Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: NGUYỄN THÀNH THI NHAN
Interviewer: Nguyen Thien An
Date: February 18, 2019
Location: Riverside, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Winter 2019
Length of interview: 00:39:12

Time Log

Track 1
00:00:50 Nhan Nguyen provides background for where and how she grew up in Nha Trang.
00:02:25 She discusses her time attending Trường Cao Đẳng Sư Phạm college.
00:03:32 She details how her family split in two and that she followed her grandfather to Dong Ho to be a rural farmer.
00:10:14 She mentions the items she misses from Nha Trang that she was not able to take with her when she escaped.

Track 2
00:00:00 She talks about how she tried to escape Vietnam 10 times and her time spent in prison.
00:03:30 She expresses immense gratitude for making the boat journey safely to the refugee camp.
00:04:10 She discusses her experiences and the living conditions she endured at the Palawan Refugee Camp.
00:06:47 She describes her experience staying at the Palawan Refugee Camp and how she was able to transfer to the Bataan Transfer Center.
00:08:12 She details her most unforgettable experience at the Bataan Transfer Center and
how she witnessed a close friend die.

00:11:12 She speaks about her first moments arriving at the San Francisco airport in California and how she was reunited with her brother.

00:12:56 She mentions her experience in taking additional ESL classes to increase her future prospects and employment opportunities.

00:15:30 She discusses the different cities she moved to once arriving to the U.S. She eventually follows her older sister down to Los Angeles, California to live there.

00:16:47 She entails how she was able to find a job through the ESL class she was enrolled in. She was also attending Los Angeles Trade Tech college at the same time.

00:18:42 She talks about her dreams and hopes for living in America and how she was not able to achieve them.

00:19:27 She mentions that her dream was to become a teacher in America,

00:20:57 When she first immigrated her, she truly missed Vietnam. However, now she has acculturated into society and her longingness for Vietnam is not as apparent anymore.

00:22:40 She talks about how she never imagined that she would the opportunity to raise a family.

00:25:50 She leaves final words of advice to the future of the Vietnamese community. She shares her words of wisdom about being open minded with our children because they did not grow up in the same conditions as older Vietnamese immigrants did.