

CONSULTANT: Lawrence Chadbourne  
AGE: 68  
RESIDENCE: Carrboro, NC  
OCCUPATION: Retired former executive at restaurant advertising company  
INTERVIEW DATE: August 6, 2016, approx. 10:45 am  
LOCATION: Carrboro Farmers Market, Carrboro, NC

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*Mr. Chadbourne is an older gentleman with a long gray beard. He passed by my table several times at the Farmers Market, apparently curious about the project after seeing the sign and watching other people be interviewed. He finally approached and agreed to do his own interview. We began with the standard audio introduction (name, age, residence).*

**So you know a little about the project. Think of it in your mind, let the images come to mind, take us back to New Year's Eve 1999, anything and everything that you remember about the turn, it becoming the year 2000.**

Okay, I was living in San Francisco, and I remember there was a lot of stuff in the media about how people expected all sorts of disasters to happen. And I don't know how much stock I took in it at the time, but I was aware that people were very worked up about it, especially in a place like San Francisco, which was very cutting-edge in Internet, techie world.

**What were you doing for a living?**

I was actually working for a company that did restaurant advertising at the time. I'm retired now, but that's what I was doing at the time. And I remember not really taking it all that seriously, and then being somewhat relieved after the fact when it turned out nothing, nothing that I can recall, really happened that was that disastrous or momentous. So I kind of look back at it and think, "What was all the fuss about?" And then I think about how dates are very arbitrary, like we assign decades and years and we kind of bracket these things that happen within this time frame together, but sometimes there's really no meaning to it.

**Well, it being the year 2000 was arbitrary –**

Yeah.

**-- because it was a sixth century monk that created...**

And I think there was some talk about that at the time.

**It wasn't technically.**

Like, "Is it really a millennium?" and all that. And then people talked -- people with longer memories -- talked about the medieval millennium and what people thought at the time, and I guess there was something similar happening back then.

**So did the moment seem personally important to you at all?**

I would say it was overblown. I'm just really trying to remember like, what did I do for New Year's Eve? Did I do anything special? Or...[laughs] not that I can recall.

**Well, you have an interesting perspective on this because most of the people I've talked to, given the geographic location, were in the South at the time. And they've had some very interesting memories about...some people remember, you know, being in church and talking about the end of the world, and all sorts of things. I'm interested. You were in San Francisco...**

Right.

**And with Y2K, that's an interesting perspective on things.**

That's what they called it, yeah, that's right. Thanks for reminding me. [laughs]

**So being in that area, being in Silicon Valley, what do you remember about people's thoughts on that at the time?**

Well, I hadn't really gotten all wired up yet. Being of a somewhat older generation, I didn't even get a computer until four years ago. So I wasn't really into like the whole social media thing, which I think was starting up.

**That was later, yeah.**

Was it a little later?

**A little bit later, but yeah.**

But there was a lot more attention paid to something like that because of social media, I think, then there would be earlier, when there wouldn't have been as much, you know, back and forth discussion about it. But I'm just sorry to say, otherwise I don't remember. But you (unintelligible) in coming by here, you reminded me, "Oh yes, there was a millennium. Oh yeah." [laughs]

[laughs] **Forgot there was a millennium, yeah.**

So I'm kind of throwing cold water on your face.

**Oh, not at all. It's just as interesting when people *don't* remember, because you get a unique take on it, you know. Why?**

But also being older, I may walk back home and suddenly something will come back to me, you know, say "Oh, I wish I had told him that."

**Yeah. Well, that's another thing is that it's a topic that I ask, I broach the topic, and people are like, "You know, I haven't thought about that in ages."**

Let's see, who was president? Was that still Clinton?

**Yes.**

Yeah, okay. That was the last Clinton. That was the last term.

**It was right after he had just survived impeachment.**

Oh, okay. Well, see now you're giving me historical context that I had forgotten.

**And it was before the dot com bubble crashed.**

Right. Really crashed hard. Before the crash, and was there a war going on? I can't remember.

**Isn't there always?**

Seems to be, yeah.

**All right. Well, let me ask the last thing. So this is sort of a time capsule piece, because it's going into this collection, and who knows where it may be down the road. What do you think will be the topic on people's minds, what will people be talking about the most in the year 2100?**

2100...If we're still around. [laughs] Um...it's sort far off, I can't say. I mean, every time people try to predict things, so many years in advance, they usually get it wrong.

**Did the year 2000 seem like you thought it would be, when it actually came?**

Um, I'm going to have to think about that one. I don't remember really having any particular expectations about it. I just remember, as you said, the fuss about the millennium and what could happen.

**So when you were a kid, you didn't think there'd be flying cars and stuff by the year 2000?**

Um, you know, we watched these science fiction programs and cartoons. I remember one of the things people got excited about was that you'd be able to talk to someone on the telephone and see them, and apparently that technology existed, but nothing much was ever really done with it. Now, of course there's Skype, which I haven't really used. But it doesn't seem to be that people, as I said, always get it right what's going to happen. Anyway, nice to talk to you. Best of luck with your project. Thanks for the water.

*I thank Mr. Chadbourne for his time and end the interview.*