Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: ANNIE THUY TRAN
Interviewer: Suzanne Thu Nguyen
Date: February 2, 2013
Location: Tustin, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2013
Length of Interview: 01:07:05

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted at my house in Tustin, California. Present during the interview were the Narrator, my aunt, Annie Thuy Tran, and the interviewer Suzanne Thu Nguyen. We had to meet twice. Before the interview started, we signed all the consent and release forms. I tested the recording equipment while she was visiting her father, who lives with my family. There were technical difficulties that arose but she was very gracious and allowed me to reschedule another time to do an interview. After that, we went over some of the questions that I would ask her during the interview. Judging the questions that were chosen, it seemed like Annie did not want to be asked too many questions about her current personal life or go into too much detail with her children. However, many past memories were brought back to the forefront of her mind and she was more than willing to share. All her favorite memories were jot down so that it could be recalled during the interview.

After receiving a second recorder, I tested its recording abilities and practiced starting my interview. Talking into a recorder was something that was way out of my element. My voice sounded shaky and I was nervous. Practicing over and over again helped me build my confidence and prepared me better for the interview.

Annie Thuy Tran came back on February 2nd in the afternoon to do the interview. She was dressed in a nice orange blouse and blue jeans. She seemed very relax when she first entered my house and was ready to do the interview. The interview was conducted upstairs in my room at my desk. This was the best place to do an interview due to extraneous noise coming from other family members in the house as well as the T.V. and microwave. All the equipment was set up and ready to go. Once the interview began, I could feel some tension arise in Ms. Tran. I asked a few opening questions and she answered very briefly and did not elaborate on the details, even the stories that were told at the previous meeting were very brief in detail. I stopped the recording and rerecorded just to get some practice in. We went over a couple of the questions
again, practicing with the recorder on. After a few trials, Annie seemed less nervous and more open to elaborate on details.

The interview went very well for the most part. There were a couple spots where Annie had a hard time finding words to express her feelings. At times she had a heavy accent and stammered through a couple questions. However, she was very comfortable by the middle of the interview and told stories that even she would end up laughing at; one memory lead to another. She was very succinct with her answers so the interview ended a little after an hour. A couple photos were taken and collected after the interview.