

Helen Kisling



Helen Soloveoff was born December 8, 1927, in the Doukhobor settlement at Kylemore, Saskatchewan, the third of four children in the family of John W. and Annie E. (nee Planidin) Soloveoff. She grew up with two older brothers, Pete and Fred, and younger sister, Mabel.

Growing up in Saskatchewan had its challenges and hardships. Tales were told of harsh weather, food rations and tight living quarters. In spite of this Helen found joy in things that made her happy. Many a night Helen took her ten cents and walked to the movies to lose herself with movie stars on the big screen. Some evenings were spent at Grandmother's house listening to serials on the radio and having tea and cookies. She kept scrapbooks of movies stars of the day, carefully put together and were her personal treasures to be coveted. Helen also loved going to school and she excelled at it, completing up to grade eight.

In 1942, the Soloveoff family moved to Grand Forks, B.C. where Helen helped the family's income by delivering milk in a specially designed apron which held the bottles and later worked in the Okanagan orchards with her brother Pete. After some time Helen moved to New Westminster, B.C. working in a plywood manufacturing factory, donning coveralls and moving heavy sheets of plywood with many other women. She made long-lasting friendships and had some very happy times.

in the late 1950's Helen lived in Calgary, Alberta, working for Greyhound Bus Depot as a travel agent and ticket clerk. It was here she met Eddie Kisling and married soon after. In March 1958 a daughter was born – Sherre Ann. An untimely death left Helen a widow with a three month old baby. After some time, Helen relocated to Kelowna, B.C. where she worked for Inland Natural Gas. The early 1960's saw Helen

back in Grand Forks to initially live with her parents who helped her out as a single mother while she worked at the office of the Grand Forks School Board.

Helen's life was not an easy one but she raised her daughter with ideals, to have kindness and respect for others and taught her independence. She did the best she could to create a comfortable home, provide for her family and all the while maintained her strong work ethic. Helen loved to travel and found solace in music and poetry. She enjoyed bowling and curling. She loved to celebrate Christmas and birthdays. Her sense of pride could have been seen as a fault and she persevered through many obstacles. Helen loved to shop and her personal style was beautiful. Just a couple of weeks ago she claimed she would be hitting the malls after Christmas to catch the Boxing Day sales.

Sadly this was not to happen as Helen died early in the morning of December 29th in the Southwood Care Centre in Calgary. She was 84 years old.

Helen was predeceased by her husband Eddie in 1958, mother Annie in 1968, father John in 1990, sister Mabel in 1996 and brother Pete in 2004.

She leaves behind her daughter Sherre and husband Mark Lapointe in Kamloops, brother Fred in Grand Forks, and her dear companion for the past 25 years, Robert Campbell in Calgary; as well as nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives.

We wish our mother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend eternal peace and safety in God's heavenly kingdom. She will be dearly missed and her memory will remain forever in our hearts.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends