

Christine MacPhie
American Immigrant
1965



My own story of Pier 21 is a bit naughty, but worth saving. I am American and my husband is Canadian. We were married in Massachusetts on May 1, 1965. In that state we both had to have Wasserman blood tests for Syphilis before we could get a marriage license. Both were negative. We returned to Canada at St. Stephen New Brunswick. At a later date I had to go to the lower brick building (on the street) for a physical examination. This building is part of Pier 21, so I did feel like an immigrant, a landed immigrant. (But both my parents were Canadian).

Since I do not like having blood drawn, when the examining doctor went to do that, I asked what test it was for. When he said syphilis, I said "If I have syphilis, it is a Canadian case." I then produced my pink slip saying I was negative (obviously my new husband also had a negative to have been able to get the Mass. Marriage license that same month.) Therefore I avoided having blood drawn again.

I have remained a U.S. citizen although I have now lived longer in Canada (35 years) than I did in the U.S. (23 years). I feel both countries are my home.

I am now in the process of getting U.S. passports for our three children. I have kept my U.S. citizenship because I feel it is valuable and most people in the world would like to have U.S. Citizenships.

Since my two parents were Canadians, I feel my heart is here. Pier 21 is a wonderful memorial to all the people who have come to live in Canada.

