

Martin Led Christensen
and Agnes Catherine
Christensen nee
McTernan

Danish Immigrant and
Scottish Immigrant
Empress of France
December 28, 1948



Martin Led Christensen: born 5-24-25 in Denmark. Martin left Denmark on 12-14-48 for London, England. He embarked on the Empress of France in Liverpool on 12-19-48 and continued on to Glasgow.

Agnes Catherine McTernan: born 10-1-30 in Scotland. Catherine embarked on the Empress of France on 12-20-48 in Glasgow.

Martin and I first met on December 21st during the evening of December 20th, I felt nauseous and sick to my stomach. In the early morning, I needed fresh air and raced from my room to go up to the deck. As I left my room, I bumped into this big handsome guy and said, "I'm sick!" He smiled, and I ran upstairs to the deck. I was not able to eat breakfast or lunch. Little did I know that this handsome guy I bumped into was later to be my husband, a Dane named Martin.

In the evening Martin bowed and clicked his heels in front of me and said, "dance?" We danced, then he said to me, "I fra Danmark, you?" I said "Scotland" and that was the end of our conversation. We smiled at each other and danced all night. We saw each other several times during

the following day in the dining room and walking on the deck. We always acknowledged each other with a smile. In the evening we danced again. Martin took me to the first class lounge where we sat on a beautiful couch and we held hands. All of the sudden about four men in kilts came over to us. They were called "The Curlers", and were going to entertain in Canada. Martin put his arm around me. They looked at him while holding mistletoe above our heads and said, "Kiss the wee lass" (3 times). He did not understand them, and I was too shy to kiss him. They came over and put our heads together. That was our first, beautiful kiss.

We enjoyed the company of each other throughout the trip. We had many walks around the deck, we saw movies, sang songs with the band, and everyone around us. They were always cheerful times.

Many evenings we went to the stern and we watched the waves in the ocean without saying a word. We knew we had something special together for sure.

One evening we went to the upper deck next to the smokestack and we kissed several times. When Martin walked me to my berth, we looked at each other and laughed so much - our faces were covered in black smoke. We certainly looked a mess, but it was a fun time.

Martin departed from the Empress of France on December 28, 1948 in Halifax, Canada. We were both going to discover our new countries and a new life, but in different directions. He was off to Vancouver, Canada, and I continued on by ship to St. John, Canada where I departed on December 29, 1948. From there, I went on to Boston and New York via train, arriving on 12-31-48. From New York we headed to New Jersey, where my family and I settled.

Martin and I corresponded for three years after we departed the Empress of France. In January of 1952, Martin came to the USA, and we were married on June 21, 1952.

During this time together, we've had three wonderful children. Our first son, Martin, was born 10-28-53. He's married to a lovely French Canadian girl, Anne-Marie, and they have two children, Martin (16) and Jacqueline (15). Our lovely daughter, Catherine, was born on 6-4-56. She's married to a wonderful guy, Tim Sandford, and they have 3 boys, Scott (15), Michael (12), and Stephen (4). Our second son, Robert, was born on 3-5-60, and he has married a lovely girl, Judith. They have two children, Ian (3) and Renee (1).

We visited Pier 21 on August 6, 1999 and were very impressed. It was a moving and memorable experience. It seemed like only yesterday.

