

Julia Perepelkin



After a long and full life, Julia Perepelkin (nee Fillipoff) passed away just short of her 92nd birthday at Aldergrove Regional Hospital, February 3, 2012. Born March 25, 1920 at Pass Creek, B.C. to Fred and Nastia Fillipoff, the family, including older brother John and younger brother Sam, moved to the Slocan Valley, settling in Winlaw. Here they began homesteading along the Slocan River. Julia attended the local school where she excelled and her teachers recommended that she carry-on her education in Nelson at the senior high school. Arrangements were made for billeting, but this dream evaporated when her father felt she was needed on the farm. Greatly disappointed, Julia never gave up on learning and although there was no further formal education, she continued to learn by reading and observing. Her favourite word, "preemechai" ("be observant") became the backbone of her education as well as that of her children. Whatever she attempted was always done to the best of her ability. She also made sure that her children had the opportunity for formal education, up to and including university.

In Winlaw, she met and married Pete Perepelkin on February 1, 1940. After a short period of living with her in-laws, the young couple purchased their first home in Winlaw and began raising their son, Peter, born in 1941, as well as improving their property. Julia's strong work ethic and determination soon had her property blossoming with her famous dahlias and other flowers, and her garden producing vegetables and fruit to provide for the family as well as to sell to neighbours.

In 1947, daughter Evelyn arrived and the family and property prospered. However, in 1959 just as son Peter started university, Pete died after an embolism

developed following a logging truck accident. Left as a single mother with two young children, Julia rose to the challenge and turned to her farm where she enrolled in her next school of education: farming. She learned to drive the tractor, raking hay and in winter, plowing snow. She became skilled in financial management and seemed to thrive on her independence. It is this independence that made her an early feminist. She believed in equal pay for equal work and was dismayed when she learned this did not always happen.

Always a very social and outgoing personality, she attracted the attention of Walter Malakoff and in 1963, daughter Teresa was born. This family unit was not to be and Julia was once again a single parent. In 1971 she gave up her farming lifestyle and moved to the community of Robson where once again she grew her flowers and cultivated a large garden. Life was good.

In time, Mickit Nazarov, a great gardener and outdoor lover, came into Julia's life. With strong work ethics, they set about making a well-organized, well-run home. Together they scoured the local mountains for mushrooms and huckleberries and spent many relaxing hours on their boat on the Arrow Lakes or on Kootenay Lake. They even ventured to the ocean off Vancouver Island. Travel to Mexico became a yearly adventure. Here they met and made new friends that they continued to stay in contact with for many years, often meeting in Melaque or Bucarias. A trip to Cuba and another to Russia were memorable occasions. The visit to the land of their ancestors strengthened their commitment to the USCC and their love of singing. Julia was active in various cooking groups and many choirs throughout her life, as well as

teaching Sunday School in her younger years.

She was an accomplished seamstress and could make copies of items she admired without the help of a pattern. Thus she planned and completed her "going away outfit" some time ago. But she was most proud of her ability to fringe shawls and completed many for friends and family. The embroidery on her own shawls was done to perfection and other items of embroidery were often borrowed by friends to enter in Nelson's Fall Fair where they won first prize ribbons.

As the golden years continued, Julia and Micket moved to Castlegar to a retirement area where life would be less stressful. Despite not having a full garden, they managed to carve a section from the hillside in order to plant a few tomatoes and cucumbers as well as rhubarb, strawberries and more. But in July of 2004, Micket passed away after a short illness.

Left alone, Julia, relied on friends and family for her needs and often visited family in Grand Forks, Penticton and Aldergrove. During one of these visits in 2007, she suffered a stroke that took some spring out of her step. A second stroke took a great portion of her speech and independence and as a result, she was relocated to Jackman Manor in Aldergrove, B.C. where her medical needs could be met. Here she continued her socializing with her easy smile, love of jokes and friendly disposition. The staff loved their "Baba". On Sundays, she enjoyed a special outing to daughter Teresa's for a home-cooked meal and the opportunity for family time to catch up with happenings in the Kootenays. Visits from her other children meant shopping trips to the mall and a visit to a favourite restaurant. On other occasions she particularly enjoyed Christmas and Father's Day outings with the Lower Mainland Doukhobors which allowed her to keep in touch with her roots and her much-loved choral singing

On January 20th, Julia entered Abbotsford hospital for a minor procedure which went well and she returned to her Jackman Manor home. However, the next day she was returned to the hospital and diagnosed with pneumonia to which she finally succumbed, on Friday, February 3rd and under beautiful blue skies, entered the after-life of heaven in which she strongly believed.

Predeceased by her parents, Fred and Nastia, her brothers John and Fred, her husbands, Pete Perepelkin and Micket Nazarov, her daughter-in-law Florence (Bloodoff) Perepelkin, and grandchildren, Keith Perepelkin and Larissa Perepelkin, Julia is survived by her son Peter (Joy) of Grand Forks, daughter Evelyn Markin (Allan) of Penticton, daughter Teresa Verigin (Brent) of Aldergrove, grandchildren Allison Markin of Penticton, Quentin Markin (Heather) of Sydney, Australia and Brenden Verigin of Aldergrove.

Funeral service was held at the Brilliant Cultural Centre on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Burial followed at the Brilliant Cemetery. In Julia's memory, donations to the USCC or ISKRA would be gratefully accepted.

The family appreciates and thanks friends and family for their support and words of condolence. We are especially grateful to Pete Relkoff, who knew Julia for many years, and who conducted a personal and thoughtful service. Deep appreciation to the Doukhobor Psalmists for their singing, the gravediggers for their work, to the USCC catering group for a well-prepared lunch, and to Bill Strilaeff of Castlegar Funeral Services for his guidance and professional services. Thanks to Nora Makaroff for her poem and kind words and to JJ Verigin for his words of compassion and remembrance of our mother.

May she rest in peace.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends