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Storms
never last ...

Bad times all
pass with the wind.

Hazel Mary Peterson

December 7, 1929 – July 17, 2021

Hazel Mary Peterson was born December 7th, 1929, at the remote location of 4-mile portage on Reed Lake, MB to her scottish father David Perry and cree mother Annie “Frannie” Francois. Delivered by her Kokum Jeanie Partridge of Nelson House First Nation. Hazel and her siblings were raised on the land until the government forced them to leave to further the education of the children. The family relocated to Cormorant and later settled in Wanless, MB when Hazel was 10 years old. At a young age Hazel took on the responsibility of helping raise her younger siblings as she was the eldest girl. Hazel was the original tomboy, trapping with her father, picking berries with her mother, fishing, hunting, chopping and hauling wood. At age 13 she moved to The Pas to be closer to her brother Simon—she lied about her age to start working at St. Anthony’s Hospital. In later years she also worked as a waitress at the Paris Café.

At 19, Hazel married Ted Larson with whom she had her four eldest children: Aldora, Ted Jr, Debbie, and Evelyn. They moved around living in Flin Flon, The Pas and Churchill where Hazel and Ted later separated. Hazel tried to raise her 4 children on her own, working 3 jobs at one time to support them. In the late 50’s she made her toughest decision to leave the children to live with their father.

“Storms never last- Bad times all pass with the wind”

While living in Churchill, MB Hazel met Harley Peterson who was enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces, they became pen pals as Harley travelled across the world. As their love for each other blossomed they made the decision to move together to Whitehorse, Yukon where they had their children Kym and Klon.

In the 50’s Hazel gained some experience climbing the Atik Fire Tower which helped her secure a position at the Wanless Fire Tower in 1968. the family spent that first summer living in a canvas tent. From 69’ to 74’ Hazel, Harley, Kym and Klon would spend the summer months living in a cabin built as the fire ranger quarters outside of

the Prospector Tower. Hazel took much pride in her work, as her work was seasonal, Hazel took a position with Metropol Security at Keewatin Community Collage and the family would have to relocate between Wanless and the Prospector property each Spring. Hazel did not have a formal education however she strived to learn and worked extremely hard in both of her positions. In 1976 the Fire Towers closed, and Hazel took a promotion as the head of the Metropol Security for The Pas.

Although she had changed her name when they lived in the Yukon, after over 20 years together Hazel and Harley had a small ceremony and officially married in 1980 with their best friends Dorothy and Roy Dawson by their side, funny enough the marriage certificate says a Peterson married a Peterson. Hazel and Harley both retired in the mid 80’s and relocated to the small village of Glenella, MB. Hazel had a love for finding treasures at yard sales, she was always repurposing what she could. She had many talents in mending, sewing, baking, cooking, canning and she had a strong passion for singing and playing the guitar.

After Harley’s passing in 1995, Hazel moved back to The Pas to be closer to her children and grandchildren. In 2004. she met her special friend Marvin Berg, Marvin was such a joy in Hazel’s life they enjoyed bingo and playing music together. They lived together until she moved into Rod McGillvary Care Home over the last 6 years.

Hazel won many awards for singing over the years and you could find her at many campfires, jamborees, or coffee houses throughout the province. She made many musical friends over the years. Her beautiful voice was unique she was known for her yodeling, and you could always find her singing bluegrass classics.

On July 17th 2021 Hazel passed away peaceful with Kym and Klon by her side. she was predeceased by her parents Dave and Annie, Her brothers Simon, Stan, Jimmy and sisters Gloria, Harriett, Nelly and Alice. Her Husband Harley. She leaves behind her Siblings Willy, Lena and Doris. Her children and grandchildren Aldora (Ted, Morgana and Nikolette), Ted jr. (Greg, Kristopher and Katrina) Debby & Ernie (Trevor, Troy and Garnett) Evelyn & Gary (Angela) Kym & Gilles (Kayleigh) Klon (TJ, Brody, and Charisma) as well as many nieces, nephews and great grandchildren.