Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: HUY BUI
Interviewer: Khang Nguyen
Date: November 13, 2012
Location: Midway City, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 01:10:25

FIELD NOTES:

The interview was conducted in Huy Bui’s home in Midway City, California. Present at the interview was myself, Khang Nguyen along with the narrator, Huy Bui. We followed protocol provided by Professor Vo-Dang and signed all consent and release forms prior to the start of the interview.

Huy Bui came into the interview very relaxed and calm, wearing gym shorts and a tank top. He had worked out with me prior to the interview. When the interview started, he sped through most of the easy questions, such as name, birthplace and family. Huy Bui’s interview could have gone longer because he requested I did not go into questioning too much about family due to deaths in the family because of the Vietnam War. We were very brief about the war and at times when he answered some questions of the Vietnam War, he covered his mouth and his eyes started to water. I pulled back on tough questions like those after noticing his body language and tried to mellow the interview out. The problem with asking Huy Bui these questions on the Vietnam War was because there was family on both sides of the war and they fought against each other in the war. Aside from the Vietnam War questions that I asked which put a noticeable emotional toll on Huy Bui, he was very, very adamant about communist Vietnamese policy. He voiced his opinion and expressed his compassion to free Vietnam of communist reign. He understood all of my questions I asked and answered fluently.

Huy Bui answered questions regarding communists after 1975 with great emotion towards his family who were affected by the war. He explained why these political ways would never work and has ruined a country he lived in. When asked about his social background in school and in life in general, he was very vibrant and enthusiastic about his troublemaker ways and how he has learned and grown up through the years. He wasn’t reserved with any of the questions. He was however, hard to remember memories about his past. He took a while to remember memories when asked and thoughts would pop up in the middle of answering another question. When I was asking questions, he would know what I would ask and would interject in the middle of me asking the question, which was okay. He was very involved in this interview, very adamant about this interview. He gave the interview his best effort. When asked to remember memories that made him happy, he easily brought them up with ease. But when he was asked if there were memories that he would like to share to the audience about his life’s history, he said he had difficulty remembering the memories because it was too long ago in his memory to remember.