

C.I.H.S. BULLETIN

Number 28

June 1998

Editor's Note

Bernard Brodie (Interim Editor)

On behalf of your Executive, I would like to apologize for the delay in getting this Bulletin to you.

The reasons are numerous, not least of them being the fact that no one has come forward to take up the task of editorship left vacant by the resignation of Dr. Keyserlingk. However, in an effort to make up to you for this delay, we are endeavouring to send you two Bulletins within the next two months: this and one in July or August.

I would ask once again on behalf of the Executive that members, especially National Capital Area members, consider coming forward and offering their services to the organization. The normal regular attendance at our monthly Executive Committee meetings is four persons. Of these four, two are in their late seventies, one is a rotational officer who may well soon be posted, and one has become a "snowbird". Clearly the prognosis for the future of our Society is poor unless others care enough to become involved. Please consider offering your services.

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Upcoming Events

Cocktail Party

The Annual Cocktail Party will take place at 5:30 p.m. on **Thursday June 25th** in the Lobby Restaurant on the ground-floor of the Jean Edmonds Tower at 365 Laurier St. West at Kent, home of the Citizenship and Immigration Department. This will be open to all members, spouses, and friends, and we will be advertising it, as last year, to C&I staff also with a view to encouraging them to join our Society. There is no entrance fee. "Nibbles" will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Last year's turnout was splendid and we hope to see the same again.

PAFSO Awards Dinner

The Society is once again acting as a sponsor for the Awards Banquet of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers. This dinner takes place in the National Arts Centre on **Thursday June 11th**. Tickets are available through your local PAFSO representative for those who may wish to attend.

C.I.H.S. Dinner

The date for this has not yet been determined. Last year approximately twenty-four people gathered at The Place Next Door for dinner and the evening was generally considered a success. Details of this year's dinner will be in the next Bulletin.

C.I.H.S. Annual General Meeting: November 15, 1997

The AGM of the CIHS was held in the Skelton Auditorium of the Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa. The meeting was "9:30 for 10:00", and coffee and doughnuts courtesy of the efforts of Al Troy were available to all.

Twelve persons attended the meeting, being in alphabetical order Bernard Brodie, David Bullock, Joyce Cavanagh-Wood, Peter Current, Lloyd Dowswell, Wilf Greaves, Al Gunn, John Hunter, Bob Keyserlingk, Randy Orr, Merrick Spaulding, and Al Troy.

The President, Randy Orr, called the meeting to order at 10:15.

1. President's Report

Randy mentioned that the theme of last year's efforts had been to increase the visibility of the CIHS. To this end, we had held our last AGM on a weekday early evening at C&I Headquarters rather than a Saturday morning at FAIT, in the hope of increasing attendance, although this had not noticeably been successful.

More successful had been several events held over the year. First, there was the cocktail party at the Royal Canadian Air Force officers' mess, co-hosted by Citizenship and Immigration. This was attended by over 100 people, and the departing Raph Girard was the guest speaker. Later that summer, the CIHS were official sponsors of the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers Annual Awards Dinner, at which we were again mentioned in depth and our sponsorship prominently displayed. Later in the summer we had

the CIHS's own Annual dinner at the Place Next Door, with some thirty-two participants. Finally, there had been the talk given by Joe Bissett on his experiences with IOM in Moscow.

Randy also mentioned that despite losing some members this year we have managed to keep overall numbers fairly stable. However, the lack of persons coming forward to undertake the work of the Society has now become of serious concern.

Randy also mentioned the works of reminiscence and/or scholarship being performed by some members, and instanced the recent paper "The Canadian Immigration Service to 1949" by Brian Coleman. He also referred to Len Goddard's memoirs. He concluded that there is clearly still a need for the Society and a desire by its members to see it continue, but this is becoming more and more difficult without active help from the membership.

2. The Treasurer's Report

The Annual Financial statement had been distributed by the Treasurer. He mentioned that our membership now totaled 164: 1 Corporate Member; 89 Life Members; 68 Annual Members; and 6 Special Members (now reduced to five by the death the same day of the Hon. Jack Pickersgill). Al mentioned that the one Corporate Member, Citizenship and Immigration, was a year behind with its payment. Al mentioned that he had been obliged to cancel seven memberships last year, but only after at least one full year of tardiness and at least one reminder letter.

With effect from April 20, 1997, the financial position was:

Investment Account	\$6,353.73
Current Account	\$1,328.97
Petty Cash	\$ <u>64.94</u>
Total	\$7,747.64

It was proposed by Dr. Keyserlingk and seconded by David Bullock that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

The President thanked the Audit Committee (Messrs. Muise, Dowswell, and Brodie) for their efforts again this year.

3. Membership Secretary's Report

Al Gunn continued on the theme of membership. He believes a main goal must be getting more interest out in the Canadian field. He has talked to Ian MacDonald, and has discovered that a number of retired officers meet regularly in Toronto. He has arranged with Ian to organize a meeting of these officers when he (Al) is next in Toronto. The hope is that a Toronto Chapter might be created.

Similarly, Bill Sinclair is still very active in Halifax, where the Pier 21 project is going full steam. They have acquired \$6.5 million already and are looking for another \$2 million by 1999.

The Membership Secretary's Report was put to the vote. It was proposed by Wilf Greaves and seconded by Joyce Cavanagh-Wood. Unanimous.

4. Publications Committee Report

Dr. Keyserlingk mentioned that we had only been able to produce two Backspaces this year, not least because of the paucity of material submitted. He thanked Al Troy for his regular and consistent contributions. He suggested

we could do with much more of the kind of material that Merrick Spaulding had written on the Points System, and was sure this was of great interest to our members. Discussion then swung to the fact that next year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Czech Refugee movement, and it was suggested that we could solicit articles and memoirs from those who had served there, such as Dave Bullock, Joyce Cavanagh-Wood, Daryl Mesheau, and John Wisendorf.

Mr. Spaulding then gave a short impromptu talk on Tom Kent and his views as to the Point System and the problems it raised with the control of the nominated relative movement.

Al Troy suggested that perhaps we should have a policy on Backspace, i.e. that it should be targeted for issuance a specific and predictable number of times per year, whether two, three or four, but whatever would be chosen, that would be the Editor's goal. In the discussion that followed, it emerged that Dr. Keyserlingk is unable to continue with editing the Backspace and that a new Editor must be found. Various options were discussed, including a clarification of the difference between being the editor and being the publisher of such a magazine.

A final issue in this area was the circulation of the CIHS's video collection, which now numbers about eight videos on the careers of various high-profile immigration personnel, as well as the Ugandan Asian tape.

5. Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Joyce Cavanagh-Wood. She gave a half-hour talk that centered on two areas. The first was her experiences as Officer-in-

Charge in Trinidad, her most recent posting that only ended this year. The second was a description of the scope and challenges of her new job as Director-General of the Departmental Delivery Network. In this latter role she has the following units reporting to her

- In Vegreville she has 150 - 160 staff processing people in Canada who are looking for a status change.
- In Mississauga she has 56 people who look after all Sponsorships.
- In Sydney, N.S., she has an office handling Citizenship Grants and Proofs.
- In Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver she has Call Centers under her functional guidance.
- In Ottawa Headquarters she has a large section processing medical examinations for all of North America: there are five doctors plus several nurses and a clerical staff.
- The Interim Federal Health Care Unit, which deals with issues such as refugees falling ill and ensures that their medical bills are paid, reports to her.
- The Query Response Center, which keeps a record of all landings ever done, reports to her.
- The Immigration Warrant Response Centre, which exists so as to enable warrants to be available to police twenty-four hours per day, is also under her control.

She closed by responding to questions about the make-up of the re-organized department and detailed the varying roles and responsibilities of Gerry Campbell as ADM Operations, George

Tsai as ADM Corporate, and Greg Fyffe as ADM Strategic Planning.

6. Election of New Officers

Randy Orr was re-elected by acclamation as president.

Al Troy, Al Gunn, and Bernard Brodie in Ottawa; and Bill Sinclair, Ian MacDonald, Bert Cheffins, George Varnai, and Jim Cross in the rest of Canada, were similarly acclaimed.

After listening to further mentions of the criticality of new blood coming forward, Peter Current and Wilf Greaves both agreed to let their names stand for election and were promptly unanimously elected to the Board.

A Vote of Thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors was proposed by John Hunter and seconded by David Bullock.

Bernard Brodie
Secretary
November 16, 1997.

MEMOIRS OF AL TROY

“35 Years of Misspent Life in the Government Service.” Part 10.

Well, my friends, this will conclude the heart-rending tale of my years with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. I would like to point out that the Department has been known by six or seven names during my time but we have now managed to get back to the original 1950 designation, if my memory serves me right.

After a most enjoyable four and a half years posting in The Hague, it was time to close up shop and return to Canada for retirement on December 31, 1984. We had been living abroad continuously since August 1955 except for two short period of eighteen months each. We felt as most immigrant families must feel: that we were preparing for a new life in a foreign land.

We had given a lot of thought to where we could settle down. We had given Northern Ireland careful consideration, as we had spent a total of twelve years in the Belfast office and had many good friends. But the hateful political situation there made us realise that no one in their right mind would want to spend their retirement living in a continuous life-threatening situation. France came into our reckoning also, as our married daughter has lived in Paris with her family since 1972, but my lack of French put paid to that as a destination. We had spent many holidays in Northern Greece and my son-in-law had family contacts there, so that got consideration also. However, the impossibility of ever becoming sufficiently fluent in Greek to carry on a normal life soon took care of that choice. The United Kingdom got consideration also as our son's in-laws lived in Liverpool and we had a lot of

friends from our seven years in Liverpool and Birmingham. But as they say, when “push came to shove”, we decided Canada was our home. Our son and his family lived in Orleans, outside Ottawa, and we had purchased a carriage home in nearby Blackburn Hamlet as an investment while on home leave in 1981. We contacted the agent who had looked after the property for the past three years for us and arranged for notice to be given to the tenants and to have the house painted from top to bottom and all necessary repairs made.

We arrived back in Canada on September 7, 1984, and stayed with our son. In approximately ten days we were able to move into our own home. We found this to be another strange experience as we had been living in Crown-owned or leased accommodation for the past many years in the United States, Northern Ireland, England, Germany, and the Netherlands. Being able to walk through the door and look around and have the feeling that **this is all mine** was an unforgettable experience.

We spent the next couple of weeks unpacking and trying to find places to put everything. Unpacking at all our other moves had been done with the feeling that in two or three years you would be moving on again, but this time we were here for the rest of our lives.

We had to purchase a car as we had “totalled” our Westphalia Camper in Germany on a visit in May and had not had time to purchase another European vehicle before our departure. We decided to get a station wagon and went to one of the largest dealers in Ottawa. After dickering on price and coming to finalise the deal I asked the salesman to whom I should make the cheque as I wanted to pay in cash. I was dumbfounded when he said “Oh, I’m

sorry, we can't accept cash", as it should be paid for via the Ford Finance Company subsidiary. So I told him there was no deal, and headed for the door, with him scampering after me. He said he would talk to the manager and see what could be arranged. I was in my son's car and preparing to leave the dealership when the head honcho appeared, so I allowed myself to be coaxed back into the showroom, where we closed the deal with a couple of fairly substantial upgrades to sweeten the pot.

Towards the end of September I reported for duty at the Foreign Service HQ in the Pearson Building and spent several days filling in forms to do with my separation from the Service effective the end of December. There was really nothing for me to do: I didn't even have a chair to sit in to read the morning paper. After a couple of days the Chief of the Section to which I was attached took me to lunch and said that as I was retiring at the end of the year he really didn't have anything he could get me involved in, but he wanted me to be available for short spells of duty that cropped up occasionally on an urgent basis. He said that it would be o.k. for me to stay at home, and he would give me a call on a daily basis around 4.p.m. to keep me in the picture. That was fine with me, as we still had lots to do getting unpacked and settling into the house. He cautioned me that anything that turned up would be on short notice, and wanted to know if that would be agreeable to me. I assured him that it would.

One Thursday about the middle of October he phoned to tell me that he wanted me to leave for Seattle on Sunday morning to take over as the Officer in Charge for approximately one month, as problems had been created when the officer who had been destined to go there had, at the last minute, decided to retire and would therefore not

be available. The present Officer in Charge had left the previous day, and the person who was being offered the post for the next four years would not be able to leave their present posting for at least a month. Headquarters were making travel arrangements for me to fly Air Canada to Chicago and then United Airlines to Seattle on the Sunday. I said that was o.k. with me, but to book a seat for Betty and I would send a cheque to pay for her fare. A further phone call said the booking had been made, and to forward my cheque payable to the Receiver General for somewhere between \$1,000 and \$1,100, as a booking made on a Thursday for a Sunday flight did not qualify for any sort of reduced fare. I said I would drop the cheque in the next day, pick up the tickets, get a short briefing on the post, and get our diplomatic passports, which we had turned in on returning from The Hague. All went as planned and we arrived in Seattle on the Sunday afternoon and checked into the hotel most frequently used by the Consulate.

Seattle dealt mainly with cases that had been refused or were problems for our Vancouver office, in much the same way that Buffalo became the catch-all for our Toronto problems. I was greeted with a fairly large pile of awkward cases which required my attention and involved a lot of reading. Many files were one and a half to three inches thick. These particular files continued to plague me the whole month I was in Seattle and the last was finally disposed of during my last week at the post. I was sorely tempted to use a sneaky method of dealing with problem cases that was occasionally used at HQ, that is, marking a file "NOTED" and BF'ing it for two or three months to some poor soul who wouldn't have a clue what was going on when he received it and would probably pass it on using the same method!

Actually the bulk of the work was processing applicants who had applied for immigrant status while within Canada and who had been advised that they must make a formal application to a Canadian Immigration post abroad. Seattle, Buffalo, Detroit and Boston were the main centres dealing with these cases.

We found living in a hotel and eating in restaurants not very satisfactory, so, with the permission of the Head of Post, and the able assistance of the Admin. Officer, we found a fully furnished efficiency two-bedroom apartment which actually cost \$5.00 a day less than our downtown hotel room. We had the use of the Consulate station wagon to move our belongs and stock up on groceries. We had a great view of the city, as our apartment was half way up the side of a steep hill, but with a bus-stop right outside the door which let me off just across the street from the Consulate. We were soon settled down and really glad we had made the move from the hotel. There were lots of shops nearby, and the only drawback was that you always seemed to be either climbing up a hill or going down one. We had never lived in a place that was so hilly, and very steep hills at that. You know, it is almost as difficult to walk down a steep hill as it is to walk up one, because you have to continually hold yourself back to stop yourself plunging ahead out of control. It also seemed that most of the corner "Mom and Pop" stores were operated by Koreans. This was kind of handy as they were open all hours. There was a huge public market situated on the waterfront, with all sorts of specialty shops, restaurants, food stores, and an unlimited supply of every sort of fish you could imagine. No matter what part of the city you might be in you could almost always have a view of the water, as Seattle is situated on a long narrow stretch of land between the harbour and a large inlet from the sea.

The office staff were an affable lot and presented no problems, which helped the month pass swiftly. I had an interesting visit from one of the better known immigration consultants in Vancouver who said he had just come from visiting another of our U.S. offices and he had several cases he wanted to present for my consideration. I told him there was no point in me getting involved in any controversial stuff as I would be leaving in a couple of weeks and was only holding the fort pending the arrival of a permanent replacement. He asked me who that might be. When I told him he sat bolt upright and asked "Is that the lady who used to be in Europe?". I said yes, and he shook his head and said "I guess I had better go back and see Mr. _____" (mentioning the office he had just visited prior to coming to see me). So ended our conversation and I didn't even get an invitation to lunch. Tove, old dear, the mention of your name sure struck terror into the hearts of the mighty!

In due course I was given a definite date for the arrival of my permanent replacement and could make my arrangements for our return to Ottawa. She was due to arrive late on a Sunday and as there was no need for me to remain for a briefing we made our travel arrangements, with the permission of the Head of Post, to leave on the Saturday. I went to the local Air Canada office and discovered we could return via Vancouver on a direct flight to Ottawa. Not only that, but the Departmental travel people would get a \$100 refund on my ticket and I would get the same on Betty's ticket. As we would have several hours stop-over in Vancouver I phoned a former colleague from The Hague and told him what was happening. He picked us up at the airport, took us out to his home in Delta for a meal and a great visit with the family, and delivered us back in time for our flight to Ottawa,. I can't remember if

we got a late afternoon flight or the night "red-eye", but we arrived back in Ottawa all in one piece.

I reported to HQ on the Monday to file a report and complete my expense account. I then visited around to say goodbye to those I knew, and left for home. From that day to this I have never had any connection with the Department. All my separation papers, pay cheques, and so forth were mailed to me at my home. So, my friends, when you complete your service, don't ever expect any one of any importance to bid you farewell. When you are gone, you are **gone**.

A bit of good news for those still working but approaching retirement. You are probably being bombarded by a host of mutual fund salesmen, investment counsellors, financial planners, and others who preach doom and gloom and warn you that you will likely starve if you don't immediately avail yourself of their products and services. That is a lot of hot air. Those with 35 years service who are 65 years of age will find that their net income is almost the same as when they were working, and in some cases perhaps even more. You will have your indexed pension, indexed Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security. You no longer have to pay as much Income Tax, or any Unemployment Insurance or Union / Association dues. You have lower health insurance premiums, no transportation to and from work, no buying a daily lunch, and many other small items that all add up. You can dress like Pete the Tramp, cut your own grass, shovel snow off your drive, paint the house inside and out, and find all sorts of interesting things to keep you out of mischief and save money.

There is one terribly important "don't". **Don't** get under your wife's feet and stay the hell out of her kitchen. She has

run the house, fed you and the kids for many years without any practical help from you and will definitely not appreciate having her bone-headed ex-civil servant trying to organize her lifestyle this late in the game.

It is only fair that I pay a tribute to my wife Betty for fifty-seven years of married life. She has been my best and most trusted friend and supporter for all those years. Yes, we have had our ups and downs, but who hasn't? I have even managed to win the odd argument – very rarely. We have moved house twenty-one times in our time together, and I am sure you all realise that moving a home with a couple of kids is much more stressful on the wife than on the husband. He has his familiar work at the new place and is on friendly ground, whereas she has the task of settling into a new home, comforting children who suffer trauma from leaving their friends behind in the last place of residence, trying to make new friends for herself, and so forth. We had one period of four years when we actually moved and spent Christmas in four different countries and set up a home in each. Christmas of 1977 we were living in Belfast, Christmas 1978 in Stuttgart, Christmas 1979 in Birmingham, and Christmas 1980 in The Hague. Thank you Mum for all your help during all these years. Barbara, Stephen, Claire, Christopher and Samantha also say thanks.

And so endeth the exciting (?) life of the Troy family who have now spent twelve and a half years in contented retirement in Blackburn Hamlet. This is my last piece for the Bulletin, but I may come up with something later on dealing with various bits and pieces I may have forgotten to mention in my published stuff to date. So bye for now, take care, God bless, and may you all look forward to a long contented life of retirement in due course.

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 []

FEE ENCLOSED: Life - 100.00 [] or Annual - 10.00 []

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO :

The Treasurer
The Canadian Immigration Historical Society
P.O. Box 9502, Station T
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3V2

Our Interim Editor has already explained why we havent been able to send out as many editions of the BACKSPACE as we would wish but hope better things to come. Lack of news from HQ, with their reminders of membership dues, have resulted in a fairly substantial number of our members falling behind in their payments, some actually missing the whole of last year. I would ask each of you to check the number in brackets after your name on the adress label and also on your membership card which will show your present financial status with the Society. A (7) means your membership lapsed on April 30, 1997. The new membership year 1998/99 began on May 1, 1998 and will expire April 30, 1999. Therefore we would appreciate receiving the two years sub as soon as convenient i.e. \$20.00 but anyone who feels this sum inconvenient at the moment can send \$10.00 which will cover your past dues and prevent us having to cancel your membership. My thanks in ~~and~~ advance for your kind attention to this matter.


Alan Troy, Treasurer.

