

TWO OCATAGARIANS AND A 2010 FORD FOCUS JOURNEY APRIL 2025

PART IV – SASKATOON, SK., TO CALGARY, AB AND HOME TO CASTLEGAR, B.C.

Accumulated distance from Parts I through III inclusive – 3,337 km

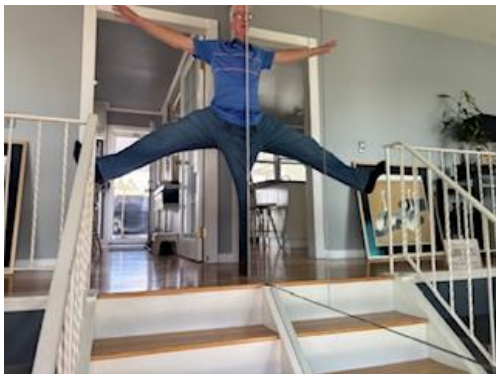
We were ready to leave before 0900 hours thanks to the efficiency of the Baggage Administrator.

We took the route via Saskatoon and Highway 7 through Rosetown, Sk. To Alsask at the provincial boundary where the highway number changed to 9. At Hanna we checked in with Lloyd Morozoff to get directions as to how we will find his house the easiest. We had a great lunch at Hanna and carried on.

“Very simple” Lloyd calmly instructed, “enter Calgary on Highway 1 from the East and turn South on the cloverleaf at 52nd Street. Three (3) lights and turn East on 4th Avenue and you will see my house number.”

Highway 9 became Highway 27 just North of Drumheller and so we carried on to the junction with Highway 21. Then South and intersected Highway 1 West into Calgary.

First Cousin Lloyd’s directions were excellent, and we found his house easily.



Lloyd welcomed us and was jumping up in joy.

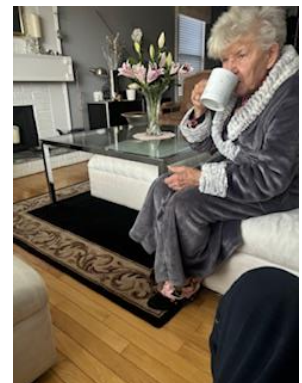
Yes, Lloyd and his deceased partner Tina loved mirrors which decorate their house in a professional manner.

Our welcoming dinner was Venison Stew that was brilliantly prepared by a Hunter who enjoys cooking. I had two bowls full accompanied with garlic toast. Marilyn and I really enjoyed this dinner as we both were accustomed to wild game growing up on the farm

where Deer were harvested with farm animals.

Lloyd had travelled, with Marilyn and I as guests of our Aunt Flo Markin and four (4) other family members, in the Spring of 2008, to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. There were many memories to reminisce.

We had a restful evening and relaxed in Lloyd’s special guest room. Marilyn is enjoying a late cup of coffee the next morning in the Living



Room.

Lloyd and I had a wonderful discussion about his meeting with his deceased partner, Tina, and the very interesting love affair which was their life together. I also heard about Sam, his father and my Mom's brother. Especially about his World War II experience as a wounded soldier and his ultimate recovery. Lloyd has a 'stick' on this history which he is prepared to share with me. I made a mental note that there is another story that I need to write on Lloyd and his life.

Yes, Lloyd and I also played a few card games as a memory of our 2008 Eurasia trip when we were roommates for seventeen days. We okayed Crib and 'Holee' ('Naked' Russian to English translation) but the records still stand after seventeen (17) years, Lloyd is the card shark!

Lloyd's educational and work history includes a Junior Geologist in the hard rock mining exploration. He explored northern Saskatchewan for Uranium as well as Ontario and Northwest territories in 1970-74.

In 1974, he started in the window covering field and has been at it ever since.



Since we had an evening free, Marilyn and I decided to take out Lloyd for dinner. We found out that Jess Markin (1st Cousin Allan's son) was available, so we decided to do a foursome.

We were happy to see Jess again as was Aunty Marilyn in this photo.

Big and Small we love them all (Jess is 6'-3' tall).

Jess and Lloyd knew about a 'Watering Hole' near by and so we went there.

They served beer, Jess' size in this establishment.



They served great Steak Sandwiches, and we had a great time.

The places in Calgary seem to be all very busy.

Our subject matter varies but we enjoyed each



other's company. It was a great evening.

On Thursday, April 17, 2025, we were at a lunch with former U of S students as well as members of the dated Saskatoon Doukhobor Youth Choir (SDY).

As special effort was initiated and a venue chosen with a recommendation from Paul to meet at Nick's on 2430 Crowchild Trail for lunch at 1130 hours.



Lydia (nee Konkin) Cherkas lives in High River in the winter to be near her son and his family, then moves back to Kamsack, Sk., to enjoy her farm and grow a large garden.

Lydia was escorted in from High River by her son Alan

Lydia took Nursing training in Saskatoon to receive an LNA and worked 40 years in the Kamsack Hospital.

Her husband Peter was a Musician and played in various bands. He enjoyed restoring cars in addition to farming.

Here they

all are gathered at a reserved area of Nick's (not Nick Strukoff).

From L to R clockwise are seated: Nick Strukoff, Elmer Verigin, Paul Shukin, Mildred (Streliaoff) Shukin, Marilyn (nee Verishine) Lydia (nee Konkin) Cherkas and Leone (nee Mack) Strukoff.



Paul has a B.S.A. from U of S in 1963

Mildred has a R.T. in Medical Laboratory Technology Edmonton in 1966.

Paul's info "...We have one son Geoff, a Certified Systems Design Engineer , focus is cloud storage, security and A.I . Employed by Broadcom. Serves, clients worldwide.

Erin our daughter-in-law has a B.ED. from U of S . Majors in History and Special needs ED. Works for Calgary Board of Education. She Is the family social Co-ordinator...'

Nick Strukoff's info "... has a BEd,BSc (UofS), DipEd (UofC). Taught Chemistry and Physics in Swift Current & Calgary. Retired 1995 (freedom 55)

Leone has a BSChEc (UofS), BEd (UofC). Taught Home Ec in Swift Current & Calgary. Retired 1997

Daughter Rae taught special ed in Calgary & Red Deer. Rae's husband Ken fire chief city of Red Deer

Daughter Gail monitors air quality for metro Vancouver. Her husband Rick VP Chem trade...."

Nick, Paul, Elmer, Marilyn and Lydia, were all members of the Saskatoon Doukhobor Youth (SDY). After sixty (60) years the feeling of fellowship was part of the overall aura of the gathering.

The evening of Thursday, April 17, 2025, Lloyd, Marilyn and I were invited to Allan and Patricia (nee XX) Markins for Dinner at their residence.



This is their house where we are to enjoy dinner.

".....Allan P. Markin B.Sc., P.Eng., LLD (hon)

Allan Markin is a distinguished Alberta business and community leader who is as innovative as he is successful. In his business career, he has helped to create the prosperity the province enjoys today. In his philanthropic endeavors, he has ensured a brighter and a healthier future for his fellow Albertans.

Allan Paul Markin was born on May 6, 1945 in the town of Bowness, which at the time sat outside the Calgary corporate limits. The small community eventually became part of the city and Allan became a proud Calgarian. His parents, Andrew and Florence Markin, set an example of hard work for Allan and his siblings: Diana, Jerry and Kathy. The rhythm of family life was set to the pulse of classic Alberta traditions – curling and hockey in the winter and summers spent outside under blue Alberta skies. Allan was a keen scholar and natural athlete who quickly developed what would grow into a lifelong passion for sports in general and hockey in particular...."

I am proud to identify Allan as my 1st Cousin. The hospitality that emanates from his ancestry prevails in his care and love for all his relatives and friends.



Markin and Marilyn Verigin.

In the photo on the right, Allan prepares to carve the roast for dinner

At this dinner were L to R clockwise: Patricia Markin. Mona, Lloyd Morozoff, Allan



There were many memories to discuss and share with the great food offered by Allan and Patricia along with toasts with wine.

“What’s all that clatter in the kitchen?” I asked.



“Who knows, Maybe Allan is doing the dishes?” Patricia shrugs.

It was just another great family dinner.

(XX), the Markin canine is taking it all in but not permitted to partake in the Roast Dinner nor the wine. She is disappointed but understands



humans very well.

The next day, Friday, April 18, 2025, we were invited to a traditional Shishliki Barb-b-q at the home of Jason and Marcia (nee Secieru) Morozoff..

On the right are two (2) attendants at the event, Sidney Trofemenkoff with his Girlfriend Shelley. Sidney is the Head Mechanic at GeoGrout in Calgary, a company owned by Jason. Shelley works in the office. Sidney is the youngest of the four (4) Trofemenkoff sons of my 1st Cousin Florence and Michael Trofemenkoff.

On the left, Jason oversees the cooking, a tradition that





goes back to his grandfather Alex Morozoff, my mother's brother. Jason claims that he has preserved the 'special Shishliki recipe' that the Morozoff family brought with them from Russia. This claim is often disputed by the Verigin family who said that their recipe is now used for the Annual Veregin Shisliki Event. I find that my role as 'official taster' has its personal benefits and laud both whenever in attendance.



Marcia is keeping a close eye on daughter Allegra Maria while, on the left son Sal is growing quickly.

It was great to meet all the family at this event.

L to R we have Sidney, Jason, Sidney

Kazakoff and Marilyn



Just like times of yore. The two Sidneys were born and raised near where Jason's father Allan grew up. Jason's attendance. It was mother Shirley was in sure great to visit with her.



to R are Jason, Sidney Kazakoff, Shelley (standing) and Shirley Morozoff.

In the photo at the right is L



As usual, the hospitality of the Morozoffs continues through the generations.

Jason's account of his history:

"....In 2002 I was working in Victoria and Vancouver as musician. Around 2004 I moved back to Calgary and found it difficult to get jobs playing with a closed scene so I took a gig making jingles for pilot programs and websites. I had also turned down a job with a touring company like Riverdance as I wanted to stay involved with Geo Grout. People were making so much free stuff for publicity that I couldn't compete with the jingles so I focused on Geo Grout for money and just played for fun. Then dad died and I pretty much quit music all together. Shortly after I decided to get an Engineering Degree to avoid losing credibility in the industry as not to lose what Dad and I had built with the company's, as I had worked with him continuously

since a very young age. I played in the university orchestra while doing the Engineering Degree as well as the city's community orchestra. Now with kids there is not much time to play at all, but I'll pick it back up when they get a bit older....."

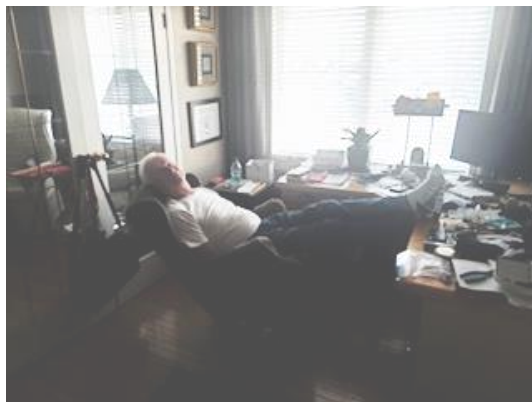
We were looking forward to visiting with Marilyn's nephew Cory and Norah Verishine who had expected to drive down from Edmonton to Lloyd's house for a visit.

We were all disappointed with this development that caused Cory to be unable to attend:

"....Hi Elmer, we have had a problem come up. I had a flat last night on the way home and had to have my truck towed to fountain tire. I had to wait till they opened at 10 to see if they could fix it. They can but they are booked up and will try to get it in today. So we are waiting to hear from them and unfortunately won't be able to make it to Calgary..."



Marilyn was very disappointed as she had not seen her nephew for many years and now it may be many more years.



I went to discuss this matter with Cousin Lloyd to see what we could do now that we had a Saturday daytime open to us.

He was very busy in his office and I was sorry to disrupt the thought processes that were obviously transpiring at the time I interrupted.

We decided to take Marilyn to a nearby Casino and have a lunch as well.

That is exactly what we did.



That evening we were invited by my nephew Jess Markin for a special meal preparation at his house.

Here we are Lloyd, Marilyn and Jess enjoying an Italian cuisine meal prepared by Chef Jess.



This is Jess's story:

".....I received my automotive and heavy duty technician diploma from SAIT after graduating from high school. I worked as a heavy duty mechanic until the late 90s. I got into a car accident that ended that for a while so I went to university since I couldn't do much with my body, I decided to do something with my mind. I got a general studies degree from University of Calgary focussing mostly on social work. And then worked for Kal Tire for over six years. Then I applied for Calgary police, and while I was doing that I volunteered at the Alberta Adolescent, Recovery Centre. I was 2/3 through my police application process when AARC offered me a job and I decided to take it. I worked there for 13 years, I slowly became burnt out. I now do contract work with Kal Tire six months a year....."

That completed a very nice Saturday in Calgary.

Easter Sunday involved a special Easter Dinner prepared at the home of Mark Edmunds and partner Jodi Thesenvitz, daughter of Elmer's 1st Cousin Doris (nee Chernoff) Thesenvitz in SW Calgary. Doris had driven down from her home at (XX) so that we could meet in Calgary.



Doris is the second daughter of my mother's sister Polly (nee Morozoff) Chernoff, she has a BScN; MACL and is now retired in the home they built with her late husband Dayton.

Here is Jodi's family that we met for the first time. L to R are:

Jodi Thesenvitz, Michael, Meagan (Mattie) and Mark Edmunds.



Jodi provided an educational and career description of her family as follows:

"...Mark Edmunds is my husband

He works in sales with Moneris. Has a history degree.

I have a BSc in Health Science, and an MA in Social Sciences. I have always worked in health or healthcare. I currently work with the Alberta Medical Association.

Michael son is 21 and studying Energy Science. He is hoping to work in Renewable Energy.

Meagan goes by the name Mattie. She is studying Archaeology and Anthropology but really wants to be a writer and/or make and sell costumes. She is 19...."



Here we have L to R Clockwise: Mattie, Jodi, Mark, Marilyn, Michael and Lloyd.

It is a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

A wonderful family get together.

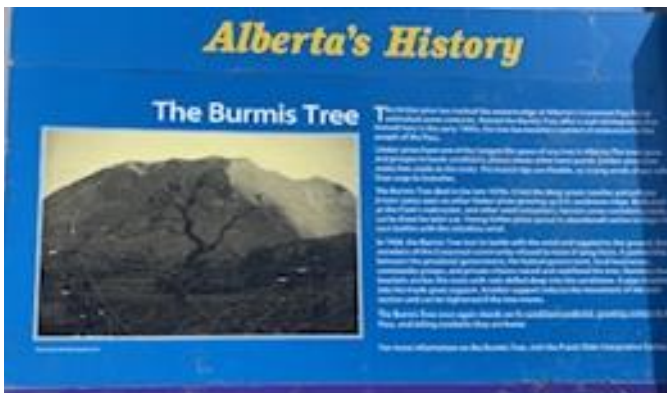
That completed the Calgary Part IV of our Visitation.



you are our home!

We arose early Monday morning for our return to Castlegar. The weather warning was for a storm in the Crowsnest Pass at noon so we did our hugs with Lloyd and took Stoney Trail to Deerfoot and Highway 2 to Ft. McLeod, where we were back on Highway 3 to British Columbia.

Hello, you beautiful mountains,



This tree is Marilyn's favorite welcome to British Columbia. It reminds her of our Family Tree.

Here is the story on the tree:

We arrived in Castlegar at 1630 hours. We are happy to be home.

The following observations and summations are from **Elmer** about the 21-day Visitation:

- The people we visited were from all walks of life, education and careers. They all possessed a sense of dignity and offered hospitality with simplicity and no reservations as an expression of their love. Ours was reciprocal.
- Our children expressed concerns prior to our trip as to our age and challenges to driving the long distance but we did not experience any difficulties.
- Our 2010 Ford Focus was also a concern as to whether it would function satisfactorily. That was proven with its excellent performance.
- As I age, the people around me notice that I am an 'old man' but within my heart, I still relish my independence although my body keeps reminding me that it is aging. This

Visitation provided me with an opportunity to confirm that I am not ready to submit to dependencies from others. I want to continue in this fashion as long as I can.

- Our visit to the Saskatoon Doukhobor Prayer Home reminded me of how fundamental the SDY was in providing comfort of fellowship in my early years away from home and living in a 'Big City'.
- As I stood at the grave site of my buddy, Michael Ozeroff, I was reminded as to how he recognized my accumulated Depression that 1960 January evening and convinced me to come with him to his family farm. That story is on my blog for those who want to read about being SCARED.
- Being able to drive over 4,000 kilometers at 84 years young, safely, reassured me that I can still do that relatively comfortably. I did not require a map, and I knew where I was, excepting in the urban areas. Knowing the location of 'Through Streets' is reassurance that, I can still 'get there'.
- My laboratory assignment in Highway Engineering, to design Circle Drive around Saskatoon back in 1962 was a 'rude awakening' in 2025 to experience that there needs to be a new Circle Drive around the former one because of the urban growth of Saskatoon
- Being in Veregin, convinced me that this is 'HOME' and Pelly and all the other places are wonderful memories but come after 'HOME'.
- I had my 'fix' for 'Preeroda" (place of birth) for awhile.

These are the comments of my Co-Pilot and Map Reader, **Marilyn**:

My initial feelings about travelling back 'Home' were an elation beyond description!

We have never forgotten our 'roots' which can be verified by this venture numbering for the 66th time we made this trip to Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In my heart I knew that our family would not approve of us driving that lengthy distance that it would take to cover the areas that each of us called 'home' during our youthful years. 'Home' also included the almost 64 years that we have been married.

Our 'morning chats' resulted in realization that we had to formulate a planned agenda including times and places. Our final itinerary was an XL spreadsheet excellently prepared by the 'Get-er-done' (start to finish) member of our team.

Impossible! Was going to be the reaction of our four (4) adult munchkins, I presumed. One of us will have to drive you!

OFF, we went! Lucky for us, their day jobs and family duties did not permit the time.

The Eastern Sun's invitation being much appreciated, gave us the desire to begin our adventure.

Our first two encounters were with my cousins in Cranbrook and Lethbridge. The joyful reunions fueled our determination to continue.

Throughout our 21-day excursion, we were enhanced with a positivity that is much needed in today's world.

Our many visitations with friends and family, had us relive past experiences, share our family circles and present-day happenings. Each conversation, regardless of topic, opened our hearts and minds to realize that we possessed common threads of happiness and sadness in our lives.

The ages of those we were with spanned from very young beautiful babies to energetic and enthusiastic teenagers to those experiencing their golden years.

Laughter abounded! Spontaneously created future memories!

The 'welcome' and 'thank you' of being remembered moments, we shall always treasure!

There were no good byes uttered, Partings consisted of 'til we meet again

It definitely was a trip down Memory Lane.

To me the word 'home' has two interpretations:

- 'Home' is where your heart was when you were young
- 'Home' is where your heart is now!

We learned from each other that "Love and Respect" are timeless¹

In summation, the distance covered in Part IV can be tabulated as follows:

1. Cumulative travel Part 1 to Part III – 3,337 km
2. Misc. travel in Calgary – 50 km
3. Travel Calgary to Castlegar – 622 km
4. Total Part IV – 672 km
5. Accumulated travel Parts I to IV inclusive – 4,009 km

This completes the total Visitation Parts I through IV Inclusive

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