Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: JONATHAN NGUYEN
Interviewer: Janelle Aika Uchiumi
Date: April 26, 2012
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2012
Length of Interview: 01:15:39

Time Log

00:01:00  Mr. Jonathan Nguyen states his place of birth.
00:02:30  He talks about his parents and his mother’s occupation.
00:03:23  He explains his hometown, Cholon.
00:04:27  He talks about moving to Binh Trieu in 1972.
00:04:50  He talks about his childhood memories of growing up in a good family.
00:05:37  He speaks of his hometown environment being a business district.
00:06:00  He discusses about his prestigious school, La San Lossar.
00:09:34  He talks about his level of education at the military boarding school.
00:09:57  He explains the teachers’ position at the boarding school.
00:10:39  He talks about his family and the memories of his parents.
00:13:33  He talks about how he used to know how to speak French.
00:14:35  He says how he wants his kids to keep learning the Vietnamese language.
00:15:00  He talks about his mother being a businesswoman and what she did.
00:15:35  He talks about his parents’ education accomplishments.
00:16:12  He explains the family gatherings that they have in America.
00:17:32  He jokes about having a spouse and then explains how he met his wife.
00:17:57  He talks about his children.
00:18:16  He says how he talks to his children about history.
00:18:57  He goes back to talking about how he met his wife.
00:20:08  He has trouble understanding a question.
00:20:40  He discusses his relationship with his children.
00:21:20  He talks about how his family is Americanized.
00:22:34  He talks about being Catholic.
00:23:51  He explains how his family embraces all the different types of cultures and foods.
00:25:00  He talks about his hobby of taking pictures and recording family videos.
00:26:14  He discusses the impact of the war.
00:27:11  He talks about how he was too young to have an occupation during the war.
00:27:30  He talks about the hardships during the time of war.
00:29:09  He mentions the relatives who went into re-education camps.
00:29:50  He talks about how his family was mentally destroyed by the war.
00:30:46  He recalls what happened on the day of the invasion.
00:32:50  He talks about the impact on the families.
00:34:35  He believes there is no such thing as rebuilding life.
00:35:12  He talks about the hardships of leaving his home.
00:36:59  He states his opinion of the American policy during the war.
00:38:19  He talks about the stories of being a boat person.
00:42:26  He mentioned what possessions he was able to take on the boat.
00:43:15  He is thankful for being alive today.
00:45:43  He talks about being the first frontier.
00:47:20  He talks about being in a refugee camp for six months.
00:48:45  He explains what his first impression of America.
00:49:11  He talks about his first settlement.
00:51:16  His sister holds a Masters degree from the UC system.
00:52:13  He his thankful for his parents’ decision of telling him to escape.
00:52:52  He talks about the challenges upon arrival in America.
00:54:55 He discusses the first part-time jobs he had.

00:56:48 He speaks of the similarities and differences between his old and new community.

00:58:03 He talks about experiencing racism.

00:59:49 He talks about his identity.

01:00:00 He talks about culture shock.

**Track #2**

00:00:00 He discusses his reason for becoming an American citizen.

00:02:03 He joyfully talks about his connection with his family residing in Orange County.

00:02:25 He talks about his first visit back to Vietnam ever since the war.

00:03:50 He explains the values he would like his family to keep.

00:05:00 He speaks about the values he would like to keep from both Vietnamese and American culture.

00:07:28 He discusses his opinion on how the Vietnamese community has changed.

00:08:45 He talks about visiting Little Saigon.

00:10:41 He talks about his opinion on what he thinks on preserving the history.

00:11:49 He speaks out on behalf of the whole Vietnamese community regarding the history.

00:13:33 This is the end of the interview.