

## True Chang

*True Chang is sixty-five years old. She used to live in Presaw in Laos. When she first came she went to Minnesota.*



*Was there anyone in your family that was in the war?*

Yes.

*Who?*

My husband his name is Neng Thao

*How many people are in your family?*

My family? Two other brothers.

*Where were you born?*

I was born in Pea Saw.

*When you were younger, did you ever get a chance to go to school?*

Back then, people were still kind of dumb, so there was no schooling.

*What did you do to make a living back in Laos?*

When we lived in Laos, all we did was farm.

*Did you raise any animals?*

Yes. We raised pigs and chickens and everything.

*Did you ever have to run from the Laotians when you were trying to get over to Thailand?*

Yes. We ran from them all over the place.

*When you were trying to get over to Thailand, how old do you think you were?*

At that time, my sons already had wives.

*When you were on the run, what was the hardest thing for you?*

The hardest thing would have to be when my husband was killed by the Vietnamese. That must be the hardest part.

*When you were running, what kind of food did you eat?*

Us? We ran to the mountains and ate leaves and really just whatever that was around to eat.

*How about when you got sick while you were still on a trail or something?*

When we got sick, we couldn't exactly do anything about it, because there was nothing to do, but hope and pray that you would get better. We ate fruits.

*When you were back in Laos, what were the expectations of women and men? Whose life was harder in your opinion?*

I guess they were both kind of hard.

*Do you remember when the French and Japanese invaded Laos?*

I don't remember because that was when I was a lot younger.

*When you crossed the Mekong River to get into Thailand, how did you go about doing it?*

They brought boats over to us then we got in it and they took us over.

*When you were still running, did you do it in the morning or at night?*

In the morning.

*Why did you run in the morning?*

Because when we got to Thailand, it was morning.

*When you got to Thailand, were the Thais nice or were they mean to you?*

Some were nice and some were mean.

*What did you do to get food in Thailand?*

The Thais just gave everyone something to eat.

*Let's go back to when you were still trying to get over to Thailand. Were there any children with you?*

There was my son and his three kids. One girl and two boys.

*Were the kids younger or were they old enough to know what was going on?*

They were still very young. You still had to carry them and carry them on your back.

*Do you know about how long you went each day?*

It took us four or five days to get to Vientiane.

*When you were still in Laos, how many times did you have to move?*

Laos?

*When you were young.*

Only two times. Once from Pea Saw then to (MUMBLING) then I got married.

*When you got to the United States, what was the hardest thing for you?*

The United States? The hardest was that you didn't know their language and their laws. That was the hardest.

*Do you still have relatives back in Laos?*

No. Just three sons.

*When you were still back in Laos what did you do to get enough money to buy things?*

We just sewed and sold it for money.

*Did they let you have a garden when you were still back in Thailand?*

Yes they did let you.

*How long were you in Thailand before you could come to the United States?*

Five years.

*How did you get here? Did you have a sponsor?*

We had my daughter.

*Okay, thanks.*