

CONSULTANT: Pixie and Bob Stocking  
AGE: 76 and 81  
RESIDENCE: Durham, NC  
OCCUPATION:  
INTERVIEW DATE: August 6, 2016, approx. 9:45 am  
LOCATION: Carrboro Farmers Market, Carrboro, NC

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*A charming older couple, Pixie and Bob Stocking, approached my table, curious about the project. I briefly described it, and they agreed to an interview.*

Pixie (PS): My name is Pixie Stocking. I'm 76. I live in Durham, North Carolina. What brought me here today is what brings me here every day for years, is the people, the fresh produce. I'm from Boston, so I don't say "pro-duce," I say "prah-duce."

*[Pixie's husband and I both laugh]*

PS: Let's see. It's what brings me here. When the cinnamon rolls...

**Scott Geier (interviewer, SG): Oh the legendary cinnamon rolls.**

PS: That's how I get my husband here. He knows he's going to have one on Saturday morning, so he'll get up early for that.

**SG: Yeah, those are tasty. And the roasted peppers are also nice.**

PS: Yes.

**SG: Are they doing those in the summer, or is that just a fall thing?**

PS: I don't see them today.

**SG: It's more of a cold-weather thing.**

PS: Yes.

**SG: Okay, so you are somewhat privy to the topic, but let's just start on a personal level. Take us back; go back in your mind. It's New Year's Eve 1999. Y2K, the year 2000 is coming. Tell us what happened that day.**

PS: I was on Hilton Head Island. My middle son's wife was expecting her first child, and we went there to celebrate New Years as we do a lot. And we were down on the beach to see all the fireworks from all the different areas and all the different resorts on Hilton Head. So that's why...and it was a little bit chilly, because we all had jackets on. But it was a beautiful evening. The moon was out,

and there were about eight of us? [*Pixie turns to her husband and he nods*]  
About eight of us, I think. My son, his wife -- very pregnant wife, because she delivered the first day of February. And our youngest son, another close friend, another two women. Anyway. And we had gone out earlier, one other woman and I, because we thought we needed some festive things, so we went to a boutique and bought some very silly crowns, some balloons, some noise-makers, all those things that you do for New Years.

**SG: And you all had gone to Hilton Head for that reason?**

PS: Yes.

**SG: You were living in...**

PS: We were living in Durham, in Durham, at the time. But my son and his wife lived there for 12 years, yes.

**SG: Did the moment seem important to you?**

PS: It did, because...I'm sort of one of those people that marks time with events. Not historical, necessarily. I leave that to my husband. But family events. And it did. And I have a third son, and his family, they weren't there, and I had wished maybe we were all there together because it was such an important historical event.

**SG: Did you feel privileged to some degree that you were part of a change into a new millennium?**

PS: This is kind of sappy, but I sort of feel privileged every day, that I'm living the life I'm living.

**SG: Why do you say that?**

PS: Well, I'm a breast cancer survivor, and that experience --

**SG: Okay, I'm sorry to hear that.**

PS: No, it's fine, thank you.

**SG: Well, I'm glad to hear that it...good.**

PS: Yes, yes. But I tried even before then. My husband is a prostate cancer survivor, so we went through that situation, four years before then.

**SG: Oh, wow.**

PS: I've always tried to be happy with every day, regardless of what happens in that day.

*I turn to Pixie's husband, who is standing to her left.*

**SG: And sir, do you remember the night very vividly?**

*In an apparent attempt to help clarify, Pixie asks her husband if he remembers being at Hilton Head with their son at the turn of the century. He speaks in a soft, raspy voice. It's difficult to understand what he is saying.*

**Bob Stocking (BS): I don't really. I don't.**

PS: Well, he has...he's at the age where maybe some memories...

*Bob laughs.*

BS: I'm stronger than I look.

**SG: Well, there's also been a gender disparity, I've found, in the memories. Women tend to remember it more.**

BS: Oh, yeah. They do. Endless things [laughs].

PS: Well, ask him anything about any war, dates or any of that stuff, and he'll remember. But ask me what people wore [laughs] on a particular, at a particular event, or who else was there, and I'll remember those things.

**SG: Do you remember what you were wearing that night?**

PS: Oh, I remember what I was wearing that night.

**SG: You might have mentioned that, actually.**

PS: I was wearing jeans, and I had a light jacket on.

**SG: That's crazy. Wow, you are good.**

PS: But we were barefoot because we were on the beach.

**SG: That's a good spot for that kind of a moment.**

PS: Yes. And it was...because they lived there, they have privilege to go to a beach that ordinarily people – you know, other people, tourists – don't get to go to. You have to have a pass to get there. So there weren't a lot of people.

**SG: Do you remember the Y2K bug?**

PS: Oh, yeah. My husband actually is a computer guy, and he was teaching at Durham Tech and they needed somebody who knew what system to change things. So Blue Cross Blue Shield hired him to go in to work with a group of young people to change all that had to be changed.

BS: Yeah, it was interesting.

**SG (to BS): You can be honest now, but I have to ask, given your line of work. Did you really think that there was going to be trouble because of the Y2K bug?**

BS: The Y2...?

**SG: Because of the date change.**

PS: Because of the date change.

BS: Oh. The great deal of stuff going on about it, because it made news.

**SG: But did you personally think there was going to be a problem?**

BS: I didn't think so. I thought there'd be a solution somewhere. And as it turned out, computers got better and better, and more and more memory. They just went in and made an arbitrary date. If you were born before a certain date, you put 19 in front of it. If you were born after it, you put 20. And it was a simple solution. But there was a lot, a lot of stuff in the news. I remember a sign on *Time* magazine, the guy dressed in a robe and stuff, and sandals, with a sign on, "The end is coming." [laughs]

**SG: I think I remember that cover.**

BS: But it was just...it made news.

**SG: So you all didn't take any preparations for it?**

PS and BS: No.

**SG: A lot of people did.**

PS and BS: Yeah.

PS: Now, I just figured whatever was meant to happen was going to happen. And I try not to give in to fears, especially fears that the media presents.

BS: Yeah. That's usually what's happened. Once the media gets a hold of it... [laughs] you don't stand a chance. I mean, they've got every angle figured out.

**SG: Well, they're not gonna sell newspapers, or they're not gonna get ratings on TV, by saying nothing is gonna happen.**

PS: That's right.

BS: Oh, no, no.

**SG: Okay, so I hate to end on a serious note, but I noticed your baseball cap.**

*Pixie laughs. She is wearing a Boston Red Sox cap.*

**SG: In 1999 -- and be honest with me -- did you really think the Red Sox were ever going to win the World Series?**

*Bob laughs.*

PS: I hoped they would. Now, my whole family was involved -- by telephone, we were all involved -- when they did win.

**SG: Is that a memory that you...vivid?**

BS: Oh, yeah.

PS: Oh, yes.

BS: Yeah [laughs]. Are you kidding?

*We continue to discuss Pixie and Bob's memories of the Red Sox. Their children bought Bob a commemorative crystal baseball for his birthday after the Sox won the Series in 2004. Pixie's father had season tickets to Red Sox games. Her sons can remember what they were wearing the first time their grandfather took them to a game. I mention an earlier interview with a man who brought up the Red Sox as a salient memory from 1999 (see Daniel Read). Pixie mentions that she has several pink Sox caps for breast cancer research. We talk about her being cancer-free. We discuss her son, who is Bob Stocking III, and how he is proud of carrying on his father's name.*

*I thank the Stockings for their time and end the interview.*