



Interviewed: Neville and Ruth Sischy
Oral History Clip Title: Loneliness
Theme: Arriving In Canada
Interviewer: Miriam Borden
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(Ruth)

A very, you know, real vivid story in mind. We went back for a [sic] to visit family after the first, I think, eighteen months. (turns to Neville for confirmation) Was Polly born yet?

(Neville)

The first visit?

(Ruth)

Yeah, the first visit.

(Neville)

Polly wasn't born.

(Ruth)

Yeah, we didn't have any children yet and I had a really sad time when I immigrated. I was very lonely. I missed my mom and dad, my family, you know, tremendously. We were living in an apartment. I had just started working at [sic] as an early childhood educator at Holy Blossom...in the nursery department. And I was really quite sad. And when I went back the very first time I actually said to Neville, "This has all just been a nightmare. Forget about it. Go home and pack up our stuff and, you know, I'll wait for you. Bring everything back and we'll carry on living happily ever after in South Africa." And he said, "No." He's not going to do that. And I had to make a decision whether I was going to go back or not and obviously, happily, made the right decision. But it was very painful. It wasn't an easy time. And at the same time I think what exacerbated it, it was the time of mail strikes. We were still using snail mail. There was no e-mail. There was no FaceTime. So you were really disconnected.

(Neville)

There was no TV in South Africa.

(Ruth)

There was no TV in South Africa. Yeah, yeah. So not being able...There were couriers that were driving to Buffalo with letters and we had PO boxes, I mean, and many South African families did this at the time. They would go and pick up mail and bring it back and you'd wait for those letters because the six or eight weeks would go by. We had no contact with home. And it was a very long time at that particular point.

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(Neville)

We did telephone.

(Ruth)

We did telephone. But even that, you remember, it was a big deal. So, you know, it was [sic] that first eighteen months was very difficult for me.

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