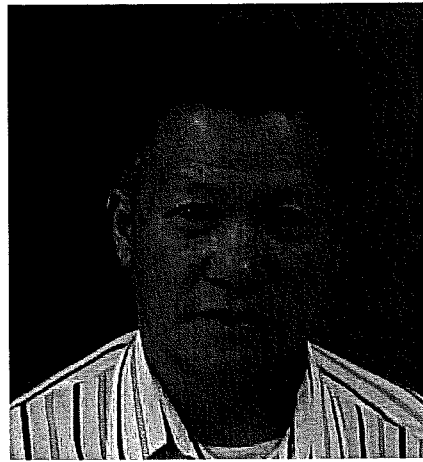


Nhia Houa Vue

Nhia Houa Vue joined the army in 1960. He fought the enemy in the area of the Plain of Jars. He escaped to Thailand in 1975 and came to the United States in 1979.



I lived in Laos. In the year 1953, I went to school in a city called Phu Fa at the age of 13. It was for young boys. I went to another school and stayed there for two years. This school was for teens. I went to many other schools in many other countries. You had the choice to continue or stop. I chose to stop. In 1960, I had to join the army. During 1961, they told us to go to Ban Na because all the Thai were there. There was four of us: Toua Vang, Lue Her, Long Xiong and me. We went there for training, and we stayed there for three months. We learned how to shoot big and small guns. After the three months of training, General Vang Pao came to get us in Ban Na. Vang Pao said that all four of us were in the higher class. He gave us some money. The next day at 6:00 am, he sent us to Pha Khao, and we stayed there for three days. They went to flatten out a little mountain. General Vang Pao came with guns that varied in all sizes. At that mountain, they made seven forts. We were assigned two to each. Then the Americans came, and some people left. I stayed back. There was an airport made for years, and planes come and went before I left. Vang Pao never saw any of the forts that we made. He told Vang Pao, but there was no use. None of the four of us got into a higher spot. I begged Vang Pao for money and he five grand. Every month was eight hundred. All of my cousins, bothers, and relatives died. Then I came back to live in Pa Ka, and my uncle said, "You have to go to Pang Dong and be in the army. All the others are in. Why aren't you?" I went because we respected the elders, and I had no choice. I went to stay over at Pa Dong for a while, and then went to Pa Ly. We stayed over there and blocked that area. We stayed over there until they started to attack us very heavily. Then we came back and started farming for two years. Then in 1975, we couldn't stay there any longer because all of our land was destroyed. General Vang Pao was not there at the time. In 1975, on May 14th, we ran from Laos to Thailand. We stayed at Nong Kai, Thailand for a long time. We suffered while living there because we had no beds, foods, and other needs. We worked for the Thai people to earn a little money here and there. We were there for four years. In 1978, we moved from Nong Kai to Vinai and stayed there for three months. They were building houses and setting up places to live. They also had a list of names for the people who were accepted to come to America. I was on the list, and so I came to America. I got to America in September of 1979. I had an uncle come pick me up. They had come the year before, and I came the year after. In the U.S., I worked in a company that made clothing. I worked there for a year, and in 1981, we came to Wisconsin. We stayed for seven months, and I worked for Wausau Copying Center. When I worked there, it was very small. It only had seven to eight people working with me. I worked there for a long time and it got bigger. It later changed its name to Wausau Financial Center. The boss went to the ski hill, and the next person in line took the role of the boss. I still work there. I have worked there for 18 years.

Do you have anything you want to say to the kids?

We have come to live here, and we don't know what we are going to end up like. The elders have told us about how it was back then. Now it has all been forgotten because there was no paper to write on. It's good that we are recorded, so this event won't be forgotten.