

Mr. Joseph Damase Kirouac, born November 12, 1922 in La Broquerie, Manitoba, passed away peacefully on December 17, 1996 at St. Boniface, Manitoba. He was the son of Damase Kirouac and Marie Rocan.

Joe was born and raised in La Broquerie, Manitoba on the family farm. He started to drive trucks in 1938 and fell in love with truck driving where he worked at different jobs throughout Manitoba. He hauled hydro poles, pulpwood, logs etc.

In 1943 he met the love of his life, Bernadette Andre, a farm girl from St. Labre, Manitoba. They were married on June 12, 1944. In 1950, they moved to the "Pumps" on Hwy. 105 to haul pulpwood for Maurice Tallieu. In the 1950s he bought woodloaders and loaded and hauled wood. In the 1960s he cut and delivered wood to Mando and Dryden Paper Company. In the 1970s Joe received the contract to load and haul wood exclusively for the Dryden Paper Company in the North Division (Ear Falls, Red Lake).

In 1965 Joe bought his first airplane and enjoyed flying and fishing in remote lakes throughout Northwest Ontario. In 1984, Joe semi-retired, involving his boys in the day-to-day operations of his business and began a new passion of restoring antique cars. He shared this hobby with his wife Bernadette and they spent countless hours working on their treasures.

In 1993, Joe finally fully retired from the family business, selling the company to his three sons: Roland, Norman and Jerry.

Joe enjoyed life to the fullest – hunting, fishing, restoring cars and flying, but most of all he loved his family and spending time with them.

Joe will be sadly missed by all.

Joseph is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bernadette (Andre) Kirouac, daughters: Yolande Lecomte and husband Joe of Quesnel, B.C., Angele Leutschaft and husband Walter of Vermilion Bay; sons: Roland Kirouac and wife Joanne of Red Lake Road, Norman Kirouac and wife Tammy of Waldhof and Jerry Kirouac and wife Lorraine of Larson Bay, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his mother and father and three brothers: Adelard, Alcide and Alphonse.

Visitation took place at Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Vermilion Bay on Friday, Dec. 20, 1996.

The funeral mass was held Sat., Dec. 21, 1996 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, with Father Robert Rocheleau officiating.

Interment was held in the Vermilion Bay Catholic cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society through the Dryden Community Funeral Home, 249 Grand Trunk Avenue, Dryden, ON P8N 2X3. ☆