

# Backspace



Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
Societe historique de l'immigration canadienne  
CP/PO Box 9502, "T", Ottawa, Ont K1G 3V2

No 27 NOV 1997 ISSN 1207-0432  
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## AGM OTTAWA NOVEMBER 15TH



### AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CIHS will hold its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the Foreign Affairs Department, Pearson Building, Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Saturday morning, November 15, at 9:30 for 10.00.

All members and friends are welcome.

### MEMBERS OBITUARIES

Tony Gelasso passed away last March after a bold battle with bowel cancer, which spread to his liver. His demise has left a big void with the Inter-Connections Canada team, the immigration support service in Don Mills, Ontario. This information was sent to *Backspace* by Alli Amlani of Inter-Connections.

Joseph Kage of Montreal in September 1996. An immigrant to Canada from Belarus in 1934, Kage devoted his life to helping immigrants. A scholar with many publications on immigration to his credit, Kage was a graduate of Sir George Williams College (BA, (BComm), University of Ottawa (MA) and Universite de Montreal (PhD). He taught at various Jewish educational establishments in Montreal and was Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada for three decades until his retirement in 1982. He advised the government on immigration policy and served five years on the Refugee Status Advisory Committee. He served in volunteer capacity on many other press, educational and citizenship organizations.

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**Vaudey Pals** passed away in September 1997

**Colleen Cupples** died in September 1997. Bernard Brodie attended her memorial service at her cottage on Christie Lake near Perth, and a second service was held in Ottawa.

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## MEMBERSHIP

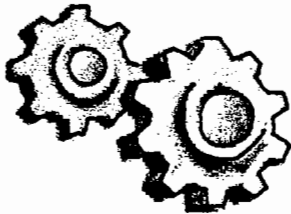
CIHS treasurer Al Troy reports that CIHS has one corporate member, 6 special members, 89 life members and 68 annual members, for a total of 164.

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## CIHS SOCIAL EVENTS

CIHS' annual informal dinner was held June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in The Place Next Door on Rideau Street, Ottawa. Twenty-four members attended.

Joe Bissett was the lunch-time lecturer for CIHS members at CIC HQ, speaking of his experiences in former Yugoslavia and in Russia.



## 1967: YEAR OF FATEFUL CHANGE IN CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

By Merrick Spalding

Few Canadians are aware that the opening of immigration to applicants from any part of the world was put into effect by administrative decree without recourse to Parliament.

The instrument used was an Order-in-Council introducing new, universally applicable selection criteria that came to be known as the point system. This change was announced by the immigration minister Jean Marchand on September 12, 1967.

Under the Immigration Act then in force, section 61 authorized the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for carrying into effect the purposes and provisions of the Act. More specifically, it authorized regulations prohibiting and limiting admission of persons by reason of:

- (1) nationality, citizenship, ethnic group, occupation, class or geographical area of origin;
- (2) peculiar customs, habits, modes of life or methods of holding property;
- (3) unsuitability having regard to climatic, economic, social, industrial, educational, labor, health or other conditions or requirements existing, temporarily or otherwise, in Canada or in the area or country from or through which such persons come to Canada, or;
- (4) probable inability to become readily assimilated or to assume the duties and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship within a reasonable time after their admission.

Had anyone asked how the new, universally applicable point system of selection could be considered consistent with the regulation-making authority outlined above, government lawyers would have likely rested their case on the words "occupation" in paragraph (1) and "economic ... industrial, educational, labor ... conditions in paragraph (3).

Apart from special rules for sponsorship of close relatives by Canadian citizens and landed immigrants, and subject to section 5 of the Act, which prohibited:

([condensed] Idiots, imbeciles or morons, diseased or physically defective persons, criminals, prostitutes, homosexuals, pimps, professional beggars, alcoholics, drug addicts and drug peddlers, members of subversive organizations, spies, saboteurs and conspirators;

the point system became the sole criterion of admissibility.

There were no regulations whatever to implement the main thrust of the delegated authority, namely prohibition of admission by reason of an applicant's origin. In view of this, it could be argued that the introduction of the point system represented a perverse use of section 61 of the Immigration Act.

The point system was the brain child of Deputy Minister Tom Kent, who had previously held influential positions as Co-ordinator of Programming and Policy Secretary to Prime Minister Pearson, and Director of Special Planning in the Privy Council Office.

An Oxford M.A., Tom Kent immigrated to Canada from England in 1954, when admission was limited to British subjects and citizens of France and the United States.

Once in a position of influence in the federal government, he had no qualms in introducing an immigration system which severely curtailed the opportunities of his former countrymen to come to Canada. By 1984, only 23.7% of all immigrants came from Europe.

It took the Liberal government seven years to ask Parliament to pass an Immigration Act incorporating the principles of selection in effect since 1967. At the committee stage, 1,208 individuals submitted briefs on the subject. Of these, 83% were against an open-door policy. Despite this, MPs influenced by ethnic and human rights groups passed the proposed legislation. The new act was proclaimed early in 1978.

In 1971 I chaired a committee appointed to examine and evaluate the working of the point system. We had no shortage of data on every aspect of the programme, thanks to Al Gunn, whose Programme Data Division developed and implemented the Immigration Data System Overseas (IDSO).

[This topic will be completed by Al Gunn in the next issue.]

## THE HOWARD HUGHES STORY

[ Submitted by 72-year old Clarence (Clare) Scatchard of Surrey B.C. Claire began his career in the immigration service 1948 at a small border port, worked mainly in the West and overseas in Glasgow, London and Vienna. He retired as Manager of Enforcement and Control for Pacific Region.]

**SECRET**

On Tuesday, March 14, 1972, I was Acting District Administrator at the Vancouver office. About 9 AM my secretary said that a reporter from the Vancouver Sun was on the telephone asking if it was true that Howard Hughes had arrived in Canada via the Vancouver airport.

"Not to my knowledge," I replied. After checking with the airport manager, I was sure that Hughes had not come through the airport and I informed the reporter accordingly.

I began to get telephone calls from a number of radio and TV stations plus other newspapers telling me that Hughes was actually staying at the Bayshore Hotel. I decided to find out for myself.

The first reporter had said that Hughes had arrived by private jet at the south terminal. As that examination point was manned by Customs on an "on call" basis, I again phoned the airport manager asking him to check with Customs. He phoned back that the Superintendent of Customs at the airport had personally examined and admitted Hughes and his party about 6 or 7 AM. The Superintendent was not at the airport and no one knew the details of Hughes' admission.

I advised our Director, Lyall Hawkins, of the situation. In the meantime, our A/DM phoned me asking for a

status report because the Minister was receiving calls from the media.

My phone call to the Customs Manager of Outside Operations elicited the response, "What's all the fuss about? Mr Hughes is just the same as any other tourist coming to Canada." I replied, "And how many tourists does the Superintendent personally examine at the South Terminal at 6 AM?"

Then I phoned the Collector of Customs, who confirmed that the Superintendent was not available, but had told him that he had admitted Hughes and party as visitors for three months, and that no business activities were involved. We passed this information on to the media, who of course were highly skeptical. In the meantime, telephone calls came to my house from the media in various parts of Canada, the U.S.A., Britain and Europe, until I finally at midnight took the phone off the hook.

Three months later, Jack McKinsstry, Vancouver District Administrator, was instructed to visit Hughes at the Bayshore Hotel to determine his status and arrange an extension.

I later learnt that the Superintendent of Customs had lunched with Hughes' aides two months prior to his arrival in Canada. When asked why he didn't inform anyone, he allegedly replied, "His aides swore me to secrecy."

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## THE CONTINUING SAGA: 35 YEARS OF MISSPENT LIFE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Part 9B, - The Netherlands 1980-84 - by Al Troy



A good Dutch farm can run from 5 to 7 hectares (11 to 24 acres) and eyes would pop upon hearing that small

Canadian farms ran from 150 acres and up. Most Dutch farmers were engaged in dairying, market gardening or the poultry business. They were highly efficient and made use of every inch of the land they possessed.

I remember visiting a well-run dairy farm milking approximately 100 head of Holsteins. It was run by a farmer and his wife and a hired hand who came in on the weekends. It was truly amazing how they could harvest 100 liters of milk a day.

I also recall visiting a poultry farm which produced 20,000 broilers for a German supermarket chain every twelve weeks. The rearing shed was about 20 to 30 feet wide and about 300 feet long. It was equipped with a take-down caging system and the birds were fed by an automatic feeding system. When the birds arrived at the size/weight specified by the purchaser, he was notified. Huge trucks would roll in, the birds would be loaded and taken away for processing. The caging system would be taken down and a bulldozer brought in to push the accumulated manure to one end, where it was loaded and immediately sold for fertilizer. The profit from the fertilizer provided for the take-down and re-installation of the caging system and paid for the new 20,000 poults to be raised for the next market. The whole place stank like nothing on earth, but it must have smelled like money to the farmer.

Nurseries produced flowers using mass production methods. Literally millions of blooms would be brought straight from the ~~nurseries~~<sup>nurseries</sup> each morning to the huge flower market at Aalsmeer near Schipol Airport outside of Amsterdam. These flowers were auctioned off in large lots using a descending clock for buyers to stop when the price was right. Buyers from various countries had their resident agents there and the flowers purchased there would be on a plane within a couple of hours. Any blooms not sold at the market would be destroyed to prevent buyers from waiting until the end of sales to get a bargain price on the leftovers. This also prevented the street flower sellers from getting cheap stock and undercutting the legitimate flower shops. Tourists could enjoy this sight from a series of overhead walkways over the market area.

The bulk of the Canadian immigration movement was from people in the agricultural industry with an occasional entrepreneur and/or tradesman. The Dutch

pre-selection system certainly made the immigration process much simpler. Practically everyone spoke or understood English. It was the second language in school and adults were encouraged by the Dutch emmigration authorities to take English lessons or refresher courses.

We must never underestimate the gratitude of the population towards the Canadian liberators of their country in 1944-45 and the Canadians' subsequent feeding of a starving nation. Once a Dutchman discovers you are a veteran of WWII, the sky is the limit.

We had a Westphalia Camper and enjoyed camping on weekends. We actually stopped doing this because as soon as you turned in your Canadian passport at the camp office, they wouldn't accept your money. It was simply too embarrassing not to be able to pay your way occasionally.

The years passed swiftly and we arrived at the autumn of 1983 before we knew it, only a year to go before heading for Canada and retirement. The workload in The Hague posed no great problems, except in the last year and a half, when we began to get all sorts of refugee applications.

Schipol airport near Amsterdam had direct travel links with practically every country in Europe. We became flooded with applicants from Poland. 90% were almost automatically refused as they could not be considered refugees under the UN definition. We classed them as economic refugees and referred them back to the Dutch authorities for consideration as refugees.

Some had relatives or close friends in Canada. We advised the applicants to tell their Canadian contacts to approach their local Canadian immigration office. Many of these cases were eventually accepted and visaed. The word seemed to spread that Canada would take anyone as a refugee. As a result, we also had the same type of applicants from Turkey. A turn-down rate of almost 100% soon shut off this movement.

In October 1983 my wife had to undergo surgery of a very serious nature. She spent three weeks in hospital and a month at home. She made a full recovery under the watchful eye of our next door neighbour, Dr Jan Evers. Christmas passed with a lovely visit from our

family in Paris. Betty had been bothered with a hip problem for some time and it finally reached the point

[contd on p. 6

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## EX-OTTAWA RESIDENT GIVEN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Naomi Bernstein, 51, started her work helping thousands of sick and abandoned children in war zones in 1969 in Vietnam. She has assisted over 40,000 children from third world countries to come to North America for life saving surgery.

She was also instrumental in setting up orphanages and childrens' shelters in Bangladesh, Guatemala, Cambodia, Vietnam and Honduras.

Her family came to Ottawa in 1982, later she moved back to Montreal.

She is this years' winner of the \$250,000 Royal Bank award for humanitarian achievement.

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## SECOND EDITION OF IMMIGRATION HISTORY LAUNCHED

Valarie Knowles, a CIHS member, has put out another edition of her well-received book on Canadian immigration.

The Media Book Club of Ottawa organized a book launch in October for the revised and updated edition of Val Knowles' survey history of Canadian immigration and immigration policy.

The new edition of her Strangers At Our Gates Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540-1997 published by Dundurn Press (1992 and 1997) took place in the National Press Club.

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[Misspent Life, contd. from p. 5]

where surgery was called for. In February 1984 she had a hip replacement, spending another three weeks in hospital., followed by another month in bed at home and another month of careful rehabilitation.

In May I thought a week in the Black Forest in Germany would be a nice break for her as we had spent a lot of time touring in that area during our posting in Stuttgart. We also wanted to do some shopping at the CFB Baden-Solingen for items we wanted to take home with us in September.



The holiday went well until we were involved in a serious car accident. Our camper was knocked off the road, rolled over a couple of times and ended up upside down against a fence surrounding the Canadian Base Airfield. Poor Betty got the worst of the accident with three broken ribs, broken right elbow and broken right wrist, as well as myriad cuts and bruises. I had nothing broken but was badly bruised from head to toe. The top half of my body was all shades of black, brown and yellow. I couldn't lift my arms and had to be spoon-fed. I couldn't get in or out of bed without help. I had muscle aches where I didn't know muscles existed.

We spent 12 days in the Base military hospital and another month in bed at home. We slowly recovered. By mid-August we were both getting around on crutches and canes. A real fun summer, wouldn't you say? It could have been a lot worse.

Our camper was a complete write-off. The garage that recovered the wreck charged me DM 400 (\$Cnd 200) for their service and storage, while giving me DM400 for parts. Our ambassador sent his car and the post station wagon to take us and our bits and pieces back to The Hague.

September soon rolled around and we were on our way back to Canada. We had truly enjoyed our four-and-a-

half years in the Netherlands and I had nothing but good things to say about the Dutch and their hospitality. We had had many great experiences; attending two New Year levees at the Dam in Amsterdam, being presented to Queen Beatrix and Prince Klaus when Larry Smith presented his ambassadorial credentials, attending Liberation Day ceremonies at all three Canadian cemeteries where several old friends were buried. I formed a close friendship with a genuine Dutch Resistance hero, Kars Smit. I spent two hours chatting with Princess (formerly Queen) Juliana in the VIP lounge of KLM in Mirabel. I was able to retrace every step of my WWII experience in Holland from mid-September 1944 until April 18, 1945, when 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division crossed into Germany. We ended up outside of Wilhelmshaven on VE Day.

There were many other pleasant occasions which made our four-and-a-half years in The Hague a most memorable ending to almost 35 years with the Immigration Department.

Well, dear friends, there will be only one more short article, dealing with our return until our retirement in December 1984. I trust you to hang on until then.



**DO YOU HAVE ANY SMALL ARTICLES FOR BACKSPACE? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE THEN.** Bob Keyserlingk, editor

## 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:

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 The Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
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 Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3V2

Any member who wonders about their status can check the number in brackets on the address envelope after their name. (7) means your membership expired April 30, 1997 and we are now into the new membership year and would appreciate your \$10.00. You can also check the validity date on your present membership card which is sent out every time a member pays his dues. Many have paid in advance and some will show (8) or (9). Those who are LIFE members show (L) after their name. Looking forward to hearing from those (7) folks.

