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This transcript is made available for research purposes only.

Ning, Richard oral history interview conducted by Justin Murphy, July 16, 2023.  
History Cambridge

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## Interview with Richard Ning

July 16, 2023

**Justin Murphy** [00:00:03] Hi, my name is Justin Murphy. I'm here with Richard Ning. And the date is July 16th, 2023. We're here at the Hooper Lee Nichols House in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Today we'll be talking about the Chinese American experience in Cambridge. And, Richard, you agreed to be interviewed today, correct?

**Richard Ning** [00:00:26] Yes.

**Justin Murphy** [00:00:27] And could you state your date of birth?

**Richard Ning** [00:00:29] April 24th, 1956.

**Justin Murphy** [00:00:32] And how did you come to live in Cambridge?

**Richard Ning** [00:00:35] Well, I was born and raised here. My great grandparents and grandparents first came to Cambridge in the early 20s, 1920s and My grandparents, they had ten children, the oldest of which is my mom. And yeah, so those ten children were, you know, born and raised here in Cambridge, and they all have their own families, and those families have families. And, so many of us, myself included, you know, went to the Cambridge High and Latin school.

**Justin Murphy** [00:01:17] So tell me a little bit more about your mom's family. What- what do you remember your grandparents on your mom's side names?

**Richard Ning** [00:01:25] Yeah. My- her parents, my grandparents, their names are, her grandfa- Her, her- my grandfather's name is Loy Lee Wong, and my grandmother's name is Lee Shi Wong. They were both born in the early 1900s. So when they came here, they were in their 20s. And, you know my grandfather, he died in the late 1960s. And my grandmother died in, I want to say, around 1990. Early 1990s.

**Justin Murphy** [00:02:09] Do you have any specific memories about them that you'd like to share? What sort of things that they do for for work or, in the community?

**Richard Ning** [00:02:17] Well, certainly my grandfather, he, had restaurants, initially in Boston. But, he came to Cambridge and he opened several different restaurants over the years during the 20s and 30s, and into the 40s. And he finally opened one, which he called Young- Young Lee restaurant on Church Street, in Cambridge and Harvard Square. And so that's my memory of, you know, kind of myself kind of growing up in that restaurant. My mom worked there as a waitress. But, her dad had a stroke, and he's had to stop working. Actually, the year before I was born. But otherwise my mom continued working there under the new ownership, well into her 50s or 60s. And I spent, actually, one of my first jobs was dishwashing there. The summer

before high school. And really, I washed dishes by hand. They didn't have a washing machine, the dishwasher, washing.

**Justin Murphy** [00:03:43] And what about, your grandmother on your mom's side? Did she help out with the restaurant as well?

**Richard Ning** [00:03:52] No, because. Because she had ten kids. Right? She ended up, you know, taking care of the children. And so I always knew her, as, you know, grandma. We went to her house, frequently. And, so she was always preparing meals and things like that, for us.

**Justin Murphy** [00:04:15] Do you remember, where they lived in Cambridge? The street?

**Richard Ning** [00:04:21] Well, my- by the time I was born, they had moved. From Putnam Ave, to Upland Road. The Putnam Ave house stayed in with the family was, passed down to, my oldest uncle, and he lived there, for a number of years until they moved to Vassal Lane in Cambridge. But otherwise I- by the time I was around, you know, I, we had family gatherings at the Upland Road house.

**Justin Murphy** [00:05:02] I see. Now I know you said your mom had nine other siblings.

**Richard Ning** [00:05:07] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [00:05:08] Not to put you on the spot, but do you, do you remember the names of everyone?

**Richard Ning** [00:05:14] Yeah, I might not. I might not know them in order. I can try.

**Justin Murphy** [00:05:19] Ok yeah. Try- try your best.

**Richard Ning** [00:05:20] All right, so there's my mom, Mary. There's Vinnie. Evelyn. I think Ruby was next. And then Francis. Oh, goodness. Dottie. Jean. Tom. Howard, and I'm missing one. Sorry.

**Justin Murphy** [00:05:56] That's still good. It's still good. Yeah. And so, do you have any specific-

**Richard Ning** [00:06:02] Oh, Gene. Gene<sup>1</sup> is the one I was missing. Right?

**Justin Murphy** [00:06:06] Do you have any specific memories about them? I guess gatherings at the Upland Road house.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon review of the transcript, the narrator recalled that he meant to say Lotus, not Gene. This is corroborated by the later interview conducted with the narrator's uncle, Vinny Wong.

**Richard Ning** [00:06:12] Well, gatherings at the Upland Road house, you know. After, all those aunt and uncle's got married and had kids, I mean it was a very crowded house during, we'd get together. At Easter time, Thanksgiving, Christmas. And so all the kids, I was, of all the grandchildren, I am the fourth oldest. And you know, we'd all be laying on the floor in the living room watching TV, or we'd be- the basement was partially finished. So we'd hang out down there. You know, the all the first cousins, we'd hang out there while the adults were in the kitchen, in the dining room, and all the men was sitting around the dining room table, talking current events. You know, everybody had their own opinion. Certainly.

**Justin Murphy** [00:07:16] It must have been a pretty big house, I imagine, to fit at least 12 people at one point -

**Richard Ning** [00:07:20] Well

**Justin Murphy** [00:07:21] - as the family grew larger.

**Richard Ning** [00:07:24] Well I think by the time, my grandparents bought that house, my mom, my Uncle Vinny, and Aunt Evelyn, they were already, married. So, and so the remaining seven, lived at that house, and they kind of grew up there, you know, some of them were still young enough to be in elementary school. And the others, you know, were in high school. But, yeah, it got very crowded. My grandfather, you asked about my memories of my grandfather, he had had a stroke. I'd say, the year before, I was born, so I only knew him as, you know, the grandfather who could not walk very well. He sat in a in an easy chair, in the front ent- entryway, and he sat there kind of during all these family gatherings, just kind of watching everybody. But he, you know, couldn't communicate very well with any of us. You know, I'm sure my grandmother knew what his various sounds and grunts meant.

**Justin Murphy** [00:08:41] Right

**Richard Ning** [00:08:41] And some of my aunts and uncles did, too, but I couldn't understand him.

**Justin Murphy** [00:08:47] So after he had the stroke, who kind of took on the, the business of the restaurant? And that would have been in the 19- the mid-1950s?

**Richard Ning** [00:08:59] Mid '50s. Well, so the business was sold. The business part of the restaurant was sold to, another family. But the property, remained with the family. And the property happens to be the site of the first firehouse in Cambridge. And. So that family, that bought the restaurant business, they kept it until I want to say- you know, eventually they bought the property from my fam- my my family. And, they maintain the restaurant business there, I believe, until maybe the- sometime in the '90s. At which point, the restaurant was bought over, by another restaurant group, and they turned it into a wood fire pizza place, and they called it Cambridge One. After the name of the firehouse that originally was. So, you know, after after the restaurant business is sold to this other family, my mom continued to work there, and, you

know, my grandmother, you know, technically, she owned the property, so she received the rent. But otherwise, you know, we didn't continue to have much involvement with the restaurant itself.

**Justin Murphy** [00:10:34] Yeah. So talk a little bit about your mother's side. Were you mind telling you a little bit more about your father's side of the family?

**Richard Ning** [00:10:41] Okay. My dad. He was born and raised in, the Canton area of China. However, his his grandfather first came to the United States during the 1870s when he was 14 years old, and somehow he ended up being a water boy while the Transcontinental Railroad was being built. And, so he, you know, whatever, saved his money, tried- I guess he tried to send money home to his parents. And, they were able to build a house. Which was kind of a common thing to do with, Chinese men who came to the United States. They would work really hard, and send money home. So, at some point he did manage to go back to China. And he got married and had, two sons. Or let me get this right. Well. I don't know if it was 1 or 2 sons, but one of you know, obviously was my grandfather, and, my understanding is that he came to United States at some point, did the same thing. Only I think he he did, restaurant work or laundry work. He sent money home, and eventually he got- went back, got married and had two sons, one of which was my dad. So dad was born in 1919. And by the time he was 19 years old, China was at war with Japan. And, the, the story is my dad was standing up on the roof of the family house, and a Japanese warplane came flying over, shooting, large caliber, ammunition. And apparently one of them landed very close to where my dad was standing. So the story is that my grandmother told her husband to to take my dad and come to United States. So that was in 1938. My dad was 19 years old. So, you know, he got whatever work he could. But then was drafted into the army in 1943, during World War Two. And from there, you know, after finishing basic training, he was sent to, Fort Snelling in Minnesota, where the, there was military intelligence language school. And so my dad, he along with a couple hundred other Chinese American soldiers, went through intelligence training. And, their task was to, eventually be sent to China, to act as interpreters and translators, for the American military, even though the American military wasn't at war while they were in China, they were there as observers. But they were- they wanted, you know- they, the American military, wanted to know what's going on between the communists and the nationalists. So my dad was part of that group, that went to China. Actually, by the time they went to China, the war- World War Two was over. Japan had surrendered. But. My dad was there along with others, you know, in Nanking, in Shanghai. And he stayed for about 4 to 6 months. And then. He was, then discharged. So that's 1946, early 1947. He was discharged and came back to Massachusetts. And all that time, before he was drafted, somehow he was introduced to my mom. And he was immediately smitten, even though she was only 16 at the time. He was 23. So there's a seven year difference. But he did- while he was in the service, he wrote letters to my mom. And I found these letters after they both passed away. About ten years ago. And, I counted the letters. Over 500 handwritten letters. Beautiful script.

**Justin Murphy** [00:15:58] 500?

**Richard Ning** [00:15:58] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:15:58] Wow.

**Richard Ning** [00:16:00] I mean, my dad, even though he's an immigrant. He did go to school. Private school, when he was a child. And he learned English, and he learned how to write. So he had he had this beautiful penmanship. So it was, quite amazing going through these letters, that he wrote to my mom.

**Justin Murphy** [00:16:27] Yeah, that is awesome.

**Richard Ning** [00:16:28] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:16:30] Did did their letters at all hint at how they had met? Or do you recall?

**Richard Ning** [00:16:36] Well, yeah, they they- some of them- well, I don't know exactly how they were introduced. I- the hints I pick up is that there was a matchmaker in Boston. Now, you know, setting up the scenario is my mom is the oldest of ten children. Right? She's the oldest of seven girls in this family. And, at that time, there were not a lot of Chinese women here in the Boston area. So, many single Chinese men were very interested in this family with all these beautiful girls. And, and among the 500 letters my dad wrote, there were a few dozen letters from other potential suitors. And, one of them, you know, was a grad student at Harvard. Another one was a student at MIT. Another was a lieutenant in the Navy. And whereas my dad, you know, he's, only has a high school education from overseas, so he didn't have the education to match up with these other men. And, you know, he was a laborer basically, you know. But somehow, his persistence paid off. But, you know, during that time that he was writing these letters and he was in the service, he acknowledged that, my mom's parents really didn't approve of him. Partially because, you know, they felt that she could do better. Right?

**Justin Murphy** [00:18:36] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [00:18:40] So anyway, again, the persistence, you know, that's that's, you know, he kept professing his love for her, and he was so lonely without her and, yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:18:51] So just to talk a little bit more about your father's side. So do you remember the names of your dad's parents?

**Richard Ning** [00:18:58] I don't, I don't. Well, no, let me take that back, because my my dad's dad, you know, he was around when I was growing up, and his name is Fong Yow. And so after he came with my father to United States, he never went back. Because, you know, as you can imagine, you know, there was World War Two. And then the communists, took over China in 1949. So neither my dad, or grandfather could really go back to China to, reconnect. So, you know, my grandfather was separated from, his wife until they both, the both passed away. You know, she in China and he here in Cambridge. So that was, in a way, that's, typical of many

Chinese men who have come to United States during those years. You know, even though they were married, they might not have been with their wives.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:11] I see.

**Richard Ning** [00:20:12] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:12] Yeah. Did they have any other children besides your father?

**Richard Ning** [00:20:16] My father? Yeah. They had, another son and- so, yeah, he got married. He had three children. I think all three are still alive. One is in Los Angeles and the other two are still in China. One of them is about the same age as I am. The oldest son is about the same age as I am. I've yet to meet them.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:44] Oh, really?

**Richard Ning** [00:20:44] Yeah, that's one of my bucket list things to do.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:47] Well that would- that would be awesome.

**Richard Ning** [00:20:48] Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:49] His brother had stayed in China -

**Richard Ning** [00:20:52] Right.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:53] At the family home there?

**Richard Ning** [00:20:54] Right, right, right.

**Justin Murphy** [00:20:57] Did they ever- do you know if they ever had the opportunity to meet, later in life?

**Richard Ning** [00:21:02] Well, my mom - during the '80s and I believe maybe even the '90s - she made three trips. To China, Hong Kong and China. And, she met up with my dad's family once or twice during those trips. And my older brother was on one of those trips with her. And so he got a chance to meet, the family, the relatives. And I said, as I said, one of the the, the one girl of the three, of the- of my cousins, she lives in Los Angeles. So my, my hope is that I will- I've never contacted her all these years, so but my hope is I will. And, we'll get to meet. You know, I might have to go out to Los Angeles to meet her.

**Justin Murphy** [00:22:01] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [00:22:02] And, I mean, one of the impediments is, my Chinese language skills are not very good. So we'd have a difficult time communicating in Chinese. So I kind of hope



that- I know that she's been in the United States for 10 or 12 years now, so hopefully she speaks English well enough that we can communicate.

**Justin Murphy** [00:22:25] Yeah, that'd be-

**Richard Ning** [00:22:25] Because I'd really like to know more about, you know, what it was like growing up, you know, in China during those years.

**Justin Murphy** [00:22:34] Right, and you guys, it's almost like parallel experiences. Because you said some of the relatives are around the same age as you- In her generation. Could you remind me, your father's name?

**Richard Ning** [00:22:48] He went by George. But his Chinese name, at least the name- Chinese name, officially here in the United States is, Fong Pun Ning. But Ning, as you, as you can see, is is- the Pun Ning is his given name. The Fong part is like the family surname.

**Justin Murphy** [00:23:16] Right.

**Richard Ning** [00:23:16] So, but we ended up with Ning as our last name here in the United States.

**Justin Murphy** [00:23:21] I see.

**Richard Ning** [00:23:22] Right?

**Justin Murphy** [00:23:22] Because when he gave his name, he probably gave it in that order.

**Richard Ning** [00:23:27] Yeah, yeah. So a lot of apparently customs officers really didn't, and immigration officers, didn't recognize the, the correct order of, of surname, last name, you know. So and that happened to many immigrants where, you know, if they have a, you know, a name like that and the surname comes first, but that's not the surname, the family name, they ended up here in the United States with.

**Justin Murphy** [00:24:01] That's interesting. I didn't realize that. And so you- right, because that makes sense. Because I think you said your grandfather's name was-

**Richard Ning** [00:24:11] Yeah, Fong Yow, yeah yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:24:13] So that's where the Fong-

**Richard Ning** [00:24:15] Yeah, and- well, in fact my dad insisted our, our historical family name is Chin, which is the most common, surname in the United- you know, in in China. And so people with the last name Qing- Chin, they they like to trace their roots back to one of the original emperors of China.

**Justin Murphy** [00:24:47] Qin Shi Huang?

**Richard Ning** [00:24:47] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:24:50] I see. So you- your dad's trying to make the case that you guys could trace your [overlap] lineage that far back?

**Richard Ning** [00:24:54] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:24:58] So tell me a little bit more about your immediate family, and also your experiences growing up in Cambridge.

**Richard Ning** [00:25:05] Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [00:25:06] So you can tell me a little bit about, if you have any siblings.

**Richard Ning** [00:25:10] I do. So I'm the third of four children. There is my sister, Sandra, my brother Steve, and my younger brother, Len. And, we all grew up in a house on Oxford Street in Cambridge, a block away from, at that time, the Agassiz School, which is now the Baldwin School, elementary school. So my older brother and sister, they're like seven and five years older than me. My younger brother, seven years younger than me. So I'm in the middle seven years apart, basically. So we kind of grew up independent from each other because by the time we're in school, my older brother and sister, they're kind of out of elementary school by the time I was in elementary school. And by the time my younger brother started school, I was-

**Justin Murphy** [00:26:12] Almost already in middle school, yeah.

**Richard Ning** [00:26:14] I was, you know, certainly in, in, seventh or eighth grade, I think. And then I was in high school. So we had we all had kind of like different friend groups, growing up. Let's see what else? So Sandra got married, when she was around 21. She married Wayne, who was, a vet. He was served in the Navy during Vietnam. And, and they had two children, Kelly and Amy. Steve got married, to a woman who grew up in Hong Kong. Steve was a filmmaker. He went to Mass College of Art and got his masters from NYU. And, one of his projects that he started at NYU, and he finished after he was done, was, kind of a feature length, almost autobiographical movie - film - about a, a boy who grows up in Boston's Chinatown, and whose family, whose father has just decided to, start a restaurant in New Hampshire. So this film covers maybe a 2 or 3 week period in this 14 year old boy's life. With, you know, exploring, you know, the confusion that he's feeling, and some of the animosity he feels toward his dad. But, also, his affection for his grandfather. So I'd say that's kind of, autobiographical to the extent that there's one scene, where he's with his grandfather and they're fishing along the Charles River. Which is something that Steve probably actually did with my dad's dad. And there's another scene where the boy goes to the grandfather's, one bedroom- one room apartment in Chinatown. And he serves, rice with scrambled egg. And the rice, is, a cheaper grade of rice because it has - I don't know if you ever notice - like white rice,

sometimes there might be a little brown spot on it. Well, rice with brown spots is, cheaper. And that's all my grandfa- the grandfather could afford. Which is probably what happened with my actual grandfather. And so the name of the movie is called "Freckled Rice". So anyway, that that, that that movie has been shown on, PBS and, you know, and, it's also shown in film festivals from time to time. So even though my- Steve passed away - boy its been about 30 years ago - his wife carries on with kind of, trying to give this movie exposure, because Steve was one of the very early, Chinese American filmmakers. And if he had lived, I mean, he was in the same kind of friend group as people like, Ang Lee, and, Wayne Wong. So if Steve had not died, I- we can only imagine, you know, what Steve would have been able to accomplish, you know, along with them.

**Justin Murphy** [00:30:26] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [00:30:26] You know. And my young- so he, he, had a son who was three years old when he died. And so Dain is now in his mid-thirties, and lives in Hawaii. And my younger brother, Len, he got married. Oh, I'm going to say what? 18 years ago. It was during. It was during the 2004 Red Sox World Series.

**Justin Murphy** [00:31:08] Yeah, memorable time.

**Richard Ning** [00:31:15] Yeah. So they, they have one daughter, whos about the same age as my granddaughter. And for myself. You know, I was married, been divorced since the mid-1990s. So I feel like I've kind of raised my two daughters, almost by myself. And so my younger daughter is the one who has a daughter who's my granddaughter, and they all live with me. My older daughter lives in Miami, and she's, a restaurant person. In the midst of starting a new restaurant, in Miami. Sounds pretty cool. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:32:04] So there's still a thread of restaurants in the family?

**Richard Ning** [00:32:06] Yeah. No, she- her story is that, she, she got her kind of, chops for restaurant work, from three women. One of them was my mom. And, and then there's two other women who kind of, you know, taught her how to how to cook. But, you know, she herself didn't really start working in, in restaurants until she was, I'm gonna say in the mid-20s. And that was almost by accident. And then, you know, she just moved from restaurant to restaurant over over the course of the past 15 years, and each time taking on more and more skills. So that's led her to where she is today. And, so she told me a few weeks ago that, dad, I'm finally at a point where I don't need to work in the kitchen anymore. I'm like, the executive. She she's working in the small business group, where the owner made his wealth in the cigar business. And he had all this money he wants- he decided he wanted to ope- you know, to invest it in other kinds of venues. So somehow he found my gran- my daughter, and they've been working together for the last 2 or 3 years. And, he's made her kind of a partner, in at least a couple of the business ventures.

**Justin Murphy** [00:34:01] That's awesome.

**Richard Ning** [00:34:01] Yeah. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:34:03] And it's very cool to hear that she drew some inspiration from your mother, her grandmother.

**Richard Ning** [00:34:08] Yeah, right.

**Justin Murphy** [00:34:10] Would you mind telling you a little bit more about your mom? I know you said she had done some work in the restaurant.

**Richard Ning** [00:34:17] Right, right.

**Justin Murphy** [00:34:18] What else did she like to do? Or I guess home life, what was that like for you all?

**Richard Ning** [00:34:23] Well, for the most part, while we were growing up, she. She did work as a waitress at the Young- which became, well, what became the Young and Yee Restaurant.

**Justin Murphy** [00:34:37] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [00:34:39] And she did that into the '80s or '90s, I think. But that was very part time. Although, you know, mostly she was a stay at home mom took care of the kids. She loved to entertain. People could come visit anytime unannounced. And, you know, she'd welcome them and. First thing she would do is ask, have you eaten yet? And she became known as a very, very good cook. And, you know, she would, would, would put on 10 or 12 course meals when, on holidays. And there's on- so here's one fun story is that, while we were growing up, while I was growing up, she would host, Christmas dinner for a Jewish family. Who, not the dad, but, one of them was my dad's best friend from their service days during World War Two. And, Herbert Offen is the name. He was the only white person in this military intelligence language school, and, and he- they somehow became, you know, friends with my dad because he was from Brookline. And so, they were like- they had that commonality. They were both from the Boston area, even though at the time they were so far from home. But, he, he was assigned into that unit, partially because technically he was an officer. But he also, studied, Asian languages when he was in, in college. So, that gave him kind of the credentials to be part of this group. And, for years and years, there were these large, group photos of all these men, you know, sitting in rows. And those large photos were hanging in the our hou- in our hallway for years and years and years. And so, I have those photos now. And so I put little tiny arrows pointing to my dad and Herbert, in those photos. Which- so that's kind of a fun thing. I recently- Herbert passed away years ago, but I recently reconnected with his brother, and his brother's wife, you know, and their, and their daughter. So our- my plan is that we're going to continue to try to stay in touch, because it was the brother, Arnold, who spoke up at my dad's funeral. And it was, what, 2013? And he told us a story about Herbert and my dad. They were given an assignment to go

into northern China to obtain some radioactive material, a sample of it. You know, there was, I guess, concerned that the Russians were trying to do something with radioactive material.

**Justin Murphy** [00:38:22] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [00:38:24] So the story is, in the dead of night, the two of them take a truck and drive to whatever the destination is, and they somehow got a satchel of this material, and they put it in the back of the truck. And on the way back to whatever, camp there were at, they hit a bump and the satchel fell off the back of the truck. So, Herbert noticed it, and he stopped and he got out of the truck, he walked back, and, when he got up to the satchel on the road, he opened it up to make sure everything's okay, and this puff of dust blew up into his face. Now, mind you, I always knew Herbert as being bald. So in retrospect, I'm thinking, I wonder if this radioactive material caused him to lose his hair. But going back. So Herbert and his brother and wife and their and, the kids, they came to Christmas dinner. For years and years while I was growing up. Of course, at that time, you know, we were kids we never bothered to ask about, you know, much of their experience during World War Two. But that's certainly part of why they got together all the time. To reminisce, you know.

**Justin Murphy** [00:39:52] Yeah. So, when your father, returned after World War Two, was he involved in any, veteran organizations?

**Richard Ning** [00:40:04] Not, not at first that I know of. When he first came back, and I know this from the letters that he wrote because, he continued, he he ended up working at a restaurant in New Bedford for at least 2 or 3 years. And some of these letters he wrote to my mom were from there. But at some point, I'm not sure what year, there was an American Legion post, put together, in, in Chinatown. So he, I believe that he was one of the early members. And then in the- sometime in the '70s, he became the, commander of that post. And, you know, we have pictures of him, I guess during the inauguration ceremony. And, and also in addition to that, he ran a Chinese movie theater. Started doing that sometime in the '60s and continued doing that into the '80s. Initially it was just two nights a week, he would rent out a movie theater, which happened to be in the Combat Zone in Chinatown or just outside Chinatown. Right? And, eventually, as he- when he started doing that, he was working at a Chinese restaurant near Chinatown in the, I want to say, 1967 or '68. He got recruited to be a life insurance salesman for New York Life. And so that gave him a lot more time. And he expanded the movies into, eventually into seven days a week. He rented, a movie theater full time. So he and my mom kind of ran that together. It was all nonprofit. It was through a nonprofit organization based in New York. And, so I guess they kind of continued doing that over the course of all these years. I'm going to say he, he rented, I'm going to say 6 or 7 different movie theaters all within, you know, walking distance of of Chinatown.

**Justin Murphy** [00:42:37] Do you remember the names of any of the movie theaters by chance?

**Richard Ning** [00:42:46] One was called Essex, one was called National, I don't remember the names of the others. The last one I know of is, currently, a restaurant, a Chinese restaurant called Empire Garden. And so that was converted to a restaurant, I don't know, 10, 15 years ago. So I take my family there often. They have great dimsum.

**Justin Murphy** [00:43:18] And so do you remember any of the movies that they had been showing at the movie theater?

**Richard Ning** [00:43:22] Well, so, I mean, he started again in the late 1960s. And in those time- and all the movies came from Hong Kong. And, in the early days, it was only movies that would appeal to Chinese immigrants. They were all in Cantonese language, some with subtitles. English subtitles. But then, you know, after Bruce Lee hit the scene, these Hong Kong production houses, started creating kung fu movies. Several a week. So during the '70s and into the '80s, more than half of the movies were kung fu type movies. You know, otherwise they would be some some comedy, some dramas. But it was the kung fu movies that, expanded the appeal to non-Chinese moviegoers. And I think at some point he did show some some of the Bruce Lee movies as well, but otherwise they were the other kung fu movies from other, Hong Kong studios.

**Justin Murphy** [00:44:46] Did you go to any of the movies yourself?

**Richard Ning** [00:44:48] I did, I did.

**Justin Murphy** [00:44:49] Do you remember how how crowded it- was it crowded, usually?

**Richard Ning** [00:44:52] Yeah. I mean, during during that time of- period of time when he only did it twice a week. So then it became, you know, people who wanted to go see these movies, they had to really schedule themselves, you know. As to make that a destination. And in specific it was like, Wednesday and Friday nights. That was it, in the early days. And yeah, certainly. Sometimes there were big crowds. I mean, there were at that time, some movies, really- there was one movie called The One Armed Bandit or "One Armed Swordsman." I'm sorry. "One Armed Swordsman." That was very popular. In the early, I'm gonna say early '70s. So I think I have that on DVD at home.

**Justin Murphy** [00:45:50] Do you remember the name of the nonprofit that was there? And I guess what was- Do you remember, I guess what the funds were raising for the nonprofit?

**Richard Ning** [00:45:59] Well, I guess the nonprofit organization was- it was called Kim Sing Musical something or other association or something like that. So apparently, you know, there is a movie house in New York. The one here in Boston. And I don't know if it was other cities as well. But, you know, there were certainly times when I mean, there's no way that, you know, some of these movies made profits. They sometimes would barely cover costs. But, you know, after when I was- after my dad passed and I was, cleaning up the house, I came across boxes and boxes of receipts, accounting receipts and things like that. So that's what leads me to think

that, you know, there were times when they actually lost money. And so my, my dad certainly could not afford to live on that. He, although he and my mom, they were able to keep whatever profits they could from the concessions, you know, the concession stands. So that's what kind of what kept them going at it.

**Justin Murphy** [00:47:27] And so I think you had mentioned your mom was quite a cook.

**Richard Ning** [00:47:31] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [00:47:31] Did you have any favorite dishes that she made?

**Richard Ning** [00:47:35] Sure. As I said, there are times when she would make 10 or 12 course meals, and invariably there would be like- lobster, Cantonese style, which is, you know, the lobster is cut up into, a dozen pieces, stir fried with ground pork and ginger and garlic and, black bean. She would also make, you know, chicken fingers, fried chicken fingers and lo mein noodles, wonton soup. She would make steamed dumplings. She would make, sticky rice in bamboo leaves. So these are the kind of things that we, looked forward to having when she was cooking. A lot of work. I said to myself when I retired, that, that should give me time that I could learn. You know, I haven't quite follow through on all of that, but.

**Justin Murphy** [00:48:49] Did she ever write down any of the recipe?

**Richard Ning** [00:48:52] She did, she did. And, so those recipes, I found some of them. And, so I've, I've shared those with family members who wanted to have Aunt Mary's recipes. There was a time, when, you know, Washington, D.C., on the Mall, there's an annual event. Kind of- I think it kind of like, International Day kind of thing. And so my older brother Steve and his wife arranged- this whole event was sponsored by the Smithsonian Museums Institute. And so, they arranged for my mom to do Chinese cooking demonstrations. So there she would demonstrate how to cook, and she'd explain to observers, you know, what she was doing, what the ingredients were, and things like that.

**Justin Murphy** [00:49:59] Do you remember around what time period that was?

**Richard Ning** [00:50:06] I'm going to say mid '80s. Mid-1980s. Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [00:50:10] Wow. That's really cool.

**Richard Ning** [00:50:11] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [00:50:12] That the Smithsonian had that. And your mom [overlap] was able to make it down there.

**Richard Ning** [00:50:14] [overlap] Right. Yep. Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [00:50:16] That's awesome. So tell me a little bit more about daily life for you and your family in Cambridge. Were there any places you all like to go on the weekends? Things you'd like to do?

**Richard Ning** [00:50:33] I'm going to have to answer, that, because, you know, we had very modest means. We didn't, we didn't do any traveling. You know, at least when, you know, when I was a child. My dad, he didn't learn to drive a car. He didn't get a driver's license and get a car until he got that job as a life insurance salesman. So by that time, he was already in his early 50s. So if and when we ever did go on any trips. It was with my my Uncle Vinny. And so there there were, I remember one trip we took to Toronto. Another trip to New York this 1964, '65 for the world- for the World's Fair. That was in New York at the time. But, you know, growing up, even driving out to, like, Framingham, seemed like really far away. So otherwise, I'm going to have to say that, because we were of modest means, you know, my mom and dad, they were always working. And so life as a child in our household was, first priority was, school and trying to get good grades. And. And not until high school can I say that I really started exploring how to do a lot of things, but those were mostly like high school activities, you know, going camping in New Hampshire. Learning to cross-country ski. Downhill ski. I played tennis in high school. Tried the band a little bit trumpet. That didn't last. And when I got my driver's license at age 17, I would borrow my aunt's car. And so, I guess one story that can go along with that is, so if you can imagine 1973, 1974, we're going through the gas crisis. That was the oil embargo. So anybody who needed to get gas, number one, was limited to, you know, only a couple dollars at a time. Which, you know, at that time price of gas was maybe 50, \$0.55 a gallon. So you could at least get, you know, several gallons of gas. So I made a deal with one of my high school teachers, and I was like, if you let me borrow your car. Which I, you know, sometimes just for a day. One time I actually drove to Connecticut. But I said to him, I'll bring it back with gas. And he was good with that. Because we had to- people who got gas, they had to stay, wait in lines for half hour, 45 minutes or even longer, so.

**Justin Murphy** [00:54:10] It must have been an interesting time to, you know, start driving. Learning how to drive.

**Richard Ning** [00:54:15] Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I failed my first driver's license test. And that test, you know, in those days, the driving tests were actually in the streets, not in, in, like these days, it's all in a parking lot with, you know, cones. And you had to-

**Justin Murphy** [00:54:38] Right.

**Richard Ning** [00:54:38] Right? So, in, in, if you can imagine, actually, the streets here in Cambridge, my first driving test, I'm coming out of a, small side street. And, and I could see there's no traffic on this, the main street I was turning into. And so I didn't quite stop. And I got dinged on that. Yeah, yeah. He says this is not California, you can't do a California stop. And I



did that test with, my brother's roommate, who had a Rambler at the time, which is this old, boxy, big, boxy kind of car. And so the second test I did pass. And I borrowed my brother in law's car, which is, I want to say a 1967, Dodge Super Bee, which was a sports car. And so because I had failed the first time, I was being really careful.

**Justin Murphy** [00:55:43] Right.

**Richard Ning** [00:55:43] And the, driving person- the testing person said, look, you're driving really carefully, I understand. But I want you to show me how to use- that you know how to use this kind of car. So he wanted me to actually speed up and even exceed the speed limit for at least for a little bit.

**Justin Murphy** [00:56:09] Yeah, wow.

**Richard Ning** [00:56:11] So. So what else?

**Justin Murphy** [00:56:20] And so you mentioned some extracurricular activities-

**Richard Ning** [00:56:22] Right.

**Justin Murphy** [00:56:23] You did tennis in high school.

**Richard Ning** [00:56:24] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [00:56:25] Were there any others?

**Richard Ning** [00:56:27] All right. So the other thing about high school is, so I started high school in 1970, and at that time there was, a very new experimental alternative high school within the Cambridge Public School system. It was called a Pilot School. And so people came to our eighth grade class and talked about this Pilot School program and- to let us know that, you know, we would have to apply. But the application process and the selection process, was designed so that it would have equal representation, across all neighborhoods of Cambridge, across, all socioeconomic kind of groups. But there were only 60 slots available. So I, you know, I applied and several of us in my eighth grade class - we only had 18, 19 kids in our class - but 4, I want to say 4 or 5 of us got accepted. And, so the 4 or 5 of us, we've known each other since kindergarten. We still get together now. Anyway, the Pilot School was experimental, kind of unconventional at that time. The idea was to offer teaching in a way that, while still meeting, you know, standards, but to teach in a way that keeps the kids' interest. So, for instance, instead of classic literature, one of the classes, one of the courses I took was called monsters, where we read, and, wrote reports on the classic classic monster stories like Frankenstein. You know. We didn't sit in rows, of desks. We sat, you know, in circles. Or we could sit on the floor. We could sit on the windowsill. We were located on the fourth floor of what at that time was Rindge Tech. And that building still stands. Because the, the other building, the Cambridge High and Latin School building, technically, I- that's where I graduated from. That building, I can't

remember what year that was torn down. So the entire high school system now in Cambridge is located in what at that time was known as the Rindge Tech Building. Many of the teachers- this actually, this this experiment was sponsored by Harvard, grad school of Education. So many of the teachers were actually grad students there. And, and they all realized that, they were teaching in unconventional ways. It was politically very liberal. I mean, these were the days of hippies were still, very prominent. So that certainly influenced many of us, in terms of how we see politics even to this day. So Pilot School continued, I believe until, when? '90s, early 2000, I think? I can't remember. And but it- and also things had changed in Cambridge over the years as well. So, Cambridge I always felt like was willing to, try new things. But I'll also say that in 1970 or '71, there was one school Committee member. Who has did not like to Pilot School. He wanted to get it shut down. And, so he he- at meetings of the Cambridge School Board, many of us showed up. Kind of to protest, you know, him. And, in the end, he failed to get his wishes fulfilled. Because we also had other people on the, on the, there were other people on the, Cambridge, school board, who were very much in favor of the Pilot School. So they they were able to prevail. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:02:03] So there's a bit of activism involved in your [overlap] high school experience.

**Richard Ning** [01:02:06] [overlap] Yeah, Yeah, yeah. And, you know, speaking of activism, Activision activism, those are also, the days of white black animosity going on. So, we at the Pilot School, we ended up having meetings among the students, but the students were split up. First there were meetings of white students and other meetings with black students. And there I was, along with my friend Dennis. And we were, you know, both Chinese. We both grew up together. We're saying to each other, All right, so which meeting do we go to? All right. So, I mean, that, come to think of it, becomes kind of a relevant point with your project is, you know, what is it like to grow up as a Chinese American in Cambridge? So there was a bit, a little bit of I, what we would otherwise call some identity confusion going on.

**Justin Murphy** [01:03:20] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:03:20] Right?

**Justin Murphy** [01:03:23] Well tell me, tell me a little bit more about that. You know, what was the-

**Richard Ning** [01:03:28] Well my- I think the conclusion was, maybe I went to one of the meetings with the white kids. But I didn't continue to, you know, to go because it was like, this does not- I felt like it did not really involve me. All right. I felt like, all right, this is something that these kids also, along with these very progressive liberal teachers need to try to figure out how to smooth things out. All right. So otherwise, you know, life kind of went on, you know, we all went to class and things like that. One of the other things I did at Pilot School is I started what I called a coffee shop.

**Justin Murphy** [01:04:31] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:04:32] All right. And. So I, you know, it's just simply out of, you know, I saw kind of a need. And so I, I'd get to school like an hour early. You know, I managed to buy a coffee urn at a yard sale. And so I would get there to get the hot water going. And I had freeze dried coffee. And I'd make, you know, little blueberry muffins. And I'd sell, you know, things for \$0.10.

**Justin Murphy** [01:05:10] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:05:10] And so that was enough to cover costs. And I'd keep the money in a little coffee can. And unfortunately, I learned too late that I should have kept that coffee can with me in person or in my locker, but I kept it on a on a top shelf, on a very high shelf in the office. And one day, that coffee can disappeared. And it probably had 10, \$15 in it, you know, because. So anyway, I used that as a story for my college application essay. And I'd, I learned how to use the word distraught.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:01] Yeah, definitely a good way to describe it.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:03] Yeah. So, anyway, you know, when other kids found out, a lot of them donated money to me so I could continue doing what I was doing.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:15] Oh. That's awesome.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:16] Yeah. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:16] Good outcome.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:18] Yep. That was before GoFundMe, right?

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:24] And so I know you mentioned you had a friend, Dennis.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:26] Right.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:27] That was also Chinese.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:28] Right.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:28] That you grew up with.

**Richard Ning** [01:06:29] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [01:06:30] Were there a lot of other Chinese families in the area when you grew up?

**Richard Ning** [01:06:34] Well, so, at the Agassi school there were, three Chinese American families. So along with Dennis, there was Ellen. The three of us went through elementary school together and went through high school together. Dennis's family lived a few blocks away from where I lived, and Ellen's family, they had, a Chinese laundry on Mass Ave. So on the other side of the- on the other, opposite- the other side of the block, from where I- my house was. Oh, but they otherwise, you know, their home was on Huron Ave. So, and so my family, along with the other two families, they all had kids. All of us in the same age range, basically. So we all knew each other. Played together growing up. And other families I knew, for instance, there was one family I knew. They they lived in Somerville. But the dad, his name is, we knew him as Leo. He ran the restaurant in Frank's Steakhouse on Mass Ave.

**Justin Murphy** [01:08:10] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:08:11] And. That was the second job I had. Washing dishes, washing dishes for him. And that was- his family was, you know, in retrospect, looking back, was unusual at that time because his wife was white and she's, I think she's from Maine. And they had, you know, 6 or 7 kids. So it's very unusual for mixed race families back in the '50s and '60s. But again, they had their kids who were around the same age as me and my brothers and sisters and- brothers and sister. So we kind of grew up knowing each other as well. So if you go to Frank's Steakhouse now, hopefully they still have, kind the history of Frank's Steakhouse on the menu. So his name is in there.

**Justin Murphy** [01:09:19] Yeah. I, I'm actually a little familiar.

**Richard Ning** [01:09:21] Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [01:09:22] I think on their website, they even, mention him.

**Richard Ning** [01:09:25] Okay, okay. All right.

**Justin Murphy** [01:09:28] And do you remember the name of the restaurant that he operated? Or was it just within Frank's?

**Richard Ning** [01:09:33] It was just Frank's Steakhouse. My understanding is, he, was maybe in partnership with the family that owned the restaurant. But, he ran the kitchen, and maybe I misstated. He ran the kitchen.

**Justin Murphy** [01:09:58] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:09:58] So. His oldest son was a cook there. My Uncle Vinny was a cook there. And, you know, as I said, I washed dishes, on Saturdays, for about a year. I think it was

maybe during my sophomore year in high school. And at least that restaurant had a dishwashing machine. Because when I was working in washing dishes at Young and Yee restaurant, there was no dishwashing machine. Had to wash everything by hand. And, we had this very harsh soap. Powder soap. And so I was told to put a cup of this powder into the sink, fill up the sink and put all the dishes in there and wash them. By the next day, skin was peeling off my hands and it took a whole week to recover. So by the time I- by the time my hands recovered, I'd have to go back to work. Luckily, I only did that for a summer before I started high school. So.

**Justin Murphy** [01:11:18] Wow. And so you mentioned a few Chinese families all kind of growing up in the same area. And so were there ever any gatherings with other families?

**Richard Ning** [01:11:33] Some, I would say, as I said, my mom, you know, always welcomed visitors. And so definitely, you know, those families would come visit. At least the adults in the families would come visit with my mom. I do have one picture, I don't think I included it with the bunch I s- I'm giving you, but I could. There's one picture of, it might be like a picnic type of picture, with Dennis's mom and, the kids and my mom, with us. Not sure where the, you know, the picture was taken. It was outdoors. I do know one favorite thing my mom did. At least based on pictures of kind of the early years of of my mom and dad being together. They'd like to go to, Franklin Park.

**Justin Murphy** [01:12:44] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:12:44] Yeah because there are lots of pictures of them there. Or they would go, maybe they went to like Charles River, things like that, you know.

**Justin Murphy** [01:12:57] Oh that's nice. Were there- do you know if there are any specific, like Chinese community organizations at the time, kind of formalized, that you or your family were a part of?

**Richard Ning** [01:13:08] Yeah. I mean there there- I mean, in Chinatown, you know, there are family, family associations. As I said, my dad said that we were really Chins, right? So. The Chin Family Association, very active. And I- one year when I was, I don't know, 8 or 9 years old during Chinese New Year, you know, they would have the kind of parades in Chinatown. And so I somehow was allowed to participate in that, and I was given a sweatshirt that was way too big for me. So that was one thing. There's, there's another organization called on- Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, which my dad was involved with. I think they are still active. These fam- the the thing with these family associations and the and the CCBA. Kind of their purpose was to help, Chinese immigrants, assimilate, help with legal matters, help with financial matters. One of the ways that Chinese restaurants were able to proliferate, was that members of these family associations would kind of pool their money together and that money would be used to open Chinese restaurants, mostly in the suburbs. And that's why, you know, in almost any city and town, you can find a Chinese restaurant.

**Justin Murphy** [01:15:15] Yeah, so those associations were just helping-

**Richard Ning** [01:15:17] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:15:18] - the community grow.

**Richard Ning** [01:15:18] Yeah, yep.

**Justin Murphy** [01:15:21] And a lot of those were based in Boston, that your family was involved in?

**Richard Ning** [01:15:26] Yeah, you know.

**Justin Murphy** [01:15:27] Wasn't too common to have-

**Richard Ning** [01:15:29] Not here. Not necessarily here in Cambridge. No, no. It is. As a matter of fact, I'm going to have to say that I don't think there were any organized groups of, you know, Chinese Americans, at least back in those days. You know, there might have been certainly at the local colleges, right, of students. Right? As a matter of fact, you know, I went to Har- I ended up going to Harvard, and, I was the president of the Chinese Student Association at Harvard. And I was also the president for at least for a couple of years. And I was also president of the, what we call the Intercollegiate Chinese Student Association. So that, you know, many, many or most of the universities in in Cambridge, in Boston, you know, we'd get together, and try to coordinate things because each of these, associations, you know, they were mostly kind of social organizations. A way for students to meet each other. So our intercollegiate crew would kind of coordinate schedules so that there were no conflicted dates, conflicting dates for for these events. So that was, you know, for social purposes. There were other at that time, and I'm talking when I was in school, 1974 through '78. There was just the beginning of some activism among Asian students on the college campuses. And personally, I kind of stayed away from that because my position was, well, we've got the Chinese Student Association, we're social. We're not political. Which, you know, at that time, you know, United States was just starting to, have more open relations with China. And I wanted, you know, our group to kind of stay out of that, to not, take a position because certainly, you know, we, you know, there were, students on campuses, just beginning to come from China, but many were from Taiwan. So there was a certain amount of distrust going on. And so I didn't want any of that kind of impeding what we were trying to do with our get togethers.

**Justin Murphy** [01:18:33] Yeah. So tell me a little bit more about your, experience leading, you know, the Chinese Student Association at Harvard.

**Richard Ning** [01:18:40] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:18:43] Again, it was, in retrospect, I probably shouldn't have done it because I was, my grades, kind of reflected my, the fact that I was distracted quite a bit. But otherwise, you

know I, I- you know it- I mean if you think about it, I'm. I'm a homie. I'm a homeboy, right? I'm a local kid. Whereas, I'm dealing with kids from all over the country. And you know, we're all, you know, just trying to have some fun, you know? And trying to get distracted from our studies. So we, we would end up doing, organizing maybe 3 or 4 kind of parties or mixers each year. And a couple times, you know, at least once we'd have a big dinner. Which my mom helped cook some of the food.

**Justin Murphy** [01:20:00] Oh wow, yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:20:00] And certainly some of my best friends from college days are, were also active, with the Chinese Student Association. So we try to get together some, to some degree at at our reunions. You know, I don't know if, you know, Harvard has, for each class, every five years.

**Justin Murphy** [01:20:25] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:20:25] So I just had my 45th. When was that? End of May, early June. So, my best friend, my roommate from my college days, you know, we spent a lot of a lot of time together during the reunion. So again, it's like I said, it's- what we did is mostly for fun.

**Justin Murphy** [01:20:55] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:20:57] But I did, you know, get to meet people at other schools, too.

**Justin Murphy** [01:21:04] That's great. And so you said that around that time period in the mid to late 1970s, you said some students from China and Taiwan were actually coming. Did they get involved in the Chinese Student Association, if you can recall?

**Richard Ning** [01:21:24] To s-, to some degree. Sure, yeah. But many of them were also very serious about their studies. So they had limited involvement.

**Justin Murphy** [01:21:35] I see, yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:21:40] But, you know, they also wanted to meet other people. So this is, this was one thing that they could do to meet other people without a whole lot of, I guess, investment of time, you know.

**Justin Murphy** [01:21:51] Yeah. Maybe go to 1 or 2 of the mixers, rather than 3 or 4.

**Richard Ning** [01:21:54] Exactly. That's right. Right. But you know, if you if you might remember that, you know, disco was just taking off in what, 197- 6, '77. And, the reason we were able to organize these mixers, because a few guys in the group, they had, very elaborate stereo systems and very powerful speakers.

**Justin Murphy** [01:22:24] Wow, okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:22:24] And they would haul them into, you know, you know, whatever dining hall we were using, you know, in, as a party. And, and they'd have, you know, huge collections of vinyl. So that was kind of their thing. They could show off their great stereo systems.

**Justin Murphy** [01:22:50] Right. And so what did you end up studying at Harvard?

**Richard Ning** [01:22:59] I ended up studying. I started out in pre-med.

**Justin Murphy** [01:23:02] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:23:05] And the story behind that is, in fifth grade, our teacher asked us, what do we want to be when we grow up. So I went home, I said to my mom, the teacher asked us what we want to be when we grow up, and I didn't know. And she says, well, it would be nice if you became a doctor. So from that point on, you know, my focus was, do as well as I can, get good grades, and make sure I take the right courses and- so I did pretty well with math, at least in elementary and high school. I even took Latin as my foreign language, you know, because I was told that if you're going to become a doctor, you need to know Latin to understand the words.

**Justin Murphy** [01:24:01] Right.

**Richard Ning** [01:24:02] Right. And you know, I took I did well in sciences, right. But then freshman year at Harvard, when I picked a biology class, there were two different biology classes. One was more difficult than the other. So I figured, all right, strategically, I should pick the more difficult class. And if I can do well there, then you should establish me, right? I nearly flunked.

**Justin Murphy** [01:24:35] Wow yeah, okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:24:36] And so that kind of threw me off-

**Justin Murphy** [01:24:42] The pre-med track?

**Richard Ning** [01:24:43] Yeah. Threw me off the pre-med track. In the meantime, I had taken, Mandarin Chinese, as my foreign language. And, so I ended up, concentrating in East Asian studies, Chinese and Japanese history. I mean, I kept up with, the Mandarin Chinese, classes all four years. But like I said, I was terrible student. And, so here I am now. I only remember half a dozen different phrases that, that could help me in restaurants. Or could, I- or would help explain why, I don't understand what you're saying.

**Justin Murphy** [01:25:29] Yeah, the important phrases.

**Richard Ning** [01:25:29] Yeah. So by my junior and senior year. You know, it was getting time when I had to think about what I needed to do with a degree in East Asian studies. And at that



time, the choices were either international business, teaching, or State Department. Well, I took a look at the State Department exam, or at least the, practice version. And I think I got three out of 20 questions correct.

**Justin Murphy** [01:26:16] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:26:16] And I said, all right, that's not the track I can get. I can get on. And, at that time, I had no interest in business because, remember, I got my hippie roots. And-.

**Justin Murphy** [01:26:29] Pilot School?

**Richard Ning** [01:26:29] Yeah. And, teaching didn't interest me either. And if I was a terrible student, I'd probably be a terrible teacher. So I finished college, without a job. Although, let me say this. During college, my- I did have a job as a bartender at the faculty club. So I, you know, that was a part time job, maybe ten hours a week or something like that. So when I graduated, I was able to continue working there. I did have a summer job as, as a teacher, elementary school teacher at a summer program in Chinatown. But then after the summer is over, I again, I didn't have a job lined up, so I was talking to my dad about. I think what I'll do is I will take my car and start driving around the country. And, you know, I'd go to like, Atlanta and stop, stay there for a few months, get a job bartending, save enough money. So I'd get back in the car and go to my next destination. And maybe this might take two yea- two, a couple of years.

**Justin Murphy** [01:27:48] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:27:49] So that freaked out my dad, and he started asking around. Among his friends if they knew of any jobs and. And one of them did know about a job with the Census Bureau. So we're talking 19- end of, end of 1978. Census Bureau is getting ready for the 1980 census. And, they had some job openings for people to work, doing kind of public relations with local community organizations. Specifically, you know, minority communities, church leaders, local politicians, schools, nonprofit organizations, things like that, to get them to understand what the census is all about and to help, spread the word among their constituents that when that questionnaire arrives in the mail or when somebody comes knocking on your door, please respond. Right? Because otherwise we'd be facing undercounts. So I ended up applying for that job and, got the job. And so this is I started the job December 1978. And at that time, I was considered a part time job that would only last as long as the census. And I had a great time doing that job. I traveled all over New England. Our office was based in Boston. And, our region covered all six New England states and upstate New York. So I would travel all over the place. And after the census was over, they offered me a job to stay on to work in what we called the library, where, we had an extensive collection of Census Bureau publications, statistical reports, and things like that. And so our job was to, make presentations to local community organizations to help them get familiar with how to use these reports. So, you know, if they needed to write grants and things like that, they, you know, they could use these reports about population and demographics and all kinds of things. And we also answered, phone calls, from

the general public, people who wanted to know, specific statistical data. And so I did that for a couple of years. And, in the meantime, I started to think. All right. I wonder if I can make this, you know, a career. So I started taking- I, but I knew that, I needed to take some courses, in statistics. So I started taking, some math and stat courses at Harvard Extension School, and, I was able to then qualify for, some supervisory positions. Supervising field interviewers for demographic surveys that we ran every month. And then, with a certificate. It's called a certificate of special studies administration management from the Harvard Extension School. When I completed that, I went to the regional director. I said, you know, I so I finish this program. It's one- equal to one year of postgraduate study. I'd like to help- I'd like to try to advance my career. And so the regional director said, alright, let me make some phone calls and ask around. And I ended up getting promoted, to a job at the headquarters office in Suitland, Maryland, just outside of Washington, DC. So, I star- so I transferred there in 1990, and stayed there until 2016. So I was 26 years in, in the headquarters office. And I ended up managing, from the kind of national angle demographic surveys and doing, cost analysis and supervising a crew of people, to do that kind of work as well.

**Justin Murphy** [01:32:52] When you were part of that, the 1980 census. Do you remember the types of organizations you had met all kind of in New England?

**Richard Ning** [01:33:00] All right, so one of my memorable trips was, I was assigned to meet with the tribal leaders of three American Indian tribes in Maine. So, I flew up to Bangor, rented a car, and visited these three reservations. It was a 500 mile triangle. And so, I mean, there I was, this 22 year old kid, meeting with, you know, what they call themselves tribal governors. So, at least within their own kind of community, they're very important people. And they they, for the most part, welcomed to me. One of them was somewhat skeptical.

**Justin Murphy** [01:34:07] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:34:08] And, so I had to speak up for myself, and I think, it worked. He was kind of surprised that I was not this meek kid. And, he ended up inviting me back to go hunting some time.

**Justin Murphy** [01:34:25] Yeah, wow.

**Richard Ning** [01:34:28] Which, you know, up until then I had used, a rifle only once. And that was summer camp for Boy Scouts. So I never took him up on his offer.

**Justin Murphy** [01:34:44] It was nice [overlap] that he offered

**Richard Ning** [01:34:44] But, yeah, it's nice that he offered. Now so that that was one memorable trip. I also learned that, do not go to upstate New York in January.

**Justin Murphy** [01:34:58] And why is that?

**Richard Ning** [01:34:59] Because if you get there, and you might get there fine, you know, whether you're driving or flying, you might not be able to leave according to schedule because the snow. And that did happen one time. I had a noontime meeting scheduled in Albany. So I left early in the morning because Albany is, what, two and a half to three hour drive from here. So I get there in time for the meeting. And by the time the meeting's over, there's snow coming down. And so I managed to get back in my car and start driving, you know, on the Mass Pike. And the snow is coming down so hard I can barely see the lane I'm driving in. And I didn't get home until 9:00 at night. Now, these are the days before cell phones, and the only phones that you could use were at, rest areas and, service areas, and there were pay phones. And I barely had enough change in my pocket. To, you know, they- because you know you couldn't use a credit card, right? For a pay phone. And I but I needed to call my wife at the time and say, I'm not sure if I can get home, but I'm not authorized to stay in a hotel tonight.

**Justin Murphy** [01:36:24] Wow, yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:36:25] I couldn't get hold my boss to to ask him if I could just try to find a hotel. So I was determined. I managed to get home. It was 9:00 at night. You know what would ordinarily be a three hour drive turned into, what, eight hours? And it was pretty dangerous.

**Justin Murphy** [01:36:47] I can imagine.

**Richard Ning** [01:36:47] Yeah. But otherwise, yeah, the experience on this job I was able to meet, like I said, I remember, one local politician, Mel King. I think at that time he might have been, a council member in Boston. Or he- I can't remember if I know eventually he-to become a council member, but maybe at that time he was the head of some local nonprofit organization. And I remember he said, I'm not going to support you, the Census Bureau, in the 1980 census. Because it's to my advantage that there is an undercount. Then I can complain, that there's an undercount and that the Census Bureau didn't do its job.

**Justin Murphy** [01:37:53] Interesting.

**Richard Ning** [01:37:53] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:37:54] Interesting strategy.

**Richard Ning** [01:37:55] Exactly. Yeah. He I mean, you know, he he was, an activist. I believe he recently passed away, and there were all kinds of tributes in the news about him. So, you know, it was interesting job.

**Justin Murphy** [01:38:16] And so you ended up moving down to Maryland?

**Richard Ning** [01:38:19] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [01:38:19] To work kind of more in headquarters-

**Richard Ning** [01:38:21] Yep.

**Justin Murphy** [01:38:22] At the Census Bureau. And then you came back to this area-

**Justin Murphy** [01:38:27] After I retired. Yeah, I retired in 2016.

**Justin Murphy** [01:38:30] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:38:32] And my- I mean, there were a couple things that motivated me to do this. One was my granddaughter at that time was just nine years old. And, she knew some of my extended family because, you know, we'd come back here, for little vacations and things like that. And if we happened to come back at a time that there were big family gatherings and then she would meet them, but, she couldn't, you know, there are too many people for her to remember.

**Justin Murphy** [01:39:02] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:39:04] So part of my motivation was to to come back here with her and my daughter. But primarily so that my granddaughter could get to know the extended family, which, you know, we've been back here now for seven years, and she mo- and she at this point, I think she knows most people by name. Even my aunts and uncles who are all, you know, they're the old people, right? But, you know, she knows some of, some of my cousins, some of my first cousins and their families. And the other motivation was I needed to settle my parents estate. Clean up their house. They had a triple decker, on Oxford Street, and, and we still had some tenants. So I had to, give them notice that, you know, I intended to, sell the property, and I needed them to find other places to to live. But, you know, that was like a three or four month process. In the summer of 2016. So I was renting a place in Wellesley at that time. So I was going back and forth to Cambridge. Three or four times a week, to do that. And so that's where I came across this box of 500 letters from my dad.

**Justin Murphy** [01:40:37] Yeah. And so. After 2016, did you happen to move back to Cambridge or where do you currently-?

**Richard Ning** [01:40:46] I currently, yeah, I currently, live in West Roxbury. I was able to use my part of the inheritance. To, get a house in West Roxbury. And that's where the three of us- well four now, because my daughter got married. The four of us live in West Roxbury. And so my granddaughter, you know, she's- she, you know, went to school locally, basically, in Boston. But now she's going to it- being residents of Boston, she qualifies for what's called the Metco program. Which, connects Boston residents in high school- actually even elementary students to schools in the suburbs.

**Justin Murphy** [01:41:47] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:41:48] So it's an agreement between, the suburban towns and their school systems with with Boston. So each school, would accept some number of students from Boston. So my granddaughter is going to, she just finished her freshman year at the Lincoln-Sudbury High School.

**Justin Murphy** [01:42:10] Okay. Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:42:13] Which she's enjoying very much. And coincidentally, right? So here's another Cambridge connection. The principal of that school, is Bella Wong, and it's her parents who so- who bought the restaurant business from my grandfather and grandmother.

**Justin Murphy** [01:42:35] I see, so they bought the Young Lee restaurant?

**Richard Ning** [01:42:37] Yeah, and-

**Justin Murphy** [01:42:38] And it turned into the Young Yee?

**Richard Ning** [01:42:39] Exactly.

**Justin Murphy** [01:42:40] Wow.

**Richard Ning** [01:42:40] Yeah, and so, so I kind of knew Bella growing up. It ends up that she ended up, going to Harvard undergrad also a few years behind me. So it was, just very coincidental that my granddaughter ends up going to the high school where Bella is the principal.

**Justin Murphy** [01:43:04] Yeah, wow. What a coincidence.

**Richard Ning** [01:43:07] Yeah, she has since retired. She just retired. So that that was kind of a fun coincidence, you know?

**Justin Murphy** [01:43:18] So how else do you stay connected to Cambridge nowadays?

**Richard Ning** [01:43:24] As I said, you know, there were 4 or 5 of us, who, went through elementary and high school together. And, we currently kind of have an open ended invitation to get together every second Sunday, at Charlie's Kitchen in Harvard Square. So sometimes it's a small group, like 5 or 6 people. And people who are kind of invited, are people from our elementary school, from Peabody School, and also from high school. One of my friends, he he's kind of like, he's the one who try- who wants to have these mini reunions as often as possible. So that's that's how, you know, I maintain contact with Cambridge, you know, through through these small get togethers. I do have, my Uncle Vinny still lives in Cambridge. So he and his wife, Lisa, they live near Fresh Pond. So every once in a while, I get together with them. Recently, I'm going to say it's going to be maybe three months ago, Uncle Vinny was honored with, a medal

that was sponsored by- got a mental block. Who's the congresswoman who's also, like the second highest ranking person in, in the Congress?

**Justin Murphy** [01:45:18] oh. I have a mental block as well.

**Richard Ning** [01:45:22] Yeah. I- I do have pictures. And, and one of them, at least one or two of the ones I sent you in the email today are from that event. It was at Cambridge City Hall.

**Justin Murphy** [01:45:36] Okay. And what was the medal for?

**Richard Ning** [01:45:40] For his service during the Korean, conflict. So, I mean, the thing with Cambridge is, it's my understanding the veterans - I don't know what they call themselves - essentially Veterans Affairs Office of Cambridge. Very active and and, they sponsor, you know, social events every year. And invariably my Uncle Vinny is invited to those. So this specific event was to honor him, specifically.

**Justin Murphy** [01:46:25] Wow.

**Richard Ning** [01:46:25] Not just other veterans, but him specifically. So that was kind of cool.

**Justin Murphy** [01:46:28] Yeah, it must have been very special.

**Richard Ning** [01:46:30] Yeah, yep.

**Justin Murphy** [01:46:34] And so just a general question. I wanted to ask you kind of how you felt that Cambridge itself has changed, from the time that you grew up here to today. Are there any changes that you've noticed?

**Richard Ning** [01:46:51] Well, for sure. I mean, if you know, there's so many new buildings and even new streets and the streets have been reconfigured. And there was one time when I was driving through, was it? Near Kendall Square where, back when I was growing up, that area was a lot of factories and warehouses. And now it's all modern buildings, businesses, high tech businesses in particular. You know, between Kendall Square and Lechmere. And, you know, that area. I got lost. I didn't recognize the streets. I mean, it's a good thing I had my GPS in my car. So that's one thing that's different. Whereas if I drive along, I think it's Cambridge Street and East Cambridge. That all seems very much the same.

**Justin Murphy** [01:47:58] Interesting.

**Richard Ning** [01:47:58] You know, to me, anyway, a lot of the same businesses are there. You know, Mass Ave, between, Harvard Square and Arlington, in my mind, is still pretty much the same, although Porter Square's changed a bit, too, you know? What, what kind of distresses me, though, is, you know, the controversy about making traffic more bike friendly. Because what I see is a lot of, parking spaces, you know, especially along Mass Ave, a lot of parking spaces,

are no longer there. And it distresses- I think it's distressing because it does, it kind of does a disservice to the local businesses. That, you know, although, you know, they might have a lot of foot traffic, they also depend on customers coming from outside of Cambridge and people, if they can't park, they're not going to, patronize, you know, those businesses. You know, I know one guy. He's a hairdresser. In fact, he organizes the Cambridge High School reunions once a year.

**Justin Murphy** [01:49:33] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:49:35] And it's like you can't find parking, in front of his, where his salon is, you know?

**Justin Murphy** [01:49:45] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:49:46] So, so that's that's one thing, I think, maybe Cambridge has gone a little bit too far. You know, with making things more bike friendly. So we'll see where that leads to.

**Justin Murphy** [01:50:04] And, beyond the physical landscape is there any, I guess, other - I don't know if cultural is the right word - but other changes you've seen in Cambridge?

**Richard Ning** [01:50:19] Yeah, I'm not sure how to answer that. I mean, to- I mean, to- so let me say this. So even though there's, this strong effort to make the city more bike friendly, which is certainly kind of progressive, right? I mean, Cambridge, what I like, is that Cambridge still continues to be at the forefront or progressiveness, you know? And. Which is, you know, that goes back to my high school Pilot School kind of hippie days. So I- So I guess I could say it this way. I like the liberalness of Cambridge, but I also recognize it sometimes can get too far. Okay. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:51:23] And so I think we're just about wrapping up.

**Richard Ning** [01:51:26] Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [01:51:27] I just wanted to ask if there's anything else you'd like to share or add. Really appreciate your time here.

**Richard Ning** [01:51:38] I do know, you did ask me about. I told you about, Boy Scouts. So I was in, Troop 35.

**Justin Murphy** [01:51:47] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:51:49] We. And we met at that church. Oh. You know that church that's next to Sheridan Commander?

**Justin Murphy** [01:52:02] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:52:03] Right across from Cambridge Common, right? That's where we met. And, one of the pictures I sent you in the email today was our group picture of that Troop 35.

**Justin Murphy** [01:52:19] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [01:52:20] All right. And you know, that's- so again, some of the friends I've had since kindergarten are in that troop as well. So anyway, that's, you know.

**Justin Murphy** [01:52:43] Did you have any, experiences from Boy Scouts, You'd like to share?

**Richard Ning** [01:52:49] Well, I mentioned earlier, the the one time I shot a rifle was at a Boy Scout camp. And the story behind that actually was, so one afternoon were there were we were gonna, be taught how to use a rifle. And we went to the shooting range, and, at the far end of the shooting range were bales of hay and targets, you know. And just as, at least just as I'm ready to shoot, the troop leader or whoever was in charge said, stop, stop, stop. And it turns out that there was like a raccoon walking on the bales of hay. So we had to wait for that raccoon to leave. And so I think I was able to fire the rifle just once, because that had used up my time slot.

**Justin Murphy** [01:54:01] And so did your, your scouting experience gives you the opportunity to do activities outside of, you know, Cambridge and kind of travel a bit, while you were younger?

**Richard Ning** [01:54:11] Well, yeah, I do remember the first camping trip we went on, was in the winter. And, I, I want to say we probably went to, I think there were some camping grounds, on a reservation in, like, I want to say Medford area. So that wasn't too far away, but it was winter time.

**Justin Murphy** [01:54:46] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:54:47] And it was my first experience. And, I mistakenly borrowed a sleeping bag - or it might have been my brother's sleeping bag - but it was a very light sleeping bag. And it was not intended for winter use. But we were told to bring a blanket and. And so I used that blanket on top of myself. So otherwise the sleeping bag was on the ground. And so I learned that I should have had the blanket underneath me.

**Justin Murphy** [01:55:25] Right.

**Richard Ning** [01:55:25] You know? We woke up and it was about six inches of snow on the ground. It had snowed all night. And the pond or the lake that we were camped next to was frozen. And we needed to use hatchets to break through the ice to get water. So we did that. And the one week or two week Boy Scout camp that was up in New Hampshire. But, yeah, we never did, any of those, what they call jamborees.



**Justin Murphy** [01:56:11] Ok, yep.

**Richard Ning** [01:56:11] Yeah. You know, we never did those kinds of things.

**Justin Murphy** [01:56:15] Do you remember, the highest rank that you achieved? Did you make it to Eagle Scout?

**Richard Ning** [01:56:21] No, No, no. I think I barely got what, First Class? No, I- because I only stayed it was maybe 1 or 2 years, and that was it. Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [01:56:36] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:56:37] Yeah. But from that, I did get my- from that experience, I did- I'd get get, my kind of, experience and I got enjoyment from camping, you know. So in high school, at the Pilot School, we had what we, we called Outward Bound, which is similar to Upward Bound, I guess. So with that, we did, solo camping. We did winter camping. We did, cross-country skiing. We did rock climbing in the Quincy quarries. So that was, those were really good experiences. Yeah, and so I can attribute, you know, that short time with Boy Scouts as kind of my introduction, to outdoor activities. You know, so. Yeah, with the high school. You know, we did solo camping. And so we- we did go up to New Hampshire and, you know, hiked in for like five miles with full packs. And, and that was probably four nights, total. But two of those nights, we were assigned individual campsites. To the extent that, nobody could see anybody else.

**Justin Murphy** [01:58:25] Wow.

**Richard Ning** [01:58:25] Okay. And so we were given we were allowed to use, a ten by ten, plastic, clear plastic tarp, sleeping bag, canteen, maybe a dozen matches and, a baggie of food, which was mostly like nuts and raisins. And, beef bouillon or chicken bouillon. And so that's what we were limited to eating. We also had a, you know, a metal cup. So what we learned to do was to rehydrate like the raisins.

**Justin Murphy** [01:59:10] Wow.

**Richard Ning** [01:59:12] And, so on that two night solo trip, I was actually a group leader. So it's my job, actually, to visit, once a day with 2 or 3 other campers. Make sure they're okay, doing okay. And, it rained really heavily during this trip. And my friend Dennis actually, he got he got drenched. He didn't set up his shelter well. So, I brought him back to my site, and I had him and me together in my sleeping bag, to help warm him up.

**Justin Murphy** [01:59:56] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [01:59:58] So that's that's how, that's how I learned certain survival skills, so to speak, you know. And another time we went, it was in the winter. Different location, also in New Hampshire though. And there were, I would say, 20 of us and we again, we hiked in several

miles. And we ended up sheltering in a three sided shelter that had like wooden lofts. So, we all had- this time we were told to have two sleeping bags, preferably down, and that's what we used for sleeping. But it got so cold that first night. Somebody left their metal cup of water on a table, and it was solid frozen the next morning, you know. And it was three sided shelter, we used plastic tarps to, to fill in the open side.

**Justin Murphy** [02:01:13] Yep.

**Richard Ning** [02:01:14] And so the temperature difference between the outside and the inside was maybe ten degrees, but it's still freezing temperature inside. But, you know, that's also where we, learned to do some cross-country skiing, which I learned is fun to do unless you're going downhill and you have no control, where you're going.

**Justin Murphy** [02:01:40] Wow. That's that's amazing that the Pilot School had those programs. Were those when- during like school weeks or-

**Richard Ning** [02:01:50] Yeah. They were, they were either, I guess, scheduled during vacation weeks or they were scheduled on weekends. When we did rock climbing, that was usually after school. You know, we would do rock climbing in Quincy, so we would load ourselves into, one of our teachers had one of those classic VW vans. So we'd load up in her vehicle and we'd drive to Quincy. And spent a few hours. So that's you know, that was kind of a fun experience too.

**Richard Ning** [02:02:37] That's awe- That's awesome.

**Justin Murphy** [02:02:39] Yeah.

**Richard Ning** [02:02:40] Were there any other stories?

**Justin Murphy** [02:02:43] I don't- I don't think so. So. Well, I mean, I, I should ask you, would you be interested in also talking to, like, my Uncle Vinny? And some of these other families that are, you know, their dads are in the, *Unsung Heroes* book, Dennis's. Dennis's brother Steve, actually, is kind of more the spokesperson of the family. So I could get in contact with them, if you'd like, and ask them if they'd be interested in sharing stories with you.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:26] Yeah, that would, that would be awesome. We're definitely looking to expand the project.

**Richard Ning** [02:03:29] Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:29] So yeah if you have any connections-

**Richard Ning** [02:03:30] Right. I mean, what's- what kind of time frame are you kind of imagining for this?

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:37] Probably. Could be several months?

**Richard Ning** [02:03:42] Okay. Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:44] So, yeah, we have plenty of time.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:46] Sure. Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:47] But definitely would be interested in reaching out to them as well.

**Richard Ning** [02:03:48] Yeah. I mean, if you want to know. You might meet my Uncle Vinny. He's getting around in ages in his 90s. But he's pretty lucid.

**Justin Murphy** [02:03:58] Okay.

**Richard Ning** [02:03:59] He might not be able to hear real well. But he might be able to talk more directly about his parents and grandparents. I'm not sure if he's going to know specific dates, for instance, you know, exactly what year they all came to United States. There is kind of a family story that you know, my grandparents and, great grandparents, you know, they came together, in the '20s. But this- part of the story is they- before coming to the Boston area, they were actually in like Havana, Cuba, which maybe at that time was one way people from China came into the United States, you know. Otherwise, people came to the United States through Hawaii or San Francisco, or more directly in New York. But I imagine if we're talking early '20s, to get from China to Cuba, it would have to be by boat going through the Panama Canal.

**Justin Murphy** [02:05:20] Right.

**Richard Ning** [02:05:20] Right?

**Justin Murphy** [02:05:26] Yeah, it would have been an interesting trip-

**Richard Ning** [02:05:28] Yeah.

**Justin Murphy** [02:05:28] for sure.

**Richard Ning** [02:05:28] Yep, yeah. Unfortunately, I, I as far as I know, we don't have any, I'd have- one of my aunts, my Aunt Dot actually, is- safeguards is safeguards, you know, legal documents and things like that. So I meant to, but it didn't get around to asking her if she has any of, you know, immigration papers and things like that.

**Justin Murphy** [02:05:58] She'd definitely be interesting to talk to as well.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:00] Yeah, yeah. So I can I can talk to to her. So between her and Vinny, you know, they would certainly be able to answer more detailed questions, I think. Than I can, about, you know, my grandparents and great grandparents.

**Justin Murphy** [02:06:22] Yeah, well, you definitely answered a lot of questions I had today about your parents.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:27] Yeah, great.

**Justin Murphy** [02:06:28] And yourself growing up. And I really appreciate your time. And I think that will conclude today's-.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:33] Okay. Okay.

**Justin Murphy** [02:06:35] recording.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:35] All right.

**Justin Murphy** [02:06:36] Appreciate it, Richard.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:36] So if you have any questions about the pictures. All right? Just email me or call me. You have my phone number, right? Okay. Okay, great.

**Justin Murphy** [02:06:46] Okay thank you.

**Richard Ning** [02:06:46] All right.

**END OF INTERVIEW**