

RUSSIAN-MENNONITE IMMIGRANTS  
of the 1920's (Ontario)

Interview #18: Tape # 3, sides A and B (84 minutes)

Interviewees: BERGEN, Mr. and Mrs. Johann, born in 1896.

Interviewer: Henry Paetkau

Date: Thursday, July 15, 1976.

Place: 59 Glen Park Rd., St. Catharines, Ont.

Language: English

SUBJECT INDEX (in minutes)

Side A

- 00-01 Introduction
  - 01-04 Biographical information
  - 04-07 Emigration to Mexico - *about 50 people who couldn't go to Canada. Stayed only 4 mos.*
  - 07-10 Conditions in Mexico
  - 10-20 The trip to Canada <sup>by train</sup> and arrival in Manitoba *- relatives sent \$200 for selus + 2 children. Went to New York then to Winnipeg + St. Ann's*
  - 20-35 Life in Canada:
    - working in Winnipeg
    - settling in Ontario *bought 10 acres fruit land. Worked at Brights*
    - establishing a business *old farm. Moved to St. C. + began building houses.*
  - 35-39 Sanitätsdienst  
Conversation
  - 39-43 Reasons for emigration
  - 43-48 Conditions after the Revolution  
Conversation  
Working for the Soviet; deterioration of conditions
  - 48-50 Anti-German sentiments
  - 50-52 Conscription and alternative service
  - 52-58 Revolution and anarchy  
The Selbstschutz
  - 58-60 Talk of emigration begins
- End of side A

Side B

- 00-07 Mexico: -the settlement at Yrapuate  
-conditions
  - 07-12 The trip out of Russia; on the boat
  - 12-16 Treatment as immigrants in Canada
  - 16-20 General comments about leaving Russia, impact of the *2 days + 2 nights*  
experiences and acculturation *MOSCOW → GERMANY → HOLLAND 28 DAYS ON WATER TO MEXICO*
  - 20-24 Interviewer's comments and evaluation
- End of side B

See also the microfilm copy of Mrs. Bergen's diary of the trip to Mexico on deposit in the Conrad Grebel College Archives.

*Sank - 33 miles from church. Went on train twice a year. Stayed 8 1/2 years.*

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Tape #3, sides A and B

Recorded on July 15, 1976 in English

Biographical sketch:

- he was born in April, 1896, (she in July) in Rosengart
- received public school education
- were married in 1918; he served two years as Sanit ter
- rejected as immigrant to Canada so decided to go to Mexico with a group of about 50 others in 1925
- after four months here they requested admission to Canada
- travelled to Manitoba, then bought a farm in Sask. with another family and stayed here for 8½ years
- moved to Winnipeg for some time
- eventually moved to Ontario after the War. Had fruit farm + then went into construction for 10 years. Then went into wholesale hardware.