

Youa Xiong

Youa Xiong has 12 children. She lived in Thailand before coming to America.

What is your name?

My name is Youa Xiong.

How old are you?

I'm 55 years old.

Where were you born?

If it's about the name where I was born then I don't know. I was born and then I guess I could play a little, and then suddenly there was a war, and we just ran and ran until now. So I don't know.

How many children do you have right now?

Right now I have six sons and six daughters.

Do you have brothers and sisters?

I don't have any now. There was a war and they became soldiers and then the Vietnamese people killed them. Now I have a sister that lives in St. Paul, but she passed away.

What was your life like in Thailand?

In Thailand, it was a poor living so we just sewed flower cloths and we took them to kom tek to sell them. Whatever we made we used for food to eat.

What did the men and what do the women do?

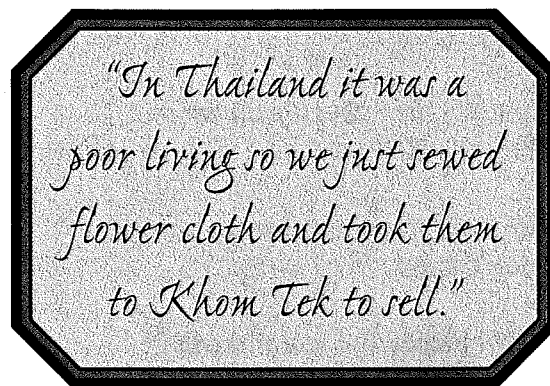
The guys, they just go picked corn from the Thai people for money. If they were strong, then they would help the Thai people blow up the mountains for rocks and would get money for food.

What about the women?

The women, like I said, they just sewed flower cloths, pick corn and dug wheat with the Thai people.

What did you do in Thailand?

Whatever we made we ate what we got. We have some relatives here that sent money for us to use. We sewed some clothes and sent them to our relatives to help us sell it and the money they sent us, that's what we used to buy some rice. It was a very poor living.



When you still lived in Thailand, which area did you live in?

In Thailand we live in Wat Tham Krabok, but in Vinai everyone lived there.

How long did you live in Wat Tham Krabok?

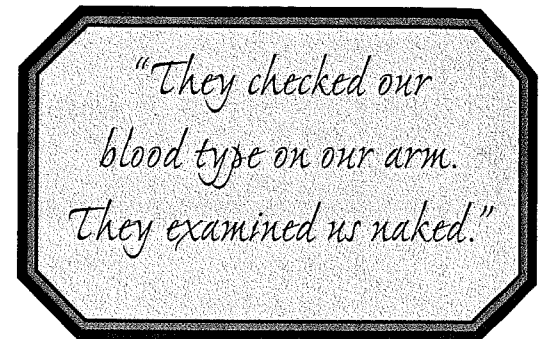
We lived there for I guess about ten years.

How old were you when you moved from Laos to Thailand?

I don't know.

Why did you want to come live here?

Long ago the Hmong helped the Americans, so now we just came to live with the Americans.



How did you register to come to America?

When we registered, they said they only wanted the people that did not have bad records or were in prison. People that hadn't been to jail before, and if they were, is then they didn't want them.

Did they check your blood type?

Yes, they did.

How did they check your blood?

They checked our blood type on our arm. They examined us naked.

What did they examine on you?

I don't know.

So they examine you nakedly?

Yes, they examined us like when we were still in Phanat.

Did they check if you have any illness?

Yes, they did check if we had any illness and if we had any diseases or cancer.

So, if you had any illnesses, then you couldn't have come?

Yes, if we had any illnesses. then we couldn't come. They wouldn't want us.

Before you left Thailand, what did you think?

You mean left Thailand to come here?

Yes.

I'm happy that I got to come live in a country that is civilized.

When you got to America did you have any problems?

No, we didn't have any.