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Name

Transcript

00:01

Chris

This is Chris Frasier interviewing my mother, Ha Frasier. Say hi, mom.

Ha Hello.

Chris (Laughs) Okay, mom. Today, we're going to talk about things like your experience in Vietnam and then a little about the war and a lot about your journey to come from Vietnam to America. Okay?

Ha Alright.

Chris Okay. Be as honest and candid as you would like. Let's start with simple stuff. Where in Vietnam did you live?

Ha I lived in Saigon, south Vietnam. Right in the capital.

Chris When were you born?

Ha 1955, November 4th.

Chris What was it like there when you were younger?

Ha Very peaceful, very happy and you've got a lot of freedom to do what you wanted to do, where you wanted to go. Whatever you choose.

Chris What did you do as a kid? Were you educated?

Ha Well, my father believed in education, so we all go to school from morning until night. I had three different schools I had to go to everyday.

Chris Wow. That sounds really disciplined.

Ha Boring. (Laughs) No I liked school.

Chris Was your father really rigid? Was he the disciplinary?

Ha He is. He believed that without the education, you can't get anywhere. It doesn't matter what country you're going to be in. And I remember him saying that "I could give you a million dollars, you could spend it all in one day, but for that million dollars, if I invest it in your education, it will last you a lifetime."

Chris Did you practice any instruments or traditional art forms? Did you play music, paint, or anything?

Ha I liked to draw. Do a lot of drawing and for girls over there at that time when I grew up, things like that you do at your own leisure, your own chosen to do it. Nobody made you because its not important. The most important for girls over there, at that time when I grew up, you go to school, if you can, and when you come home, you take care of the family. Learn how to cook and you learn how to take care of the family and that's the way that women grew up. We're supposed to be good girls, and take care of family and get married and so on. But you're not supposed to be out there being somebody and that's why my family was a little bit untraditional with other people because my father believed we needed to study. No matter what.

Chris So you say that you had to take care of your family, did you have to do that as a child, too?

Ha Oh yes. My mom died early. She died of childbirth when I was ten years old. That's when she gave birth to my youngest sister and my father, as a man with eight kids, and he was the only one to provide for us, so he was working and never home and all of us had to pitch and help take care. I'm the one who is watch out and take care of the baby from the day she was born.

Chris What did your father do in Vietnam?

Ha He was a district attorney for twenty five years with the courts over there.

Chris So, since you have been here, would you say that you have kept up with most of your relatives from Vietnam? Who do you still keep in touch with and who do you not of your family?

Ha Most of my relatives are now in the United States. But before that, I still have two sisters who were in Vietnam and we eventually had enough money saved up and doing the paperwork to get them all here. So they are all here in the United States now. One lives in California and one in Houston now.

Chris Before the sponsorship, did you keep in touch with them while they were still in Vietnam?

Ha Yes.

Chris How did you keep in contact?

Ha Well, we sent letters and every once in awhile, sent the money home to help them out because it's a much harder life over there.

05:00

Chris So you have not gone back to Vietnam.

Ha No.

Chris Not even to visit. Why?

Ha I have tried several times, wanting to go back because my other two sisters there, but every time I sent letters ahead of time to announce my arrival or what I want to come home with, there is something called a censor in Vietnam and since we had such a big, heavy background we were watched by the government and they warned us that I better not come home. So that is why my sister because I sent letters home to say, with pictures about how we live over here with money and ask them if everything is okay so I can come home to visit by summertime. Well, for two, three months I do not hear from them until finally I heard from my sister say "If you are not the one who tore up all the pictures and letter that you just mailed to me three months ago, then don't come home yet." So that is just a little code that it is not very safe for me to come home.

Chris Is there anything else you would like to mention about your life before the war started? Your home life or anything?

Ha It was much nicer over there because I miss home. I'm homesick a lot, especially for the first two or three years I was here because everything is different. Everything is not the same. We celebrate more peaceful things like over there. All I know is just get up and go to school and after I got married, I just stayed home and take care of the family. I didn't have to worry about cost of living, where to go and all that stuff. All of a sudden when the war started breaking out, then it just completely changed everything. My father got arrested and we were all got arrested before that because of the background we had. My father and I got two uncles who are big time with the old government. One of them is a two star general and the other one is in secret agent type leader or whatever you call it. We had been black balled. We cannot find a job, we cannot do anything because you are not good if you belong to the old government. They took over our property, my home. We were sent into the concentration areas and there was a lot of headache, a lot of heartache. My father got arrested for thirteen months, almost died before they let him come home because we were trying to escape from Vietnam to get out of there because of all the background we had. When we left Vietnam the third time before we made it to Thailand. My father was almost died before they let him home. And we tried to escape from Vietnam

three times before we made it. I got the taste of the concentration camps for six months.

Chris So you were in Saigon when the war started.

Ha Yes.

Chris Okay. Did it seem far away, was it upon you, were you in the middle of fighting?

Ha It was affecting everybody, all together because our friends and family members like my two uncles in the military, so it was affecting everybody, but since we were in Saigon, we were a little bit away from all the bombing and stuff like that. In 1968, the north government did try to take over Saigon. We was in the middle of it because the rocket went through my roof.

10:00

Ha We were just lucky that we still in one piece after we looked up and all our roof was gone. But they didn't succeed at that time, They called it *Tet Mau Than*. That were the year it was very scary. Then in '75 when we finally lost it.

Chris So during the wartime, did you come in contact with a lot of Americans?

Ha No. We couldn't get ahold of anybody.

Chris There weren't any GI's in your town?

Ha During the war, before they actually had taken over, there's a lot of GI's around, but it was not like contact because my family lived, more or less, in the area where it was more for the military families separate with the Americans or GI's. GI's they were just in their camps, in their area, and only on the weekends did they get to go out on the piers and shopping and messing around and things like that. But we did have two homes rented out for GI's.

Chris What did you think of them?

Ha I hated them.

Chris Why?

Ha Because they are loud. They were disrespectful to all the women. To me, my father, we have several interactions with them. My stepmother just got miscarriaged and my father was on his motorcycle was trying to take her to the hospital and they just were being stupid. Playing around and grabbed the motorcycle and pulled it back when he tried to take her. She almost died because of that. So he jumped down, was very upset and just beat the crap out of them.

(Laughs) And for me growing up, at that time, I was a teenager and eighteen, nineteen and those GI's were just all over us every time they see us girls, women walking around, they were just so disrespectful and I hate them. (Laughs) I don't want anything to do with them. Every time they come to the area where we are, they run around other kids and give them food and cheese and drinks and Coca-Cola and all that stuff. I have nothing to do with them because I say you all just no respect for anybody. So, I don't really like them.

Chris Yeah, I understand. That doesn't sound like a pleasant experience. Were you or anyone you knew ever in a reeducation camp?

Ha I was and my father was and my ex-husband was and my sister was.

Chris I don't know what that is. Can you tell me about it.

Ha Okay. What it was was when we were still in Saigon at that time. Then, they just took over in 1975, every student, if you were in high school or in college, you are no good to the government, so they had to take us away from the environment where we were before to go in the concentration camp to brainwash us. So they took us away from the city where we were at school, we have to get out to the middle of nowhere in the field somewhere and do hard labor work just to appreciate them better and for us to stop thinking about what we were growing up with. Now, life had been changed, you have got to learn where you have to go, what you have the government tell you *Bac and Dang*, you know, *Ho Chi Minh* rules, not the old government rules anymore. We had to actually get in the mud and stuff like that, do all hard labor to dig in the ground. It just completely turned you and degraded you from who you were until you were a nobody. If you can show that you are willing to do what they tell you to do, then they let you go back home where you were before. Otherwise, you are going to be stay away until you keep your act together.

Chris How long were you there?

Ha For me, it was six months.

Chris What about other people?

15:00

Ha It just depends. Some people would be there for years because if they were being hard headed, not listen to or do what they were telling them to do, then you are punished until the day you wake up and recognize that you are no longer what you were before and you are now belong the government, to *Bac and Dang*. You live like you are people's labor. Out in the fields where you are not even around in your city anymore. They took you away from that into the woods somewhere.

Chris So what was life like after the war ended?

Ha Very rough. I was no longer can go to school because I was trying to study to become a lawyer. My father was a district attorney so he been punish all the people who come to the city who were with the communist and all that so they really pinned on us to a hard labor life. You cannot find a job, you cannot go to work, you cannot even have regular food to eat everyday when you are supposed to eat your meals. There is somebody just by accident, stop by to sit down and talk to us, or see what we eat. And if you have got more good food to eat, then the next day, you are going to get called into the police station and asked question. You know, "What did you do? Where did you get the money to buy food to eat?" and things like that. They took away all the books.

Chris So they strictly controlled everything.

Ha Everything. From how you act, how you eat, how you dress up everyday. They took away all the videos, all the cassettes, all the music, all the books. Everything that had anything to do with the old government that we had learned from. Because they think that is a bad kind of life that is not fit.

Chris So when did you decide to leave?

Ha The day we had to go through all this stuff, we already had in mind that we were going to leave, but we cannot go anywhere until my father got released from the concentration camp, coming home. The day they put the flag down at the end of the neighborhood, they came in and took my father away that night. And we had no idea where they took him because all we know was that he had been taken to go to a concentration camp. If he cooperated and worked with the government, then it will be fast and early to come home, otherwise, he will be longer. We didn't even think he was going to make it coming home after thirteen months. And then they started taking all the property. We had several homes over there and rented them out. They took over everything. I had to go up to the mountains to try to buy wood and charcoal and stuff to take it home and sell so I could have money to buy my sisters something to eat.

Chris So you went from a fairly affluent family and you were reduced to selling firewood to feed eight kids.

Ha And I still got caught. I got caught and arrested and go into jail several times. And at that time, they were really strict, if you opened your mouth, got upset about how they treated you, you said one curse word, you were going to be in prison for three months. They make your life harder so you quit and break your spirit so you have to do what they tell you to do so you can be left alone to live. And that just must made us more determined to leave as soon as my father came home.

Chris So it was not a hard decision, you wanted to go.

Ha Oh yeah! Well, the reason was that not only did I know that we were planning on that, but before we came. My father was from North Vietnam. Before he left North Vietnam to come to Saigon because the communists took over, we found out that the communists killed my grandfather with a burrough. Chopped his head off. At first they threw rocks and stoned him, but he didn't die so they used that and chopped his head off. One of my uncles saw that and tried to stop them so they shot him in the back. And my aunt, when she saw all this, she tried to beg for them, so they chop off her knees and she became handicapped after that and cannot walk.

20:00

Ha The reason they did all that stuff was because they thought that my father, he was in the French military that fought against them, so that was how they retaliated. We know that if they ever got from north to south, we would be one of the first few groups that were going to be gone. We would be attacked and that is so true because we found out later that every city or wherever we went, from the time my father left the north, in 1954, before I was born, I was born a year later, my mom was pregnant when they left to the south, but once he left, they could not find him and they retaliated on his family. We knew that was going to continue, so they kept up with every city he went to from that point to the day they came in 1975. They read it out when they came, with a list of every bad thing we did. My next door neighbor had been one of the ones who was undercover.

Chris So they were an informant for the communists?

Ha Yes. Right next door.

Chris Did you know this person well?

Ha No. Well, we know them as the neighbors. We talked, but it was nothing to it, just that we were neighbors. We did not suspect anything.

Chris So when you left Vietnam, who went with you?

Ha My father, my four sisters and me and my oldest son. He had just turned one.

Chris What were their names?

Ha My father is Noi Xuan Nguyen, my sister is Thuy Thi Nguyen, Thao Thi Nguyen, Thinh Thi Nguyen, and Thu Thi Nguyen and my son is Duong Nguyen Nghiem.

Chris If that is all the family you took with you, who all was left behind?

Ha My other two sisters because they had husbands who were still in the concentration camps, they can't go. So they stayed home and waited for them to come home. They can't go because everything we did over there depended on the man. The man is the only bread winner in the house. We believed that when you got married to someone, you were with them from the day you got married until the day you die. No matter what, you had to be faithful, you were with them until the end and you cant leave knowing he was in the camp. In the concentration camp, he could be dead. Now if they know for sure they are dead, then they would have no problem, they had to leave. If they knew their spouses were still in there, they were not going to leave.

Chris So when you left, there was a bunch of you, what did you bring?

Ha We brought gold, jewelry and two sets of clothes on my back. One to wear and one to change. That's it. The reason we brought the gold and the jewelry was that when you left Vietnam, anywhere you can trade it or sell it and have the money to live off of. And then when we got to Thailand, we got robbed. All the Thai police took all that anyway. Yeah, we didn't have a whole lot. Because if you got caught, the reason we know that we didn't need to take a whole lot was because in case we didn't get caught we can still go back home and they can't find out. They don't know, but if you carry everything with you, then they catch you, you got caught with it, they think that is evidence right there then you will be for life in prison. The first two times we tried to do it, my father and us, we tried to do that and we got set up. We got caught, that was why we were in the camps.

Chris You said you went to Thailand. How did you get there?

Ha By boat.

Chris So you took a small boat over to Thailand.

Ha No, we saved up the money and we went down to *Cuu Long* river area and my stepmother, that was how we got together with my stepmothers family. She was in the same camp as father when they were in the concentration camp. The connection.

25:00

Ha So when they got out, they connected together and we will give her the money to put in her name and we went and bought the boat. Got the boat built for us.

Chris So this was a long time in planning.

Ha Oh yes. Well, for two or three years, that was all you had. We left in

November '77 and we left Saigon in '75, so two years. Thirteen months he was in jail, so about six to seven months later we tried to leave.

Chris Tell me about the boat.

Ha We bought a sixty foot boat. We signed a contract with the government that we were going to carry whatever they wanted us to carry from down the river area to the city. A transport just like how they used trucks over here. You had to do that for a living and she knew people down there. So we gave her the money, she signed the contract. My father and her and one of her sons were supposed to be the ones who were driving the boat. My father never drove a boat a day in his life. (Laughs) But we did it anyway just to get a chance to get out. Because the last two times when we didn't do that, we gave somebody money to go with them and we got caught because we were set up. So my father said, "This time, I'll do it myself. If I die, I would rather die out in the sea than die in here." So with that determination, one way or the other, because he remembered how his father got killed by these communist people. Chopped off his head like a dog. Like nothing to it and just throw his head away. Anyway, after we got the contract and pretend that we were going to transport wood and food and whatever they wanted us to bring from the river up to the city and back and forth for a couple weeks and they said okay, you did alright, so they gave us the contract, the work to do. That was the night that we were supposed to leave, two months after that, but because some people wanted to go along with us to leave, they got scared. They didn't want to go, they said, "No, I don't think I can do it because I'm afraid I'm going to get caught. I'm going to get killed." So we ended up with just my family and my stepmother's family together. All of us together, fifteen of us. One night, I think it was in November of 1977, the reason my father picked that night was that if we didn't do it soon, we were going to get caught. You could see the actions around there. So, they would never expect that that would be the day that we would leave because that was the bad storm month of the year, the worst storms of the year started in November, October. That is when they have the monsoon and all that, so if we leave it was up to us to make it. The government didn't have to do it, we could have gotten killed out there because all of the storm would wipe us out. So they didn't care that we were leaving. That's why my father said that if we wait later, everything would be clear they would be watching, but if you go out during a storm like this, nobody would expect it. So that day, during the day, all the women got in. We bought food like sugar cane, rice, stuff that for the long time you can use and cook for awhile, in case we couldn't stop by any country outside besides Vietnam to get rescued. We put it all underneath on the boat, on the bottom of the boat. And all the women are supposed to be hiding under there. I carried my son underneath. I carried my son with me on the bottom of the boat and when we started to take off, when the storm hit really bad at night, they didn't expect it. By the time they realized that we kept going in a storm like that, we should have gone back in, we took off and they realized that so they shot at us. The government shot at us and they didn't catch up here, but it got us on the bottom of the boat. It made holes down there and the water started sinking when

it got down in there. So we did everything we can. Survive. That's all that is to it. My father found all the charts and stuff like that that we saved underneath and plugged it all up in there. Even the water all over inside there, the women we used the cups and bowls and whatever you can. You scooped the water throw it out. The water came in faster than we can get it out and we were on the bottom of the boat and the waves were so high and the storm was so bad that I felt bad. I felt like I was just moving from one side of the boat to the next like this. Just bouncing back and forth on the bottom.

30:00

Ha Finally, we got out there to the international water. Before that, we got caught in a sandbar. For two days and two nights, just beating on the boat and tore it up more. All the food was gone, ruined. We couldn't eat, nothing, so we started catching fish along the water during the day. We made our own spears. (Laughs) Dolphins chasing after us, you know it was just fun. I mean, for a little kid it became an adventure, it was fun. We didn't know any better. We said, "Oh my god, we caught fish and now we're going to try to build a fire and cook and eat." (Laughs) Later, we ended up facing the Thai pirates. It was really scary when that happened because I did not know. We must have had an angel protecting us. My mom, she passed away long before, I think she came along and helped us and took us away from all of that because they actually threw the anchor at them and they threw it back at us. (Laughs) Our boat was bigger than some of the pirates' boats. They were scared that we were going to rob them. (Laughs) We threw it to them and they threw it back. It was like that and we can't speak their language and they can't speak our language and they saw us and took off. So we had no idea where we were because the only map that we ever had with us was my father tore up a piece of the dictionary, the handheld dictionary with a world map like that.

Chris So about two inches by three inches.

Ha He folded it, and hid it underneath the heel on his shoe. And that was the only map we had. We didn't have a compass, we had no idea where we were. My father never rode a boat.

Chris And you made it to Thailand?

Ha Yeah, for some reason we were just watching the stars. That was all he used. Watching the star and as long as you go and follow that main star. We got to the seashore, we had no idea where we were. During that time Thailand would not accept any more refugees, no other country would accept refugees except Malaysia. So we made it. We didn't have anybody else do anything to us so we thought we were in Malaysia. I was the only one who could speak english at that time so my father told me that I needed to go down and see what had happened. I grabbed my son and we jumped down off the boat and tried to walk to the area where some people were out there just along the shore. It turns out that was not

too far from the refugee camp of Thailand. We had no idea where we were so we just went by the stars.

Chris So you ended up on the outside of a refugee camp in Thailand. Did they put you in the camp?

Ha No they didn't at first. Oh my god, that's another thing. When we got to Thailand, we had no idea, so when I saw people I was so happy to see light. For days and nights we were on the boat just shaking and floating. We had no idea because all the equipment was broken. The engine was not working anymore. So when we see people, I was happy and we went inside and said, "I was from Vietnam and my family was still on the boat right now and I need help to bring them in here. Where are we? Things like that." Finally we found out that from some of the refugees that were in the camp they saw us and they said, "Go away, don't come here because you don't it now you are going to get in trouble. Go away!" They kept telling us to go away and I couldn't understand why. We found out that because, at that time, the Thai would not accept any more refugees. If you came and they caught you, they could shoot you. For some reason, they didn't shoot me.

35:00

Ha I got to go in and talk to the night shift of the police in that section of the camp. So they said, "Okay, you stay here. I'll go get people and we'll go get your family in." They made me believe that they were going to do that so I said, "Fine, good, thank you." So I lead them back to the boat. When we got to the boat they handcuffed all of us, including me and my baby. He's a year old. Then they came into the boat and ransacked, they took every piece of gold jewelry, money, anything we have. Even the one I wear on my neck, they yanked it out. They searched, and we carried gold pieces, they took them all. I was so angry, I was so mad and I didn't know any better. I started yelling and screaming, saying "This is robbery, you are not supposed to do this. We came here as refugees. We asked for help. We don't want to be robbed. Why are you robbing us, why are you taking all of this stuff?" I heard yelling and they took us to the police station there and they put us in the police station. I said, "My baby and everybody is hungry, we don't have food to eat for days and stuff, we need help". They didn't feed us but they said wait until the morning. So when the morning came we were just sitting on the floor and sleeping in the bathroom in the police station. The next morning the captain showed up at the police station and then they got me to come interview and see what's going on, who are we, what are we doing here, and all that stuff. They said, "Well we don't accept any more refugees, you'll have to leave now, because if you don't I will kill your family". I said, "No you can't, and I can't, and I refuse to go". The captain said, why is it and I said, "Because your people stole all my stuff and I'm telling you I can speak English and if I can get out of this country and go to a third world, I would tell the whole world what ya'll did to my people. Unless you pay me back or give me back everything ya'll stole from me." So they know that, I did not know any better. I did that, but other

people tell me not to do that. Later they said, "You're crazy, you're stupid. But the gold was not worth your life, why did you do that?" I did not know I was just angry that they did that. They were supposed to help us, not supposed to rob us. So the captain offered me to shut up, not to yell and scream anymore then "Okay fine i'll give you some paper. You write down everything you lost, that you say my people took from you, and then I will call them in and you point out and tell me. They are not going to be right with you they are going to be outside of the window. You stay in here with me in the room and you point out, let me know who are the ones that took from you." And I did. You talk about they tried to scare me, they tried to frighten me. They said "I did not do that! You Lie!" And this and that. And I said "No I remember what you did and I wrote down the list of thirty-something pieces of gold and jewelry and everything they took from me. So I told him, in English, and I have all these people right here who witnessed. If you don't give it back to me by the time I leave this country, then when I get to another country I will tell how the Thai people, rob and take care of us." So for some reason I'm just big mouthed and they know they can't shut me up so they have to put us in the refugee camp. To stay there because within two weeks from that, supposedly the United Nations would be coming to camp to interview all the refugees. And if they accepted us, with our circumstances and our story, they will let us go with them to the United States. If they don't accept then we stay there for another year waiting for the next trip.

Chris So from the refugee camp, thats when you went to the U.S.?

Ha From there we went to a seashore area, they took us from there to Bangkok. We almost got killed in Bangkok. On the way to Bangkok, because we riding bus from seashore area all the way to the big city and the driver fell asleep driving us. We were just, the bus was right down on the cliff when you are riding around there, there was only two more tires in the back still hanging on on top. I'm talking about just like this trip had been for me to be leaving no matter what happened. Everyone was asleep, didn't know anything and woke up because everyone started yelling and screaming. All of a sudden we were getting off the bus one by one.

40:00

Ha Hopefully the bus not going to fall down by the time we get all out. When everybody got off the bus, the bus fell down the cliff. We were stuck in Thailand for six months. While within the first three months I tried to get in touch with my brother. He's already in the United States at that time living in Fort Worth with one of my father's friends.

Chris So you guys were wanting to go to the U.S.?

Ha Oh yeah. My father, if he wanted to, he could go to France because he had French nationality. Because he used to be in the military. But he stayed for the good of the family and the children. You know, he knew life in the United

States was probably easier and better for us because I can speak English and my sister can learn faster than learn how to speak French. He said also it doesn't matter where he lives. We got a interview with the United Nations and then they approved because of the background we had. Plus, they said we got approved, but we had to go to Bangkok first. After we got to Bangkok, if we can get in touch with relatives or family in the United States that can find a sponsor family or a sponsor for us then they would sponsor us to come to the United States as a refugee status otherwise we stay there until we can find somebody. So that's what my job was, to try to get in touch with my brother over here. He lived with one of my father's friends. I think he's a captain in the Air Force. My problem was he moved, since the last time we were in touch with one another. He moved because the captain ended up going to Korea. He didn't want to go with the friend, so he stayed back with the captain's church. The family who kept him, sponsored him, was the reverend Don Sweet family. They have a church in Fort Worth and that's how he talked to his church and they sponsored us. So four months later we got the order to come to the United States. Straight from Thailand to Fort Worth. Right before we got here, there was a bad storm that was in February. I remember the day, February eighteenth of 1978. Fort Worth had such a bad snow storm, that they blocked, there was nothing working, everything was cancelled. So we couldn't even get a ride into the United States in the airport we kept circling around and had to go back, they made us move back to, I can't remember if we were in a different city. Anyway, we had to go to another city and wait until another day, until the area and the storm cleared before we can come back. I remember the first time, this was the most fun day, when we just came to Fort Worth area and arrive at the airport, walking out of the airplane, man, snow coming. It was still coming, but it was less than before. We were just outside jumping around, catching snow to taste it. I had never tasted snow in my life, never seen or experienced that before. All we know of it was from the movies. There is no snow in Vietnam. It was so cold for snow. We would catch it and jump around and catch snow and taste it. Everyone might be thinking we are a bunch of crazy people but it was fun.

Chris Give me one funny story of a culture shock that you had.

Ha (Laughs) There is a lot. The thing most shocking and different culturally from us is, when I grew up in Vietnam, or any other country besides here. When you went to get food, you go to the live, open market. You know, chickens walking around and everything like that.

45:00

Ha Everything is live and fresh. The first time the sponsor family took me to the market, I had no idea where I was, what i do, and I see all the freezers and I said what is all of this. They said that's food. I said what do you mean by food? Everything is icy. I can't eat ice. (Laughs) Everything we have over here is in the freezer. And that's shocking. I don't know how to cook icy stuff. I never do anything. Another this is in Vietnam we live off of seafood. That's the cheapest

thing we had. Beef was the most expensive thing we had over there. So we ate a lot of seafood and poultry and chicken and pork, there was no beef. The only time you ate beef was when you were celebrating something. You buy a few pounds, you had to slice them and divide it out and everything. You go to the store here: hamburgers. I didn't know what is the hamburger. My brother said, "You have got to try this! This is the best thing! It's so good, it's so awesome. I eat it everyday!" I tasted it and we just spit out because we didn't like it. I could not cook any American food. Everything was just ice. I said, "So how do you cook this stuff?" Food, vegetables, everything was frozen. They had to teach us how to cook, how to do everything all over again. It was nothing like the Vietnamese food. So hamburgers were the first thing I tried with American food and it tasted like crap. (Laughs) I'm sorry. I couldn't eat cheese. We never had cheese in our lives over there. It's full of cheese over here, everything cheese, and everything meat. It was nothing like that, we wanted rice. They went and bought Uncle Ben's rice. I don't know how to cook Uncle Ben's! (Laughs) Everything was shocking because the first thing, everyday when you get up, they are hungry, you have got to eat something. We can't cook, we didn't know how to, so it was very shocking. But it was fun. Now I know how to cook because my first job, I worked in the hospital. I learned how to cook. I knew how to cook macaroni and cheese, I went home and showed everybody. (Laughs)

Chris Well, thank you mom.

Ha Okay, there is plenty more to come, if you want to.

Chris Thanks mom.

Ha You are welcome.

47:32