Horkoff village which was located just below Sirotskoye. Nick was the eldest of three children, with two younger sisters Mary and Dorothy.

Nick attended public classes at Fructova School and also attended Russian School, being taught by memorable teachers Mirkulov and Balabanov. Growing up Nick was an energetic and active young boy. According to his sisters he had a great sense of humour and was somewhat of a prankster. Growing up in a Doukhobor village, Nick had a close group of friends with whom he enjoyed many good times: Alex Horkoff, Peter Plotnikoff, Alex Lazeroff, Paul Perepolkin, Fred Plotnikoff and others. They would walk everywhere exploring the rivers, countryside, Saddle Lake was a favorite, downtown and all surrounding areas. They enjoyed choir singing, going to the movies, baseball games. Summers were spent swimming and swinging off the ropes at the Carson Bridge swimming hole, winters sledding down Spencer Hill. They all loved to sing and would gather often at Lazeroff's porch in the village. There they organized a small band and many evenings were spent singing and playing their instruments. Nick always loved the outdoors, no matter what season. In his later teenage years,

Nick like many others, would leave home for the Okanagan to find work in the orchards.

On March 25, 1945 Nick was united in marriage to Annie Strukoff, daughter of William and Dasha Strukoff. In their early married years they worked in the Okanagan orchards and returning to settle in Grand Forks. Nick and Annie were blessed with two children, Shirley and Harold.

The years were spent caring for their family and home. During these early busy years, Nick with the help of his wife Annie, built two family homes. On summer weekends Nick and Annie, along with family and friends, were always out at Christina Lake enjoying swimming and picnicking. Camping was another favorite with trips to the Okanagan, Kootenays, Montana and Washington.

Nick enjoyed and took great pride in watching his children's activities such as ball games, hockey games, festivals. He spent many late nights and hours flooding the outdoor ice rink in the backyard with lights strung on the clothes line. Many trips were made to Trail to watch hockey games and we were fortunate to see teams like the Montreal Canadians and the Russian and Czech Select Teams. Family shopping trips to Spokane were always a fun time.

Nick's grandchildren will always cherish and remember their good times with "Baba and Deda"

swimming at Christina Lake and Kelowna, playing cards, playing billiards, and being video-recorded singing and play acting.

Nick, like many other individuals who grew up in his generation, worked in various occupations which included construction of homes, carpentry construction at the Waneta Dam near Trail, operated a Sash & Door Shop where the current Selkirk College now stands. Nick worked at the Phoenix Mine as a shovel operator, haul pack driver, on the blasting crew, and later became a shift supervisor. After the closing of Phoenix Mine, Nick worked for Can Par Industries where he drove a transport truck hauling particle board, resin and wood chips to various locations. Nick retired from Can Par at the age of 65.

Nick was a self-taught skilled man of many talents; from playing an accordion, guitar, harmonica to fixing a car, to gardening. He loved to work with wood and metal. He was a passionate handyman and everything domestic interested him. If he didn't know how to do or fix something he would learn to find a way. He had a very strong work ethic, everything was done only one way "the right way". Nick was an extremely hard working person, was meticulous about his dress and his home and yard. He loved cars and kept his cars clean and well maintained, and even had a built-in grease pit constructed in his garage. His first car was a 1929 Ford Model T.

Nick was an avid gardener, growing a variety of grapes, his passion was his fruit trees and he loved grafting his fruit trees to have more than one variety on each tree. He believed in naturopathic remedies and was very interested in reading research for various cures and ailments. Staying physically fit was an important part of his life and he had his own fitness room. He also enjoyed watching sports, hockey, baseball and for many

years attended the annual Labour Day Baseball Tournaments.

In their later years Nick and Annie were fortunate to have been able to travel and enjoy several out of country trips which included Hawaii, Barbados, Mexico and Cuba. They travelled with friends, and along the way met new acquaintances with each memorable trip. Another travel highlight was a trip to Russia along with his two cousins, Fred & Harry Vanjoff.

Nick strived to live the Doukhobor way of life and he encouraged the same ideals to his children and grandchildren. He contributed to the USCC organization in various ways and he was also an early member of the USCC Brotherhood Choir.

After the passing of his wife Annie in April of 2008, Nick's health and energy began fading and declining and in August of 2010 he moved to assisted living at Boundary Lodge. In November of 2011, Nick required more care and attention and moved to Hardy View Lodge. His communication and mobility became more difficult, however Nick continued to persevere and struggle through the challenges that daily life presented, and still enjoyed watching a Canucks hockey game, the Russian programs or an old Lawrence Welk show.

Nick lived his entire life in Grand Forks. Nick passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at the age of 91. Nick was predeceased by his beloved wife Annie of 63 years in 2008, his parents Sam Strukoff in 1963 and Tina Strukoff in 1977, brother-in-law George (Kelly) Strukoff in 2007, nephew Joe Strukoff in 1975, niece Natalie Soukoroff in 2011, and most recently his precious great-granddaughter Maya Kate in 2012.

Nick is survived by his daughter Shirley and husband Mike Sookochoff of Grand Forks; son Harold and wife Terri Strukoff of Kelowna; and four grandchildren: Sean Sookochoff of South Korea; Brent and wife Lisa Sookochoff of North Vancouver, Carrie and Derek Strukoff of Kelowna and great-granddaughter Kara Anne Sookochoff of North Vancouver. Also, sister Mary Soukoroff of Castlegar, sister Dorothy and husband Pete Chernoff of Grand Forks, brother-in-law Mike and wife Helen Strukoff and sister-in-law Florence Strukoff of Grand Forks, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Dad was a hard-working man, a devoted husband and a kind, caring and generous father and grandfather. If Dad had the opportunity, this is what we thought Dad would want to say in his last goodbye.

Goodbye My Family
Goodbye my family,
My life is past.
I loved you all
To the very last.
Weep not for me,
But courage take,
Love each other,
For my sake.
For those you love
Don't go away,
They walk beside you
Every day.

We will all miss you Dad...and your unconditional love, help, and assistance you gave us. May God accept his soul into His Heavenly Kingdom. God Bless you Dad and may you rest in peace.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends