

## Pa Yang

*Pa Yang came to America in November of 2004. She enjoys sewing flower cloths.  
She and her family reside in Wausau, Wisconsin.*

***What is your name?***

Pa Yang.

***How old are you?***

44 years old.

***How many kids do you have?***

Two sons. The older son is Fue Seng and the younger one is Tou Pao.

***Do you have any brothers or sisters?***

One older brother drowned and passed away. I have a younger sister in California.

***What is the life in Thailand like?***

We didn't have anything to eat, except rice only. Whenever we got money, sometimes we would go to the store to buy vegetables and meat.

***Did you go work or sew cloth?***

No, I can't do work so that is why I don't do it and I just stay home.

***Did any of your two sons go to school?***

Yes.

***Did your village have any school?***

Yes, our country has a school.

***What do woman do the most?***

Women sew cloth.

***What do men do the most?***

Those that know how to sew cloth, they sew and those that don't know how to sew, just work with the Thai people.

***When you sew flower cloths, do you know how much money they give you?***

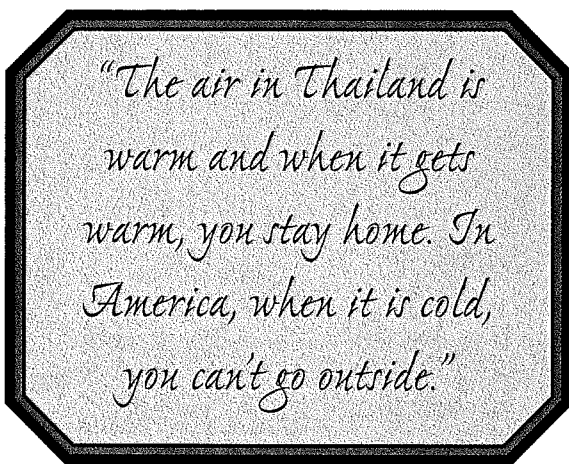
When we send flower cloth to Thailand, they tell us how much they give us.

**Which village did you come from before coming to America?**

We came from the cave.

**Did you live in another village?**

Yes, we lived in Ban Vinai, then in Long Panai, and then in the cave. When we registered, my mom wouldn't come. She took a drug and they checked her out and found a drug in her body so she didn't get to come to America. Then we went back to the cave and registered the second time.



**Why did you register to come to America?**

We were too poor and when we went to the cave, my mom died. When she left us, we were too poor and we registered again to come to America.

**When you were about to leave Thailand, what did you think of it?**

When we left Thailand, I thought that when we came, we would be able to see our relatives.

**How many airplanes did you take?**

We took three airplanes. We went to Taikle(sp?) and we changed air planes.

**When did you come to America?**

We came on November 10th, 2005

**When you were on the airplane, was it hard on you? What else did you bring with you?**

We didn't bring anything. Everyone had left and they just wheeled me to the airplane. My two sons followed me; we went inside the airplane and they gave us food.

**Who helped you register to come to America?**

My brother is the one who registered us. They were the first ones to come and we came last. We took the airplane in Gonta to China and then to somewhere and then to St. Paul and then to America.

**When you first came to America, what did you think of it?**

I thought that we would come and see our people, come see America and have my kids come and go to school.

**Now that you are living in America, do you dream about going back to Thailand?**

When I first came, I did.

**What is the difference between life in Thailand compared to America?**

In Thailand, it is so poor and we didn't have anything to eat. When we came to America, we had little money to buy food to eat.

**Do you like to live in America or in Thailand?**

I like to live in America.

***Do you think Hmong-American kids are different from Thai kids? If so, how are they different?***

They are different and the ones in America go to school.

***When you were still in Thailand, did anyone talk about America to you?***

Yes, they said that American take out your teeth and also take your large intestine and small intestine. They would slice you and take out your eyes your heart, stomach, and your lungs and wash them. Wash the old men clean and shave their heads; that is why the men won't come.

***When you were still in Thailand, did you want to come to America?***

Yes, I did.

***Do you know how to register? Do they need you to write or check you out?***

Yes, they check your kidneys and check if you are sick. They check your body, if you have any disease. They also check if you have any drugs or medicine in your body.

***In America, have you ever gone to any store that sells food and clothes?***

Yes, I go to the store to buy food to eat. I don't know how to drive, so I can't go anywhere and buy vegetables.

***What is the difference between the houses in America compare to Thailand houses?***

They're the same.

***The clothes we wear, are they different from the clothes in Thailand?***

Some are different but some are the same.

***Is the air in Thailand different from the air in Wausau or in America?***

The air in Thailand is warm and when it gets warm, you stay home. In America, when it is cold, you can't go outside.

***In Thailand, has it ever rained very hard and overflowed?***

Yes, when it rained hard, and the Thai village that is close to the shore-the rain had overflowed it.

***If you could ever go back to Thailand, would you go back?***

No, because if I go back, we won't have anything to eat.

***Would you go back to visit it?***

Yes.

*"Yes, they said that American take out your teeth and also take your large intestine and small intestine. They would slice you and take out your eyes your heart, stomach, and your lungs and wash them. Wash the old men clean and shave their heads; that is why the men won't come."*

***Do you think it is important to our young people to remember we are Hmong and why we came to America?***

Yes, that you know we are Hmong and know what our place was like.

***In Thailand, what age are the girls supposed to marry?***

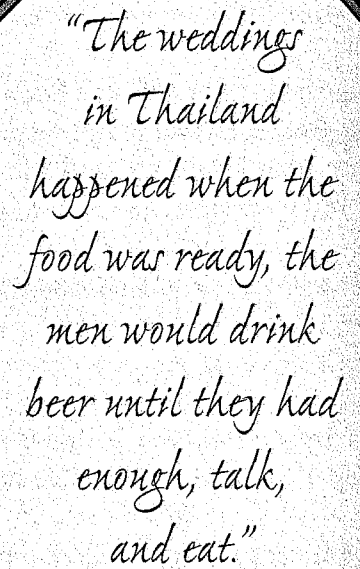
In Thailand, we were poor and we saw some women who were old enough to get married. In Thailand, 15 years old women could marry.

***How about the men? How old were they when they begin to get marry?***

15 yrs old and if they want to get marry they could.

***The weddings in Thailand, how are they different from the weddings in America?***

The weddings in Thailand happened when the food was ready; the men would drink beer until they had enough, talk, and eat. When the men were done eating, everyone would come and eat together. In America, they don't each have rooms to eat in. When they are ready to eat, they just go ahead and eat.



*"The weddings in Thailand happened when the food was ready, the men would drink beer until they had enough, talk, and eat."*