Vietnamese American Oral History, Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: LOAN PHAM THAI

Interviewer: Christina Tran

Date: May 11, 2012

Location: Huntington Beach, California

Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2012

Length of Interview: 01:49:44

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted in my bedroom, which is in the home of Loan Pham Thai. We were the only people in the room when the interview was lead. She signed all the consent and release forms prior to beginning the interview, and I was able to take a few photos of her before we started.

Mrs. Thai did have a few guests over during the interview, but she insisted that we should proceed since they weren’t anyone really important. I sat on my bed and prepared the recorder, as she sat on my computer desk, comfortably. When I had everything set up, I asked if she was ready and she nodded.

During the interview, Mrs. Thai actually had some family guests over in the living room, but she had insisted that we do the interview and confirmed that it would not be a distraction. The first half of the interview, I sensed that Mrs. Thai was a bit worried about the guests out in the living room, and we did have to stop the interview a few times so she can tend to them for a little bit. But as soon as they left, she seemed to be a lot more comfortable. She started to laugh at a few of her stories and she seemed to enjoy the whole interview itself.

I did experience a few difficulties during the interview. Mrs. Thai didn’t understand a few of my questions, which caused her to go into a long, elaborate, detailed talk about her journey here to the United States. Although, her story didn’t pertain to my question, it allowed me to have a quick insight on how much of a struggle it was to be a refugee. I also noticed that she used both Vietnamese and Chinese words while she was talking.
At the end of the interview, Mrs. Thai thanked me and told me how fortunate it was to have the opportunity to come to America and share it with her children. She expressed to me that she was very happy to be where she was at.