

Jeannette MacDonald
by Daughter Shirley
MacIntosh
Pier 21 Matron



Jeannette C. MacDonald, R.N., of Glace Bay, Cape Breton Island, NS. Nee Jeannette Hadfield of Hopewell, Pictou Co., NS. Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital in Glace Bay. Married John Fletcher MacDonald of



COUNTING LINEN — Mrs. Jeannette MacDonald, left and Mrs. Agnes Judge were busily counting bedding at the Immigration Annex, getting ready for the arrival of the first 120 Hungarian refugees on Friday. 1956

Glace Bay with four children born of the marriage. After the death of her husband, Mrs. MacDonald accepted a position as matron at Pier 21 in Halifax in 1952. She held this position until her retirement at age 70 in 1965, just prior to the closure of Pier 21 which she always referred to in conversation as "The Port".

These were very busy and interesting years for her as it was during this time that Hungarian, Cuban and other refugees were coming by the hundreds to Canada. The huge ships carrying these refugees, as well as the other immigrants from around the world, would dock under the windows of her quarters, which faced out onto George's Island in Halifax Harbour.

She was not only responsible for the care and comfort of these new arrivals to Canada but she also accompanied those persons who were

unable to travel alone throughout Halifax. Many also required help to travel to their ultimate destinations within Canada and she travelled with them.

She had great interest in and great compassion for all the displaced persons who came under her care and in return she received many special letters of thanks in return. Upon her retirement she returned to Cape Breton Island where she resided until her death in 1987.

Coronto 6.1.58

My dear Missis Janette

I am arrived to Coronto very tired but very happy - How are you? Do you think me I remember you every day with all my love and I thank you for your kindness.

I aspect your letter with the picture that your son has done to us in your house -

Here snows every day and it is very, very cold. Please remember me to Mr. Franco Wright and to Helen. Please you write to me if my english is bad or good.

With my best greetings, yours sincerely

Dina