Narrator(s): JENNIFER YEN PHAM & DUY “DAVID” DO
Interviewer: Zed James I. Santiago
Date: March 4, 2013
Location: Orange, California
Length of Interview: 1:48:30

Time Log

00:00:28 Narrators introduce themselves and state birthdate and place
00:01:11 Jennifer Pham talks about childhood momentarily but immediately talks about Vietnam War and how their family moved and escaped.
00:03:38 Jennifer was able to leave Vietnam as a Chinese girl.
00:05:49 Jennifer talks about how communist changed their way of life as she lived 4 years under the communist regime.
00:07:11 Currency change under the communist rule
00:09:07 David Do talks about his experience during the Vietnam War.
00:12:05 David is an only child, Jennifer is 1 of 9, talks about their whereabouts now.
00:13:12 David talks about where and why some Vietnamese people live where they live today.
00:13:43 David discusses about how one should think twice about what they say to the communist. Communists were manipulative.
00:15:00 When communist interview you, remember the info you tell them so nothing is suspicious next time.
00:15:36 Shares about how his grandfather committed suicide because he endure how the Communist treated him. They slandered him for his rice fields and took it and divided it to the poor.
David says if you find something to eat. You hide it from the public or you will be reported. Deemed as not common class.

Jennifer discusses how you can’t be travel freely; everything has to be documented by the local police and how people used it as a way to escape.

Talks about how they met. Religion conflicted with their relationship in the beginning and how it was resolved.

Showed me their family altar, traditional Vietnamese family tree, and tell me about family traditions.

They attend Saint Norbert church and go to Buddhist temples on holidays.

Talk about Vietnamese food they cook and like.

Discusses how many children they have and what they do.

Don’t really have family heirlooms.

David talks about coming to the U.S. and living in Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by uncle in Las Vegas and attended UNLV.

Jennifer talks about her time coming to the U.S. Sponsored by brother and sister, attended high school in Anaheim and went to Cal State Fullerton.

Comparison of education in the U.S. and in Vietnam.

How the option of not passing school was becoming a soldier.

Success of Vietnamese in the United States. Generational thing.

Hopes that their kids will take half of what they teach with them. They want them to understand the value of life.

Jennifer tells a story that David experienced at his Honda car dealership about people not appreciating the value of life.
This generation is spoiled and everything is about “Me.”

Took their kids to Vietnam around 2008-2009.

They talk about getting grants by the U.S. government, welfare and saving money.

David goes back to talking about escaping Vietnam and secretly building boats to escape.

Jennifer talks about how she escaped again but more elaborate. Escapes to Bulo Bidong Refugee Camp, Malaysia.

Jennifer discusses how bad life was Bulo Bidong but coming to America was well worth it.

David discusses how he escaped and ended up at an oil drill before coming to America.

David discusses the boat he escapes on.

They talk about Thai pirates.

Discusses the numerous jobs that they’ve had in America since first coming here.

Dealing with racism and discrimination in America.

Jennifer talk about how people don’t appreciate living in the United States.

Jennifer tells a story of how a white girl liked David at UNLV but she thought he was gay. David thought of he as only a friend and didn’t know what gay is.

Jennifer tells a story of how she didn’t know the different between “potty” and “party.”

They talk about they still are learning and getting accustomed to American slang.

Talk about their relationship with neighbors.
01:34:49 Jennifer talks about her involvement in the Vietnamese community.

01:35:28 They talk about how they are involved with the Vietnamese Boy & Girl Scout.

Children too!

01:35:08 They love Little Saigon.

01:37:01 David talks about the first time coming into an Asian Market back in the day. It was great.

01:38:53 Talk about hobbies, interest, and things they like to do for fun.

01:39:45 Discusses the things they want their kids to remember when they grow up. Not to forget about their heritage. They are fortunate to have what they have.

01:46:48 David is glad to be here in the United States.

01:48:35 *Interview ends*