

Interviewee's Name: Krouk, Nora; Krouk, Anthony Raphael
Gender: Female, Male
Born (if applicable): 17/04/1920; 05/06/1953
Date of Interview: 08/03/2008
Place of Interview: Australia – Sydney, New South Wales
Age at Interview: 87, 54
Language / Dialect: English
Interviewer's Name: Fanny Iu

Background

Nora Krouk: Born in Harbin, China to Jewish mother and Russian father, later moved to Mukden (now Shenyang), further to Shanghai, Hong Kong before emigrating to Australia in the 1970s.

Anthony Raphael (Tony) Krouk: Born in China, left when 3 years old, first to Israel then to Hong Kong, moved to Australia in the 1970s. He travelled to school by Peak Tram everyday when young.

Content

Nora Krouk talked about parents and childhood, life in Mukden during Japanese occupation, scary incidents witnessed in those years, family's move to Shanghai, adjustment to new life, life in Shanghai, husband's job, being forced by communists to go back to Russia, their relocation to Israel then Hong Kong, life in Hong Kong before leaving for Australia in the 1970s.

Tony Krouk talked about father's house arrest in China, persecutions he saw, move out of China at 3, memories of the various places he lived in Hong Kong, including The Repulse Bay hotel, 516 The Peak (probably Magazine Gap Road now), Astral Court near Garden Road, experiences of typhoons, freedom that he enjoyed as a kid, days at Peak Junior School where he traveled to on the Peak Tram every day between 1960 and 1964, a destitute family that lived in a cave by the bridge under Magazine Gap Road, regular passengers on the Peak Tram such as construction workers, his season ticket that cost \$15 per month, fascination about the Bowen Road tram cable, the inspector with monkey look whom he called "Ma Lau Zai", tram staff uniform, tram controllers' timber rod, their way of communicating with the station, the mechanical device to signal stop, the American servicemen from Vietnam war time, friendly people who saw him as tour guide, ceased travelling on Peak Tram everyday when moved to KGV in Kowloon.

The 1967 riot as a political awakening for him, disturbed by various incidents of discrimination in the 50s and 60s, remembered one day during the riot, he and mother needed to go to cross the harbour by Star Ferry to KCR station to meet grandfather from Russia, walked past riot on Connaught Road, saw the constraint of Hong Kong Police, went to The Peninsula for afternoon tea while waiting for grandfather who arrived on a later train, recollections of Hong Kong being a vibrant city, people always moving forward, his love for Australia for the feeling of understanding, compassion, acceptance, informality, warmth, engine of creativity.

– Ends –



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Interviewer's note (if applicable):