

Annette Petrovich
Polish Immigrant
General W.C.
Langfitt
May 20, 1950



With the uncertainty of any existing family in Poland, Michal & Leontyna decided to immigrate to Canada. They felt that they would improve their standard of living and would be able to provide Antonina (age 3) and any future children with more opportunities than they ever had. Their belongings consisted of a metal bathtub containing house wares and two suitcases. It was a difficult eight day trip. During the entire trip Leontyna couldn't keep her food down.

Upon their arrival in Halifax, they were quickly processed, and trucked to a waiting train. After four days on the train, they arrived in Lethbridge. The family was met at the station by Mr. Ken Russell, a beet farmer, who employed Mr. & Mrs. Szpecht for the summer of 1950 to work the beet fields. We shared a very small house on his property with two other families. (Two adults and a 1 child family). The house consisted of three small bedrooms, kitchen, no bathroom, no water, and a coal burning stove.

On our second day in Diamond City, Antonina came down with Scarlet Fever. Her three week stay in the hospital was very traumatic for both herself and her the parents. We had difficulty with the English Language and therefore had to take whatever job we could find. In the Spring, we moved to Mr. Sztaina's farm to work beets. Then in December 1951, we arrived at our permanent address in Lethbridge.

We are grateful and thankful that we immigrated to Canada. If we had stayed in post-war Europe, none of us would have had the opportunities that Canada offered. As soon as it was legally possible, we became Canadians. Canada became our country and we love Canada.