Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: NHU THI TONG
Interviewer: Shaomay De Vong
Date: March 9, 2013
Location: Garden Grove, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2013
Length of Interview: 01:11:36

Time Log

00:00:34  Nhu Thi Tong describes her hometown.
00:01:14  She describes her parents.
00:02:05  She talks about working in Nha Trang and her hometown in Hue.
00:03:05  She talks about what she studied in college and her path to America.
00:03:49  Nhu begins to talk about her childhood memories, about her chores.
00:05:11  She talks about digging underground to be safe from the bombs and her experience with the Communists and how the Communists affected her life and country.
00:11:56  She talks about how people could not eat much rice in Viet Nam.
00:13:43  She talks about her escape from Viet Nam and almost dying.
00:15:27  She describes the refugee camps in the Philippines.
00:22:05  She describes landing in America and going to college again.
00:24:05  She describes Vietnamese New Year in Viet Nam.
00:26:56  She talks about the difference of funerals in Viet Nam and in America.
00:30:26  She talks about her family name, Tong.
00:31:51  She talks about her family’s jobs.
00:34:32  Nhu is proud that she is the second oldest and can help out her mom’s shop.
00:36:19  She talks about how she met her spouse.
She describes her children.

She talks about her family’s altar and celebrating death anniversaries.

She talks about her family’s religion, Buddhism.

Nhu describes bringing only her degrees with her when she escaped Viet Nam.

Nhu talks about her brother being in the reeducation camp.

She talks about her city, Hue, being attacked on the first night of Tet in 1968.

Nhu’s first impression of America. She enjoys the freedom in America.

Nhu considers herself as Vietnamese and not Vietnamese American.

She describes the challenges that she faced in America.

Nhu says she can take care of herself when she’s older.

Nhu expresses her views of the racism in the United States.

Nhu expresses what she feels about Vietnamese culture in the United States.

Nhu expresses her views on Little Saigon in Orange County.

Nhu doesn’t like American food, but she understands the different cultures.

Nhu says what she hopes for her children.