



*The Canadian Immigration Historical Society*  
*La Société Historique de l'immigration canadienne*  
C.P./P.O. Box 9502, Terminal "T" /Terminus Postale "T", Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3V2

# C.I.H.S. **BULLETIN** S.H.I.C

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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Well, summer holidays are just about over and a new season awaits us. I trust everyone enjoyed themselves and that each of you have reflected extensively on how you might contribute to our historical society. (If you didn't find time, we'll forgive you.) I'm really excited about the contributions we've been receiving thus far for the Bulletin, and sincerely hope that it continues. If you have a story or memory of an amusing or otherwise interesting event related to immigration or immigration work, please take a moment, jot it down and send it to us. We love to get mail and your contributions make our newsletter fun to read.

Perhaps you'll remember that early in the summer we held a dinner meeting in Ottawa. This social dinner at "The Place Next Door" was yet again a delightful evening for all who attended. It provided a great opportunity to not only meet old friends but also make new ones. Thanks to all of you who came out and joined us for some fascinating discussions and lots of laughter.

Some of you may be interested in knowing that the CIHS has recently received a new publication from one of our members, Dr. Alan Nash (Geography Dept, Concordia University) titled "Canadian Immigration Research Newsletter" whose goal is to facilitate and encourage the exchange of news, views and information between Canada's community of immigration researchers. What's going on in immigration today is almost as fascinating as what's happened in the past (ha ha!) Anyway Dr. Nash's newsletter is easy to read and provides interesting details on current research and we all wish him lots of success with this endeavour. I'd also encourage our members who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, to contact Dr. Nash directly at Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8 (514-848-2050).

Bye for now!

Carrie Hunter

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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### June Dinner

On June 17th some 25 of us met for dinner at the "Place Nest Door". It was a fun evening and, as happened last year, the Board got many useful suggestions on the role of the Society.

### Support for the Society's Work

We have been pleased to receive two very tangible expressions of support for our work in the last few months. The Immigration Staff of the Alberta/NWT donated \$250 to the Society from the sale of Immigration memorabilia items -- baseball caps, immigration crests and lapel pins. Secondly, the Immigration Service renewed its corporate membership. Thank you both!

### Ugandan Symposium Update

Bill Sinclair and Mike Molloy are continuing work on the symposium. It will be held in Ottawa on Saturday, November 13th. We had hoped to provide full details in this issue of the Bulletin but there are still some loose ends. There will be a special mailing giving you the agenda, times, location etc.

The Annual General Meeting

Details of the AGM on October 16th are included in this Bulletin along with the audited Treasurer's Report. We hope that we will once again have a good representation of members from outside the national capital region.

Al Gunn and Andy Anderson are hard at work compiling a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors for the 1993-94 year. It is not too late to volunteer to serve or to nominate someone -- please contact Al (613-256-1033) or Andy (613-521-0355) or write to them via the Society's address.

Saying Goodbye

This is my last column as president. It has been a marvellous experience and I only hope the in-coming president will have the same measure of support from the Board and the membership that I have enjoyed over the past two years. Thank you all!

John Hunter

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**SUCCESS STORIES**

-by Fenton Crosman

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Some years ago, the Immigration Settlement and Placement Service produced stories of new Canadians who, after some time in Canada, had succeeded in establishing a business or, in other ways, had made a contribution to the community.

These stories were used for publicity purposes, especially in encouraging desirable people to come to Canada.

A story of this kind that recently appeared in a Halifax publication has been referred to us by one of our members, Alice Chisholm, of Bala, Ontario, whose husband, the late Vince Chisholm, was for a time, the Immigration Placement Officer at Truro, Nova Scotia.

This story relates to one Laszlo Lichter, a native of Hungary, who after some disagreement with the existing Communist Government, made his escape to Austria, together with his wife and young daughter. During their stay in a refugee camp they applied for migration as refugees and, merely by accident, chose Canada. They were then put on a ship in Italy and sent via Saint John, N.B., to Nova Scotia, where they since made their home.

Life in Canada for the Lichter family was at first difficult; although Laszlo Lichter was a teacher by profession, with a B.Sc. degree, his knowledge of English was limited and he could not meet the requirements for teaching in Canada. On their own, however, the Lichters found employment, Laszlo as a labourer and his wife as a maid.

Unfortunately, working conditions for a person holding a Bsc., were most unpleasant and he soon was discharged. At that time, however, there was a serious shortage of school teachers in Nova Scotia and, with the

friendly assistance and encouragement of our Placement Officer, Vince Chisholm, Laszlo eventually was accepted as a teacher in various public schools where, due to his sincere efforts, he became successful.

Because of his strong belief in democracy, Laszlo Lichter soon became interested in local politics and, as his familiarity with the English language improved, he began to participate in public meetings dealing with municipal problems. He eventually was elected as a member of the Municipal Council, later became Warden, and more recently was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Halifax County, the largest and most varied municipality in the Province. Through his efforts, the County has been given special decision-making powers, and he is now encouraging other municipalities to obtain similar powers that will enable them to make their own decisions, based on the democratic participation of the public.

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**THE STRANGE START OF WHAT BECAME AN INTERESTING CAREER**

- by H. (Viggi) Ring

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When I first entered Canada in 1947 as a non-immigrant with a working permit, I had no worries about employment, as the CBC International Service had secured my entry for work in their Danish Section. During the following

three years many things happened, the most important of which, was my transformation from a non-immigrant to an immigrant via a successful appeal against the deportation order which had been issued "for lack of valid and substantive immigrant visa". The order had been issued on June 7, 1950 and my landing was granted two months later on August 1st.

Three months later, I went off to visit my parents in Denmark and assess employment possibilities there. They were far from favourable. Surprisingly, I was even deemed unfit to teach English due to my "dreadful American accent". In 1950, it seemed that if you did not speak English with a distinctly Oxford accent, you were not qualified to be an English teacher. It has amused me more than once that, in Canada, I have often been taken for an immigrant from the U.K.! It is amazing how a perception can change from one side of the Atlantic to the other.

In November 1951, I returned to Canada without a job or even job prospects. While I was careful not to approach anything which required Canadian citizenship, I thought that perhaps I could be useful in something which dealt with immigrants. To that end, I had written to a retired person I knew, who had spent practically a lifetime with the CPR

colonization department. To my surprise, he forwarded my letter to the CPR, and I received a brief invitation to call them, once back in Montreal.

I did not actually get to see the person who had sent the invitation, but saw instead his second in command, who informed me that his organization did not hire women. That, of course, earned him something close to a sermon from me on the equality of the sexes. As far as I recollect, he had some Danish connection and hence took my outburst with grace and good humour. He also explained that they were only employing persons as escorts on immigrant trains, travelling back and forth between Halifax and Winnipeg. This employee was expected to settle any difficulties or disputes which might arise among the passengers. Since the duties of an umpire and a policeman seemed to be combined in the job, executed during all hours of the day or night, I conceded that the requirements might be more easily met by a man than by a woman.

This kind gentleman then urged me to apply to the Immigration Department. My objections to the idea because citizenship would be required were swept aside and he stated simply that he would never forgive me if I did not follow his

advice, so I meekly promised to do so.

With a completed application form, I presented myself to the person in charge of Personnel at the Montreal Immigration Office. Then followed a somewhat peculiar conversation. The manager said, "You will notice that I don't look at your application. This is because I know that we are not hiring at this time." Then to really get the point to sink in, he added, with great emphasis "and don't you go away and say that you are going to work for immigration, because you are NOT". Wondering why he would think that I could reach such an erroneous conclusion after his statements, I quietly thanked him for being so specific.

At that point his attitude changed and he suggested that I see the Placement Section. He marched me smartly to the counter where a nice young Dutchman, Frank Verwimp (today a CIHS member) was on duty. My self-appointed job head-hunter now demanded a job on my behalf, and when the duty officer said that only domestic (i.e. maid work) as available, he was told that I had an MA degree and certainly needed something more appropriate.

During the days that followed, I continued my job search. This led me to the CNR, where I was

finally hired as a typist (which I wasn't). Fortunately, the machine was a very slow, old one, rather a museum piece already at that time, so we might perhaps have suited each other quite well after all. I was to start on January 14th, a Monday as it were. But, on the Friday before, I received a telegram (I had no phone), which despite being sent at 12:00 noon by CNR, and despite the fact that I lived within easy reach by streetcar, I only received after 6:00 pm that evening. It contained a request that I phone a given number before 5:00 pm! I tried to call, but needless to say, the Chief of Personnel was not available, nor could his home phone number be disclosed. Eventually, yielding to my increasing excitement and incipient hysteria, the CNR switchboard finally relented and gave me the number of the second in command. When I phoned him, he said that he knew nothing about my case, but as the CNR pay period normally ran from the first to the fourteenth, and the fifteenth to the end of the month, he surmised that the starting date of my employment was likely the problem and that it should be the following Wednesday, rather than the Monday. While not totally reassured, I was at least able to survive the week-end dry-eyed, rather than completely dissolved in tears.

A telephone call on Monday confirmed that it was indeed only the starting date that had been postponed.

On Tuesday, however, a messenger from the Immigration office visited and asked me to phone the personnel manager I had met previously. When we spoke, then again, we had one of his peculiar variety of "logical" conversations. He started off, "I suppose you know why I am calling you." My reply was, "Nothing you said when I saw you last would give me any clue." He then changed his tone and said in a slightly offended manner, "I'm offering you a job." I quickly asked how much it paid and when he responded \$200/week, I replied "I'll be right down". (The CNR typist job was only going to pay \$160).

I then found my Danish being evaluated by one of those "experts" Canada produces in such circumstances. (While employed by the CBC, my "expert" had been an Austrian who had spent some years in Sweden and who knew a Dane who had become a Prime Minister. He passed me.) This time, the expert used by Immigration was an Estonian who had been employed for several years by the Visa Office in Stockholm. She too passed me and even stated that my German wasn't too bad.

So, on Wednesday, January 15th, I started working in the Immigration Placement Section and not in the CNR. (When I had made my excuses with the CNR I was greeted with hearty congratulations on having found something better.)

I never saw that Immigration personnel manager again, and luckily was never again exposed to his inverted sense of logic. The memory, however, of those initial encounters have stayed with me ever since.

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## IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN CANADA

-by T. John Samuel and  
Ravi B.P. Verma

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(This is part 1 of a two-part summary of a paper presented at the Symposium on Immigrant Settlement and Integration, held in Toronto, Ont. May 28-29, 1990. It is reprinted here with the permission of John Samuel, currently a CIHS member and researcher with Immigration Policy in the Dept. of Public Security. When this article was originally published, John Samuel was employed by the Canada Employment Advisory Council and co-author Ravi Verma was employed by Statistics Canada. The authors also acknowledged the assistance of Gerry Ouellette and Patricia Johnston of Statistics Canada and Sajiv Mehta, Consultant in the preparation of this paper.)

During the period 1971 to 1986 Canada received close to 700,000 "children" (17 years of age and under) as immigrants, representing 28 percent of the total immigrant arrivals. They no longer come primarily from English/French speaking countries or have necessarily acquired one of the official languages. They have immigrated from a wide variety of countries. How do they settle and integrate into Canadian society? How do they compare with native-born? Do

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they require special attention in the school system? How do the schools respond to the challenge of integrating these newcomers into the system and foster in them a spirit of Canadian identity?

This paper has analyzed the characteristics of immigrant children in terms of demographic structure, language and school achievement. It should be made clear that the analysis includes only immigrant children and not all immigrants' children i.e. those born to immigrant parents in Canada. The characteristics of immigrant children are compared to those of Canadian born. Before presenting their characteristics, a review of previous studies is presented to help understand the factors affecting the adaption and integration of immigrant children in a new society.

#### Review of Studies

The integration of the immigrant children in a new country is dependent on a number of factors such as knowledge of the language of the host society, guidance and support from parents and their socio-economic status, intelligence, verbal ability, cognitive skills, self-confidence, emotional stability, quality of schooling and teachers, interaction with peer groups, etc. Immigrants and their children constitute a population at high

risk of maladjustment due to the stress of migration and acculturation.

Analysis from Sweden, West Germany and a few from the U.K. showed that immigrant children faced adjustment problems in schools. Two Canadian studies seem to be in agreement with the above view. In Montreal, Goldenberg (1973) conducted a survey of 264 children of recent immigrants. She found 41% of the children to have some kind of social or emotional adjustment problem. No control group was used in this study. Also, Minde and Minde (1976) found that 26% of the children of fifty-one Asian immigrant families from Uganda showed significant psychological disturbances. Again no control group was used. However, according to the review of literature by Aronowitz, (1984), no research evidence was found to suggest that social and emotional disorders were necessarily more prevalent among populations of immigrant children. Though most studies seem to agree that if immigrant adolescents "who felt impelled to make a forced choice between the values and identities of their old and new culture, face acute identity crises" (Ibid).

An aspect of particular interest to Canada is the acquisition of the other official language in the

schools. Considerable research has shown that children in French immersion programs do at least as well and often better in their first language than their unilingual counterparts. However, bilingualism can lead to enhanced cognitive malfunctioning and confusion - for children whose first language is not the language of the majority culture. For the children of minority ethnic groups, bilingualism is foisted upon them by an educational and social system which is controlled by others (Toisi, 1984). In this case, research has shown that the rate of academic success of minority children is below that of majority children.

Examining the factors that influence the adaption and integration of immigrant children, there are a number of other important variables to be taken into account. Extensive research done in the U.K. shows that how well the children do in the school system is dependent upon the socio-economic class of the parents, the extent of immigration shock, family differences and organization, school and teacher expectations, stereotyping, self-esteem, identity problems and racial hostility (Tomlinson, 1980). Richmond and Kalbach observe on the basis of Canadian data that social status or class is an important determinant of educational attainment of immigrant children (Jones, 1984).

This finding is strongly supported by an extensive study in Switzerland which included 56,000 students and other OECD studies all of which verified the conclusion that "social background as being the paramount factor" determining the successful adjustment of immigrant children (OECD, 1987).

The second most important factor is age at immigration. Jones observes that "immigration during secondary school age might be disadvantageous for education attainment". Regarding language learning, a most fundamental step in adjustment, a Belgian study found younger children easily mastered the rudiments of the language instruction (Kanitker, 1973). The OECD study cited earlier backs up this finding that age upon arrival is the second most important factor.

Whatever the social status of the parents or the age of the child, immigrant children have special needs which should be recognized and responded to. A survey of school teachers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario in the seventies by Mary Ashworth revealed the major problem facing immigrant children is to come to "terms with the conflicting aspects of two cultures" (Ashworth, 1978). The emphasis in the school system was on learning the language and cultural adjustment was ignored. Ashworth explains: "In a deep

desire to be accepted as Canadian, some children refuse to speak their home language and are ashamed of their parents when they speak their own tongue in public. This rejection by the child of the first language and culture can spell the beginning of a serious identity crises. Some children go to the extreme of running away or attempting suicide". It is suggested that such difficulties can be resolved by the use of bilingualism (the mother tongue of the child and an official language), a supportive home environment, pre-service and in-service training for ESL teachers, an understanding community and above all, appropriate programs by all levels of government.

The schools should be an important vehicle to transmit to future generations the inestimable value of Canadian multicultural heritage in the shrinking global village. "To attempt to improve uniformity in the name of unity, and conformity in the name of citizenship, is to court disaster and to do a disservice to national unity" (Jaenen, 1982).

#### Demographic Characteristics of Children

According to the 1986 Census of Canada, there were 6.5 million children under the age of 18. There are relatively few immigrant children, approximately 288,000, which accounted for 4.4% of the total children in Canada. This proportion is roughly one-fourth of the immigrant population in Canada (15.7%) There were

more immigrant children arriving from the non-traditional source countries (2.4% vs. 2%) than those from the traditional source countries<sup>1</sup>. The proportion of immigrant children born in Asian countries was similar to that of the European-born immigrant children, 1.4% vs 1.5%.

The age distributions of population by place of birth are quite different. Within the foreign-born population, children 17 and under constituted less than one tenth versus one out of three for the Canadian-born children. The proportion of the immigrant children born in the non-traditional source countries was roughly three times higher than that of the children born in the traditional source countries. This could be the result of the greater popularity of family class immigration from such countries.

By gender, it was seen that for each birthplace group, the percentage of boys in their population is higher than that of girls. In contrast, in the total Canadian population there are fewer boys than girls in 1986. By birthplace, the ratio of the immigrant boys to girls is slightly higher than that of the Canadian-born. There were a few immigrant groups (such as those from Western and Eastern Europe) with more boys than girls. More inter-ethnic marriages are likely when such disparities occur.

(Ed Note: Stay tuned for the second instalment, next Bulletin.)



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## "BOOKS NOTED FOR YOU"

- by George Bonavia

(Ed. Note: Reprinted with permission from George Bonavia, who distributes a monthly newsletter to ethnic media, libraries and organizations interested in ethnocultural affairs.)

WHEN TRAINS STOPPED IN DINORWIC: The Story of Eric Rhind by Hazel Fulford - Singing Shield Productions, Thunder Bay, Ont. 1990, 144 pp. \$13.95 pb

Here are the experiences of the Rhind family in Canada, as seen through the enquiring eyes of the youngest son, Eric. The Rhinds emigrated from England early in 1914 and most of the family moved to Dinorwic. Eric draws the reader right into the family circle as he relives the culture shock and the joy of learning new skills. The roaring twenties passed them by, but the ensuing depression did not. Eric's job-oriented adventures as an adult are hilarious. After a seven-year courtship he marries his sweetheart and the book ends in 1935 with their joyous wedding day.

SPECIAL CANADIAN COMMUNITIES by Elma Schemenauer - Weigl

Educational Publishers,  
Edmonton, Alberta, 1988, 64 pgs

Canada has many special communities. This book is about four of them. Within each of the four communities you'll meet a child and visit their respective community. Mu Ching highlights the Chinese Canadian community of Edmonton; Jeff takes the reader on a visit to John D'Or Prairie, a Cree reserve in Northern Alberta; Lucie is from a French Canadian community in Gravelbourg; and Steve will introduce you to the Ukrainian Community in Vegreville.

POURIN' DOWN RAIN by Cheryl Foggo - Detselig Enterprises, Calgary, Alberta, 1990, 120 pgs.

This book is an account of the settlement of the first Black families in Alberta. Tracing her family from Africa through slavery in the United States to freedom and the "Promised Land" of Canada, Cheryl Foggo shares her personal experiences growing up Black in a White community. This book emphasizes the role that Blacks played in shaping Western Canadian history. It contains black and white photos throughout.

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## YOU'LL WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE PAID UP

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After many delays, mostly caused by the fact that our author now lives in Slovenia and the mail seems to take forever, we find we are in the final process of preparing Roger St. Vincent's book regarding his experiences in the Ugandan Asian movement during the autumn of 1972. We sincerely hope it will be printed and available for distribution by late September.

As mentioned in our last Bulletin all paid up members will automatically receive their copy of this publication. We have received estimates of printing costs and it appears that this expense plus postage will make each copy valued at approximately \$12.00. As our annual dues are only \$10.00 per year, it will be impossible to send copies to members who are behind in their annual subscription.

A review of our records indicate that 11 members are in arrears as of April 30, 1992 and a further 34 have not renewed since April 30, 1993. I am sure this is simply an oversight on the part of our members.

You can check the date of your valid membership by checking your membership card. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

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## MEMBER NEWS

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We're saddened to report that mail recently returned to us bore a message that CIHS member, Thomas J. O'Brien of Fort Erie had passed away. Mr. O'Brien worked in immigration from 1942 to 1969 and was one of the twelve organizers of the original Canadian Immigration Staff Association.

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## PUBLICITY IDEAS DO SOMETIMES GO WRONG ... AND HOW!

-by Al Troy

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In January 1965 the Hon. John R. Nicholson was asked to take on the Immigration portfolio. He reportedly consulted with two of his Cabinet colleagues who had held this port previously and both advised him to refuse. This Cabinet position had had eight Ministers in the past fifteen years and all had been more than happy to leave as quickly as possible. It was a job that truly lived up to the observation "you are damned if you do, and you are damned if you don't."

In those days Canada was looking for skilled immigrants and the bulk of this type of

individual was concentrated in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. Although Canada was a popular immigrant destination there were many other countries namely Australia, new Zealand and South Africa looking for exactly the same type of settler. Various schemes such as free passage, interest-free assisted passage loans, guaranteed accommodation, free or subsidized medical care were being offered so each could secure their share of this pool of workers. Even provinces in Canada were involved, especially in Ontario, who were the only province at that time with their own Immigration Department. They had been active in the U.K. since the days of George Drews premiership and had a very good selection set up with direct liaison with potential Ontario employers.

At this time I was Officer-in-Charge of our Belfast office and my statistics showed that approximately 85% of our Northern Ireland movement went to Ontario..or should I say Toronto. It seemed that every family in Northern Ireland had relatives or close family friends in the Toronto area. You could spend all day counselling a migrant of the delights of settling in Winnipeg, Edmonton or Vancouver, but to no avail, as Toronto appeared to be the "mecca" of their dreams. I noticed that British Columbia was not usually very high on the list of possible destinations, largely I presumed because the province didn't seem to make much of an

effort to encourage newcomers and seemed to be following the old theory that immigrants take jobs rather than create employment.

About this time, some bright spark in the Public relations field in the Ministers entourage came up with idea of filling a special flight direct from London's Heathrow Airport destined to Vancouver, carrying a fine assortment of professional and skilled tradepersons to let British Columbia see what sort of migrants could be coming to their province. The flight's arrival was to coincide with one of Mr. Nicholson's visits to his Vancouver constituency. There would be an official welcome plus a luncheon at the airport with extensive media coverage including TV, radio and print coverage. This must have sounded like a wonderful idea, and steps were taken immediately to get things rolling. As I recall that was sometime in the fall of 1965 with the arrival planned for the spring of 1966, as a sort of smash opening of the immigrant arrival season. There was one small (but in my opinion, fatal) error. None of the U.K. offices were consulted nor asked if they thought the scheme would work. As far as I know, London staff were simply told what had been planned, and how they must get on with it. (Seeing that I was only a small fish in this big pond, I cannot swear to this as fact.)

A coordinator was appointed in London and either 150 or 175



seats booked. Each U.K. office was given a target figure in relation to their office area, mine being 7% of the total U.K. population, meaning I should contribute 12 persons. We were to try for single, skilled persons or couples who had skills. Nothing much happened up to the end of the year, as autumn was a time for informational film shows and interviewing at travel agents, with active recruiting and counselling commencing early in the New Year.

In early January, 1966, each office was sent a reminder of the special movement and our expected goal. We were reminded also to encourage as many prospective immigrants as possible to participate. The initial response had been very poor, and we were soon instructed to report weekly, directly to the coordinator. Pressure must have built up, since we were soon reporting on a daily basis. It was evident that none of our offices were any where near meeting their target. Panic set in. Time was running out. We soon were being phoned by the coordinator to take whatever means at our disposal to reach our goal. Although I'm sure that no one was reduced to telling outright "fibs" to prospects, it's likely we were sailing very close to the wind on that score. People were told they had no problem with

accommodation in B.C., whereas Toronto did have a bad housing situation. Likewise, B.C. had lots of immigration officers to assist in establishment whereas Toronto officers were barely able to cope. We also lowered our original standards for this flight and instead of skilled and professional types, we were reduced to seeking live, warm bodies. Eventually, by cutting corners in every way possible, we were able to fill all the aircraft seats.

Unfortunately the press got on the tarmac in Vancouver and were interviewing people, basically, just as they got off the plan. Soon they discovered that not all of these good folks were as skilled as they had been made out to be and that many said they would be off to Toronto very shortly. This was a reporter's dream...as you can well imagine. The news was on the air almost before the migrants sat down to their lunch and welcoming speeches. This fiasco led to a media circus and to some considerable embarrassment to the Minister, who had been quite innocent of what was going on, other than he was likely let down by people who should have known better. What I know for certain is, that nothing like that was ever tried again up until the time I retired in December 1984 (and probably never will).

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## NEWFOUNDLAND.. WITHOUT RESERVATIONS

-by Fenton Crosman

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Although I have never experienced the privations, uncertainties and inconveniences suffered by my friend Al Troy and his family, during their crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, I do recall at least one tour of Newfoundland during which there were some moments of anxiety.

This was in the days when there were at least three classifications of Immigration Inspectors. There was the Inspector "on the line" who performed the important work of the Department in asking questions of those seeking entry. Then, there was the District Inspector, who periodically visited all ports of entry to examine all of the Inspectors who had done the basic examination in the first place. Finally at the top of the pyramid, there was the Chief Inspector (to be known herein as the CI, or "seeing eye"), who occasionally ventured from Ottawa to inspect the District Inspectors, to make sure that they had properly inspected and instructed the Inspectors "on the line" and to satisfy himself that all "t's" had been dotted and all "i's" had been crossed on all documents at all ports of entry.

I hope that I have clarified the situation as it then existed. In any case, I was one of the men in the middle who, as District Inspector, was supposed to act not only as an examiner and instructor, but also, more or less as a liaison officer between the ports of entry and the Regional Headquarters. Newfoundland just then had joined the Canadian Confederation and, as this new arrival had aroused as much curiosity and attention as the new girl next door, both Immigration and Customs officials from Ottawa easily found an excuse to make an official tour of the new Province. This meant that, in view of my ability to read timetables, and my newly acquired knowledge of the geography of Newfoundland, I immediately qualified as travel agent, tour manager and escort for these visiting firemen.

Eventually it naturally fell to my lot to accompany the Chief Inspector on a complete Cook's Tour of Newfoundland, to include not only the Immigration offices at St. John's and Gander, but also all of the Customs offices at the "outports", where the unfortunate incumbent was supposed to wear several hats in addition to his Customs duties, and where his only Immigration duty might involve the acceptance of an occasional crew list.

A safari of this kind required travel by rail, highway and ship and, although it was late in the season, we somehow obtained

passage on the coastal boat which covered the northern coast from Cornerbrook to St. John's, and which enabled us to visit St. Anthony, the most remote Customs port on the northern tip of the island. Our first misadventure was a delay of two days in an exposed area of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where the ship "hoved to" and refused to go further until the winds abated. However, our midnight visit with the Collector of Customs at St. Anthony was uneventful and we had time to purchase some small ivory souvenirs carved by Eskimo patients at the famous hospital founded by Sir Wilfred Grenfell.

Our next scheduled stop was Gander and, as it was by no means accessible by ship, we disembarked the following evening at White Bay, a spot some forty miles from the nearest railway station. This was accomplished by taxi, together with two other passengers, a Grenfell nurse and a stuffed shirt businessman from St. John's. Accommodation at the railway station, where we arrived at midnight, was limited to several boarding houses which had modern facilities but which were already filled. The resourceful taxi driver finally found a place on the outskirts of the village where, although her fifteen beds were already occupied by some twenty-five people, our elderly hostess decided to take pity on us: the Grenfell nurse got a couch in the parlour, the stuffed-shirt salesman a cot in the corridor, and my travelling

companion and I were accorded a bedroom, unheated, unventilated and cold as a tomb. An early dawn enabled us to make our escape and grope our way to the railway station, without ever having found the toilet facilities at the boarding house. At last on board the train (the well-known "Newfie Bullet") we sat across the aisle from a group of fellows, who upon opening bottles of pop, somehow aimed the fizz in our direction, partly compensating us for the lack of our usual morning showerbath.

The next stop, indeed, was Gander, where we were met by an official delegation in the staff car, a departmental vehicle that, to my knowledge, existed nowhere else in the Immigration Service. On the way to the office, however, the vehicle suffered what is known in musical circles as "A-Flat". This disaster was more than duplicated when it was discovered that no spare tire existed. The CI was not amused.

I do not remember the other details of our visit at Gander, but we next found our way to St. John's again, by means of the "Bullet". At this point I cherished the illusion that our difficulties would now be over, that my friend, Fred Bragg would provide further transportation to the other outports, and that we would enjoy a comfortable interlude at the Newfoundland Hotel. Alas! This was not to be. Our reservations had somehow gone awry and again there was no

room for us at the inn. The CI retired to the bar to sulk, while I sat in a corner of the lobby and pondered our next move. It then suddenly occurred to me that I might take advantage of the good relationship I had previously established with the young man at the desk, while he in a similar burst of inspiration, recalled that the hotel had available a suite of rooms normally used only by travelling potentates (Ed. Note: I had to look this one up... it means important people.) We could have it!! And so, it was with much relief and joy that I was able to bear such good tidings to my sorrowing companion in the bar.

The remainder of our tour of the Newfoundland ports proceeded without further disappointment or disaster, for we travelled comfortably in Fred's car, found suitable accommodation and even spent a spare week-end in that remote but popular corner of la belle France known officially as St. Pierre et Miquelon, but as "Saint Peer" to Newfoundlanders. This gratuitous excursion deserves a special chapter in itself, but I believe it already has been adequately reported in my book, "Recollections..." (Ed. Note: If you haven't yet had the pleasure of reading Fenton's memoir's, please contact us, copies are still available.)

Officially, the tour was not without its abrasive and unpleasant moments: many minor errors were found in immigration records and these invariably were proclaimed before everyone as being the result of poor instruction and supervision on the part of the District Inspector. It was difficult to bite one's tongue, curse silently and say nothing.

In retrospect, I cannot see whether the whole effort was of any value to the Department and although I did not see the DI's report, nor heard anything about it, I felt that as a District Inspector, I had been "weighted in the balance and found wanting".

It would be less than fair to the C.I. however, if I did not add that when, during the trip when I became almost incapacitated with an attack of the flu, he cared for me like a kind, old grandmother, and that when he himself landed in hospital on our return to Halifax, I was able, in a small way, to imitate this outburst of hidden kindness on his part.

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### **POUR LIRE (en français)**

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John Hare reviewed a number of interesting immigration-related books for the July 24, 1993 Ottawa Citizen. I've included his

thoughts as some of our francophone members might be interesting in reading these books.

Madeleine Ouellette-Michalska has written a second historical novel, **L'été de Pile de grâce** (Québec/Amerique, \$22.95) which depicts the terrible events of 1847 when many Irish immigrants washed up on the shores of Quebec. Many thousands died during the long passage over and just as many during their quarantine on Grosse Island just east of Quebec City as an epidemic of typhoid swept over the continent. The hero of the story is Doctor Milroy with his passion to save lives and his deep love for his French Canadian wife. Ouellette-Michalska captures the atmosphere of the period with her vivid characters and view of Quebec society during the terrible ordeal suffered by the Irish during the summer of 1857.

**Ces enfants d'ailleurs** by Arlette Cousture (Libre Expression, \$24.95) takes the reader from the horrors of the Second World War in Poland to the beginnings of a new life in Canada, using vivid language and images. The children of Tomasz and Sofia must overcome the terrible consequences of the Nazi occupation of Poland. This is the first of an intended series of books by this author.

Marco Micone, an author and playwright, and the son of an Italian immigrant who settled in Montreal, has written **Le figure enchanté** (Boréal, \$15.75). The author shows rare insight into how an immigrant settles into a different culture. Although a fictional work, Micone brings into focus the slow disappearance of village life in Italy and the problems of families that have been split apart by immigration. The dreams of those who left the grinding poverty of southern Italy after the Second World War come up against the reality of life in North America, especially Quebec, with its different social and cultural conventions.

Membership Secretary. These should be returned to the Society as soon as possible, but in any event to reach Ottawa no later than one week prior to the A.G.M.

**THIS CONCLUDES THE  
FOURTEENTH ISSUE OF  
THE BULLETIN. WE  
CONTINUE TO LOOK  
FORWARD TO HEARING  
FROM YOU WITH YOUR  
COMMENTS,  
CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
SUGGESTIONS.**

• **IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN  
CANADA -FOOTNOTES:**

1. Traditional Source Countries: North America, Europe. Non-traditional Source Countries: Asia, Africa, Caribbean, South & Central America and others.

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## NOTICE

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### 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:30 (coffee) for 10:00 am start  
Saturday, October 16, 1993

Conference Room  
Lester B. Pearson Bldg.,  
125 Sussex Dr.,  
Ottawa

Note that the Society's constitution provides that each member in good standing may participate, in person or by proxy, in the A.G.M. election process. A proxy form is appended by which members may assign their proxy either to the current President or the



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/SUBSCRIPTION/ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM MAY 1 TO APRIL 30 !!!)

Please enter/renew my membership in the Canadian Immigration Historical Society or note my new address:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
[PLEASE PRINT]

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY [ ]

I enclose the following fee: Life - 100.00 [ ]  
Annual - 10.00 [ ]  
Corporate - \$1,000.00 [ ]

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO "CANADIAN IMMIGRATION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY" TO:  
The Treasurer  
The Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
P.O. Box 9502, Station T  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3V2

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## PROXY FORM

TO: The Secretary  
Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
P.O. Box 9502, Terminal "T"  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1G 3V2

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I assign to the President/Membership Secretary (delete as appropriate to express your preference) my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Seventh Annual General Meeting on October 16, 1993.

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*The Society has been issued letters patent under the Canada Corporations Act, and is qualified as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. When items in the C.I.H.S. BULLETIN S.H.I.C. are attributed by name or initials, the views expressed are those of the authors.*

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