Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: LIEN NGUYEN

Interviewer: Michelle Le Pham

Date: November 26, 2012

Location: Garden Grove, CA

Sub-Collection: The Grove Senior Apartments

Length: 00:56:11

Time Log

Track 01

00:00  Introduction of narrator and interviewer. Nguyen stated her date/place of birth, cities in which she resided in, and described her immediate family.

02:00  After her father passed away Nguyen described her responsibilities taking care of her siblings

02:53  Nguyen states that because of the war she and her family had to move around a lot.

03:45  Describes her families livelihood selling various items at the local marketplace

06:20  States that she had a relationship with her extended family while she was young. Nguyen gives an anecdote about the death of her grandmother.

10:24  Nguyen describes her adulthood life before the war working as a seamstress and what she knew of the war then.

14:45  After the Communist takeover of Vietnam, Nguyen describes the difficulties of raising a family after the war.

21:50  She describes her many attempts of escaping Vietnam via boat. Ultimately only a few of her children were successful. Nguyen had to stay behind.

27:45  Nguyen discusses her sponsorship to the United States in 2000 by her son. Nguyen states that she came to the United States to escape poverty and give her children a fighting chance.

30:25  Nguyen gives an anecdote about how she injured her leg in Vietnam and the care she received from Vietnam.
Track 02

00:00  Nguyen describes the citizenship process after being sponsored to the United States by her son. She also discusses the difficulties of learning English.

03:30  Emphasizes the importance of having one’s citizenship in the United States and how her children are acclimating to the United States.

05:35  Describes her job in the United States as a seamstress and her eventual retirement due to an injury

08:45  Nguyen compare and contrasts the differences between the United States and Vietnam. Leaves a message to future generations about how to keep their roots.