

Mr Thannimalayan a/l Sundram

(1935)

Accession number: T15005

Track Number: T15005_0001, T15005_0002, T15005_0003, T15005_0004, T15005_0005

Duration: 02:51:46

Language/Dialect: Tamil

Track: T15005_0001	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:05
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Born in 1935 in Penang. Described his father's occupation as a labour supplier. How the labourers' wages were calculated. The business successor after his father. Mentioned that he was born in Malaya, went to study in India, and came back to Malaya to join military service to avoid being fined. Described his work experience. Mentioned taking the <i>State of Madras</i> for his returning trip to Penang from India. Described documents needed for his India-Malaysia travel. His first impression on Penang. Mentioned it was 1958 when he came to Penang from India. Described buses in Penang at that time. Mentioned taking the <i>Rajula</i> when he first travelled to India from Penang. Repeated that he took the <i>State of Madras</i> from India to Penang.</p>	
Track: T15005_0001	Time frame: 00:10:05 - 00:20:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>The change he noticed in the Penang port when he went to India from Penang, and when he returned to Penang in 1958. Mentioned going to India at about 15 years old, and came back at 22 years old. Described the documents for his travel to India. How he boarded the ship to India. Described hiring porters to carry their luggage. Described the situation on the ship. How he felt when travelling on the ship as a kid. Described the cultural differences between India and Malaysia.</p>	
Track: T15005_0001	Time frame: 00:20:00 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Differences between the ships by which he travelled to India as a kid and came back to Penang as a youth. The reason of not swimming in the swimming pool that was available on the ship. Described the differences between the ships he took from Penang to India and from India to Penang. Mentioned the staircase that was used when boarding in Penang. Mentioned hiring porters and their pay. Described the luggage box that he used when travelling to India, and when returning from there. Described the handling of sick people when the ship reached Penang. Situation in Penang during the ships' arrival. Described scenes he saw in Penang upon arrival. The reason of applying for the council's job.</p>	

Track: T15005_0002	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued with the reason of applying for the council's job. Described the process of job application to the council. Started working for the council in 1966 and retired in 1990. His starting salary and ending salary. Described how he was helped by Chooi Yew Choy (C. Y. Choy), the then mayor, and got the job as a conductor. The place where he reported to work. Described that each conductor would be given a number and they would work according to the assignment given. Described his trainer at the beginning of work. The work uniform. Mentioned coins must be handed over when finishing work. Training period. Uniform would be given only after the training period. Tailor of the uniform.</p>	
Track: T15005_0002	Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>His feelings during the first day of work. Described places where usually the crowd would gather, bus fares and his feelings. What he would do when he had no loose change on the bus. Described training provided by an experienced conductor. Elaborated on the daily routine. Gave examples of bus routes and fares. The conductor's role in charging extra when a passenger went beyond what they had paid. The checker's role. The importance of knowing the names of places in the Chinese language.</p>	
Track: T15005_0002	Time frame: 00:20:00 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Gave examples of some of the Chinese names of certain places. How did people of different ethnic groups name certain places. The importance of knowing each section and the price. Bus fares from Jetty to heritage areas. Described feeling useful to have learnt names of places in different languages. Described crowded areas. Described common problems faced on the Acheen Street route during the haj season. Mentioned applying for the checker's job. Common problems faced on the bus.</p>	
Track: T15005_0003	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:25
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued describing common problems faced on the bus. The work attitude when facing such problems. Described how politicians intervened in job promotion. Other responsibilities of a conductor besides collecting fares. Examples of bus routes and bus fares. How he memorized them when he first started working. His feelings when wearing the uniform. Mentioned that uniform was changed when he was about to retire. Described apparent temperature when the bus moved and when it did not. Mentioned buses he worked on were diesel buses. Tool that he used as a conductor. Described keeping a record for the work of the day.</p>	

Track: T15005_0003	Time frame: 00:10:25 - 00:20:11
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>What would happen if there was shortage of money. Loose change that he would bring to work each day. Where did he keep the coins. Places that he could get loose change. His office location. Described the work procedure after reporting to work in the morning. Mentioned staying in the office in Dato Keramat Road if finishing work at night. Transportation he used to go to work. Described the work procedure.</p>	
Track: T15005_0003	Time frame: 00:20:11 - 00:30:20
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued describing the work procedure. Work shifts available. Described the bus routes. Explained the work shifts. The bus routes that he had worked on. Described the bus numbers and their routes. Where usually he took breakfast.</p>	
Track: T15005_0003	Time frame: 00:30:20 - 00:38:45
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described the breakfast that he usually took. Mentioned replacing other conductors for seasonal ticket selling when it was needed. Explained what a seasonal ticket was. Mentioned that a public toilet would be built next to the bus stand and the office, and would be closed after office hour. Locations of the public toilets in town. How his lunch hour was decided. Where did he usually have lunch.</p>	
Track: T15005_0004	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>The work procedure after finishing his duty. What to do when there was shortage of money. Explained why money shortage usually happened during festivals. How was assignation of workers being adjusted during Thaipusam. His attitude towards his job. His satisfaction at work. Described having a lump on his thigh and how he suffered for about a decade. Mentioned given light jobs because of his illness. His working hours after falling sick.</p>	
Track: T15005_0004	Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:41
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned given only light jobs from 1971 to 1975 based on doctor's advice. Described working in the office when he was sick. Elaborated on his experience when working on bus number 8, a bus to Air Itam, also the last bus for people who wanted to catch up the train and how they had helped the passengers. His after-work activities. Annual leaves. Described leaves approval and work adjustment made by the council during festivals. Why he usually could not get leave during festivals. Mentioned being assigned to work on easy bus routes after falling sick. Gave examples of easy routes.</p>	

Track: T15005_0004	Time frame: 00:20:41 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued describing the easy routes. The toughest route for him. What he would do when some passengers did not have enough money to buy ticket. Mentioned the council's law on prohibiting people with disabilities or students from being driven away from the bus even if they had no money. Described an incident in which he accidentally stepped on a lady's feet when working on bus number 8. Described in details about an accident happened when he was working on bus number 8, in which the bus was knocked by a car from behind and how they dealt with it.</p>	
Track: T15005_0005	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:05
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued with the accident that happened on bus number 8, the case eventually being brought to court. Described another accident happened in P. Ramlee Road in which the bus driver hit a motorbike. Described giving warning to passengers in areas where there were a lot of pickpockets. Described a passenger who said his/her belongings were stolen on the bus. Described the condition on the bus during festivals. Steps taken if the bus was too crowded. Mentioned managing the crowd on the bus. Some of the passengers' sitting habits. Described the change in passengers' culture that he noticed.</p>	
Track: T15005_0005	Time frame: 00:10:05 - 00:20:02
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described interacting with friends from different ethnic groups. Mentioned the names of some places in Chinese and Tamil. Why was Green Hall named as <i>uppu karai theru</i> in Tamil. Shared his experience about how would the Chinese call certain places. Mentioned stopping in Weld Quay to collect bus fares before proceeding to Acheen Streen during Hari Raya Haji. Prayers that he would recite in mind during work. Described a religious organization that he was involved in.</p>	
Track: T15005_0005	Time frame: 00:20:02 - 00:30:38
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Prayers that he would usually recite. Described the curfew period. Mentioned receiving an award for working during the curfew period. Prize given on his retirement. Mentioned working as a conductor for 24 years. His feelings working as a conductor.</p>	

Track: T15005_0005	Time frame: 00:30:38 - 00:39:52
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described some passengers could still recognize him as a bus conductor. Described getting a sick leave from his doctor on the last day of work. His feelings when getting retired. Mentioned that sometimes he worked for 16 hours. Felt glad that he was still protected by the pension and other benefits that were offered to retired government workers.</p>	

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