

BC & CANADA
THROUGH
ARRIVING
EYES



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Vancouver, BC

EVELIN MCCARVILL

interviewed by

NIKKY MCCARVILL &
MARC STOECKLE

*October 15, 2015
Victoria, BC*

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Interviewee

Evelin McCarvill immigrated from Austria to Canada in 1975. She grew up in a small town called Weitensfeld in Austria, in the region of Kärnten. After she turned 17 years old she moved away from home to spend two years in Munich. During a trip through Europe she met her Canadian husband Rob McCarvill in Paris in the metro. After travelling together to the south of Europe she decided to visit him for a year at his home in Victoria, BC. The year after they got married in Austria and Evelin moved to Canada and both of them started to raise a family. They had two children, Martin and Nikky and during that Evelin took classes at Camosun and the University of Victoria to become a teacher. Presently, Evelin McCarvill is living with her husband in Victoria, BC.

Interviewer

Marc Stoeckle is the research assistant of the project "BC Through Arriving Eyes". He is currently a master's student of Library and Information Science at the iScool at the University of British Columbia.

Also, the interview is conducted by the interviewee daughter Nikky McCarvill who also is currently a master's student of Library and Information Science at the iSchool at the University of British Columbia.

Notes

Abstract

The interview was held on 15th of August 2015 in Victoria, BC. In the interview one of the topics Evelin McCarvill talks about are her experiences coming to Canada and the difficulties of being away from Austria and her parents and siblings. Her life in Canada and raising her children and the difficulties of keeping her children in touch with her Austrian background.

Restrictions

The recording is muted three times as the interviewee was providing information that the research team considered to be too sensitive for publication.

Format

The sound recordings are available in wav-format.

Transcript

The transcription is providing the words in verbatim sentences but does not include non-verbal communication or external sounds transcription.

Interview Transcript

British Columbia and Canada Through Arriving Eyes

UBC Library

Humanities and Social Sciences Division
Walter C. Koerner Library
1958 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2

Transcript of interview conducted October 15, 2015, with:

EVELIN MCCARVILL
&
ROB MCCARVILL

by:

NIKKY MCCARVILL
&
MARC STOECKLE

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:0:00.0# This interview is recorded for the purpose of the research project "BC Through Arriving Eyes" by the University of British Columbia. It's October 15th, 2015 and the interview takes place in Victoria, BC. The interviewer is Nikky McCarvill and the research assistant is Marc Stoeckle and the interviewee name is Evelin McCarvill... my mother. So can we just start by you telling us your name, your age and where you are from?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:0:30.4# OK... I am Evelin McCarvill... I am 62 years old... and...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:0:35.9# I think you are 61...

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:0:40.2# Am I still 61? ... I am almost 61... let's not start ... no I am 62 in November, so...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:0:50.8# And where were you born?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:0:50.8# I was born in Austria, in Kärnten, in a very small place called Weitensfeld.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:0:59.6# So why did you come to Canada? What brought you here?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:1:4.0# I always liked to go other places and I met your dad and came to visit and stayed here for a year and then decided I wanted to come and live here.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:1:22.8# Where did you meet?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:1:22.8# We met in Paris.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:1:27.5# I heard that's an interesting story.

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:1:27.5# On the, on the metro... and basically he was the only one that spoke English... I didn't have any French and he didn't have any French and, and so I asked him a question and, and then we met again on the train going down to the south of France so...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:1:55.7# When did you start learning English? You learned that in Austria or?

- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:1:58.6# I started in school and a little bit on TV when I was very little. You know they had a TV chorus "Dr. Walter Fanger". And you know so there was a little bit of that and then at school and then I think I learned English also a lot from listening to music because a lot of songs at that time were in English.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:2:30.9# So you said you came to Canada first to visit. When was that?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:2:34.7# 1975.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:2:41.6# And what were your first impressions when you came to Canada? Where did you arrive?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:2:46.4# I arrived in Toronto and then Sudbury, Onatrio.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:2:54.1# Why Sudbury?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:2:54.1# Because my aunt lives in Sudbury and so I ... that was my first stop and then I came out here to visit your dad and stayed with his mother for a year you know we did some trips to Mexico and, and basically stayed here for the year and then I had to go back because my papers ran out.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:3:21.9# So what did you notice when you first came here? What was different? What, what struck you? Did you expect it to be very different or?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:3:31.7# I didn't really think it was that different you know I was just like, like travelling and... at the time it didn't really strike me at that different. One thing that I noticed that things were a lot calmer. Like in, in Europe everything seemed a bit hectic. Like people were more excitable and when I arrived in Toronto everything seemed really calm and people were just slower you know but ... and... and then another thing ... I came to my aunt's house and there was nobody home and all the lights were on and the door was open. And that's... really seemed strange to me. Cause even in a small place like Weitensfeld we would lock the doors at night or at least if we went out but... so that seemed very different to me.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:4:48.9# How old were you when you first came?

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I was twenty...
#0:4:49.8#

ROB MCCARVILL: Two?
#0:4:54.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Two, yeah.
#0:4:54.8#

#0:4:59.6# Sensitive//// Material deleted!!!!

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Did you find going into people's houses that they felt different to the houses in Austria or the houses in Europe or did they have the same, the same feelings?
#0:5:32.6#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah, they were different but not too... one thing about houses in general. They didn't really seem like houses in a way. They seemed flimsy compared to what I was used to cause you know the house I grew up in is very old and build with stone in the bottom and wood on the top but everything here was wooden houses and it seemed not as solid in some ways.
#0:5:40.5#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: And so you lived with daddy and his mom? Is that right?
#0:6:21.4#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah
#0:6:26.0#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Yeah. And what was that like?
#0:6:27.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: It was pretty good. We had a good relationship and she was really helpful and... yeah it was good.
#0:6:27.9#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: And so after you were here for a year you went back to Europe and later decided to immigrate? Is that right? Can you tell the story of that?
#0:6:43.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah I decided to come out here and first I was trying to get... to immigrate without getting married and there just wasn't a chance and even my aunt couldn't sponsor me because the laws were such that...
#0:6:53.3#

ROB MCCARVILL: Well, she wouldn't either. She didn't...
#0:7:11.5#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I don't think she could. I think she did look into it and so... so we got married and that allowed me to come here.
#0:7:13.7#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: So is that the whole reason you got married?
#0:7:27.2#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Not the whole reason.
#0:7:30.7#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Do you think you'd still be together if it weren't for that?
#0:7:36.6#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: If we weren't married or...?
#0:7:39.6#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: If you haven't gotten married for immigration?
#0:7:41.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: It's hard to tell. Well we also had kids and all that... right?
#0:7:44.3#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: But that came later...
#0:7:45.0#

MARC STOECKLE: Have you... can I ...
#0:7:56.8#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Absolutely....
#0:7:56.8#

MARC STOECKLE: So you grew up in Austria. How was the growing up there? What is your family background and...? Could you tell me a little bit more...?
#0:7:58.4#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah I came from a family of five children. And... it was a very small place so everybody really knew each other. You know it's about a thousand people... it's a really small place. And there really wasn't any way of staying there to make a living. Everybody there pretty well had to leave and go somewhere else and make a living somewhere else because there just wasn't any, any... very much to do there in terms of work. And... also in terms of education is... because you had to pretty well to go elsewhere to get educated. So it kind of limited things in a way.
#0:8:9.2#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: When did you leave? You left before you came to Canada of course?
#0:9:4.2#

- EVELIN MCCARVILL: I left when I was 17 and worked various jobs you know... started out working in a hotel in a lake. And then I worked with children in Munich. I lived in Munich for 2 years.
#0:9:9.5#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: And you named me after one of those kids?
#0:9:32.8#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah... except he was a boy... worked out for you... and then I went back to Austria and lived in Vienna and started nurses training in the mental hospital but I always wanted to travel so... and what they had at that time was a eurail pass which expired I guess by the time you're 21... at that time and that's why I figured... oh well I could either stay and keep my training up at the mental hospital and get my nurses training or I could go and travel. And I decided to go and take off and travel and my parents didn't even know or...
#0:9:32.8#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: You didn't tell them?
#0:10:37.6#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: No. So that's when I met him... I went...
#0:10:37.6#
- MARC STOECKLE: So you went ... so you did like a euro trip or something?
#0:10:44.2#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Interrail...
#0:10:49.4#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: ...interrail I guess it was called then. I went up to Amsterdam, and then down through Belgium, Luxemburg, France and that's where I met Rob.
#0:10:49.4#
- MARC STOECKLE: So... how did that happen? So you said you met him in the...
#0:11:0.2#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: In Paris... in the underground... in the metro?
#0:11:6.4#
- MARC STOECKLE: So where were you going... and where were you going?
#0:11:9.8#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: We were both going to the south of France I think.
#0:11:9.8#

ROB MCCARVILL: It was November and you know Paris, November weather and ...
#0:11:14.5#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah
#0:11:20.0#

ROB MCCARVILL: ... and none of Northern Europe looked very appealing.
#0:11:20.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: So... so we went on the train and then we stayed in the south of France and went down through Spain and Morocco and then back to Vienna.
#0:11:22.6#

MARC STOECKLE: And how did you... how did you meet? How did you... who started to
#0:11:34.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I guess I started to talk to him... and I first thought he was French but then he was talking to people and it sounded like English. So I thought... oh... there is somebody I can talk to.
#0:11:40.7#

ROB MCCARVILL: You were trying to figure out how to get to Gare du Sud I think.
#0:11:54.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah to the train station and I also was trying to figure out because I didn't have any French money and it was the first of November and all the banks were closed so I was trying to figure out I thought ... oh maybe he knows some bank that's open where I can get my money exchanged.
#0:12:0.5#

MARC STOECKLE Then you spend time in south of France... together?
#0:12:23.0#

ROB MCCARVILL: I think we went opposite directions and then we met again on the train didn't we...wasn't that the...?
#0:12:28.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well we went for an hour to opposite directions were you... and then I saw you sitting there again and we happened to go on the same train and... the rest is history... so, yeah... and we stayed in a youth hostel in "Sede" was it... and then went down to Madrid, oh no... Barcelona, Madrid...
#0:12:34.7#

ROB MCCARVILL: Barcelona and then Madrid.
#0:13:7.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: And, and Granada and then down ... it is another story.... he... we went on... after Granada we went on the train again and he had forgotten your money belt in the hotel.
#0:13:10.6#

- ROB MCCARVILL: It was only travelers checks so it was no big deal but...
#0:13:29.8#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: He went back to get his money and there I was with all his suitcases and stuff. And going on the train and down "Varelou" where we were going but ... so I waited for him in the train station in "Al Jazeera"... was it?
#0:13:34.2#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah.
#0:13:53.3#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: And waited with his luggage and waited so he caught up with me.
#0:13:53.9#
- MARC STOECKLE: Cool.
#0:14:2.4#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Guess it was meant to be.
#0:14:4.8#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah I got rubbished on a train by a bunch of Brits... so I quieted them down when you were at the train station with the bag.
#0:14:9.1#
- MARC STOECKLE: Did you ever think about Canada before you met...?
#0:14:26.2#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well since my aunt lived in Canada it always was kind of... on the radar and, and the whole popular culture at the time you know was sort of North America. It was the place to be I guess and so that was always on the radar even when I was little.
#0:14:30.8#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: What was the impression you had of Canada? Sort of growing up, if you thought of Canada what did you think?
#0:14:54.0#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: I thought of my aunt living there.... I didn't really know too much about Canada. I knew that it was way bigger than anything there but really... I didn't really have a sense of how big it was being from a very small place and... yeah I didn't really know that much about Canada but it sort of had a mystic about it.
#0:14:58.5#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: Why... can you describe the mystic?
#0:15:33.1#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Just some place very far away and different... but I didn't really

- #0:15:35.1# know how different or... what it would be like.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#0:15:48.8# So you travelled together and then did you split up at some point then... to go different ways?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL
#0:15:54.8# We stayed a bit in Vienna... actually just two days right and then Rob went to England to stay with his brother who was working there at the time. And I stayed in Vienna and we wrote letters for a while and I decided to come here and visit.
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:16:22.6# Well I came down on Easter that year from England.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:16:27.7# Oh yeah you visited on Easter... I had forgotten... when it snowed, right?
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:16:32.6# And that time we visited in Weitensfeld.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:16:35.6# Weitensfeld yeah... and he had hair down to here. It went over...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:16:45.4# Did they not have hippies there?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:16:46.3# No... I was sort of... sort of a hippie but not really.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#0:16:55.6# What did your parents then think or your family about him...?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:16:58.1# My mom really liked him you know and my dad was a little suspicious.
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:17:7.2# And remained so ever after.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:17:9.0# Well, he didn't want me to leave right and I think that was the big motivator he knew that... he even said... oh what about this guy you know, at least he is in Munich... it's not that far. And, and he really tried to talk me out of it but I did everything different than he wanted me to do, so ...
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:17:38.2# What did he say: Most people have "Heimweh" and Evelin has "Fernweh".
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
Has "Fernweh". So yeah that's how I wound up here.

#0:17:41.3#

MARC STOECKLE: And then you went to Canada for the first time...
#0:17:48.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: For the first time...
#0:17:52.8#

MARC STOECKLE: And how long was that?
#0:17:52.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: A year.
#0:17:54.1#

MARC STOECKLE: A whole year.
#0:17:54.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: A whole year. Yeah. And... except we went to Mexico but ... and there is another story but maybe we are just disccrassing...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: No go on...
#0:18:8.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well I couldn't, couldn't go through the States because they would not give me a visa because I was ...I didn't apply for a visa in Austria so... for some reason they couldn't give me one from here...

ROB MCCARVILL: Well they could give you one at the border but they wouldn't because the guy said well you have been in Canada for five months and you don't have status, so we are not taking our chance on you

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Anyhow... so he went down on the bus and train and I went... and I flew down and we met down there and had a holiday so. But either than that... oh and I went back to my cousins wedding to Ontario... but either than that I pretty well stayed in Victoria.

MARC STOECKLE: In Victoria. So you came for the first time just to see... you took a flight from Vienna or...the first time?

EVELIN MCCARVILL: No I took a flight from Luxembourg because that was the cheapest at the time and then you went to Iceland and, and to New York and then to Toronto and then to Sudbury.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Sudbury must have been a shock after all those exotic places.
#0:19:22.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah it was a little different. It was kind of strange because in my mind North America was... was really the place where all the trends came from and were... and yet the people seemed a little...
#0:19:26.1#

ROB MCCARVILL: Backwards....
#0:19:52.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Backwards... sorry I hate to say that. You know just... just... but in a way thinking the way time went maybe they weren't backwards... maybe they were just ahead of us. Because we were still in the hippie culture and the sixties culture which came there maybe a little bit later and they were already in the seventies.
#0:19:52.0#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: And this was in 1975?
#0:20:22.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: ... the seventies and the eighties right. And, and... because, because... the whole mindset has gone back to an earlier mindset if that makes any sense... like... like sort of having big weddings and clothes and cars and money and... that was kind of foreign from the culture that I came from at that time and there it seemed really important you know. And I dressed in jeans and so the girls were saying: Oh well we are going out. We just wanted to let you know you have to wear a long skirt so you won't feel out of place. So that seemed really strange to me...
#0:20:22.7#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: These were your cousins? Or...?
#0:21:20.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: My cousins. Well, my cousin and my female cousin and her friends right and, and it was just to me it was sort of backwards but in retrospect I guess it was just the way time was going...
#0:21:21.6#

MARC STOECKLE: So that was for one year then you stayed here?
#0:21:40.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I stayed here and then I went... well I went back to my cousins wedding and came back out here... and then I had to leave because I didn't have any status...
#0:21:44.6#

MARC STOECKLE: And then you had to go back to...
#0:21:56.6#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I had to go back to Austria. I tried in Mexico but... at the

- #0:21:56.6# embassy... but there was no way of doing it and then I tried in Austria and there was no way of doing it because... well I... wasn't anybody with money or you know like it had changed to the point were only people with money or education could come to Canada and I had neither. So... yeah so we got married and I immigrated.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#0:22:34.2# So you decided to get married and Rob you came then to Austria?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:22:38.7# Rob came to Austria... he stayed with me for half a year or more and...
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:22:49.0# In Vienna and... yeah I came in the summer and we left ...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:22:54.7# In the fall I thought and we left after the wedding.
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:22:59.6# Yeah... I couldn't face another winter in Toronto so...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:23:5.0# So you came to Vienna.
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:23:6.4# Well I just went to the airport and said what's the next flight to Europe so that how I wound up in Amsterdam. And then I came down, hitchhiked down from Amsterdam.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:23:24.9# Yeah, and it was pretty... pretty hard in Vienna too you know like... I had given up my training of... for nursing... so I was working in a hotel and then in a travel agency and, and you couldn't work there.
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:23:45.7# Yeah I sold my blood and...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:23:49.4# Sold blood to get some money and you had a little bit of
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:23:53.8# Yeah, I gotta "stipendif"... I got a "stipend"... if I was taking classes ... I took a German course and that got me my 73 dollars a month... and then I had my blood money... so it was enough to get by...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:24:14.7# And how long were you there before you got married?

EVELIN MCCARVILL: ... half a year... a little bit more then half a year...so... so then...
#0:24:18.7#

ROB MCCARVILL: No wait... we got married in the summer so it was...
#0:24:24.2#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah in June, June 4th...
#0:24:25.9#

ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah, so I think I came in August and then we were the whole
#0:24:28.7# winter in Vienna.

EVELIN MCCARVILL: It was late summer yeah... it was, was... nearly September I
#0:24:33.3# think... so...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Sorry... did you come straight back here afterwards or...
#0:24:43.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah, we came straight back here...
#0:24:46.2#

ROB MCCARVILL: No we used our money from... our wedding money to go to
#0:24:49.0# Greece and Turkey.

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Oh yeah we travelled... we travelled yeah... but I mean we came
#0:24:53.5# straight here from Austria.

ROB MCCARVILL: I knew better then to go anywhere near Ontario by that time.
#0:25:3.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: And, and so I looked for a job and started working at a hotel at
#0:25:8.1# first...

MARC STOECKLE: That was here in Victoria?
#0:25:18.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: In Victoria... yeah. And then ... no... was I... sorry I'm getting
#0:25:18.1# things mixed up.

#0:25:32.2#

Sensitive//// Material deleted!!!!

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah I got the, the job down at the hotel... in "Chains Bay" when
#0:25:53.9# I got back. And I started taking classes at Camosun and that is one thing that was really, really different for me... is the education system here. I just... in Europe like... when I was a

teenager, you know, I didn't want to go to school and had no interest in it and so that really limited me in what I could do... because either you learned a trait or you got education but if you didn't do that then you were a "Hilfsarbeiter", right, more or less and you could just do various jobs but I wasn't very happy with that. So I went to Camosun and I tried there to, to get my upgrading but it was... was really difficult to do as far as working and also the system there... you had to do everything... you know. You had to do your Latin, you had to do...and it was...?

ROB MCCARVILL: In Europe?
#0:27:14.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: In Europe, yeah. And here I could just choose and it was about four courses that I needed to do and I had my... my grade twelve... right. So that really opened things up and so I always took a few courses at a time and then eventually got my teaching degree... certificate and degree. But it took me a long time to do but at least I could do it while there at... when... if you didn't decide when you were fourteen what you wanted to do with your life then it was pretty difficult to do it at a later stage and that was really, really great here.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: What were the classes themselves like... compared to classes in Austria?
#0:28:5.5#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well it was fairly easy you know. You know... there you had oral exams and, and... here it was either essay or multiple choice. So as long as you studied which I did...

ROB MCCARVILL: Well, the language... they gave you some latitude too didn't they, because your English was hesitant at that time and...
#0:28:31.4#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well I don't think they really gave me that latitude but they gave me encouragement... you know I still had to do everything and I must say I had very good editors which was you and your mom. Because if I wrote an essay... then, they would look it over and correct it... right... so

ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah...but I think some of the profs at Camosuns sort of really, you know said well this is what you need to do, explained it very carefully...

EVELIN MCCARVILL: But I think they did that for everybody. They did that for everybody.
#0:29:13.3#

ROB MCCARVILL: But maybe it was particularly, you know there were Chinese kids and...
#0:29:17.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Not that many actually at the time...
#0:29:21.7#

ROB MCCARVILL ...they did make an extra effort for people second language...
#0:29:22.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah I think not that much but they made a lot of effort to sort of make me feel welcome... I found... at the time, you know... that I really liked the teachers at Camosun. So...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Did you find that in Canada in general? That people were welcoming when you were a newcomer or....?
#0:29:44.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: They were but it was way harder to get to know people. It was really easy to sort of... get to know people a little bit but to get to know people, like in Europe you could meet somebody and become very close in a short time... that was a little bit more... people were a little bit more reserved. But they were all really, really friendly... and that actually was a bit confusing at first because people would say: Oh and how are you today and I took that: Oh this is a person that wants to know how I am and I would tell them. But really they didn't... you know. While in Europe people tend to be sometimes almost rude but you know if somebody is friendly... you know it's real and at first I thought if somebody was friendly that's real and that's not always the case here. And that confused me at first but... but I am used to it now. I do it myself now.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: So how long were you in school at Camosun and at UVic?
#0:31:8.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Forever. Because... well then I got pregnant and I had Martin so... I took some time off and I was also working and then I got you. So it was a few courses at a time over a long time period... so I didn't really graduate or get my teaching certificate till 1989 and then started... well it, it could have been a choice of staying here or going up north... cause there were no teaching jobs in Victoria at that time. So I was subbing for quite a few years because there were no teaching jobs or the teaching jobs always went to the people that got laid off the year before... so yeah...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Did you find there were challenges in becoming a teacher given that you were working in a second language and that the educational system here was new to you or did you find yourself

sort of fell into it naturally?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:32:26.7#
It was a little bit different because I didn't have the experience of going to elementary school or high school here... so that was... I had to into practicums in school to really see how it is different than... than what my experience was from being at school.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:32:52.4#
And how is it different?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:32:52.4#
Well, that's a long story. It's also... different time periods, right? So ...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:33:9.8#
What was your experience in school in Austria like... in elementary school and...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:33:15.0#
Pretty good, yeah, it was pretty good. I was always a good student. But... you know... really good when I was little maybe not so good when I was 13, 14... because I didn't want to be there and... and so... I always wanted to go somewhere else.

MARC STOECKLE:
#0:33:44.6#
So it's like... you got married, you came here and then when was Martin and Nikky then, when were they born? Was it a year after you arrived or two years...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:33:56.0#
No... Martin was born in 1980 and I came in 77.

MARC STOECKLE:
#0:33:59.7#
77.

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:34:1.3#
And, and I worked first... when I came here I got a job at a hotel. At the front desk and then I got a job in an old folk's home. And worked the night shift there and... while I was also going taking courses and being pregnant. And... then I took a bit of time off after I had Martin... and with Martin I kind of started out... speaking to him in German... at that time... he did pick it up... but then when I had two kids and I got busier at school... then I sort of, and I had nobody else to speak German with, so we kind of let it slide and so my kids didn't really grow up speaking German... I mean... you took some classes later on but as kids they pretty well grew up speaking English.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:35:19.0#
Did you find when you came here... I mean you said you didn't have anyone to speak German with. You sort were no longer part of that culture, you didn't have German speaking friends or...

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:35:26.5#

I didn't have any need to, if that makes any sense, it is just the needs of communication. You know it is just a language so... I didn't have the need to be immersed in German culture here because I wasn't really there either you know. And, and German culture at that time pretty well was, was a big sort of international thing, it wasn't... there wasn't such a thing as a... there was... but it was usually a sort of kind of person...you know... who liked "Schlager" or, or "Blasmusik" or... and I didn't really associate with that.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:36:15.4#

So who did you meet when you came here? Who were your friends and...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:36:18.2#

We had... mostly friends of Rob's that... and their girlfriends like Victor and Cindy, and Chris and Dorothy and it seems so long ago... and people at work you know but it, it sort of changed over time.

MARC STOECKLE:
#0:36:52.1#

Did you make family trips back to Austria a lot or when was the first time...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:37:0.4#

Yes, when the kids were little. I really went frequently with you guys and tried to get back but when my parents died there it didn't seem to be any need the same way. I mean I still have family there and brothers and a sister but it's... everybody moves on and, and so you don't have the same connection I think. I talk with one brother quite frequently and once or twice a year with the other ones. So... and I sort of keep up on the internet with my nieces and nephews... more than with my siblings.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:37:48.0#

What is it like going back sort of once you were settled in Canada and going back to visit in the summer?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:37:53.3#

Well then I was a stranger there in some ways because things move on and you loose touch with the people that you used to know.

MARC STOECKLE:
#0:38:7.3#

What felt strange? Was it the people you didn't know anymore or was it the country itself... like?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:38:11.7#

The people in some ways. In some ways you fell right in with some people again but with other people... everybody had moved somewhere else, nobody was there you know and Weitensfeld it was mostly the older people that you knew and you didn't know the younger people anymore because you were

gone right. And, and so you knew the older people and a lot of them now have died so... especially when the parents are gone then what are you going back to... really.

MARC STOECKLE: So you didn't miss anything from Austria?
#0:38:54.2#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I really miss the... I really miss the landscape. Just... I'm gonna cry...
#0:38:59.0#

ROB MCCARVILL: Well with the berries and the mushrooms and so...
#0:39:9.2#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah...
#0:39:12.5#

ROB MCCARVILL: When we were there it was it was lots in the woods and up the mountain...
#0:39:12.5#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah... and that was one thing that at first I didn't have the connection to the land here which I had there.
#0:39:16.8#

ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah we went for mushrooms but with the undergrowth that you had to do so much bush bashing to get to them it was....
#0:39:32.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Here yeah...
#0:39:39.8#

ROB MCCARVILL: ...it took all the fun out of it.
#0:39:39.8#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well, like... I really like going in the forest and to the mountains and here it's... it's not the same in some ways....
#0:39:41.6#

ROB MCCARVILL: Well we have an ocean here but you haven't gotten...
#0:39:55.9#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I didn't grow up with the ocean so it's, it's a different kind of relationship... and I always liked the landscape there.
#0:39:57.8#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Did you find even now; do you feel a connection to the landscape here or still....
#0:40:9.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: More so know yeah... and other things like, like customs, like Christmas... is quite different here... like here it's, it's loud if that makes any sense, and there it was a quite thing.
#0:40:13.5#

- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:40:33.8# Part of that was my mother who came from a very big family so... any of the holidays tended to be 70 people...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:40:41.0# Lots and lots of noise... and now I am used to it but I still, I still don't like the commercial part of it you know... and I am not really [jaspered]... but it's certain customs that that I miss form there... not so much now... at that time.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:41:3.7# So when you think of the holidays do you try to incorporate the Austrian customs or do you think your Christmases are more Canadian?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:41:9.7# More Canadian... yeah... I don't incorporate anything... well it's, it's... when you don't have the concept of it... you have the concept of what its like here. You don't have the concept of what it is like there... then it doesn't make sense for me to impose my concept... it... because you don't have the relationship to it.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:41:42.6# So do you feel in general when you came here... with sort of a matter of leaving the Austrian culture aside as supposed to bringing it into Canada with you?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:41:52.4# Yeah... yeah... I left it aside... well I had nobody... I taught German school for little bit and that was my... really the only people that... that I knew from there that are here... and... but that was different... they were... they were different people from the people that I knew in Austria.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:42:19.3# How were they different?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:42:19.3# They were very... again, commercially oriented you know at... at... they came here at a time or their parents in some cases, came here at a time when... getting a good life or money or a good job was everything... right... so their measurement of success in life was things and I... I don't really relate to that.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:42:54.7# So if you think back... what did you come here for?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:42:57.3# For a different experience. You know because it was a different far away place that I wanted to know.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:43:12.1# So for that sense of adventure I guess...

- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah....
#0:43:13.5#
- MARC STOECKLE: And did your parents for example visited you here?
#0:43:16.5#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: They came here when I was pregnant with Nikky in 83. I guess you didn't get to meet them then but... so we did the whole, whole tourist thing here and yeah... Rob's mother had a house up at a lake at Youbou and we went up there and went in the forest here... it was pretty nice.
#0:43:19.2#
- MARC STOECKLE: How did they like it? Especially your dad being like...
#0:43:40.8#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Actually what really surprised me was I always thought that my mom would like it more but actually my dad liked it more than her. He sort of came out of his shell a bit it seemed and sort of... there was a neighbor that was from Vienna and he went and talked to him and even though he couldn't speak a word of English... he, he sort of was interested and I think for my mom it was although over there it all seemed she usually takes more interest in people and things but she almost seemed... I don't know.... Not, not as interested when she came here.
#0:43:45.4#
- ROB MCCARVILL: I don't know I took her around for... you know we just went for a drive through an hour and she liked sort of looking at everything and
#0:44:29.6#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah, well she just didn't...
#0:44:40.6#
- ROB MCCARVILL: ...interested that the houses were all different from each other instead of basically all the same pattern... and I think your dad was excited because there was so much of it was forest industry. He worked in a mill for a number of years and he was ...
#0:44:40.6#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: He was interested in building and stuff...
#0:45:0.9#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Not formerly trained as a builder...interested in building... he was very good at it and really, very excited about building and so you know Youbou were the lake, were my mom had the place on the lake was a... a logging and mill town and... I think it excited him that...
#0:45:0.9#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: I guess what it was for me with my mom at that time.... is that all

- #0:45:23.1# of sudden I kind of realized that she became old. And so we... for some reason didn't quite connect. I guess it came as a bit of a shock... at that time because... when I left I never thought that I wouldn't just be going back and forth and back and forth....
- #0:46:5.0# **Sensitive///// Material deleted!!!!!!**
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:46:23.2# So that was...was really nice that they came and it was really hard when they left so...
- MARC STOECKLE:
#0:46:31.2# When they came... when was the last time you've seen them? Like, that must have been...?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:46:33.0# Oh it was only... at that time I was only 2 years was it... wasn't that long because I took Martin when he was a baby, first when he was 2 months old... and then when he was a little guy and at that time it was still easier to travel but it got harder... to go back as frequently and, and also the reasons weren't there the same way... so... ja... god this is hard... it's just you sort of put things out of your mind.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#0:47:22.3# Ja... ja.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:47:22.3# How often were you going back at that time?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:47:25.1# Every one or two years... there I took you when you were up one-year-old and then a two-year-old and...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:47:37.5# Four I think...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:47:37.5# Yeah. So quite frequently but then I was in school at university full time and it got really busy and so I couldn't... couldn't go back the way I did before and... I had some visitors too... my... one of my cousins came out and
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:48:7.0# That was all much later though, we were here by then, so that's the 90's well into the 90's
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:48:13.1# Well first over at [Crosmic] one of my brothers came, Gusti came...
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:48:21.4# Yeah, Gusti came in the seventies....

- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah... so...
#0:48:23.7#
- ROB MCCARVILL: But Walter we were in this house by then weren't we...
#0:48:26.9#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: No we were across the street.
#0:48:28.9#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Oh I guess we bought this house....
#0:48:31.6#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: We bought the house but we didn't live in it yet.
#0:48:34.6#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah
#0:48:35.8#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: We lived over there. So yeah that was...was nice.
#0:48:36.8#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: You lived a bunch of different places after coming here. Did you? You were always in Victoria but...
#0:48:44.1#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Always in Victoria but we lived down by [Beecon Helm Park], you know first started out at the bay area then [Beecon Hill Park] and then [Fernwood] and then we came here across the street in the townhouses and then got this house here. So yeah....
#0:48:47.5#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: I remember you saying earlier about how, how flimsy the houses were. How did you feel living in houses here compared to there?
#0:49:18.6#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well, it's... they are a lot warmer... because the way we used to have, we used to have to first heat it with wood, you know in the country and later with oil and you always had to make a fire to, to get warm and
#0:49:25.5#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Was that oil or kerosene?
#0:49:53.2#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: I don't know... it was oil.
#0:49:53.2#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah?
#0:49:56.3#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Heating oil, it's slightly different, I don't know quite....

#0:49:56.3#

ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah.
#0:49:59.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: And... so you always had to fill up your oil thing and, and make a fire. ...
#0:49:59.3#

ROB MCCARVILL: [Petroleum] had its own heater and there was a jug... you know an oil jug and you had to top it up and to enlight the fire...
#0:50:13.2#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Enlighten the fire... so and here it's all central heating... everywhere. Which is probably there now too, not at that time.
#0:50:21.5#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Did you find the climate very different or...?
#0:50:35.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: No winters and I love that. I mean two weeks of winter so... and the...
#0:50:35.1#

ROB MCCARVILL: Eight months of rain...
#0:50:46.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Eight months of rain. The rain kind of bothered me but I'm so used to it now and, and... I kind of like it. But at first it was different cause... also it's always windy here and it's never too hot. There it can get pretty hot as well... but on the upside you could always sit... be outside at a quite lake and not be cold so there is a lot of life that goes on there on the streets which it doesn't to the same extend here.
#0:50:46.3#

ROB MCCARVILL: Biergarten, and so on.
#0:51:27.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah.
#0:51:28.4#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: You wanna tell us more about sort of raising kids in this culture and do you feel that was, I mean you were saying earlier that you were a nanny in Munich. Do you find that the way children are raised and as a teacher as well is different than family life in Austria?
#0:51:37.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I think it's very individual you know. People have different standards in general in terms of the system. I think it's way more generous over there. Because if you have a baby you get a lot
#0:51:54.6#

more time of and... and people here don't seem to... as a society, don't seem to care that much about what it takes to raise children... in some ways. To... I don't think the supports are there here that are... that are needed and I think that's very present there but in terms of how... children are treated it really depends on the people... you know.... there is people treating kids well here and the same way over there and the opposite is true as well.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: But I guess you are saying it's more standardized there?
#0:53:4.3#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: The social system is better in terms of children....
#0:53:7.6#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: OK.
#0:53:14.6#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: And, and I mean, here if you don't have... if you have the means, it's fine but if you don't have the means here, there is no... there is a safety net, but it's not... it doesn't always kick in the way it should.... and a lot of... and maybe that's a thing of the time as well though is that... that you... pretty well everybody has to work now to survive and when I grew up, women... especially in Austria didn't really, I mean they worked, but... but... there was the opportunity for them to stay with their kids which it wasn't to the same degree here I think...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: What did you expect growing up, when you sort of thought of growing up and having your own family? Did you think you'd stay home or you work or...?
#0:54:19.1#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I didn't really think of it until it happened... sorry.... you know like you are a young person you don't... you don't plan for having kids... and, and I always wanted kids but you know, and I always liked kids, but I didn't really have a plan on how it was gonna to be... and I guess you always think it's easier as it really is.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: So when you were, you know working, going to school, raising a family, did you ever think to yourself this would be different if I were doing it in Austria. Or this would be easier there?
#0:55:5.4#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I think I would have more time there to be with you then I did here. Because... I mean that's the model that I saw around me that, that... not that it was always good if mother stayed home with the kids... you know.... It wasn't always good either.... but people sort of... if they wanted to they could. While here even if

you wanted to you can't... or... but I think that is a sign of the time maybe more then of place because it's.... so I'm comparing a different time period because that's what it was like then but it's not necessarily the case now and I really haven't kept up with what the realities are over there now. I don't really know.

ROB MCCARVILL:
#0:56:16.0#

How much importance is there in the was when it was rural... essential a rural area... Victoria is a small city but it's an urban life....

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:56:28.5#

Yeah, that's as well factors in... so it's sometimes difficult to compare things.

MARC STOECKLE:
#0:56:36.2#

Did you have any... bad experiences not being Canadian here? You are coming from Austria, from a German-speaking country or...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:56:48.1#

Nothing really bad. I mean that's more my personal thing sometimes didn't work out the way I wanted them to but I don't think that might have been the case there as well. But... you know it's always, sort of people say: Oh well there is no prejudice here... and yet it is here as well... you know... for example at Camosun, I once went... and they had jobs posted in, in different places and I thought... oh... I get a summer job and there was one in the... for desk clerk, up Tofino or some place like that, forget exactly where... and then I went in and tried to apply for the job and the guy was... I guess it was called man power at the time was it... he was saying: Oh well being from your background I don't think you really have a chance of getting that job because you would do much better trying to get a... a... cleaning job in a hotel rather than as a desk clerk.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:58:12.0#

And you already worked as a desk clerk, haven't you?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:58:15.0#

I have worked as a desk clerk here as well as there right, so... so I thought that was... and yet it's always presented like there is no prejudice here... but definitely, but on the whole I think, I haven't really experienced that and... I think I blend here enough that people don't always know where I'm from. I don't really make an issue of it so I think it would be different for people who are very obviously from a different background.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:58:55.4#

Do you think when people here your accent, do you think they think you are from another place or.... how did you get your accent so Canadian?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:59:3.8# Some people notice but usually it's, it's sort of: Oh do I detect an accent and, and where are you from... but, but a lot of people just don't... actually... or they don't comment on it or don't say anything, so. I haven't found that anybody treated me badly because I wasn't from here... on the contrary... at first when I came here, a lot of people seemed really nice you know... especially teachers at... when I went to Camosun especially... just because I was from, from Austria...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#0:59:53.8# You mean they went out of their way... their way cause you weren't from here or...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#0:59:55.9# They just connected with me being from somewhere else and were interested or, or showed an interested in it. And I guess that's less so because I'm more from here than from there now ...?

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:0:15.1# So do you think in contrast... I mean what do you think the reaction of people in Canada is, oh sorry rather in Austria is to people from different places... when you brought Daddy to Austria how did, how did people react to him?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:0:26.6# Well because of his long hair more he was different and because of the way he dressed ... he was different...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:0:37.7# How did he dress?

ROB MCCARVILL:
#1:0:37.9# Badly.

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:0:38.2# Badly the way we dress here... I actually had an argument with a friend over there and how badly North Americans dress... I tried to tell it doesn't make any difference but... yeah it was... there was more of a dress code there you know... among some people and, and so if you kind of looked different you didn't quite fit in and I guess you could probably tell more about what it was like...

ROB MCCARVILL:
#1:1:20.3# Yeah... sometimes some people in Austria are really straight it was like being in Williamslake or somewhere you know.

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:1:32.1# Well, an example... he went and sat on the lawn and the little old ladies just got... really upset because he set on the lawn because you weren't supposed to walk on the lawn.

ROB MCCARVILL:
... all the, mind you the little old ladies in Vienna I mean they just

- #1:1:44.9# about wiped out all the man in the First World War and there were millions of these, you know little old ladies who had very low expenses and little apartments with an loden coat and a feather in it and... they eat out their pension, you know spending six hours over there [kleine braune], the "Gasthaus", and lived in "ein Zimmer" and "Kueche", with... the toilet... cold water up the hall and the toilet up the hall and... and... you know you had to go to the... I don't remember what they were called where you had a bag of coal and coke and a little bundle of [full] ... for kindling and... you know they did not live comfortably...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: But they were all content more or less...
#1:2:45.8#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Yeah... but they... there was certainly a level of anger and frustration ...
#1:2:48.9#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: ... as well yeah...
#1:2:55.1#
- ROB MCCARVILL: ... and if anybody was out of line by one inch then they were like a flock of vultures...
#1:2:55.1#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well, they, they knew how you were supposed to behave and how we were, you know at that time it was... and I guess neither one of us quite fit in...
#1:3:7.2#
- MARC STOECKLE: Can I ask you, because you said you didn't speak too much English, you didn't speak German? Did you speak a little bit German...?
#1:3:21.2#
- ROB MCCARVILL: No I hadn't ...
#1:3:29.7#
- MARC STOECKLE: How did you communicate? Just basic English?
#1:3:29.7#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Yeah
#1:3:29.9#
- ROB MCCARVILL: ...you know and if you are in your twenties how much language do you need...?
#1:3:35.3#
- NIKKY MCCARVILL: How long do you think it took before your English sort of got really good?
#1:3:45.9#

- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well with reading and studying and letting hear it I picked it up along...
#1:3:54.5#
- MARC STOECKLE: And then you learned German?
#1:4:1.7#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Some... I went to... went to the [Deutsches Sprachkurs für Ausländer...]
#1:4:1.7#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: "Ausländer"...
#1:4:13.4#
- ROB MCCARVILL: No wasn't there an umlaut in it...
#1:4:13.4#
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: Ja "Länder"...
#1:4:16.3#
- ROB MCCARVILL: No in the... in the a... anyway... in Vienna... and they did high German with... you know... telling you to greet older ladies with "Kuesse die Hand gnaedige Frau" and then I went back through Vienna with all the "Wienerisch"... and Evelin and our roommate both spoke "Kärntnerisch" which was a bit different and so I dint learn very effectively...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: You actually learned quite well after just going on holidays... better then when you lived in Vienna. Or I think you sort of picked up but you... it was hard I think for you to talk because people wouldn't take the time to listen if that makes any sense... because as soon as they couldn't understand you right away they wouldn't take the time to, to listen to you...
- ROB MCCARVILL: And I think often people in Europe you know if you speaking to somebody with limited English here you tend to make an effort to speak more slowly and more distinctly whereas Europeans if they speaking to a foreigner seem delighted to go more dialect and speaking more rapidly and...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL: "Deutsch lernen..."
#1:5:56.9#
- ROB MCCARVILL: Mind you the last time I was in Vienna I went into this "Café" we lived in around the "Gastbahnhof" and that area now is a whole serious of little ghettos. There is like a couple of Philippine streets and... and several Romanian streets and I went into a "Gasthaus" and it was all Romanians and the guy was actually quite hostile like you know... so I made a point of... the next

- thing I said I had a little bit more of a North American accent and he kind of backed off so I think it was... they didn't want Austrians in... and.... and but I was a [walk] so that was OK.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:6:55.6# So do you find... I mean it sounds like you have a lot of impression of Austria at a certain point in time when you were living there... when you left. When was the last time when you were back?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:7:6.8# 2002... for my father... my brother's funeral.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:7:14.4# Right yeah... and, how... I mean obviously that is returning under a certain set of circumstances but do you find it's changed a lot. How has it changed?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:7:29.0# I was only there for short time period and I found because of the funeral it was sort of... sort of it got close to a lot of people because people talked... and I didn't really get that much of an impression... of, of what things are like now, you know... I really don't know that much of what things are like because it's been such a long time ago.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:8:6.0# So do you still feel connected to Austria? Do you still feel Austrian or do you feel Canadian or...?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:8:12.0# Neither... I just feel like a person... I don't... there is some things about the culture that I... that I really miss... you know like some of the music... and I really miss the country and some aspects of the lifestyle as well... you know the sort of... but then that was being younger... as well... you know. It seemed easier to do nothing and just hang out... if that makes any sense...
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#1:8:49.9# Sorry I just realized the time... and I'm going to be late for work...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:8:52.7# You have to go to work....
- ROB MCCARVILL:
#1:8:54.1# Yeah.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:8:54.1# OK.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:9:2.3# And you haven't been back in quite a few years... do you think you are going to go back? What would bring you back?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:9:11.8#
Probably somebody else dying... but no I like to go back. I had a problem. I let my passport expire and... then because my passport expired I couldn't get Canadian permanent residency card which I also never applied for and I couldn't get a new passport from Austria without the residency card and I can't get a residency card with an expired passport. So I always for now the last 3 or 4 years I was in a catch 22 situation where I, I couldn't leave the country for fear of not getting in again...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:10:4.4#
And that must be tough to for being here so long and sort of not be Canadian and not be Austrian?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:10:10.0#
Well it's... I guess it's my own fault I should have done like everybody else after two years... applied for... or three years whatever it is... for citizenship and... but I was busy at that time and it didn't really matter and it seems to matter way more... I guess things changed after... after 9/11... it got more difficult to deal with authorities in a way and so, so... so it was harder to do those things.

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:10:55.7#
So you've been here how long now?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:10:55.7#
Since 77 and I never applied for citizenship. At first it was kind of... I thought... well maybe I go back and live there and maybe my kids might want to come and live here... and work here... and also with the European Union I thought well then they can work anywhere. But they also changed the rules on that so you couldn't, couldn't get dual citizenship anymore so, so I just let it slide and neither here nor there...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:11:40.6#
You wish you've done it?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:11:41.1#
Only for the sake of voting... because it never seemed important but it somehow seems more important now to... to vote against the people you don't want... if that makes any sense... because you know I still don't really feel very strongly about anyone but I feel strongly about some of the changes that have happened over time that... I really don't agree with and I sort of feel well... if you don't say anything or do anything against it then... then it seems like it's right and I think too many people just, just don't pay attention to some of the things that are going on but... but I guess there is the same things going on there as well you know... it's just become a different society worldwide.

- MARC STOECKLE:
#1:12:53.9#
Do you... do you sometimes maybe regret or like you just don't care that with your kids, what I experienced with Nikky for example speaking little bit of German...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:13:7.9#
Badly....
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:13:7.9#
I do, do regret that and not even just the language but more so that I didn't do a better job at connecting them to the culture there... but it wasn't... didn't seem important to me at the time... but also get them connected to the people but it's just the way it worked out... that was my intention but the way it worked out I didn't go back as much as I thought I would when I came here. You know at that time it seemed so easy to just go here and there and then it changed and in part that's personal circumstances but... but... but you know I thought well you just buy a ticket and you go back and it's... it doesn't always work that way.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#1:14:8.5#
Can I ask you Nikky... do you sometimes maybe wish getting a little bit more of your mom's background or you just...?
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:14:23.7#
Well certainly it'd be nice to have a second language and be nice to speak German properly... and certainly the times I have been back and... you know especially when I went back as an adult it was a bit of a regret not being able to speak to people as much as I would have liked sort of... because of course this was sort of family with some of them I grew up in some ways we were always back there when we were kids every, every year or every few years. But, but compared to my family here I never got to know them as intimately and I think Martin's experience was a bit different because he's picked up a lot more German than I have and...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:15:3.1#
He also has been back more frequently lately... so... so he has made a connection but I think Gerda came here, your cousin... and I think even though you haven't seen her for a long time I did feel like there was a connection between you and her...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:15:22.8#
Yeah, of course... but Gerda speaks English.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:15:26.0#
Yeah, but you know as kids you were really close and I think that connection was still there...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Oh, absolutely and... and we could communicate with each other and I spoke a little bit of German she spoke a little bit of English and you play together and when you are kids you work around that sort of. So I think it is true you always have a sort of bond with the people you grow up with... despite that. I mean... yeah I think the language is the one place where I really regret not having the connection.

MARC STOECKLE: Is that the barrier?
#1:16:3.4#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Sort of the language barrier... exactly... I mean in terms of culture you can go as a visitor and pick the culture up whenever and I feel like I have some appreciation and some knowledge of it but in terms of language I think that's much harder as an adult. And how do you feel about that now after having now grandchildren?

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I kind of regret it but it's just the way life went right and... and if I were in a German speaking environment where, where there is other people that you can talk German to then, then... it would have been different but it always seemed a little artificial you know... to speak to you in a different language... but yeah... I do regret that.

NIKKY MCCARVILL: But do you think of like... I always see you with Emmitt... with my nephew... and you're always speaking German with him...

EVELIN MCCARVILL: It's... I have a different stage in my life where I have the time to do that right... and I did do that with you and Martin as well... you just can't remember... yeah... when you were little right... but then I was busier and I just didn't have the time as well because I was studying and working and, and... and so when you are communicating with your kids you do it in the language that comes easy.

ROB MCCARVILL: I wanted to add that thing with... non speakers in Europe. I hitchhiked across France with a guy from Quebec... who gave me a really bad time about my...

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Non speaking French...
#1:17:57.2#

ROB MCCARVILL: ...lack of French... and the French literally laughed in his face when he spoke...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Because of his accent?

#1:18:4.5#

ROB MCCARVILL: The British... Britain had... he is from Quebec...
#1:18:4.5#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Right...
#1:18:9.0#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I guess the French don't consider it French....
#1:18:9.0#

ROB MCCARVILL: He said Britannia wasn't bad but anywhere else the French were
#1:18:13.2#
assholes... and Britain, London, I lived in London... and... lots of
immigrants, and the British were just horrible you know...
anybody who didn't have the language it was... it was
immediately into... into slang and... mumble mouth and... so
it's, it's not a... not a thing that the Germanic people ...no it's
Europe in general.

EVELIN MCCARVILL: No it's a general thing yeah...
#1:18:49.0#

NIKKY MCCARVILL: Well... and certainly any language as an adult try to pick it up is
#1:18:49.9#
sort of much harder and I mean, I think people give children
more space even when they are learners even when they are not
doing things perfectly because we expect children to not do
things perfectly.

MARC STOECKLE: So, I don't know... again... just to wrapping it up I would say... I
#1:19:8.3#
would ask you again... you feel Austrian or Canadian... or just
to....

EVELIN MCCARVILL: I don't feel... I'm either... I'm a citizen of the world, you know...
#1:19:24.8#
it's just... I don't really associate with countries but I guess I'm
probably if I have to make a decision more Canadian than
Austrian at this point just because I don't really know that much
about Austria about what's happening there. I couldn't tell you
very much about Austria... I know the Austria that was there but I
don't know the Austria that's there now...

NIKKY MCCARVILL: And do you think that's something about being Canadian
#1:20:4.6#
because I think a lot people come here from all over the place
and so you can sort of be Canadian without having to relate...

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Well some people leave it behind... their first identity... and
#1:20:17.6#
some people keep it all their lives so... I guess it's a personal
thing. But one thing about Canada is that you can... you know...

you can leave it behind or you can keep it with you to a degree. People don't really make fun of you because you are somebody else right... and I think... maybe not the experience of all people because... but I guess being European and sort of blending in and you know... if you were a visible minority then it would be quiet different. But, but... you know... if you see me you couldn't tell where I was born or raised or... and, and most people don't pay enough attention anyhow so...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:21:26.0#

So what do you think draws people to do that? Why do some people leave it behind and why do some people hang on to it? Do you think there is some element in our psychology or what's...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:21:39.0#

Yeah I think it's just individuals and some people... their culture means a lot to them... and, and so they wanna hang on to it... and some people... like things to stay the way they are you know and with me... I always wanted to change or go with the flow... I didn't...didn't... you know... didn't agree with everything there... so... I... I didn't feel the need to, to stay Austrian. If there is such a thing....

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:23:32.6#

And definitely I think for my cousins when they were little it was quite difficult when they came to Ontario because they... you know that was so close to the war still... so... people looked at them as Nazis, you know... little kids... and so I think it was hard and, and one of my cousin changed his name to an English name and... and... so there was certainly... that at the time and also I guess it depends on the place as well...

ROB MCCARVILL:
#1:24:15.9#

But that was pretty much over when you got here or did you have any experiences like that?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:24:21.5#

I don't really... can say that anybody was... that, that one case you know... but... you know maybe sometimes old people but usually it was people that... who's mind wasn't there anymore so you can't take that serious when I worked with old people...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:24:46.7#

It seems like a theme that keeps coming up sort of how things... I guess who changed over time as opposed to between the places...?

EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:24:56.7#

Yeah, because basically it's the whole world is becoming more similar and different in some ways and yet in other ways it's also becoming more different... it's...

NIKKY MCCARVILL:

I think we are going to wrap things up. Is there anything you like

- #1:25:12.6# to add? Anything you really wanted to say or...?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:25:19.8# I can't think of it right now... but yeah I do regret not having been back as much lately and I do regret not having stayed in touch with people... and I do regret not having given you guys the connection... I think Martin's got the connection now but I think you haven't really been there for a long time so...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:25:50.1# Since I was in Vienna after high school right... yeah...
- MARC STOECKLE:
#1:25:53.2# But then you didn't have that much of a...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:25:55.5# ...good experience...
- MARC STOECKLE:
#1:25:58.5# That 's understandable too...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:25:58.7# And well there is always the future... you have a passport now.
- MARC STOECKLE:
#1:26:3.2# Exactly.
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:26:5.1# I still don't have a PR card and... you know if I go out of the country and they don't let me back in that would be worse than not being able to go out of the country.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:26:14.7# You think if that ever happened hypothetically, you think you can move back to Austria and fit in there? Or you think that would be a struggle?
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:26:21.3# I think it would be so hard for me... not in order... the fitting in wouldn't be a problem, but having you guys here and me there that... would kill me.
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:26:34.5# Even though we are in our thirties...
- EVELIN MCCARVILL:
#1:26:35.1# Well... you are still my kids and the grandchildren as well... right... I wanna see them grow up... so...
- NIKKY MCCARVILL:
#1:26:48.2# So I guess where your family is...

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Its true... because it... the family was there then and the family is
#1:26:48.5# here now.

MARC STOECKLE: Cool. Thanks very much.
#1:26:59.7#

EVELIN MCCARVILL: Thank you.
#1:27:1.3#

END