Vietnamese Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: CATHY LAM
Interviewer: Lotusa Chan
Date: February 19, 2013
Location: Irvine, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2013
Length of Interview: 0:54:49

FIELD NOTES

The interview took place on February 19th, 2013 in Vista Del Campo, Norte. Present during the interview was narrator, Cathy Lam and interviewer, Lotusa Chan. We met up at VDC Norte in the evening. After realizing that Cathy did not have dinner because she decided to rush over for the interview, we decided grab a quick dinner at Veggie Grill in university town center before starting the actual interview. I really wanted to treat Cathy to dinner because not only was she a woman of her word but she came all the way to Irvine just for me and the interview. However, she convinced the cashier that I was a college student and he apologized to me. This was our first humorous event. I feel that Cathy and I clicked really well and her great sense of humor made this interview a lot easier.

Cathy drove to Irvine in an environmentally friendly car. She was dressed in khaki pants, sneakers, a blue button up, and a dark navy blue sweater on top. She also wore jewelry which she made herself. We had the opportunity to talk a bit at Veggie Grill and it gave us both the opportunity to learn a little about one another. We also had the chance to talk more during the ride back to VDC Norte. It was a warm day but it was sprinkling a bit. It actually started raining hard upon completion of the interview.

Cathy was very easy going and easy to talk to. She made me feel really comfortable. I allowed her to choose which questions she would like to answer so that she would feel more at ease. We had the interview in one of the downstairs common rooms in VDC Norte. We both took a couch near each other and were the only ones there. It was a very comfortable and quiet place for an interview. There was, however, the occasional echo doors opening or closing whenever someone entered or left the building.

Cathy answered every question with heart and passion. She had a smile on her face throughout the entirety of the interview. Even though there were times in the interview where things were a bit difficult for her to speak about, she still managed to keep a smile on.

After finishing the interview, we realized that Cathy had one last important thing to say so we continued the interview. After this, we gave one another a hug and thanked each other. By then, it was raining pretty hard so Cathy ran to her car and I ran in my apartment. By far, she is one of the sweetest women I have ever met and I feel honored to have had the opportunity to interview her.