

## Interview Summary

Name of Interviewee : Wong Sau Wai (Ma Me)

Name of Interviewer : Kwok Suk Yee (Kathy)

Date of Interview : 26-2-2000

Location of Interview : Home

Number of Tapes : 1 (60mins)

Wong Sau Wai (Ma Me) was born in 1947, two years after the World War Two and the Japanese Occupation. At that time, million illegal immigrants went to Hong Kong in order to escape from the Cultural Revolution in China. The population explosion resulted in many social problems, especially housing shortage, lack of schools, and economic recession. Affected by the housing shortage problem, Ma Me could only live on a bed with her mother and her sister when she was ten years old. Besides, she had to abandon her study, for she had a responsibility to earn a living for her family. Together with the lower income level, she faced many obstacles at her working places. And so, she had a harsh time in her childhood.

Although all the elements in the tape are valuable, I cannot include all of them into my transcription and translation. Therefore, based on the style of the book *'Asian American Experiences in the United States'*, I have chosen two areas, 'study' and 'work', from the interview. In order to make the transcription and translation more meaningful, I will compare Ma Me's experience of these two areas, as to depict how harsh when she has to choose between study and work.

## Evaluation of Interview

The interview was recorded in our home. Since only my mother and I were there, the scene was silence and had no interruption. The atmosphere during the interview was casual because my mother had been familiar with the circumstances and our close relationship. However, I have to keep an eye on the timer all the time. Since my mother was rather talkative, I usually had to rewind and cut some not so interesting episode.

Anyway, in the end, I want to thank my mother for her kindly help. This interview is a precious moment for both my mother and I. It will become a memory in our heart that lingers a lifetime.

## References

1. Joann Faung Jean Lee (1991) *Asian American Experiences in the United States*. Jefferson, North Carolina, and London: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers.
2. David Faure (1997) *Society*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.