

NAME

Sturges-Pete-Interview-II-23-Sep-1986 side A.mp3

DATE

October 6, 2026

DURATION

16m 25s

2 SPEAKERS

Roger Leonard

Pete Sturges

START OF TRANSCRIPT**[00:00:01] Roger Leonard**

And the farther we cleaned this whole fence line, a lot of stumps and trees, we pulled it all out and about and put a fence around it and put a fence around it. I always. Thought I'd watch his stumps down there. Without Fox.

[00:00:31] Pete Sturges

You know he's the one that started the endowment.

[00:00:37] Roger Leonard

This was as.

[00:00:38] Pete Sturges

It was shortly after that that he died.

[00:00:41] Roger Leonard

Now that woman, Lavina Wentworth, she was. Relation, I think Rachel. Rachel Cohn was the.

[00:00:57] Pete Sturges

Wife.

[00:00:57] Roger Leonard

Of.

[00:00:58] Pete Sturges

Edward.

[00:00:58] Roger Leonard

Clark. Yeah. He was an old man. She was a young woman and got married the same year. No. No. 28 and she was a cousin to. My cousin was my wife. They both sat there. I don't know who built that boat that last summer. Oh, really? It'd be nice if it had that all around.

[00:01:20] Pete Sturges

Just a retaining wall. That was the Cox House near here.

[00:01:35] Roger Leonard

Gray. Gray lay on the property up to that horse farm. Is.

[00:01:42] Pete Sturges

Yeah.

[00:01:43] Roger Leonard

So they've been mentioned down on the river talks. And then there was gray and I don't know who his gym class. You know, I lived across the road there in the old house and I was about 12, 13 years old. I used to ride Tivoli with Jim Claussen, had a model T Ford and he owned a farm out. Where was that farm? Well, back of Bieber's back in there between Claremont to the east, maybe a mile. And there they had a big farm, I think it was a farm. He worked on it, and every Saturday night he'd go down till he come home and he would always give me a ride. When I was a little kid, I said I was going to the movies.

[00:02:42] Pete Sturges

What about the man who rang the bell on Armistice Day, 1921 said he said he was in World War One and his name was Downing John Downing. He's still alive.

[00:02:53] Roger Leonard

I don't know, he moved down to down in New York somewhere. I don't think so, because he was a man 10 or 15 years older than I was. So he's gone down. That must have been John because he was a veteran of the First World War.

[00:03:08] Pete Sturges

He said he was wounded and the other one.

[00:03:14] Roger Leonard

Was Robert. That must have been what they called Bob. Bob said, I heard a lot about Bob Cox. And make sure he wasn't nobody.

[00:03:33] Pete Sturges

Yeah, that's quite a stone.

[00:03:41] Roger Leonard

Watchman. Now, they took the clocks and place over those graves and clock and. Watchman. Watson, what is this? Oh, they got this fixed up. Somebody buried that way.

[00:04:04] Pete Sturges

Oh, you mean this is going this way or.

[00:04:06] Roger Leonard

This.

[00:04:09] Pete Sturges

Well, you can't tell. Now footstones are used as headstones falling leaves and stalks.

[00:04:22] Roger Leonard

Falling on myself. I must have been a double plot. That's about 40ft square.

[00:04:40] Pete Sturges

Yeah.

[00:04:41] Roger Leonard

About 40ft. Where's the end of the fence? Now, here's where he's buried. But that's no good. Come up here.

[00:04:51] Pete Sturges

Now I see the stone over here, says Walter Scott. Is that the man who wrote the history of Scotland?

[00:04:59] Roger Leonard

And Fred Ross is up here?

[00:05:05] Pete Sturges

I see one of the shutters is off.

[00:05:11] Roger Leonard

Let's see now.

[00:05:19] Pete Sturges

Right here. Now. This must be the one right here

[00:05:33] Roger Leonard

Junior.

[00:05:34] Pete Sturges

Okay. This is the son of the man who was on the board.

[00:05:40] Roger Leonard

The Fred Ross made of that one. He died.

[00:05:44] Pete Sturges

Yeah. Now over here.

[00:05:46] Roger Leonard

It's a shame he never got a stone.

[00:05:49] Pete Sturges

This is This is the man who wrote the history. Walter Scott, son of Daniel Lee and Mary Jones. Scott. Yeah. Born in Tivoli, 1846.

[00:06:02] Roger Leonard

I didn't tell him. He didn't get far this time, did he? Yeah. 94 years old.

[00:06:14] Pete Sturges

So he lived a good while after he wrote that.

[00:06:19] Roger Leonard

By 2024 or 21, 24. Now that guy's alive yet.

[00:06:26] Pete Sturges

I'll have to write some of these things. So this is Walter Scott born in Tivoli October 1st, 1846. Died in Tivoli, March 10th, 1940. What's this?

[00:06:58] Roger Leonard

John, what's the price? Oh, remember John Livingston's price? John I write this down. This is. John Watts de Peyster. Watts home.

[00:07:18] Pete Sturges

Yes.

[00:07:19] Roger Leonard

That was it. That was it. And his wife, Stella Livingston. Now, where is all memory of. Where John Watts de Peyster buried?

[00:07:52] Pete Sturges

Well, that's who I thought this was. He was in. He was. This man was in the Civil War.

[00:08:07] Roger Leonard

Yeah, I read about him somewhere.

[00:08:10] Pete Sturges

Well, this must be for for them too, because it says.

[00:08:15] Roger Leonard

The memory of Chandler is going to be placed on.

[00:08:18] Pete Sturges

The son of.

[00:08:20] Roger Leonard

The son of John Watts, de Peyster and Lincoln Watts home. Now, that comes in there somewhere. They they I think they formed a little watch school.

[00:08:34] Pete Sturges

Yeah.

[00:08:34] Roger Leonard

The school in Yonkers. And you know, the place up there where they had the. Well, I don't know how long they had Catholic workers. That was Catholic workers. Yes. Well, that was the place. That was that place. The mansion there. There was a they had a bookstore in the old pipe out the window.

[00:09:02] Pete Sturges

Yeah.

[00:09:02] Roger Leonard

But I understand it's been Well, I was in the process of being renovated. But that was someplace.

[00:09:14] Pete Sturges

I wonder if that's near where the Hoffmans lived.

[00:09:18] Roger Leonard

Hoffman's lived. Hoffman's was right in Tivoli. Right. This was the place that you go when you go all the way down the road. As the road goes up to the right. Was up there, maybe. Yeah, 3 or 400 yards on the hill. Yeah. Nice location. Very nice.

[00:09:35] Pete Sturges

Now, you say there were more queens buried behind the church. Why don't we go look at those? I.

[00:09:46] Roger Leonard

Can't get I can't get that old guy to do it. Probably not. This must be some of the people.

[00:09:53] Pete Sturges

Let's see. That opens right up. Mary. Oh.

[00:10:03] Roger Leonard

They got to be some relation some ways He. Died in 1866. No. One else here on that, I don't know.

[00:10:26] Pete Sturges

Let me get this information on Doctor Pritchard down here.

[00:10:39] Roger Leonard

That's Simpson spot had a funeral. Masonic funeral. And they come up here. We had the services here. Oh, I better find. Ashes to ashes. I found a part of the service. So it was pertained to that.

[00:11:08] Pete Sturges

Oh, you did it.

[00:11:09] Roger Leonard

Did it? I'll do it.

[00:11:12] Pete Sturges

Yeah, it was Clarence Rifenburg down here.

[00:11:20] Roger Leonard

Here, Frank Smith. Let's see now. Yeah that's. We'll put that up here. That down the block as well. Your wife called me. I wonder if he put it here. Rebecca Smith, he lived up North Road there until his whole family of them. That's where that Smith there. John Smith. That's where that American Legion is. Harris. Smith. Oh. Harry Smith. And that's John Smith and Harrison Smith.

[00:12:02] Pete Sturges

For your.

[00:12:03] Roger Leonard

Grandfather.

[00:12:04] Pete Sturges

Grandfather. Charles Sturgis.

[00:12:06] Roger Leonard

Oh, he worked for buddy.

[00:12:09] Pete Sturges

Oh. Was he related?

[00:12:12] Roger Leonard

I don't know. I just realized, I think it was. I thought I had a time trial up there. Yeah. You had the chicken stuff in there? I never. Had the whole loaf.

[00:12:39] Pete Sturges

Now this Ambrose. All of it. He's the one who was related to you. Yeah. And that's How is he related?

[00:12:51] Roger Leonard

He married my mother's sister, my sister Mary.

[00:12:57] Pete Sturges

And he owned the farm across the road from, you.

[00:12:59] Roger Leonard

Know, he owned a farm. We owned the farm because he owned the farm, which was okay.

[00:13:04] Pete Sturges

Down a little ways. West.

[00:13:05] Roger Leonard

Yeah. You got that far off sulphur.

[00:13:12] Pete Sturges

Oh, so that's the one that was known as the sulphur Farm. Okay. When they talk about sulfurous hills, that's what they mean.

[00:13:19] Roger Leonard

And the schoolhouse is right bottom of the hill. The top of school. Yeah. That's why it's called the school.

[00:13:26] Pete Sturges

And how about the old church? Was that still there in your memory? Old Saint Paul's, the white church. Or was that long torn down? Torn down? Yeah.

[00:13:38] Roger Leonard

Yeah. I saw, I saw the other the other half of that plot and the right to the other half of the monument. And the cousin Ambrose. All of it. That's his son lives in Florida, and he's 85. And he told me, he says, I saw half of that plot and I. So I got down there and I said, I see. I said, do you want a bargain? Yeah. What do you mean? I said, anybody can buy a plot with seven graves. Right. And you got a, a monument which you couldn't touch Put your hands up and quit. So when I told him I called him up, I said, I'll get you thousand dollars. Sell it. You.

[00:14:45] Pete Sturges

Just saw here the one who owned the farm.

[00:14:48] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:14:50] Pete Sturges

James. James. James Rifenburg.

[00:14:55] Roger Leonard

James Rifenburg was my uncle married? Lula Soften.

[00:15:03] Pete Sturges

And it was her family that owned that farm.

[00:15:04] Roger Leonard

Lula sopor little Sopor. But. Sally. Sally. Sara. I can remember that he lived, you know, live.

[00:15:17] Pete Sturges

Yeah.

[00:15:18] Roger Leonard

Well, back in there, as the road goes back in the woods, where you go in there and then come out Okay, well, back in there was a farm was off the main highway, so I. Had. He had hopes of her and Lula and Nellie. And I don't know, there was another one too. And boy, was that farm. Yeah.

[00:15:49] Pete Sturges

Oh, yeah. Yeah.

[00:15:52] Roger Leonard

And my Uncle Jim owned the farm right next to him for a while. Hello. What's your advice? Well. They won't last. Especially made of concrete blocks.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

