

CONSULTANT: Kelly Jayrowe
AGE: 29
RESIDENCE: Georgetown, SC
OCCUPATION: Nursing home concierge?
INTERVIEW DATE: July 20, 2016, approx. 9:45 am
LOCATION: Garden City Pier, Garden City, SC

Ms. Jayrowe was at the pier with one of her clients, an elderly gentleman from a local nursing home. She takes the residents on excursions.

Audio Introduction:

My name is Kelly Jayrowe. I'm 29 and I live in Georgetown, SC.

Beautiful town. My brother-in-law got married there.

I ask Kelly to spell her last name.

Like I said, I'm talking to people about their memories from the turn of the last millennium, even though technically, it wasn't the change of the millennium. Tell me what do you remember about NYE, when it when from 1999 into the year 2000?

Um, I think what I remember most, I just kind of, there was like a sense of panic because Y2K was going to happen. And I was still, I was fairly young, and I didn't fully understand it, but I knew that my parents and other adults, they had a sense of urgency, a sense of just uncertainty. For the most part, they didn't think anything major was going to happen, but there was all of this hoopla, all of this talk about "Computers are going to shut down, you won't be able to get your money, what are we going to do? The whole world's gonna come crashing down." So that's what I remember about New Year's Eve from that time [laughs].

Did you personally know some people...do some stories jump out in your mind about people preparing for Y2K?

Yeah, just, you know, people taking some money out of the bank, stocking up on things. I'm from a small town, so if they even mention the thought of a third of an inch of snow, everybody's going out to get bread and rice, or bread and milk and stuff. So the thought of something that could take place and really do some sort of damage with technology, people were kind of on edge about it.

And you were living in Georgetown then?

Actually, I grew up in Hemingway.

I mention that Hemingway is my sister-in-law's hometown (an incredible coincidence, considering how small it is). We talk about her in an attempt to determine if Kelly knows her.

So personally, does anything stick out in your mind about that night?

Not so much. [laughs] I don't know, I was kind of small, so I don't...I do remember, this is probably something very stupid. I had this Y2K little countdown thing. And I do remember staying up with my parents [laughs], and I was kind of scared because I watched the news, and I didn't know. And they were like, "Honey, it's okay. We're gonna watch the ball drop. You're gonna have your little sparkling cider and we'll go to bed. It's fine, everything fine." But I do remember just being nervous and watching the ball drop. And it was like on the news and stuff.

Did you ordinarily stay up to midnight back then?

No, definitely not. Mom and dad made me go to bed. [laughs]

So it was kind of a special occasion then because of the situation.

Yeah.

Do you remember how everybody reacted when kind of nothing happened the next day?

It was like, "Oh, well, that was it? Well, okay." It's kind of like the big hurricane comes through, "Oh, that's all we got?" laughs

You're probably too young to remember when all the technology started to change, but do you remember...I guess you've always had a cell phone?

No. [laughs]

I mean, not when you were too young to be allowed to have one, but –

I remember my parents' first cell phone. We didn't have a bag phone, because my parents weren't that into it. But we did have a little flip phone and you had to buy minutes, so we bought like 30 minutes at a time. You only used it for emergencies if you were broken down on the side of the road, and nobody you knew was coming by to pick you up [laughs].

Same thing probably with the internet.

Oh yeah, I remember dial up. Very well. In fact, I was taking an online course at Coastal, and I had moved back home with my parents, and we still had dial-up

internet because we lived in the country. And so I'm taking this class, and none of my stuff would go through. I mean, it was terrible. I couldn't do any of the classwork. So the teacher – because I was never able to turn anything in – she ultimately gave me an F, even though I was going to her office, and trying to figure all of this stuff out. And so I had to appeal it with school. And now, if you go to sign up for an online class, after my case, they made it a rule that you cannot have dial-up internet. You have to have high-speed internet to take an online class [laughs].

Did they fix your grade?

Yeah, yeah. [laughs]

Well, they should have. That's ridiculous.

We appealed it because I had all sorts of evidence and whatnot. But yeah. So now you can't have dial-up internet. I don't think anybody has that anymore. I don't know.

You probably remember the sound of the modem?

Kelly makes a screeching sound and laughs.

And you're little AOL...AOL was the chat thing. Some folks still have AOL email addresses, so you know they've had those for a while.

Yeah, there's a lot of Yahoo...

Uh huh. Yeah.

Netscape was one of them.

I think so. And the music software where you could download, like Limewire or something, I think it was. We all got in trouble for that. I didn't get in trouble for that. Because I had dial-up internet, I couldn't hardly get anything. [laughs]

So did your folks take any preparations for the possible Y2K?

No, no, they weren't really too worried about it. They just said, "Well, if something bad is gonna happen, it's gonna happen, but I got a little bit of cash in my pocket, just in case."

I thank Kelly for her time and end the interview.