Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: DZUNG T. BACH

Interviewer: Jennifer Hong

Date: February 24, 2012

Location: Westminster, CA

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012

Length of Interview: 01:03:55

**Time Log**

00:00:45 He introduces himself, and gives us background information.

00:01:30 Moving from North Vietnam to South Vietnam in 1954, and his first flight as a 3 year old.

00:02:15 Talks about how he celebrates Tet with his family

00:03:14 Talks about the jobs he’s had, including his current job as a Vietnamese teacher.

00:03:50 His experiences learning French in school, and the languages he speak

00:04:45 Moving to the South due to the Geneva Treaty

00:06:27 How he met his wife as a boat person in terrible living conditions

00:10:15 Telling the story of how his daughter first found out about the “boat people”

00:13:00 About how the war took away his childhood away and how it affected his life
Telling an experience in the reeducation camp, a story about how his friend died from stepping on a mine, and how he had to recover their remains.

His spinal and back injuries due to excessive digging in the reeducation camps.

His location at the fall of Saigon.

His telling of another horrific story about his experience as a prisoner of war.

His feelings of his country, and no regrets about leaving his country, and making peace with the fact that he has no attachments to Vietnam.

His low opinion of US policy due to their abandonment, but found that the communists treated him even worse.

Life after the war, and the treatment he received as an ex-soldier of the South Vietnam army.

How he left Vietnam through the Orderly Departure Program.

His experiences first accepting that he had to let go of his background and that he had to mainstream with American culture to live.

How he went to Santa Ana College and got his first jobs.

Adjusting to his new life and the challenges he faced.

How he got his first teaching occupation.

Encountering racism.

Learning English in America and how knowing French helped him.
Differences between life in Vietnam and America

His opinions of his family members that stayed in the North when his family left

Songs or images that remind him of the old Vietnam, one that doesn’t exist anymore

The Vietnamese traditions that he is trying to pass onto his children and students

Traditions that he has given up trying to pass onto his children

Keeping in touch with his brothers and sisters in Paris

His opinion of what will happen to the Vietnamese culture in the future

What he hopes his children will pass onto their children

His opinions on Little Saigon, and his role in the community

What he hopes future generations will remember about the past

What his life would be like if there was no war in Vietnam

Final thoughts