Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: UY VU
Interviewer: Hiromi Sugimoto
Date: March 15, 2013
Location: Garden Grove, California
Sub-collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, 2013
Length of Interview: 01:41:02

Time Log

Track 1 [01:02:07]

00:00:12 Uy Vu describes his mother and his step-father.
00:02:38 He describes Saigon and Fullerton where he grew up.
00:06:20 He talks about his school life.
00:08:23 He talks about the music influences him and his experience in choir and studying music in college.
00:11:26 He talks about the differences between the neighborhoods in Saigon and in Fullerton.
00:14:12 He describes different jobs he had from high school.
00:19:04 He talks about his school life.
00:20:00 He talks about being with his relatives after coming to the U.S.
00:21:39 He explains about his family name, but he doesn’t know much
about family history.

00:23:22 He discusses that he mostly speaks English and sometimes Vietnamese.

00:24:16 He tells some stories he remembered hearing from his relatives and most of the stories are during war time.

00:28:38 He talks about his mother’s job and his father’s.

00:30:26 He talks about his uncles and aunts’ education and how his mother became a nun.

00:33:20 He talks about his grandparents, his parents and his uncles and aunts’ marriage.

00:34:35 He talks about his relatives gather a lot in the U.S. celebrating different events and festivals.

00:39:53 He discusses that his family and he are pretty much Americanized and they don’t have many special family traditions any more.

However, he mentions that speaking Vietnamese and learning Vietnamese moral keeps him feel Vietnamese.
He talks about he doesn’t keep an altar for ancestors but with his family, he does some commemorate customs for their ancestors.

He talks about he made Catholic his belief when he was in college and he has been working for the church choir for 14 years.

He talks about the traditional food. His mother doesn’t cook much, but they have a lot of traditional food on festivals.

He explains that his grandparents and his mother came to the U.S. with empty hands so they don’t have much mementos. He also talks about that Vietnamese don’t keep many traditions, different from Chinese or Japanese.

He explains that Vietnamese war made his relatives come to the U.S.

Track 2 [00:07:49]

Uy Vu talks about how his relatives were involved in the war.

He describes the living in Vietnam.

He discusses the refugees and immigrants in U.S.

Track 3 [00:18:09]
Uy Vu talks about how he left Vietnam and came to U.S. with his mother. On the way they stayed at a camp in Indonesia for 3 days.

He talks about his step-father staying at refugee camp.

He talks that his first impression of the U.S. was nice and he enjoyed it.

He talks about they first settle in Fullerton and then moved to Anaheim.

He says that he loved to come to the U.S. because the life was better here.

He explains that his challenges in the U.S. were the language and being a musician. He talks about his music business and his previous working experience.

He talks about some situations he faced racism in the school and in church. He also explains his identity as a Vietnamese American.

He discusses that he didn’t experience much culture shock because he was still young.
00:15:58 He talks about he became a citizen by naturalization and the test was easy for him.

00:17:29 He discusses that he sometimes votes in the U.S. elections, but sometimes not.

**Track 4 [00:12:57]**

00:00:05 He talks about that he meets his relatives who are in the U.S. often but not those in Vietnam.

00:02:09 He talks about his connection to Vietnam culture through the language and the music.

00:04:40 He talks that Vietnamese community has changed in these 30 years.

Also he is involved with the community through his music school.

00:08:09 He talks about the little Saigon and he supported the Mayor of Westminster.

00:11:49 He discusses that the most important thing that Vietnamese Americans should remember is the language.