



C.I.H.S. BULLETIN S.H.I.C

I.S.S.N. 0843-8242

ISSUE NO. 20 (APRIL 1995)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **CIHS Directors meet:**
May 18, 1995

(PAFSO & the CIHS are organizing a joint social event possibly for May 18th. Local members will hear more shortly. Anyone who might be in the Ottawa area on or around this date should contact a Board Member for the specific details. Everyone is welcome, member or not!)

- **Dinner Meeting:**
June 15, 1995

FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has sprung in Ottawa, and no doubtedly around the country as well.

The CIHS is proud to tell you about the recent completion of a video titled "Journey into Hope" which summarizes and provides the highlights of last year's very successful Ugandan Symposium. We are particularly grateful for the funding provided by the department of CIC. However, we would like to send out very, very special thanks to Tony Galasso, one of our members from Toronto, for providing the creative genius and technical expertise to complete this project. The results are well beyond our original expectations. We'll soon be able to give you details on how you can borrow a copy yourself to view. Stay tuned on this one, you won't want to miss it.

Just a reminder, we have video tape interviews of some former immigration officers/managers;. Edna Whinney; Al

Gunn; Al Troy; Jack Manion; and Bill Burton. Copies of these tapes are available for loan, so if you'd like to borrow them, please write or call Al Troy at (613) 830-0737 or myself .

Thanks to all of you have submitted material on Viggi Ring. Slowly but surely we're finding sufficient items to put a video biography together. Again if anyone out there has photos, or stories they'd like to relate involving Viggi, please contact June Coxon at (819) 953-6931. You'll be glad you did!

As always, your ideas, comments and assistance in any way, shape or form are always welcome.

Carrie Hunter (953-0923)

VERY SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Ellen Louks Fairclough, who you might recall served as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, from May 12, 1958 to Aug. 8, 1962, celebrated her 90th birthday on January 28, 1995. Ms. Fairclough was the first woman to be appointed a federal cabinet minister in Canada, when she was appointed by John Diefenbaker in 1957. A party was held in her honour, in Ottawa, as well as to support the Ellen Fairclough Foundation which promotes the participation of women in federal politics.



Happy and peppy Ellen Fairclough had a twinkle in her eye for Tory Leader Jean Charest last Thursday night and whooped it up with Monique Landry and Grete Hale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Al Gunn

Hello everyone! I'll keep this short...I just want to say a special thank you to a number of members who put in a lot of time and effort into the Ugandan Symposium and its follow-up activities. The CIHS Organizing Committee led by Bill Sinclair, John Hunter and Joyce Cavanaugh-Woods, with assistance by others including Bill Burton, Tony Galasso and Bob Keyserlingk really deserve our gratitude for making this project such a huge success. Although the symposium was almost a year ago, there has still been a great deal of related work going on. John Hunter and Bill Sinclair have been working closely with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and with Tony Galasso (our resident film editor) on producing a video of highlights from the footage of the Ugandan symposium. Unfortunately I missed the screening of the recent video compilation, but I hear that it is fabulous. I'll be borrowing a copy soon to see this epic! Bye for now!

Al Gunn

Resettlement and Other Canadian Responses to the World Refugee Problem

by Dr. Joseph Kage
Part 3 of 3

(Ed Note: Dr. Kage has allowed us to reprint in the Bulletin, the highlights of his 1982 speech to a Citizenship and Immigration conference held in Toronto. We are pleased to bring these highlights to you, in this last installment.)

An integral part of the refugee admission planning process is the establishment of selection criteria for each component of the refugee program. Refugee flows, it is pointed out have an impact on the labour market and on the economy in general, but the criteria used in refugee selection are not economic. Rather in

keeping with the general objective of assisting people who most need our help, the government tries to develop criteria that reflect the special needs of refugee situations, each of which may differ markedly from the others. The objective is to identify and select those individuals and families who, while being able to eventually settle in Canada and maintain themselves, would be the first beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance.

It is on this specific aspect of selection that differences of opinion may arise and do arise, because perceptions play a vital role in the evaluation process. It is always easier to be critical than correct.

In response to the question posed by the Minister: "Are the existing selection criteria valid or do we have to do more to share the refugee burden?" - my answer is a definite yes. Definite, because we have an obligation to do not only whatever we can, but in fact we must maximize our help to refugees overseas and also to maximize the admission of refugees, including those who may be victims of a physical or social handicap.

My yes, however, is qualified in the sense that admission must be predicated on a rationale related to the rather nebulous and indefinable but, at the same time, very influential concept of "absorptive capacity". I personally view this concept of "absorptive capacity" as a series of unintelligible answers to insoluble problems. But I cannot deny its down-to-earth validity affecting public opinion in relation to very real issues such as unemployment, political views, availability of communal resources and a number of other factors which affect the daily living of the average Canadian. If a certain "limit of tolerance" is exceeded, negative attitudes may arise, which in turn, will affect public opinion and the immigrant and refugee admission legislative process.

Two broad conclusions are to be noted with regard to the admission of refugees. The first is the notable strength of public

support, demonstrated time and again by individuals, voluntary agencies, churches, etc. The second is that the nature of refugee situations has been altering. The geographic focus has been shifted from Europe and has assumed world-wide implications. Canada has attempted to respond to these trends. It may not have been perfect, but an effort has been made to find a reasonably satisfactory *modus vivendi* and *modus operandi*.

As to the question posed by the Minister whether Canada's priorities should follow those provided by the UNHCR, my comment is yes, but not blindly. The UNHCR has shown a consistent sensitivity to refugee problems, but at the same time it is a dependent variable of the United Nations. Moreover, specific situations may arise and do arise where Canada may decide to follow its own course of interest. It should be remembered that resettlement of refugees in a third country is not one of UNHCR's first priorities. As well, it would be practically impossible to arrive at an internationally acceptable common definition of what constitutes a refugee. Therefore the applied versions of the definition ought to be flexible enough to allow their reasonable applicability to the accelerated, catalytic forces and changes in the world situation.

In sum, I feel that Canada should maintain and expand its tradition of admitting refugees by applying the Protocol criteria and by formulating its own enhanced criteria for refugee admission. While economic, political and social considerations are no doubt important, a dominant ingredient in a policy of refugee admission ought to be the humanitarian act.

Benefits to the Resettlement Country

"What are the benefits to the resettlement country which receives refugees and what are the essential components of a strategy for successful resettlement of refugees?"

Canada, as well as countries such as USA and Australia, are nations of immigrants. It is the immigrants who have brought to these lands the skills of their hands and brains. Refugees are part of the immigrant stream. Thus, refugees are contributors to all the benefits that accrue from immigration, whether demographic, labour supply, increased number of consumers, etc. Where the admission of refugees departs from admission of immigrants is with regard to the specific characteristics pertaining to the refugee problem. Unlike the admission of immigrants which is a sustained part of Canada's social policy, the admission of refugees is a response to a crises situation where a number of provisions are modified or relaxed in order to meet the contingency of the refugee crises.

While the pattern of admission of immigrants is on an individual basis, the admission of refugees is more geared to a group pattern, varying in size and composition. Thus for example, shortly after W.W. II Canada admitted many displaced persons. Then came the Hungarian refugees; the admission of a number of "hard core" cases, tubercular and handicapped from camps in Europe; a number of Chinese families from Hong Kong; the Czechoslovakian and Tibetan refugees; the Uganda expellees; the Indo-Chinese Boat People and groups admitted under the various designated Categories from various parts of the world.

The studies that have already been completed regarding some of the refugee groups show that their adjustment has been more than just satisfactory. Of course there are difficulties and problems and financial outlays. However, it is also clear that the difficulties are temporary while the benefits are lasting.

Strategy

What are the essential components of a strategy for successful resettlement of refugees?

Apart from the pre W.W. II period, Canada has a good record in world refugee assistance. Obviously, Canada has had to evolve a number of strategies in order to achieve this reputation. However, given the nature of events, the rapidly changing industrial factors, developments in international relations, unexpected upheavals creating conditions of displacement, changing social attitudes, etc., strategies also must go through re-evaluation, evolution and change.

Migration, even under the most favourable of circumstances, is a traumatic process. This trauma, resulting in a sense of insecurity and a feeling of bewilderment is certainly more evident in cases of migration undertaken under some form of social, political or economic pressure. The immigrant, when he arrives in his new country must, as it were, "be born again". He is asked to give up much of his old way of life, he usually severs his old associations, he must learn a new language, he must submit to a new set of values, and often faces status dilemmas. The transition is seldom smooth, and is fraught with difficulties because the process of adjustment involves an inter-play between the immigrant's own desires and expectations, and the extent to which these can be realized. The element of conflict is thus clearly discernable because the two are, at best, not always compatible.

Integration is therefore a difficult, gradual, uphill, give and take process. It implies taking new roots and roots will only take to soil that is prepared to receive and nourish them. Thus, in the initial reception and integration stages the receiving community has a definite responsibility towards the newcomer.

The immediate problems and situations with which immigrants are faced have been broadly divided into the following categories: reception, physical adjustment, employment, economic adjustment, education and educational adjustment, psychological and emotional adjustment. Basically, the process of initial absorption and integration requires several different though closely connected phases of action. The immigrant must acquire various skills, learn a new language, explore employment opportunities, and establish a new set of values as to the various roles he is expected to assume in his new environment. There is no lack of knowledge concerning the problems faced by immigrants. What is missing is an assertive, positive approach to meet these problems expeditiously and efficiently. In offering to the newcomer a new and different way of life, we ask him to surrender a great part of his former life-style, and the process of transition and transformation is not an easy one.

The survival provisions needed by immigrants are in their generic nature similar to those required by other Canadians to meet the usual social breakdowns and hazards of our society, except that the very nature of immigration, relocation and, in a sense, uprootedness, creates a number of practical and psychological problems calling for special consideration.

First of all, there is the impact of strangeness and the need to disentangle the intricacies of a new environment.

The immediate needs are to find a home and a job. There are often difficulties in adjustment to employment caused by lack of transferable skills. There is often need to accept employment below one's educational level due to language handicaps or because the degree or diploma which the immigrant may hold is not acceptable in his particular profession

in Canada. In view of the marginal income of most immigrants and refugees, guidance is needed with budgeting. Financial assistance and supplementation may be required for a certain period. The attitude of the immigrant to relief, whether positive or negative, needs careful understanding and interpretation. There are such problems as illness, adjustment to schooling, special needs of the adolescent, etc. There is need for an attuned attentive ear. Child behaviour problems, unless checked in time are bound to create community problems. In addition, there are aspects connected with immigration, understanding of cultural backgrounds and emotional impacts of culture shock.

The great majority of newcomers, immigrants and refugees have proven themselves to be self-reliant people and have displayed an above-average capacity to adjust to new ways and to meet difficulties with courage and stamina. We can say that to date the Canadian response has been good. We can also say that the Government as well as the private sector are searching for improved methods to meet current problems and contingencies that may arise in the future. In taking this course of action what all of us are basically saying is that the past can be a guide but not necessarily a measure of adequacy. Canada or any other immigrant receiving country has a right to maintain a policy of enlightened self-interest. However, a just and enlightened refugee aid, refugee settlement and integration policy requires courage, confidence, cooperation and a practical but also emotionally charged alertness and desire to be of help. In comparison with the refugee, we are the strong ones, and we were told long ago that "the strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak".

"FROM MY BOOKSHELF"

by George Bonavia

Reprinted with permission from George Bonavia. George distributes a monthly newsletter to ethnic media, libraries and organizations interested in ethnocultural affairs.

IMMIGRANT LANDINGS TO ONTARIO (January 1 to December 31, 1991) - Publications Ontario, 880 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M7A 1N8 \$14.00

This publication published by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship contains immigration statistics for Ontario as a whole, five economic regions and 22 communities of destination, also demographic information on such variables as immigrant class, official language ability, country of last permanent residence and intended occupation.

UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS: My Memories of Life in the Finnish Community of Northern Ontario by Nelma Sillanpaa - Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec, 1994, 130 pages, \$17.95 Nelma Sillanpaa, in this delightfully written, warm, human and oft-times humorous and sharp portrait of her life and times, shows us what ordinary life was like for many women in Canada over the last 75 years. Because it also describes her involvement in the activities of the Finnish community in Northern Ontario, Mrs. Sillanpaa's autobiography serves as an important historical document in illuminating another chapter of Canada's diverse multicultural heritage. We read in this autobiography what it was like for a young immigrant girl growing up in the lumber camps and mining towns of Northern Ontario in the 1920s, how Canadian teenagers coped during the Great Depression, and what young women did on the home front while their menfolk were overseas with the Canadian forces.

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CHRONICLE - Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, Canada. Etudes internationales has been publishing chronological reviews of Canada's relations since 1979. It lists events involving Canadian government interaction with foreign governments. These events are divided into thematic and geographic sections presenting in turn, Canadian policies on defence, immigration, development aid, economic and commercial policies, as well as Canadian participation in international organizations and bilateral relations linking Canada with all regions of the globe.

125th Anniversary Immigration 1869 - 1994 PART 2 by Herb Hill-Tout

(The following is part 2 of a brief memoir prepared by Herb, a retired, long service Immigration Officer. It was passed on to us by George Varnai, currently Manager of Citizenship and Settlement in the BC Region, following Herb's attendance at an Immigration 125 Celebration.)

When Huntingdon-Sumas opened 24 hours we had both a Customs and Immigration Officer on duty for the graveyard shift whereas the U.S. had only one officer. At first, traffic was almost non-existent from 2:00 - 6:00 a.m. Both offices were located almost on the border so we had more two way liaison with the U.S. then, especially to confirm readmissibility on persons lacking documentation. Periodically a certain U.S. Immigration Officer who shall remain nameless got tired of being alone and used to come over and work his examination from our side. His concession was that he left his gun behind. At that time all vehicles northbound/southbound had to report at both the Canadian and U.S. border. He would clear the southbounds and tell them o.k. to drive through the U.S. office. They would drive over to the

area with the canopy and stop again, not quite believing it and he would have to shout over to them to proceed. Such was the inherent fear of running the U.S. border by both Americans and Canadians. No such reticence existed on running the Canadian border. Customs finally got a siren which helped stop the drivers who thought we were a gas station. U.S. Customs seizure of a Canadian car smuggling meat (our wartime rationing ended before that of U.S.) didn't fail to impress the locals. Another time our Customs seized a C.P.R. locomotive (interchange with U.S. railroads located at Huntingdon) when the train crew got into volume buying of \$3.00 carton U.S. cigarettes. There were fines, demotions and transfers to remote areas.

Huntingdon had two old oak filing cabinets when I started, containing all the files from WWI. I was quite surprised to find a 1922 file when my father sponsored a British farm labourer. As the movement of DP's for farm labour, sponsored and nominated increased we finally acquired a steel cabinet. All the W.F. cards, Form 30's (prior to Imm. 1000) were in custom fitted drawers under the counter. These Form 30's were about 6" x 9" upright and used for Landings, Returning Residents, Rejections, C.C. 1st Entry, and Delayed Registration of a Birth Abroad. Many of the latter category were children of Mennonites who had emigrated from Manitoba during 1924 to Mexico and South America for social and religious reasons and Manitoba language laws requiring school in English. They were not aware that the children had to be registered before their second birthday. They had settled in remote areas of that country, some of which had no Canadian office. You will recall the early visas which had the prefix IMM, EXT or BR depending on office of issuance. Many other Mennonites had emigrated to South

America because they couldn't pass medical for Canada, the waiting lists were too long and the displaced persons camps in Europe were closing. Many of these were later nominated by Canadian relatives through Mr. Weins of the M.C.C. in Yarrow. He was a gentleman of the old school, firm with his clients but when he accepted responsibility on behalf of the Committee it was honoured. Many \$1000's were expended for welfare and medical costs.

One rarely saw the District Superintendent in those days, it was usually the District Inspector. Bank accounts, Cash Bonds, Assisted Passage Collections, postage accounts, personnel problems and the Imm. 195 ledger were the main items to be checked. The latter contained sheets about 14" x 30" and was a summary of the Form 30 information named above. It went back for years and was a real saviour in confirming status at later dates. These sheets were all hand printed in blue/black and red for rejections. Only Douglas and Vancouver had special wide carriage typewriters using black/red ribbons. Postage for regular letters was .03 and all government stamps had a perforated O.H.M.S. which had been done by Dept. Finance from 1912--1935 when it was taken over by the Post Office who discontinued it in 1949 because of the high costs of perforating. A black O.H.M.S. overprint was used, which was changed to a large "G" in 1950 which remained in use until 1963 when the program was discontinued. We had an era of no postage for all Federal Gov't. envelopes for a time but the Auditor General or Treasury Board decided there was no way to calculate the true cost of running a Dept. without knowing the mailing costs, fortunately by then Postage Meters were available.

Huntingdon was on the old B.C. Electric Interurban line so we got two in/out mail deliveries per day. The P.O. was in the

general store across the street. Vancouver office had two mail deliveries a day so it was not unusual to have a return answer in one day as volume was lighter and letters were usually answered the day received. For awhile we had a 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. shift at some border ports - try this for fouling up your day. It was finally eliminated after strong staff opposition. U.S. immigrants did not require passports, visas, medical or security checks then. It was not unusual to have a family arrive, sight unseen, complete with vehicles and all worldly possessions and they would receive "Landed Immigrant" status and Customs "Settlers Effects" Entry the same day as long as they arrived in the morning. If they arrived later in the day or on the weekend, Customs could not deal with them as Long Room entries were only handled 9:00 - 5:00. Immigrants got no copy of the Form 30 but their Settlers Effects Entry would be stamped Landed Immigrant by Customs. This changed in 1952 with the introduction of the new grey Imm. 1000 which had a tear off strip showing basic identity and status.

The southern trans-provincial Route 3 was rather mountainous and usually closed in the winter. The majority of the traffic would drop down into Wash. state to cross. All non-Canadians and visitors required a U.S. N.I. visa, only Canadians from Canada and Mexicans from Mexico were exempt, the contiguous country rule applied then. The U.S.I.S. were fairly lenient and would "parole" in transit; otherwise it meant a trip to Calgary or Vancouver for a N.I. visa.

Another first was a very large U.S. Army winter convoy in transit to Alaska. This had never been attempted before but with Pearl Harbour still fresh in the minds of the military, they wanted to test the feasibility of this route for winter travel. Normal inspection was waived. A manifest was given to Customs and an

officer in a jeep patrolled each section and advised when they had all passed. The convoy had insulated tents and all the latest equipment including large, new 12 speed automatic transmission trucks which were being tried for the first time. The group had assorted problems. Some of the southerners had never driven in snow before. One soldier had hidden his girlfriend in the back of a truck. She was discovered at Quesnel and the Army returned her to the States. After numerous problems most of the convoy eventually reached Alaska.

Aldergrove was a Customs only port until 1947 when two Immigration Officers were assigned. Douglas usually supplied relief for their days off but for one period this was assigned to Huntingdon. Customs officers doing routine Immigration work at the small ports got \$15.00 per month extra. Initially we were not overly welcome. In addition to which, it was a Customs building, not Public Works. Prior to this, immigrants and complex cases were advised to report to Douglas or Huntingdon. It was usually mid-morning before any traffic arrived, so one day I took a radio over and the Collector of Customs (who was of the old school) duly advised me in no uncertain terms this was a NO-NO in his office. Senior Customs staff from Vancouver periodically came to audit the seized goods and the liquor was destroyed with two witnesses present by pouring down the sump pump reservoir in the basement - so the place smelt like a distillery for the next few days.

We heard from a number of our recently retired Directors - it may be of some interest to recall a few memories of earlier District Superintendents of Immigration.

Fred (Cyclone) W. Taylor occasionally would make an unannounced inspection at the ports. I remember one day that we had about 3 minutes notice that he had just arrived on the B.C.E. interurban, at the station just back of the office. Rumour of the day had it that if

Mr. Taylor caught an officer smoking he would be fired. Remembering the hierarchy of the day, nobody wanted to test the validity of this statement. There was an instant rush to open all the doors and windows and put the ash trays in the Customs. There had been a Mexican farm labourer working in the Lynden area who regularly visited his lady friend on a reserve near Harrison Mills. His documentation was all in order - only problem was it belonged to someone else. During one visit someone reported him to the U.S. Immigration who refused admission and returned him to us. We took him to detention in Vancouver where he was ordered deported and in the interests of good international relations, Mr. Taylor escorted him by boat to Mexico.

D.N. Macdonnell was the next Superintendent, earlier in his career he had been an Immigration agent in Spokane, Wash. I never did discover what the D.N. stood for. It was Mr. or Sir in those days. D.N. regularly attended our Immigration bowling league as Gerry Douglas will recall. During this period we had a yearly social get together with the U.S. Imm. which the wives could attend, alternating between a Canadian and a U.S. location. These affairs were attended by the senior staff from both sides and very much enjoyed by all concerned.

Philip W. Bird was next appointed to the position; we were now down to a first name basis. Phil had served in post war Germany when we had the Hanover and Karlsruhe offices. His son, Art Bird was also with Immigration. I had rather naively financed my transfer to Kamloops in 1956. I duly submitted my account and the months went by with no reimbursement. I checked with Phil and the file had been misplaced somewhere; someone got a reprimand; and I got paid in short order.

Vancouver office had a really outdated old switchboard which required a full-time operator. There were only two lines out which were always busy. Phil had

been trying for two years to get updated equipment. On one occasion, a visiting NHQ Director spent 2 hours to get a call back to Ottawa. Shortly after this the new equipment was approved.

Lyle C. Hawkins who had been a visa officer in both Hong Kong and Europe, was the next Superintendent. This is when the term "benevolent dictator" seemed to originate in Immigration. You always knew what the guidelines were and Lyle was a good boss who always backed up his staff. During his tenure, the position was changed to Director.

Jack B. McKinstry was the last of the old time Immigration officers to become Director. His tenure was more recent and many of you are familiar with this period. Jack was involved in one event which had intense media coverage. It was the five month visit of Howard Hughes and staff during their stay at the Bayshore Inn, where they were ensconced complete with their own guards, on a whole floor which was closed off to the public and media. All visitors over 30 days had to be documented and J.B.M. was the one to go to the Bayshore and issue the form. RCMP and three gov't departments were involved. Endless hours were spent investigating every aspect. Looking back, one wonders why, but it was deemed important back then. We had just started all new coded forms under a Batch Control system with NHQ. The RHQ did not have a port number, so Jack gave me the form to process through Vancouver office. It was signed Howard Hughes in very clear and legible writing which seemed unusual in view of Mr. Hughes' medical condition. The form was a greyish colour as though it had been chemically tested but Jack never said who signed it. If he had actually seen Mr. Hughes or any details, it was all top secret then.

Henry T. Peters was not a District Superintendent but I am adding these few lines as he was an officer at Huntingdon for many years before the war. He was posted to Hong Kong in 1947 to open up

the first Canadian office. This was after the implementation of our first Canadian Citizenship Act of 01 January, 1947, and Chinese were now eligible for sponsorship under the same terms as the rest of Asia. Conditions were chaotic after the war, housing almost impossible. Henry lived in a hotel for the first year. He made an excellent job of setting up this office and established procedures which were used for many years. These applications were processed on the old IMM 55B designed specifically for Chinese which showed details of every trip back to the mainland. Their CI 9 certificates had to be endorsed on both departure and return to Canada. Documentation was unreliable. Many applicants were "paper sons", overage sons, slots were bought and sold. It made for lengthy interviews where drawings of the village were done, placement of houses, diagram of your house interiors, which bedroom you slept in, where you sat at the table during mealtime and where the village well was located, together with many other details. There were "coaching schools" set up in Hong Kong where P.I.s were put through interview procedures and instructed how to answer. Henry was a Vimy veteran who died in Ottawa earlier this year at age 96. You may have seen him interviewed by the media at the Vimy Memorial Day and Nov. 11th ceremonies held during 1993.

(STAY TUNED FOR MORE NEXT ISSUE)

NOTICE

We have a few copies of Roger St. Vincent's book on the Ugandan

movement of 1972, still on hand and thought some members may like to have copies to give to friends or colleagues. If you're interested in purchasing a copy, please send a quick note to the Treasurer at our P.O. Box, including your cheque payable to the CIHS for \$17 (\$15 for the book and \$2 to cover postage and handling). We will do our best to get you your copies mailed out as soon as reasonably possible.

REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

As usual, at this time of year, I would like to remind you that the end of our fiscal year is April 30, 1995 and membership dues for the year May '95 - April '96 would be appreciated as early as possible. We have ten members in arrears since April 30, 1994 and it is with regret that I must advise this will be the last edition of the Bulletin they will receive as the expense of printing, packaging and postage is approximately \$1.75 per issue of the Bulletin. This means that in a year where we publish 3 issues, the cost to us totals \$5.25 and when we publish 4 issues, the cost rises to \$7.00 per member. You will readily see the Bulletin expenses do not leave much of the member's annual dues for are other projects.

Members can see the expiry date of their membership by noting the number after their name on the envelope. For example, a 4 after your name means April '94 is the expiry date; a 5 means April '95 is the expiry date. Life members have the code L after their name. You can also check the date on your membership card, which is mailed out to you each time a monetary payment is received by the Society.

We'd really prefer it if we could keep our members, so please help us out by keeping your membership up to date. You might want to consider taking out a life membership, if you haven't already done so, since this would keep you from having to worry about annual dues.

Finally, I'd ask each member to do their very best to recruit at least one new member, enabling the Society to grow and prosper.

Thank you, Al!

35 Years of Misspent Life in Government Service

Part 4

by Al Troy

Hi folks here I am again. Those of you who thought "oh no not more of that stuff" can write and complain directly to the Editor. Back in the fifties, the British Broadcasting Corporation had a children's story program that began "Now children are you comfortable? Then let us begin." How's that for a wild, attention grabbing opening?

After a most enjoyable summer in New Brunswick we sailed back to Liverpool on the Empress of Canada, at the end of August 1966. This was to be the last time we travelled by sea as all movement was by air by the time we finished our Liverpool tour in 1971. Lyle MacEachern was the Officer-in-Charge and he had booked us into the Adelphi Hotel for an indefinite period while we searched for accommodation. Our first task was to get our son Stephen entered into a school and we finally managed to

secure a place at Quarry Bank High School. At this time its great claim to fame was not so much academic but that both John Lennon and Paul McCartney had been pupils there. Nine years in Belfast had given Steve a real Ulster accent and it took him years to get rid of the nickname Paddy he received at Quarry. Our daughter Barbara had gone back to Belfast as a boarder in Methodist College to complete her last year towards her "A" level exams.

After a long and discouraging hunt we found a large house in the suburb of Woolton and got moved in. This area was mainly composed of huge homes that had originally been built, and occupied, by shipping and cotton processing families. These so-called cartels no longer existed and the present owners lived in the front part of the house and had divided the back part into one or more apartments. You might say we lived in a semi-religious neighbourhood as the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool lived just on the other side of our garden wall and the Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool's palace, so-called, was down Woolton Park Road about 100 yards. Our landlords were Rob and Mildred Evans, with whom we became and remained best friends to the present day. Unfortunately Mildred passed away two years ago. We had a magnificent garden with every sort of blooming plant known to man or beast. This suited my wife as she loves gardening and is addicted to a house full of flowers. No green thumb me and I ended up doing the donkey work outside. There is a serpent in every garden of Eden and ours proved to be that we were living in the coldest home in Britain. With 12 foot ceilings and no proper central heating suffering through the winters was a painful experience. We attempted to heat the place with fireplaces in each room, some were coal burning and some had been converted to gas. We also had what was known as "off peak electric". Each room had a sort of metal box about 4 x 4 x 1 filled with layers of iron slabs which were automatically fed with electricity from

approx. 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. and then a couple or perhaps three hours more between noon and 3:00 p.m. when the power load demand was down. These iron blocks were supposed to radiate heat which was intended to heat the room. With huge rooms and high ceilings you can guess how useless they were. From May to early September it was a lovely place but from then till the following May it was unbelievably cold. We had two electric fires and a gas fireplace in the living room and a gas fire in a small den where Steve hung about and an oil filled electric radiator in the kitchen. These rooms were liveable but the rest of the place was something else. You really had to steel yourself to leave a warm room and head for bed in an unheated bedroom. However you can adapt to almost any situation and we managed to do so.

Our daughter completed her "A" levels, returned home, and was accepted into the University of Liverpool to get her B.Sc (Biology) and a B.Ed. Steve finished his "A" levels and returned to Canada with us in 1971 to enter 2nd year at Carleton University to get his BA (Pol. Sc.) and eventually a Diploma in Public Administration. Enough of my brood and back to business.

We were quite busy in Liverpool and working in very cramped quarters with each of the four interviewing officers having space about the size of a large telephone booth. Canada was still actively recruiting migrants but we were using press advertising and the efforts of transportation companies and travel agents to keep a steady flow of immigration prospects coming forward and there was no longer any need for outside film shows. We were using a call-up system and most mornings you could barely get into the office as we advised the whole morning group to be there by 9:00 a.m. The same with the afternoon group for 1:00 p.m. but a smaller number so as to give us time to work on correspondence and documentation in the latter part of the day. There was no let-up in the work

load and we certainly looked forward to our weekends. I found this a lot different from Belfast as we were turning out approx. five times the work with approx. double the staff.

Soccer, or football as the English call it, is a sort of religion in Liverpool and the main topic of conversation much the same as Canadians talk about the weather. My landlord's father was an old friend of Jack Sharpe who was chairman of the Everton Football Club and managed to get me two season tickets in the upper stands at Goodison Park on the mid-field line and for the next five years Stephen and I never missed an Everton home match. This was quite a feat as new season ticket applicants normally had to wait up to five years before tickets became available and in many cases they were passed on from father to son in family wills. To this day I have remained an Everton supporter looking for their ██████████ line score in our Ottawa Sunday paper.

After three years the Department reorganized the U.K. operation and closed the Leeds and Liverpool offices and opened up in Manchester. As my wife had recently been accepted as a full member of the Woolton Golf Club, my daughter was doing well at Liverpool University and my son, the penny having dropped, was working hard and doing well at Quarry Bank, a family roundtable voted 3 to 1 to remain residing in Woolton. Father would thus become a daily commuter to Manchester via dear old undependable British Rail. As my only supporter, Tabby the cat couldn't vote I accepted defeat gracefully and that is how things were for the next two years. I never realized there were so many ways to disrupt the workings of a railroad - official strikes, unofficial strikes, go-slows, equipment breakdowns, track repairs, signalling delays and many more I cannot name at the moment. I used to drive to Hunts Cross Station, look for off-street parking as there was no legal parking area, catch the 7:30 train (whenever it chose to appear), arrive Manchester around 8:30 a.m. and walk

15 minutes to our office near the main railway situation. I'd leave the office at 5:30 p.m., walk 15 minutes to my station for a 6:00 p.m. departure which would eventually see me arrive home between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. (if all went well). Now you can see why I really appreciated my weekends.

The workload continued much the same as it had been in Liverpool but I think we had an additional officer posted to us. Can't remember any really outstanding event while in Manchester except the time we were to select Canada's two millionth immigrant. HQ didn't want just any old soul but asked us to be on the lookout for a married professional couple with two children who had assured employment waiting for them in Canada and who would arrive during the coming May/June period. Well what do you know we found such a couple, both doctors, two children and assured employment in Toronto and willing to play along with our proposal. Now wasn't it truly amazing that they just happened to be the two millionth arrivals? Dame Fortune surely did smile on our Public Relations people didn't it? But you know you can't argue with arrival statistics can you?

It didn't take long for 1971 to roll around and I was notified I was to be posted to HQ in Ottawa for a three year tour. We had been abroad continually from August 1955 to July 1971 except for a period from September 1959 to April 1961. Our daughter moved to France to be near her intended, got married in December and still lives quite happily in Paris. Our son remained in Liverpool having found summer employment and living with his girl friend's parents. He returned to Ottawa in September and entered Carleton.

After leave in New Brunswick and Toronto I reported to the Foreign Service HQ in the Bourque Building on

Rideau St. in early September 1971 for my three year stint (which incidentally only lasted until January 1973). Well my children, that's all for this story hour, so be good until Uncle Al can get back to you again soon.

THIS CONCLUDES THE TWENTIETH ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU WITH YOUR COMMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE EDITOR AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENCOURAGE EVERYONE WHO HAS SOME SPARE TIME AND ENERGY TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.



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