Narrator: UNG CANH BUI

Interviewer: Steven Bui

Date: February 23, 2012

Location: Garden Grove, California

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012

Length of Interview: 00:82:54

Time Log

Track 1 Length: 00:22:09

00:00:00 Introduction

00:00:30 Ung Canh Bui describes his parents and his family as well as his relationship with his siblings.

00:02:00 He talks about his birthplace and why he had to move to Saigon.

00:03:14 Talks about life in Saigon and growing up

00:03:59 He talks about his memories as a kid and what he remembers and what life was like for him living in Saigon and going to school and who provided.

00:06:09 Talks about school life.

00:07:28 He describes how his family celebrates Chinese New Year.
He describes how he celebrates birthdays.

His role in his family as a student.

The music Ung listens to.

Memories of his parents and grandparents and what he remembers most about them.

Talks about who provided for his family.

He describes how his parents met and how him and his wife met.

Talks about his children.

Family gatherings and keeping in touch with family.

He keeps an altar as a sign of respect for ancestors and has family gatherings.

Practices Buddhism.

Special/Traditional types of food eaten on special occasions

Special photographs kept

Track 2 Length: 00:40:37

Affects of the war on Ung and his family and service in the military.

Ung’s life working in an air base in Qui Nhon District and how often he saw his family.
Ung describes what he remembers most during the time he worked in the air base, deaths, bombing, conditions.

There were no casualties in his family nor disabilities.

His sisters provided for themselves during the war.

Ung describes his life at the air base in terms of living conditions compared to Americans.

Ung describes the relationship between Americans and Vietnamese soldiers and daily life at the air base.

He talks about who he talked with at the air base and the death of a friend.

Ung was never a prisoner. The air base was safe.

Ung had brothers that were caught and put in a reeducation camp and he describes the conditions in there based on his brothers’ stories and what happened to them.

Ung tells stories of visiting his brothers at reeducation camps near the jungles.

One cousin died in the war.

Ung talks about the fall of Saigon on April 30th, 1975 and what he saw and what he was doing.

Ung escapes Vietnam by small boat a few years later and he talks about his journey Malaysia.
Ung talks about what he remembers most about the Fall of Saigon and what he was doing.

Ung escapes from Vietnam July 13th, 1981 by small boat and describes how he left.

Ung talks about his arrival at Malaysia and his journey to America after.

He was picked up at John Wayne airport by his cousin who sponsored him and talks about his life in America from going to college to finding a job.

He talks about his experience with Americans and discrimination.

Ung moves down to Orange County because of his company and talks about life in Orange County.

He is happy about his decision to come to the U.S.

Track 3 Length: 00:19:52

Ung talks about the challenges he experienced while rebuilding his life in America.

He obtains a job after college thanks to a notice from his college.

He describes similarities and differences between the current Vietnamese community in America and the one in Vietnam.

Ung talks about what he likes about the American culture.

He’s proud to be a Vietnamese American.
00:07:20  Ung discusses the responsibilities as an American and voting.

00:07:45  Ung talks about keeping in touch with his family.

00:09:00  He describes his experience the first time he went back to Vietnam since after the war.

00:13:40  He gives his opinion of what will happen to the Vietnamese culture in the future.

00:14:35  He talks about how often he visits Little Saigon and compares its community compared to the community in Vietnam.

00:15:55  Ung gives advice to future Vietnamese American generations based on his life experiences.

**Track 4 Length: 00:00:16**

00:00:00  End of Interview.