

CONSULTANT: Mary Ann Meegan
AGE: 75
RESIDENCE: Chapel Hill, NC
OCCUPATION: Former Swedish nurse
INTERVIEW DATE: August 6, 2016, approx. 11:15 am
LOCATION: Carrboro Farmers Market, Carrboro, NC

Mary Ann Meegan is a Swedish woman who immigrated to the US in the early 1970s. The interview began with the standard audio introduction (i.e., name, age and residence).

So think back now, take a minute. New Year's Eve 1999, going into the new century, 2000. Tell me what you remember.

I was in Michigan. And that was a big day, because we didn't know what was going to happen. You know, the computers were big deal, everybody was worried about that sort of thing. And we were, you know, a little bit wondering, wondering what was going to happen. And saying, "Now, why didn't they think about that, when they set up [laughs], you know, the..."

"Shouldn't somebody have seen that coming?"

Yeah, shouldn't have thought about that, that 25 years from now, we were going to...so. And so we were in Michigan, at a lakefront home on New Year's Eve. And celebrated the millennium.

And who were you with?

I was with my husband, with my other (or older?) friends in this little community that's called Birchwood. Actually it's a little community that Carl Sandburg had a house. And called Sandburg. This is Swede, if you know.

And you are, I presume?

And I am Swede, too.

How long have you been in the United States?

Forty-four years. And anyways, we were very welcomed into this community because I was a Swede, and I was the first Swede since Carl Sandburg. [laughs] So anyway, that's my story of the millennium.

So you remember the Y2K bug and the potential problems with that.

Uh hm.

But beyond that, did the moment seem important to you?

Yes, it did.

And why?

Because it was something brand new. And also, that not everybody who lives is allowed to experience that. It's kind of a moment, this...

It's the luck of when you're born.

Yeah, exactly, exactly. So that's my story.

Since Mary Ann is from Sweden, I ask her to share some of her flashbulb memories, to see how they compare to the common American flashbulb memories (e.g., the Kennedy assassination). She recalls when Sweden switched from driving on the left-hand side of the road to the right, in 1967.