

1955

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"Niagara Falls"

In a one room school house in N.E. Saskatchewan where my early education began, we learned of Niagara Falls. From the description and text book pictures it sounded very interesting indeed. For a child such a fascinating place one could hardly comprehend what it truly must look like — so very far away. Especially to a youngster who had never been outside of my home province — it was an unlikely dream.

Years went by — time passed, and so did several nursing jobs but still all within Saskatchewan. In June 1955 along with my soon to be husband we planned and detailed all our wedding arrangements. One detail remained — where to spend our honeymoon? My fiancé mentioned several places and also "what did I think of Niagara Falls?" — Immediately my "heart jumped for joy" and of course there was no more wondering, it would definitely be Niagara Falls.

We started out July 1st /55 the day after our wedding. Very hot, as cars in those days had no air-conditioning, however after several days we finally arrived.

There is no way I can describe the joy and excitement we both felt at the first sight of the amazing falls. Neither my husband nor myself had expected to see not one but two falls, the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, and the American Falls, so spectacular we could hardly believe our eyes. Looking on the walkway along the top of the gorge we could feel the mist from the spray, it was truly a sight to behold. We read all the tourist information there was available and took many pictures. We donned raincoats and were guided to a view beneath the falls, but I never did muster the nerve to take a boat ride in the "Maid of the Mist". That seemed just a little too dangerous for a pair of Saskatchewan "dry landers", instead we watched it from high above. In the evening we returned to watch the colored lights that were focused to light up the Falls in beautiful rainbow colors, it was "spectacular".

Several days past and we saw more interesting and beautiful things in the area. The "floral clock" really caught our eye, how pretty, and yes it really did tell time. Another day we took a ride in a lovely velvet, one horse carriage that wound its way along parkways and beautiful flower gardens. The driver even pointed out the spot from which the Queen's presentation was made on her recent visit.

All too soon the day arrived when we must leave, but we decided to see the Falls for just one more time.

By chance we struck up a conversation with another couple somewhat older than ourselves who were celebrating their 25th anniversary. They asked if we would accompany them on a car tour of interesting places in the area. When they learned we were on our "honeymoon trip" they insisted the driver take us to City Hall. There we were presented with a "honeymoon certificate" that to this day is packed away in a box of treasured belongings.

Our eyes and hearts filled with beautiful memories we headed west to another new adventure - to my husband's job in the Alberta oilfields. All the way home we spoke of the beautiful place Niagara Falls and promised ourselves that someday we would return. Many years have passed (38 yrs. this July) and we still have not made it back to the fascinating Niagara Falls. We hear there ^{have} been many changes and lovely buildings taken place over the years, and again we feel the desire to return, and renew our beautiful honeymoon memories - someday we hope to do so.

My story to you,

Sincerely,

Ivy & George Hamblin.