

Kosmonavta Popovicha Street



The street was given its modern name in 1965, as it had been called “Zavodskaya” before. In the first postwar years some small construction companies began to appear. They were low powered, but the town was still developing, so they needed to accommodate all the coming settlers all over the country. The first asphalt and lighting appeared in such streets as Lenina, Stalina (Kommunistichesky Avenue) Teatralnaya (Torgovaya), Sakhalinskaya; so did paved or graveled roads: Chekhova, Kurilskaya, Amurskaya, Vokzalnaya, Moskovskaya, Pushkinskaya, Stalingradskaya (Karla-Marksa), Zavodskaya (Popovicha), Bumazhnaya, Ugolnaya Streets.

In the 50s light frame houses were the majority, but in the 60s the construction of central residential districts was started (the 7th residential district and then the 3rd one). The first four and five-storey flat blocks were also constructed at that period of time.



That is how Kosmonavta Popovicha Street was remembered in June 1965. On the right side there is what can be guessed as five-storey houses, but the left side seems almost empty with only few one-storey buildings and “Produkty” shop at the very beginning of the street.

The significant difference in the city's appearance can be seen easily, including Popovicha Street. At the late 90s new nine-storey houses were constructed with the elite blocks of flats as the example of modern architecture. At the very beginning of a new millennium, in 2004, a new restaurant called “Bagration” appeared on the crossing of Popovicha and Dzerzhinskogo Streets.

But there are still some details, which remain their historical appearance, as a 3-metres high mosaic

panel of a spaceship and an astronaut on the abutting end of a building, constructed in 1966 at 79 Popovicha Street.

Citizens of all ages are very interested in city's history and its sights. Nadezhda Mutnyh (a student of school №22) researches the city's mosaics. She is an author of the photo album called “Zabytye Mozaiki” (“Forgotten Mosaics”), which was published in 2009.

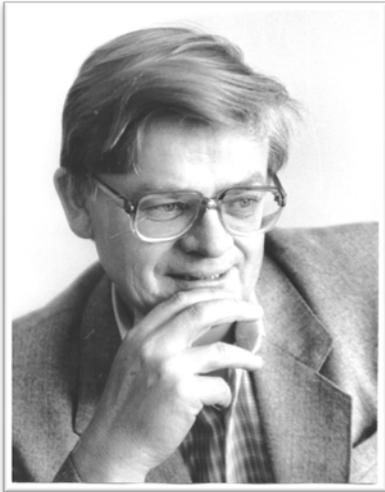
If you pay attention very carefully, you will definitely notice the writing in the bottom part of the panel and the name of Pavel Popovich as well. Young people will take thought: “Why Popovich?”, as the elder generations will remember astronaut's arrival in summer 1965. Dozens of people with

bunches of flowers met the astronaut on festive decorated city's streets.

He visited the “Gorny Vozduh” (“Mountain Air”), the Pioneers Palace construction, the Sakhalin Regional Museum, met the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk garrison soldiers, and laid the first foundation stone for the festive “Spartak” stadium construction.

The astronaut Pavel Romanovich Popovich has become the first honorary citizen of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Zavodskaya Street was renamed into Popovicha Street in 1965.





Not all the citizens are aware that a very talented writer Oleg Kuznetsov, the author of different historical novels, stories and tales, has also lived in Popovicha Street since 1972. His name was given to the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Central Municipal Library in December 2010.

This street is also connected with one more name of a famous Sakhalin resident. There is a memorial plaque, which says: “Here Fyodor Ankudinov, the Honorary Citizen of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Honored Doctor of



Russia, has lived”. His name has been also given to the Municipal Hospital.

In 1998 a shopping center “Slavyansky Bazar” became one of the city's sights. It occurred in the place of a previous shopping center “Kosmos”. At that time there were queues for meters of those who were interested in some festive delicacies: pike, geese, rabbits, pigs, etc. The prices “bit”. People could suddenly feel the significant difference in the incomes and living standards. “Slavyansky Bazar” was one of the first places to influence consumer's habits according to the new lifestyle.

In Popovicha Street as long as the modern well-built houses you can also meet some dilapidated buildings, especially during the Gorkogo-Komsomolskaya part. But in the last few years the construction in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk has reached very high levels, so we can hope for the better future for Popovicha Street, because central streets always need to be visually pleasing.

