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German Immigrant  
Homeland  
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We left Bremerhaven on January 15, 1952. It was not easy to leave loved ones behind. I just turned 21, I was full of hope and curious to find out what this Canada was like. Unfortunately we had bad weather all the way on board the SS Homeland. The waves were 40 feet high and we did not see many people at the dinner table and looking at the picture of the SS Homeland I am surprised that she made it across the ocean. We being told that the propeller drive shaft broke and the crew had to repair it. However, not everything was bad. I made friends with a number of people. Two especially, the late Louis Rimmel and Hans Vogler; 2 musicians and since I played a little bit of guitar we formed a trio and entertained the people on board in the green salon. Management could no pay us, but the drinks and laundry were free.

On January 27, 1952 we arrived in Halifax. It was a typical winter day, no snow but a dull day. I was just about to leave the ship, when I heard voices yelling at us, not to leave the ship because there is no work here and what the Canadian Consulate promised us was just a lie. I looked where the voices came from and I saw men behind barbed wire shouting to us in German. In all this turmoil, I had lost all my friends and I was on my own. Eventually I ended up in a big hall and there was a big sign WELCOME TO CANADA.

I had to find my way to a railway station and on the way I remember a fairly wide dirt road and at the intersection there were four banks. That is all I remember from Halifax because I don't know how but I was in a train Toronto bound.

I arrived in Toronto with \$3 in my pocket and that was my beginning. I am so glad that Pier 21 still exists and certainly will visit this historical site with full emotions, what happened in that place so many years ago.

