



Mai Nou Yang

*Mai Nou was born in Xinag Khouang in Laos.
She would like to be a teacher.*

What is your name?

My name is Mai Nou Yang.

How old are you?

I'm 12 years old this year.

Where's your place of birth?

I think in Xiang Khouang, but I forgot.

Where did you live in Thailand?

I forgot what the place was called.

Do you have any brothers or sisters? If you do, how many?

I have two older sisters, three younger sisters, and three brothers.

What is the average life in Thailand?

It's really good.

Why do you think it's good?

Over there is sunny and if you go out bare foot it's fine.

Do you have any future plans? If yes what are they?

I think I would like to become a teacher.

Why do you want to become a teacher?

So I could talk with the kids.

Did you go to school in Thailand?

Yes, I did.

How many years did you go to school?

I went to school for about three years.

How old were you when you first start school?

When I was nine years old.

What are the differences between the schools in Thailand and in America?

It's different because the teachers hit you with a stick if you're naughty.

What about in America?

They are nice because they don't hit you with a stick.

Which schools do you think are better?

The ones in America are better.

How many languages can you speak? What are they?

I know three kinds: American, Thai, and Hmong.

Which language do you think is harder to learn?

American.

Why do you think that?

Because it's just hard, and when you write it, it seems backward.

What sorts of things don't you like about the Hmong tradition?

In the Hmong culture, the parents can hit the kids for doing something wrong.

Do you prefer the Hmong culture or the American culture?

I prefer the American culture.

How old were you when you left Thailand?

I was 11 years old.

Did you know a lot of people in America before you came?

I didn't know many, but my parents did.

Who helped you at the time of your arrival?

My mom's older sister.

Why did you come to America?

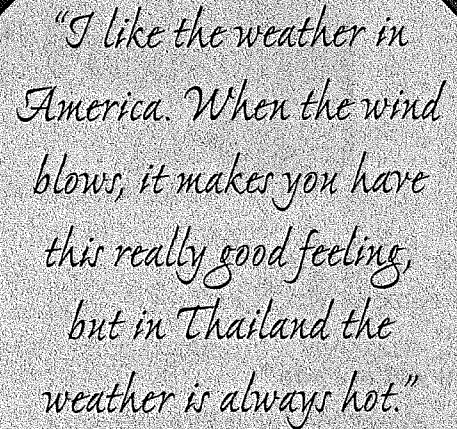
Because living in Thailand is poor.

Did you have any difficulties in the airplanes?

None.

When you first came to America, how did you feel?

I was very happy because I finally got here and I'm not as poor anymore.



"I like the weather in America. When the wind blows, it makes you have this really good feeling, but in Thailand the weather is always hot."

Did you have any difficulties in America?

None.

What do you think about inter-racial dating?

I don't think anything, but if everyone comes together it's better.

What do you think about kids in America?

I think if they go to school with us, it is a good thing.

What do you think about the stores in America compared to the stores in Thailand?

The stores here are better.

Why do you think that?

Here they have a lot of products, but in Thailand they don't have much. In one store it has only one kind of product.

How is the weather in Thailand compared to the weather in Wausau? Why?

I like the weather in America. When the wind blows, it makes you have this really good feeling, but in Thailand the weather is always hot.

What do you think about the style of clothes in America compared to the style of clothes in Thailand?

I like the ones in Thailand more because they have clothes that fit me, and the stores over here don't have clothes that fit me.

Would you go back to Thailand if you could?

I don't want to go back, I'm just going to live here.

Do you want to go visit any of your cousins?

I just want to go visit them, but not to go back to live.

How come you don't want to go back and live over there?

Because when you're hungry, you don't get anything to eat and it's poor.