

Selma Boerchers nee
Dyllman
Polish Immigrant
Rijndam
1928



I had the privilege of visiting Pier 21 this summer. I was one of the immigrants that came to Canada with my parents in 1928, the year the Pier opened up. We came on a Holland American Line ship named Rijndam.

Although I was too young to remember our arrival at Pier 21, still I felt a nostalgic feeling as I toured the Place, knowing this is where I arrived with my parents and touched Canadian soil. I was reminded how courageous they were to come to a foreign country, not knowing the language nor anything about the Canadian culture.

My parents settled on a farm around Springside, near Yorkton, Saskatchewan. They had very little money and Canada was in the depression years. But being on the farm we always had enough food, although it meant hard physical work.

Life was hard at first until we learned some English, we only could bring some clothes and bedding along from Poland. The economy was poor there after World War One. That is what motivated my parents to come to Canada.

I am thankful for our great country we live in, we have freedom and are so bountifully blessed. I am proud to be one of Pier 21 Alumni, Selma (Dyllman) Boerchers.

