

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Kim Nguyen

COLLECTION: 4700.0971

IDENTIFICATION: Vietnamese living in America

INTERVIEWER: Dudley Meier, Jr.

SERIES: Americans in Vietnam

INTERVIEW DATE: 11/27/75

FOCUS DATES: Unknown

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1420, Side A

Born in Vietnam, from wealthy family; attended French school in Vietnam, then Sorbonne; she has one child; Vietnamese people in Shreveport; hard to find jobs in America; hard working nature of Vietnamese in America; remembers when Vietnam split into North and South; early schooling; everyone had to be a soldier in Vietnam, no end to military service; school curriculum, French and German; parents' views on languages; taught language at Defense Language Institute, Fort Bliss, El Paso; Blue Dragon restaurant in El Paso; move to Shreveport; worked on General Westmoreland's staff in Vietnam; friend who teaches language at Fort Bragg; Vietnamese shocked by fall of their government; bad leadership; Vietnamese get-togethers in Shreveport; Vietnamese violinist they know; America is a rich country; have to work hard in US; differences in American and Vietnamese customs; adjusting to American life, food; father was businessman, first man in Saigon to have a car; father started import/export business out of his garage; can't remember French in Vietnam; people in North moving South, and vice versa, after division of country; arrival of Americans in Vietnam, language differences; Vietnamese teachers at language school in El Paso; brother is professor of French; people moving around Vietnam, to America; fear of Communists; problems getting access to her money; have to pay cash, no credit in Vietnam; didn't learn to do housework when younger because family was so wealthy; embarrassed in US because she had to learn to cook, drive car; Americans are very independent; Americans know how to make money; in Vietnam, people love children, sometimes spoil them; opinions on Diem, Nhu, Madame Nhu; Vietnamese people know history of their country very well; most people in Vietnam work in offices or do agricultural work; Kim became a Baptist in 1969, when she moved to Shreveport; was raised Buddhist; views on religion; visiting Buddhist temples in Vietnam; holidays in Vietnam; Vietnamese children learning to speak English;

Tape 1420, Side B

American holidays; wants to return to Vietnam eventually; Vietnamese refugees finding jobs in US; Vietnamese people who wanted to return to Vietnam; importance of education and hard work; her family, children; transportation in Vietnam; relations with American sponsors; borrowed money; gender roles in Vietnam; children's positions in family; wedding attire, diamonds; influences Americans had on Vietnam.

TAPES: 1 (T1420)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 22 minutes

PAGES INDEX: 2 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None