Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: PAUL CHI HOANG
Interviewer Daisy Herrera Duran
Date: December 1, 2012
Location: Santa Ana, California
Sub collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Fall 2012
Length of Interview: 01:19:04

00:00:59 Paul Chi Hoang describes the village in Vietnam that he was from.

00:01:41 Childhood memories that consisted of neighbor fights and inventing toy and games.

00:02:22 He describes some cultural traditions he celebrated as a child.

00:03:06 Talks about some of the occupations that were held within his village.

00:03:20 He talks about the occupations his parents help when he lived in Vietnam.

00:03:47 He mentions his neighbors back in Vietnam.

00:03:59 He discusses the educational opportunities lead many to work in the farms.

00:05:01 Goes into detail about his schooling in Vietnam.

00:05:35 He mentions the impact that his catholic education made in his life.

00:05:59 Childhood memories about his family begin to emerge, particularly his grandparents.

00:07:32 Describes the migration of his grandparents to South Vietnam and their occupations at that time.

00:08:42 He mentions how he learned to speak Vietnamese and how maintain his language.

00:09:12 Starts to reminisce about a memorable story of him getting lost in his grandparents farm.

00:10:19 Mentions what his father did before and after the war as well as the role he took once they migrated to the U.S.
Talks about the effects that the war took upon his family, causing a separation in the family.

Discusses the connection he keeps with his mothers side of the family.

Explains that his father helped many to escape Vietnam after the war.

Mentions the countless attempts his family took to escape Vietnam.

Goes over the final attempt that leads his family and himself to escape Vietnam.

Talks about the traumatic encounter with Thai pirates.

Mentions why none of the cargo ship passing by did not rescue them.

Describes his excitement once he arrives at the Island of Kuku, which lead him to the refugee camps.

He talks about some of the stories he heard in the refugee camps.

He does not remember learning anything in the refugee camp but play all day long.

He begins to describe his experience as he traveled through various refugee camps.

He described his shock in seeing someone that is not Vietnamese speak Vietnamese.

Finally sponsored by his uncle and brought to Los Angeles.

Talks about his focus for educations allowed him to re-establish his life in a new country. Furthermore, he describes college experience and his accomplishments.

He describes the various cities he moved to.

Mentions the reasons why his father resides in Orange County.

Talks about the activism his father plays in the community today.

 Begins to speak about some memorable childhood memories once he arrived in Los Angeles.
Talks about the history and meaning behind his Vietnamese name.

Talks about the racist incidents he confronted in school, which led to various fights.

He mentions the reasons why he made various friends through academic and athletic groups in school.

The lack of Vietnamese students was transparent in middle school and high school, which led him to distance himself from Vietnamese students.

First time being discriminated by a Vietnamese community in college.

Talks about learning more about his culture and roots in college due to the lack of exposure in his K-12 education.

Discusses the various cultural events he participated.

He becomes involved with martial arts.

Mentions the martial art style that his family has but had not passed down.

He addresses his accomplishments in college.

Mentions the most memorable memory from college.

Discusses more about the languages he speaks and how he learned them.

Mentions some of the projects and lessons he learned through his college education.

Blown away as to how safe when he traveled to Japan and the lifestyle many homeless people lived under.

Mentions how he decided to do in graduate school.

Goes into depth as to what he does today.

Explains his interaction and work experience with the police department.
00:09:40  Mention the large distrusts between the Vietnamese community and the law enforcement, which leads to negative impacts in the community.

00:10:51  Talks about his own PTS and how he has coped with it.

00:11:45  Mentions the reaction that the community gives him for working with the police department.

00:12:12  Discusses some of the things he would like to see from the police department.

00:13:01  Describes the gap between the new and old generation.

00:13:51  He describes what he envisions the younger generation to do.

00:14:31  Describes some of the problems that the Vietnamese community is facing now.

00:15:20  He closes the interview by addressing what he wants to continue to do for the Vietnamese community.