Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: HUE MINH TRUONG
Interviewer: Howard Minh Diep
Date: February 17, 2012
Location: San Diego, California
Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012
Length of Interview: 51:24

Time Log

00:00:45 Hue Minh Truong states her parents names and describes them
00:01:56 She describes where she grew up in South Vietnam and in the City of Sa Dec
00:02:20 She describes her childhood memories
00:03:16 She then describes the business surrounding the city
00:04:00 Description of local neighbors, gatherings, and Tet
00:05:48 Discusses how she was a full time student and how she helped her family
00:06:33 Describes her schooling
00:08:02 Discusses parents efforts in taking care of family, shows disappointment that she wasn’t able to help the family out as much because she was still young and had to go to school
00:08:27 Describes her grandparents
00:08:56 Talks about the family last name of Truong
00:09:21 Addresses the languages that she can speak and understand
00:10:06 Discusses occupations that family members had in the past
00:10:54 States grandparents and parents had arranged marriages
00:11:17 Talks about family, specifically her husband and sons
00:12:31 Talks about religious traditions and the alter
00:13:50 Talks about food traditions and favorite foods
00:14:16 Discusses photo albums and complied memories
00:15:13 Transition into wartime questions, discusses how the war affected her family.

00:16:20 Talks about her memories from the war. She pauses frequently to try and remember what happened.

00:17:17 Talks about where she was on the last day of the war and her memories of the Fall of Saigon.

00:18:36 Talks about life after the war.

00:19:46 Talks about the differences after moving to the U.S.

00:20:35 Doesn’t know much about U.S. policy in Vietnam.

00:21:22 Talks about her journey to the U.S by boat & the harsh conditions.

00:22:07 Talks about her experiences in refugee camps in Indonesia and Singapore.

00:24:32 Talks about her landing to the U.S and moving to San Diego and San Francisco.

00:25:20 Talks about first impressions coming to the U.S.

00:27:11 Talks about how she made a living after resettlement, working several different jobs.

00:27:11 Seems confused about her situation of being forced to immigrate over.

00:29:55 Compares living standards in U.S to those in Vietnam.

00:30:42 Talks about how she has encountered racism and discrimination, but doesn’t really recall it. Discusses the language barriers and hardships encountered.

00:31:31 Identifies herself as Asian American.

00:32:39 Discusses the differences between U.S society and culture as compared to Vietnam.

00:33:43 Pauses and is hesitant for a bit to think which culture she likes better, cannot decided between which culture she likes best.

00:34:20 States that she is an Immigrant U.S citizen.

00:35:00 States her reason why she decided to become a U.S citizen.

00:36:20 Talks about the process of naturalization in attaining U.S. citizenship.

00:38:31 States that she has voted in elections before and discusses her reasons for voting.
States that she has not gone back to Vietnam since leaving
Talks about her opinion on what will become of Vietnamese culture in American. Mainly discusses her wishes of what the younger generation should do
States that she hasn’t been involved within the Vietnamese community here in the U.S. but she has some knowledge of their duties and responsibilities in San Diego
Talks about her visit to Little Saigon and Phuoc Loc Tho
 Doesn’t know much about the Little Saigon community
Talks about favorite foods and culture in Little Saigon
States her wishes for the younger generation of Vietnamese
Wraps up interview with a slight story and wishes of the youth
Ends interview with last story and wish of the younger generation of giving back to the community