

Mr Ong Liang Ching

(1924)

Accession number : 1309  
 Track number: 130901, 130902, 130903  
 Duration : 3:33:33  
 Language / Dialect : English

TRACK 130901

CD 1

Family background, including parents and grandfather. Schools attended and places where family have lived. Started business in 1951 and moved to Chulia Street in 1959. Premises are rented and used only for business. Staffing and work hours. Description of traffic conditions and transportation of people and goods. Modes of transport mentioned ranged from bullock carts, handcarts and rickshaws to trams, trolleybuses and motor buses.

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CD 2

Continued with transportation. Small lorries converted into buses. Fares and frequency for trolleybuses. Location of bus stops.

TRACK 130902

CD 3

His daily routine. Chulia Street being a strategic location for retail. Good business and customs clearance when Penang was a free port. Floods in the area. The 1967 Hartal and May 13 incidents. Description of Thaipusam and Chingay processions and the atmosphere of the events. Indian and Chinese communities in different sections of Chulia Street. Not race-conscious before independence. Segregation and conflict start with elections. Presence of secret societies from China and Hong Kong.

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CD 4

Continued with secret societies. Collected donations and fought among themselves but generally did not trouble people. Was first secretary of Penang branch of PAP. Left politics a few years after PAP became DAP. Spoke about Lee Kuan Yew, Lim Chong Eu and Lim Kit Siang. Was on school boards and national president of Jaycees. Discussion of first general election of Malaysia in 1964. Interaction with friends and customers. Eating places preferred. Discussion of the hippie years, including sale of drugs.

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CD 5

Chulia Street's accessibility for customers. Detailed discussion of the bucket system for night soil disposal. Thieves entered shop by enlarging opening for the bucket. Rental paid. Relations with landlord and rent-collecting agents. Effects of repeal of Rent Control Act. Interaction with neighbours. Fights only when toddy drinkers get drunk. Regret for not investing in nearby property in younger days. Budget hotels and their clientele. Presence of prostitutes and transsexuals/ transvestites.

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CD 6

He and neighbours not bothered by prostitutes living or operating in hotels there. Arrangements between prostitutes and pimps. The way prostitutes dressed. Dress styles of the ordinary folk. The way hippies dressed. Detailed description of mah-jong dens, Empat Ekor and other gambling activities. Gangs saw the English-educated as closer to police, so did not target them. How he, a Hokkien speaker, coped with Cantonese and Hakka customers.

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CD 7

Customers hung out in the shop and monitored share market on his TV. More on helping with the PAP campaign in 1964 elections. Neighbours curious about Lee Kuan Yew. His business was a pioneer in retail market for chemicals. Worked as a medical sales representative in post-WWII years and then started own business. Chemicals not a problem/danger if handled right. Talked about his usual lunch partners and stalls he preferred.

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CD 8 Places

he drank in and those frequented by foreigners. Popular cinemas and ticket prices back then. Description of old films and old stars. Mosquito buses.

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CD 9 Talked

about business as a cycle of good times and bad. Feels Chulia Street should be developed as the diversity of people and shops makes it special. His thoughts on what the street means to him.

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