Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: DUC TRI PHAM
Interviewer: Michelle Le Pham
Date: February 25, 2012
Location: Stanton, CA
Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012
Length of Interview: 01:46:42

**TIME LOG**

**Track 01**

00:14 Duc Tri Pham states his name, date of birth, place of birth

00:30 He states his parents’ name and sister’s name and date of birth

01:05 Gives the address of his childhood home, and states that currently it is under a different name

01:25 States the name of schools he went to before and after 1975

02:05 Describes what his childhood neighborhood looked like

02:30 Describes his family tailoring business, how his father ran the shop and the employees

03:06 Describes the games he would play with his friends in front of the house

03:38 States that he is a Roman Catholic and his schooling at Catholic school

04:58 Describes where he was on April 30, 1975 and what it felt like living through the fall

08:30 Talks about the first time he tried to escape Vietnam via boat at the age of 14, claims that he tried so many times in so many places to remember

09:20 States that he has been to jail twice because he tried to escape and the various methods he tried to use
11:24 He describes the week leading up to his successful escape from Vietnam and his job at the time

12:30 Talks about some of the superstitions he experienced involved in trying to escape. This occurred a year before his final escape.

15:20 States that the primary reason that he was unsuccessful in escaping was that he and his family were scammed.

17:36 Restroom break

Track 02

00:23 Talks about why his entire family didn’t try to escape at the same time

03:26 States why his father decided to stay behind

03:38 His parents emigrated from North Vietnam to South Vietnam for fear of Communists

04:30 States that he wishes his sister made it to the United States

04:55 Describes his refugee boat, the conditions of the escape, and his rescue

09:40 States that the thing he and many people were most afraid of was being scammed. He goes on to describe the various ways people were usually scammed.

10:30 States how much money his family lost from 1975 to 1982

11:10 Describes how the US Navy came upon his refugee boat to save him and what happened on the ship

13:40 Describes the living conditions of refugee camp in Thailand and Philippines

16:57 States that he was sponsored by a group called IRC and how he felt

17:30 Restroom/Cigarette Break

Track 03

00:15 Talks about the IRC sponsoring him to the Georgia

01:52 Talks about how the representative took him to apply for Social security, job, and welfare
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02:39</td>
<td>Describe how the representative scammed him and abused other refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>05:18</td>
<td>Talks about why he decided to move to California and how he took the bus across the country</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:35</td>
<td>Describes starting vocational school, learning English, and finding a job</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>Describes his first car and how he paid for it and his first home</td>
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<td>12:35</td>
<td>Gives an anecdote about how he scrimped and save money for himself and to send back to Vietnam to support his family</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:01</td>
<td>Talks about when he met his wife and why they got married and bought their first home</td>
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<td>14:50</td>
<td>States that he likes living in the United States better and would like to return to Vietnam</td>
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<td>15:15</td>
<td>Restroom Break</td>
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**Track 04**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:11</td>
<td>States that why he would go back to Vietnam now but not necessary live there. He also states that he feels like he has no identity as a Vietnamese or American</td>
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<tr>
<td>03:50</td>
<td>Describes how those living in Vietnam differ in ideals compared to his</td>
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<td>07:30</td>
<td>Gives his opinion on those in his community who refused to go back to Vietnam due to communism</td>
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<td>09:58</td>
<td>Talks about why his anger is not as strong as other Vietnamese Americans and states that he understands their anger</td>
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<td>13:05</td>
<td>Anecdote how he encounter racism still in the United States as a Vietnamese American</td>
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<td>14:19</td>
<td>States that he is not sure what category he falls into Vietnamese or American</td>
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<td>15:23</td>
<td>Describes how he keeps in touch with his sister and how many times he’s been back to Vietnam</td>
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<td>16:02</td>
<td>Talks about his experience coming back to Vietnam the first time since his escape</td>
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<td>18:50</td>
<td>He goes to Little Saigon almost every day to purchase food</td>
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19:30 Describes what Little Saigon looked like before the large developments of Vietnamese specialty shops

21:10 Believes that the Vietnamese American community has changed since 1975 and will continue to change

22:40 Restroom Break

Track 05
00:15 Talks about his relationship with his parents and differences with Vietnamese parenting
03:10 Talks about his relationship with his sister before 1975
04:08 Describe his first girlfriend and their relationship
05:13 States that he doesn’t want to change his name
05:44 Discusses his mother’s earlier life before marriage as a house servant
06:50 Discusses his father’s brief biography
07:16 Fond memories of his mother through food
08:08 Discusses his views on American/Vietnamese politics as a Vietnamese American
09:00 Discusses donated ephemera: Birth Certificate
09:43 Went to find glasses

Track 06
00:00 Describes his birth certificate
04:36 Describes a family photo
04:53 Describes a document worker’s identification at a diesel company
06:25 Describes a document that was his payment stub, instead of money he was paid in rice
09:45 Talks about government regulation of food
States that during that time, his family was fortunate to have enough money.

Describes a photograph taken after he was saved by an American Naval ship.

Document proving his identification in Thailand.

Describes a photograph of him in the Philippine refugee camp.

Talks about learning American lifestyle.

Track 07

Closing statement describing 4 periods of his life

Period 1: Living during the war

Period 2: Living in the aftermath of the war in Vietnam

Period 3: Immigrating to the United States

Period 4: Returning to Vietnam for the first time and Vietnam now