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### Interview by Anna Helen Tam

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Interviewer: When were you born?

Interviewee: 1948

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Interviewee: Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Interviewee: He was a joiner

Interviewer: What was your mother's occupation before marriage?

Interviewee: She got nothing to do before marriage

Interviewer: So, how about after marriage?

Interviewee: Housewife

Interviewer: Is your father the main breadwinner?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: Was he ever unemployed?

Interviewee: Yes

Interviewer: When?

Interviewee: When I was 4 to 5 years old.

Interviewer: Why did he unemployed?

Interviewee: It is because his co-worker was involved in corruption

Interviewer: Did it affect your family life?

Interviewee: Yes! Of cause!

Interviewer: So what did you did for this?

Interviewee: Fortunately, my grandmother took care us.

Interviewer: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Interviewee: Eight

Interviewer: How many are boys and how many are girls?

Interviewee: Three are boys and five are girls.

Interviewer: Are you grow up in Causeway Bay?

Interviewee: Five of us grow in Causeway Bay and three of us grow in Shaukiwan.

Interviewer: This means you had move to Shaukiwan?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: When is it?

Interviewee: When I was 13 to 14 years old.

Interviewer: What sort of accommodation did you live in Causeway Bay?

Interviewee: A two floor old house.

Interviewer: Can you describe it?

Interviewee: We lived in the lower floor and the house owner lived in the upper floor.  
We get one room, one main room and one kitchen.

Interviewer: Did you get any important room?

Interviewee: We lived with my parent in the one room, there was no important room.

Interviewer: Did you have television?

Interviewee: No television as same as radio.

Interviewer: How about car?

Interviewee: No! Of cause.

Interviewer: Accept your family, which include your parent and your sisters and brothers, who lived in the household?

Interviewee: My grandfather and my grandmother.

Interviewer: What were their roles?

Interviewee: My grandfather responsible for working and my grandmother responsible for take care us

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Interviewee: He was a joiner too.

Interviewer: Was your grandmother responsible for take care you in your childhood?

Interviewee: No, my grandmother took care me only, my mother took care my sisters and brothers.

Interviewer: What was your family discipline look like?

Interviewee: We did not get any special discipline, but we should follow my parent instruction, otherwise, we would blame by them.

Interviewer: Who made the decisions in your family?

Interviewee: My father

Interviewer: If you did something wrong, who handled out the punishment?

Interviewee: My mother.

Interviewer: What kind of punishment did your received?

Interviewee: Nothing to eat allowed me to play.

Interviewer: Did she blamed you or reproved you?

Interviewee: She just blamed me but rarely reproved me.

Interviewer: Was it same with your brothers and sisters?

Interviewee: More or less the same.

Interviewer: Was there sexual discrimination?

Interviewee: No, my father treats us the same.

Interviewer: How about other people?

Interviewee: No, my grandmother and grandfather treated us very well.

Interviewer: Sorry, I mean other people like your friends or neighborhood.

Interviewee: Oh! We get rarely friends/

Interviewer: What did you do in a typical weekday in your household?

Interviewee: My father would bring us to Chinese restaurant sometimes and may even brought us to the park nearby.

Interviewer: Would you go to BBQ or picnic?

Interviewee: No, these are not popular at the time.

Interviewer: So, what did your play at the time?

Interviewee: Doll Paper, Marble and Rope-Skipping.

Interviewer: Whom would you play with?

Interviewee: With my brothers, sisters and neighborhood.

Interviewer: Do you have special hobbies?

Interviewee: No, but play.

Interviewer: Can you remember any stories or myths you were told as a child?

Interviewee: Ghost story.

Interviewer: Can you tell me more?

Interviewee: My grandmother always said she could see ghosts, she said there are many ghosts in Causeway Bay and Shaukiwan. Some ghosts always cried while some ghosts always folded their heads. It might because we never scare with it, she always told us the ghosts' stories.

Interviewer: What did you like to eat when you were children?

Interviewee: I liked to eat "Dog caudal", bread and many other foods.

Interviewer: Were there any foods dismissed?

Interviewee: Yes, the "Dog caudal"

Interviewer: Who responsible for prepared them?

Interviewee: My mother.

Interviewer: did your mother make "Dog caudal"?

Interviewee: No! My mother brought it.

Interviewer: How were the household tasks divided?

Interviewee: My mother did it when I was a child.

Interviewer: Did you have to take care for your brothers and your sisters?

Interviewee: Sometimes, especially when they cried, I need to bring them away.

Interviewer: Did you attend any sort of pre-school group or kindergarten?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Can you remember much about it? Such as your teacher?

Interviewee: I forgot my teacher's name. But I remembered that my school got 2 floors only. I remembered the teacher and the president was the same person and I need to study for 2 hours a day.

Interviewer: When did you start to study?

Interviewee: About 3 years old.

Interviewer: When did you start to study in primary school?

Interviewee: About 7 years old.

Interviewer: Which school did you attend?

Interviewee: Causeway Bay Primary School.

Interviewer: What did you feel when you going to school?

Interviewee: No need to take care my sisters and brothers, could play with classmates.

Interviewer: Did you wear a uniform?

Interviewee: White shirts and blue trouser.

Interviewer: What subjects did your learn?

Interviewee: Chinese, Social Science and Math's.

Interviewer: What were your favorites?

Interviewee: Because I was a very lazy girl, there is no favorite for me.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: It may because my memory was very poor.

Interviewer: Can you describe your teacher?

Interviewee: There are great different between studying now and before. At the time, the teacher liked those rich students only, for those poor students, they seemed not accept them.

Interviewer: Can you remember any of your friends?

Interviewee: I remember some good friends, but it may because we did not see each other's for a long time, I think I cannot remember their face now.

Interviewer: Did you attend secondary school?

Interviewee: No, just primary school.

Interviewer: Did you do any work while you were a child?

Interviewee: Yes, when I was 14, I need to work out.

Interviewer: Can you tell me the working condition?

Interviewee: I remember I needed to work in Shaukiwan Tai Chung Factory, I remembered that when I got the interview, the employee asked me to open my hand to check whether I get sweat in my hand to determinate

whether could I be the worker there. I also remember I needed to sit on a chair with only one chair leg! Thus, I could not be slack in my duty or talked to others, otherwise, I would be tumbled down. Thus, at the time, I worked very hard.

Interviewer: So, why you work in there?

Interviewee: It is because at the time, it was very difficult for people to find a job, especially for those families like me, got no relationship. Thus, I did very happy for hired.

Interviewer: How long should you work for a day?

Interviewee: 8 hours, one hour for lunchtime, but for saving money, I always go home for lunch. Since I need to walk to home for 15 minutes, I did very busy at the time.

Interviewer: Did you need to work at Sunday?

Interviewee: No, I just need to work for Monday to Saturday. But I always dated my friends to work in a small factory in Sunday in order to earn more.

Interviewer: Was it harsh for working there?

Interviewee: Yes! It is because I need to wash all my sisters and brothers cloths after work.

Interviewer: Was your income high enough?

Interviewee: No, it is very low. I remember I just got \$2.3 a day.

Interviewer: How much was the average income?

Interviewee: About \$1 to \$4 a day.

Interviewer: Are there any events in your childhood stick in your mind?

Interviewee: It might be the process of finding job. It is because I had interviewed much time.

Interviewer: Any others?

Interviewee: Yes, I remember once a time, I went with my friend to Wing Wah cinema, her pocket robbed by a robber. At the time, there is a policeman nearby, when he heard my friend robbed. He helped my friend, but finally he could not catch the robber. The policeman asked me to go to Shaukiwan police station. It is because I believed the policemen are very rude, so, and for Chinese tradition, it is not good for going to police station for any reason. Thus, I frightened at the time, fortunately, I found that the policemen are not as bad as I thought.

Interviewer: What is the different of the children today from your childhood?

Interviewee: I think children today get a great different from her childhood, at the day when I was a child, we always listened to our parent. Even if my parent reproved us, we just cried but accepted. It our parent did not allow us to eat, we did not eat. Also, we needed to work out but need to do the housework too. For the wages, we gave most of it or even all of it to our parents and believe that it is right and it is what we should do as children. However, children nowadays get unlimited demands to their

parents. Some even argues with their parents without reasons. It may because many parents' only get one to two children parent always accept what children want.

Interviewer: This is the end of the interview with Ms Wong Yuk on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1999.  
The interviewer is Anna Tam.