



William J. Chernoff

1915 - 2012

William John Chernoff was born to John S. and Polly S. Chernoff on April 2, 1915 in Veregin, SK. He was the youngest of four children, having three older sisters - Lucy, Anne and Mary. He also had two older half brothers - John Chernoff from his Dad's side and Lukian Nevakshonoff from his Mother's.

William John started his schooling in 1924 at the age of nine in a little red brick school house in Veregin, SK, where he attended until 1930, completing the 6th grade. Then, due to an injury his Dad sustained to his hand, making him unable to fulfill his responsibilities to the communal work force, William John was called on to take his Dad's place. He had to leave school and for a period of nine years worked in the communal agriculture enterprise of the Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood, mainly field work with teams of horses.

In April of 1939 the decision was made to move to Southern Alberta where his sister Anne and her husband Fred Faminow had leased land and invited William John to bring his parents and farm the land adjacent to theirs.

So, with three cows, four horses and some implements, they moved by train from Veregin, SK to the Cowley-Lundbreck area of Southern Alberta, where for a period of four and a half years they

prospered with the grain crops he planted and harvested and the mixed farming of raising pigs, cattle and horses.

Toward the end of 1943, on the urging of his Father wanting to be closer to the Doukhobor community at large in BC, William and his parents decided to move to BC. From the sale of the livestock he raised in nearly five years in Alberta, William was able to buy a parcel of land on Johnson Flats in Grand Forks.

Between Christmas and New Years of 1943 in the Province Hotel he met Mabel Negraeff and they were married on his birthday April 2, 1944. Their first son William W. (Billy) was born in December. His Dad John S. passed away on the farm in the fall of 1945.

For the first two years he and Mabel grew seed onions on Johnson Flats until the spring of 1947 when they went into the dry goods and grocery business opening up William's General Store in downtown Grand Forks, until the fall of 1949. He bought a truck and went to work hauling logs for his Father-in-law John Negraeff who was operating a sawmill. In November of 1950 their second son Lawrence William was born in Grand Forks.

William stayed with the logging and Mabel worked out cooking in restaurants until the fall of 1955 when they

bought the Pinewood Cabins at Christina Lake, BC, and by 1956 William had built a restaurant and cleared a campground. The business became known as the Pinewood Cabins and Café, popular for its home-cooked meals, pies and borshch.

Being a seasonal business, in the winter months William continued to work out on the different construction jobs that were happening all around at that time as a carpenter and laborer when called for. William and Mabel operated the Cafe until 1969 when it was sold and William built a home in town and semi retired. He continued to work out in the summer months and travel in the winter. His beloved Mabel passed away in 1995 and he did not re-marry.

William was predeceased by his parents John and Polly Chernoff, Sisters Mary Riebin, Lucy Seminoff and Anne Faminow, two brothers John Chernoff and Lukian Nevakshonoff and his wife of 51 years, Mabel.

William is survived by Sons Billy and Lorne(Iris), Grandchildren John William Chernoff, Catherine Grace Chernoff, Meagan Mabel Chernoff, Kristen Page Hutchcroft and Melanie Joy Chursinoff, and Great Grandson Chase Andrew Hutchcroft.

William was a quiet and gentle, hard-working man, a devoted husband and a wonderfully warm and caring father.

Special Thanks to: All who have traveled to be here this morning. Thanks to the singers, John Verigin, Jerry Seminoff for guidance and help, Everett Baker and staff for guidance and arrangements, Pastor John Siemens of First Baptist Church and all who have spoken with kindness, the men who prepared the grave site, all who brought food and the ladies that prepared the food.

William was a lifelong member of the Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ and Brotherhood Choir and a committee member of the Canada-USSR Association. William was an active community member and took part in all activities

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 30, 2012 in the USCC Community Center with burial in the USCC Sion Doukhobor Cemetery, Grand Forks BC. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Everett Baker of Grand Forks Funeral Home.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends