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Columbia
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My dad was far away and a big ocean was between us. We got letters from him and we wrote letters back. We wanted to be with him but it takes a lot of money to go to Canada. Then one day, we received a letter saying 'You can come in two months'. We were happy. My mother and I had a lot of things to do,



March 22, 1952
Leaving Germany

Ernie Fischhofer, Erika Fischhofer, Wolfgang Liebscher, Mrs. Fischhofer

I wrote this for Mr. Wilson on March 4, 1953.
He had sure helped me during my day classes
and the evening classes for new beginners
with the English Language for Adults,
which my parents attended as well.

and two months would pass by quickly. We had to go to the Canadian government office in Hanover to get the visa and the pass and to the doctor's to have an examination to see that we were all in good health. If one of us was sick we could not go. But these events passed by too.

Then we received our ship papers from the Hapag Lloyd from Bremen. We had a cabin on the ship for us four alone. My paid had paid for two persons in Canadian money and we paid for one and a half persons in German money. On March 21 we were to be in a big hotel in Bremen, and from there we were to go by train on March 23 to Bremerhafen to go on board the ship. When the moment arrived to leave our hometown to go to a land that was known to me only from our geography lessons, it was hard to leave all our friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbours. But I still hoped to go back to visit them once again.

On March 21, we were in the hotel in Bremen. We liked it there very much. On March 23 we rode on an extra train to Bremerhafen. There we

had to go through the pass, visa, and duty control office. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock, we went aboard the ship, and at 5 o'clock we started. Men with wind instruments played departure songs. Hundreds of people stood on the landing stage. They waved with handkerchiefs and neckerchiefs.

We went from Bremerhafen around the coast of England and reached the English seaport of Southampton on March 25 in the morning. There, we took on board food like bread, potatoes, frozen meat, and flour, also about 500 passengers. At noon, we started again, and in the evening, we arrived at the French seaport of Cherbourg. There also a lot of passengers came on board, including French, Russian, Yugoslavian, Polish, Italian, and Dutch people. We were now about 2000 people on board. Our ship sailed under the Panama flag, and our captain was an Italian, but we had German servants. We had good food and fruit to eat.

After we left the English Channel, it was very stormy. Some people became seasick, as is usual. I was sick for two days because we had a squall on those days. Water came overboard, and nobody could go on deck. But the days after this, it was warm, sunny and hot. We put chairs on deck, so the sunshine gave us a brown complexion. But some got a sun burnt complexion. Did that ever hurt them!

Every evening there was a dance and concert. There were parties for children and adults too.

On April 1, we stopped before Halifax. It was in the evening. We could not go into the harbour because we were one day earlier than we should have been. In the evening on the same day we had the departure dance. The next morning we landed in Halifax. Blocks of ice floated in the sea. The winter in Germany was over, but here we came into the Canadian winter. In Halifax, we had to go again through the pass, visa and custom control. We had to open all our luggage. Was that ever a lot of work!

I didn't like Halifax, neither did my mother. It was a very dirty seaport. In the evening at 6 o'clock, an extra train brought us to Montreal. We arrived there on April 3 in the evening at 7 o'clock. We went on another train at 8.30pm bound for North Bay. We landed in North Bay on April 4 at 7am. At 8am, we boarded another train for Matheson. We arrived in



Matheson on the same day at 3pm. My father was waiting there with a car for us. From there we drove to Porcupine to our new home.

It was very different here with so much bush, the severe winter and so on. In Germany, we went swimming in April, but here it was the end of June. Well, but my parents, brothers and I like it despite all of that. It is just the language which gives us trouble. But we will learn that too, and take our place as new Canadians in this wonderful land of freedom.