

St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

VIEWES FROM THE PEWS | 14/02/21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MONTANA STEVE !

On January 3rd, 2021, fellow parishioner Mr. Steve Sereda, affectionately known as Montana Steve, has celebrated his 99th birthday!

On behalf of St. Stephen's Parish, we wholeheartedly wish Mr. Steve a Happy Belated 99th Birthday! May Jesus Christ continue to bless you abundantly and keep you safe in his loving care!



Mr. Steve remains very independent and continues living in his own home. Mr. Steve has his own garden and can easily make 20 containers of borscht. Mr. Steve enjoys people and life!

He has a daughter in Alderside, south of Calgary, and grandchildren. Mr. Steve's daughter likes to take him shopping every 2 weeks. Although Mr. Steve enjoys coming to church COVID has made it much harder. However, he continues to attend church whenever possible.

We had a chance to chat with Mr. Steve. Below is a brief summary of our conversation...

On January 3rd you turned 99 years old, how did you celebrate?

"Very good! Something special happened to me on that day. A little boy and his mother, who live down the street, came to visit me. They brought me a beautiful card with a little present. Shortly after they left, the little boy (who must have been 2-3 years old) came back running to my front porch. When I opened the doors, he kept on looking deeply into my eyes. It was the best present I have ever received. The way that little boy looked into my eyes was so incredible!"

What was the happiest moment of your life?

"When I entertained people. I loved to entertain and talk to people. I met all kinds of people from coast to coast, US, and Alaska. I met famous people from Hollywood. I used to travel 80,000 miles a year. I met millions of people! Also, when I was travelling, I wanted to show people that animals are clever and very smart creatures."

Who has influenced you the most?

"My mother was the person who influenced me the most. She was very kind and would never get mad. I don't remember her ever getting mad at anyone. We used to live on a small farm and attend Church often. When my mom found out I was leaving to travel she told me to help the people that would cross my path. She also got a cross from her pocket and put it on my neck. I still have the cross to this day! Can you believe it? During my travels a lot of people helped me – knowing that I believed in God."

What life advice would you pass along?

"Listen to your mother, be nice to everyone and love everyone. Also, don't forget to love animals."

What kinds of things make you the happiest now?

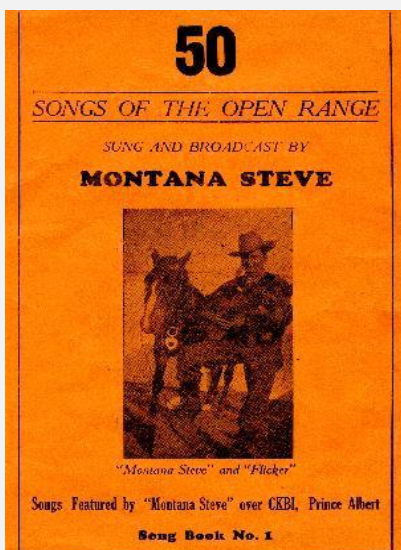
"I enjoy life, I still do! I still cook, I still go to my garage daily and work there for hours!!! I keep myself busy. I am also a great outdoor man. I have hundreds of birds that I feed every day and have been feeding for over 20 years! I also feed my little squirrels every day. I really love animals and think that everyone has the right to live. Think about it, if we had no animals, no birds – what would we have then?"

What would you like to say to our younger generation?

"Go to church, believe and help other people. Also fight for what you want! If you want something you have to fight for it and you will have it! When I was a kid, I had a dream that I will have a horse one day, I will be travelling and that's what I got! But I had to fight and work hard for it. So, whatever you want fight for it and work for it and you will get it!"

Is there anything else you'd like to share or say?

"Wow, I never really thought about some of these questions. It's hard for me to answer...I would tell people to BE AS KIND AS YOU CAN BE AND HELP OTHER PEOPLE!!!"



You might be interested in checking the link below for an article dated 2013 when Mr. Sereda was recognized as

"Inspiring Albertan"

<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/inspired-by-western-heritage-and-tradition-1.1362138>