Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: HIEN TRONG NGUYEN
Interviewer: Viviana Hong Le
Date: March 1st, 2012
Location: Garden Grove, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012
Length of Interview: 01:22:03

Time Log
At 0:02: The interviewer gives a description about time, date and location of the interview.
At 0:12: The narrator states his name, birthday, and birthplace.
At 0:41: He gives information as names and jobs of his father and his mother.
At 1:00: He states that his father was the first one to design the first Vietnamese “ao dai.” and some history about his father
At 2:40: He says after the French War, and Ho Chi Minh as a communist arises.
At 3:41: He states that after that his father has been taken away from the family and never been seen by anyone else again.
At 3:58: He says that when he lived at Ha Noi, Viet Nam, he was in 2nd grade. However for American education is 4th grader.
At 4:25: He moves to Saigon, to learn about archetype, but later on, he volunteers to go to the South Vietnam air force.
At 5:07: He states all the jobs of his family members during the Vietnam War.
At 5:55: He states that his mother worked really hard to take care of her children without her husband during the war.
At 6:30: He says that later when he grew up, he usually takes his mother to visit some relative in America, to gain ore connection and more memories.
At 8:00: He says that he actually has 2 wives, one is a flight attend of Vietnam Airlines and has died during the war. And he met the second one, after few years. (interrupt with the cell phone noise ;)
At 9:52: He talks about his daughter as a pharmacy tech and his son as a lawyer in America.
At 10:29: He says that his family live together until his daughter got married.
At 10:40: He talks about his family gathering such as birthday for each family members, or holiday events.

At 12:12: He talks about Christmas, New Year, and other holiday, and the different between holiday of Vietnam and America.

At 13:12: He says about the different religion practices in his families.

At 14:12: He talks about that he has been volunteer in some community event or clubs when he moved to America.

At 16:18: He says that after his retired, he began to collect more information about his father works, and everything about his ancestor. And he collects it and begins to publish it some times later on.

At 17:35: He says that his father left when he was small, and he did not remember anything about him. But he heard his father names by others.

At 19:05: He talks about the Vietnam War that Americans has tried hard to help the South.

At 20:53: He says that his family has 5 kids, and his brothers have been joined the South military in different areas.

At 21:53: His job is a military air force during war, and he also known as an officer training other students. And he works with the American soldiers everyday.

At 24:46: He talks about how his friends died or has lived in Camp Pendleton.

At 26:35: He works hard as a full time job and full time students, with a high GPA in college within 3 years.

At 27:49: He states that his friends and him did not want to come to America, but American treat them really nice, and give them a freedom of religion. He says that the people and the government treat refugee different.

At 28:58: He says that if he did not move to America, he will follow his father path. He may have chance to come back to Vietnam anytime if he move to America.

At 29:46: He says that he moves to America with his company, Flying Tiger, and he flew to America.

At 31:31: He states that all of his relatives tried to find a way to come to America.

At 32:25: He says that he saw pirates from Thailand when he immigrated to the US.

At 33:19: He says that when he came here to the United States, there were none of the immigrant camp or anything related to immigration.

At 33:45: He states the city that he first lived in is Los Angeles.
At 36:24: He explains how the Vietnamese community in Westminster, CA based on the weather has attracted all the people around the States.

At 38:10: He went back to Vietnam for 4 times with different point of view.

At 43:37: He argues about that winning or losing is not a big deal, and the destiny is more important.

At 54:50: His family and him went back to Vietnam to visit other relatives, and have some connections to his ancestors.

At 1:11:42: He says about the welfare and food stamp, and about earning the money by himself.