

Mr Syed Mohammed Buhari bin Mohammed Noordin

(1943)

Accession number: S16001

Track Number: S16001_0001, S16001_0002, S16001_0003, S16001_0004, S16001_0005

Duration: 02:14:49

Language/Dialect: Tamil

Track: S16001_0001	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Family background. Born in 1943, in India. Described his father's occupation as a second-hand furniture seller. Studied up to Standard 6 in India and then came to Penang. Worked for a while in Penang and then went back to India to get married. Returned to Penang in 1967. Furniture sold at the Othman Pillai Furniture Shop. Why was the shop named so.</p>	
Track: S16001_0001	Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:08
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Land owner of the shop. Described location of his shop and other buildings nearby. Elaborated on the shop location. Building materials of the shop. Alteration made to the door. Exterior of the shop. Described use of space. Mentioned toilet location.</p>	
Track: S16001_0001	Time frame: 00:20:08 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned toilet system in olden days. The shop operating hours. Described routine work. How their routine work changed over time when some workers passed away. Mentioned work assignment for workers. The use of space. Described setting of the shop.</p>	
Track: S16001_0002	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Daily routine. Employed people to help in accounting about 15 years ago. Described how the accounting work was done. Described routine work during closing of the shop. Mentioned there were a lot of workers in the shop and now left him as the only one. Things to note when purchasing second-hand furniture. Described how senior people in his field were familiar with the type of wood used in furniture. Described arguing with people about type of wood used in certain furniture. How to differentiate between teak wood and <i>meranti</i> wood. Mentioned how did some people come and seek for his advice on the furniture prices.</p>	

Track: S16001_0002	Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:05
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described being cheated once by a customer who sold him plywood furniture that he mistakenly thought was teak. Why was teak wood similar to plywood. Plywood had become popular in the 1980s. How he avoided being cheated again. How did people cheat. Peak hour of the shop in olden days. Transportation used for furniture delivery in the past. How people's impression on the function of trishaw changed over time. Mentioned furniture business was not a daily business. Described his work when there was no business. Mentioned changes in the way of collecting furniture.</p>	
Track: S16001_0003	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:09:58
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Furniture that was sold at the shop in the past. Differences in furniture sold in olden days and today. Types of wood used in furniture making. Described in details about black wood chair, including its setting in the house.</p>	
Track: S16001_0003	Time frame: 00:09:58 - 00:20:09
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described differences between male cupboard and female cupboard which were bought for wedding in the past. Mentioned there was a customer who purchased cupboard and asked not to wipe off the dust. Wood material for male and female cupboards. Described how he made decision in buying or not buying a piece of furniture. Mentioned insects usually found in furniture. How he worked with the brokers. Mentioned flower handcrafted furniture had become expensive now. Changes in the furniture making method. Transportation used in furniture delivery.</p>	
Track: S16001_0003	Time frame: 00:20:09 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Working procedures when furniture was sent to his shop. Described working relationship with the person who pulled handcart. How wages to the handcart man were calculated. Differences in wages paid to the handcart man and the trishaw man. Described the way he did business. Mentioned time taken to repair furniture. Locations of shops for materials or tools purchasing.</p>	

Track: S16001_0004	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:05
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Customers' habits of buying second-hand furniture in olden days and today. Considerations taken in deciding the selling price. Mentioned restrictions faced in the furniture transportation nowadays. Mentioned many of the wood shops had moved to Relau and Farlim. How to do promotion. Explained why his shop was popular. Other second hand-furniture shop in George Town. Parties that he bought second-hand furniture from. The reason of people selling off their furniture. Furniture that customers would usually look for.</p>	
Track: S16001_0004	Time frame: 00:10:05 - 00:20:09
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned why people would buy antique furniture. Mentioned wealthy people were usually the one who would buy second-hand furniture. Types of furniture that were usually bought by wealthy and poor people. Where did his customers come from. Why business had become difficult nowadays. Described logo on the iron safe.</p>	
Track: S16001_0004	Time frame: 00:20:09 - 00:35:05
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described why business had become difficult nowadays. Challenges faced at work in the past. Challenges faced at work now. Described Hartal in 1967. Mentioned business was tough in 1977 and 1978. How did he overcome the tough period. How did number of workers and food provision to workers change over time. Described selling furniture to the then Education Minister. Described a copper bed. People who would buy a copper bed.</p>	
Track: S16001_0005	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:23
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned he was happy when he managed to buy antique furniture. Mentality one should have to be involved in the business. How people's perception on antique changed as compared to the past. Happy and sad situations in the business. Difficulties faced in the furniture business. Celebrities that patronized his shop. What he liked about George Town.</p>	
Track: S16001_0005	Time frame: 00:10:23 - 00:14:59
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>His hope to bring back old buildings in George Town. Things that remained unchanged in George Town. Described life in George Town in olden days.</p>	