

1945

Feb. 1st, 1993.

Golden Honeymoon Memories,
P.O. Box 270,
NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario.
L2E 6T6.

Dear Sirs:

RE: That's Life - Share the Memory
in Calgary Herald.

Enclosed please our experiences on our Honeymoon in that great place
called "Niagara Falls". We will never forget it.

I'm not sure how really ^{to} write like Pierre Berton, as I am not writer
but did spend most of my 50 working years in a Law Office as a Secretary
and would appreciate your giving our memories some consideration as
amateurs.

Yours truly,

Nettie Elford
NETTIE & GEORGE ELFORD,

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OUR HONEYMOON AT NIAGARA FALLS

AUGUST 14, 1945.

George Elford and I had been dating for three years, got engaged in April 1945 and set our wedding date for July, 1945. In the meantime George was in the Airforce and stationed at Claresholm, Alberta. In April 1945 the Airforce transferred George to Trenton, Ontario. While in Trenton he tried to get leave to come home for the wedding in July. The Airforce Officials denied him a leave as there was talk that they might be shipped overseas. After many months of waiting with July already passed, still no leave was granted him. It was then when George suggested I come down to Trenton to be married as he had no idea when he would be able to get home for a wedding.

This was quite a decision for me to make although I was 22 years old at the time. I loved George very much and wanted to be with him but I would be leaving all my large family behind who were looking forward to my wedding, and none of them would be at Trenton to attend our wedding. But, our love for each other won out and I hopped the train for Trenton, Ontario.

We were married on August 14th, 1945 at St. George's Anglican Church in Trenton, Ontario. The Minister who performed our marriage was a Padre from the Trenton No. 6 R.D. Station. It was exactly 7 P.M. Eastern Time, when we said our vows and immediately after, we heard the church bells ringing. I thought now isn't that nice, we do not know anyone here and are far from home and yet they are tolling the bells for us. I could hear some of our friends in the pews Whispering, but did not know what it was all about until we went to the Office of the Church to sign the register when the Padre advised us that the war was proclaimed as over and that was why all the church bells were ringing, to which my new husband said, "One war ending and another just beginning".

It was a very happy and joyful reception at the home of our Landlords, Mr. and Mrs. Brown who graciously offered us their home at 91 West Street in Trenton. All stores and restaurants closed their doors as soon as word got out that the war was over. All of Mr. and Mrs. Brown's friends and a few we knew in the Airforce besides the wedding party, came to the reception laden with food and all their rations of spirits and we all had a good time, although I did not know any of them at the time. It was so wonderful

After the wedding we got settled into our two room suite in the Brown's home. Bought all our groceries and staples that we needed for starting out our married life. I decided I should go out and get a job as George was away at the Airforce Station all day and I was feeling a bit lonely. I went to the Airforce station and applied for a job as I had a reference from a previous job I had with the Government with the Selective Service in Calgary. They found my credentials acceptable until they asked me for my husband's regimental number. When I told them, they checked it out and advised me that he was getting a discharge and being sent back to Calgary, consequently I was not offered a job. When I got home to our suite George was already waiting to give me the good news. We had to be back in Calgary for the middle of September and as I had always wanted a honeymoon at Niagara Falls maybe we should try to get there. Of course we were short of money after paying for the suite and groceries and the wedding but we wired our family in Calgary and they sent us enough money to get home and also to make a short trip to Niagara Falls.

We arranged for a bus at Trenton to take us to Toronto where we stayed in a hotel overnight. The next morning we took a bus to the docks of Lake Ontario and caught the boat "Cayuga" for our trip to Niagara Falls. The lake was so smooth and the weather was beautiful and warm, we enjoyed our journey by boat very much. It was the first time either of us had been on a boat that size.

We got to Niagara Falls and stayed at a hotel that overlooked the falls. The name of the hotel escapes me now. What a beautiful sight to see. We walked down to the falls and went under the tunnel, they gave us slickers to wear as you could feel the spray off the falls. What a sensation down there. We did not take a trip on "The Maid of the Mist" because of a shortage of money and also to me it looked too dangerous. Being a new bride I had visions of something happening and I was not a swimmer, even though they told us it was quite safe.

We spent hours walking around the falls feeling the spray on our faces. The grounds were beautiful with such lovely banks of flowers all over. We even walked over the border to

Buffalo, on the other side of Niagara. Our money would only allow us to spend a couple of days in Niagara but we did walk downtown in Niagara, buy a few souvenirs and have a bite to eat and walked back to the hotel, this was quite a distance from our hotel. In the evening we again walked down to the falls to see the light show on the falls. What a marvelous site to see, so beautiful.

The next day we caught a bus back to the boat dock for our trip to Toronto. This time the boat ride back was really something to write about. After having such a peaceful trip to Niagara Falls, we never expected the rough ride we had back. They told us that it was one of the roughest trips they had encountered on the lake which had a high wind and the waves just rocked the boat and came up to the port holes. Needless to say I was not a good sailor and do not like boats at the best of time.

When we first got on the boat they found a piano bolted to the deck and someone knew how to play it so everyone was joining in on a sing song. I and my husband love to sing so we joined in. It was not long before I had to make a bee line for the washrooms I was going to be sick. When I got there the place was full, many were sick too but someone at one of the sinks saw me come in and moved over and let me share their sink. I finally was feeling better and decided to go back to my husband who was still singing and feeling fine. I found a bench and laid down on it until we docked. Sitting across from our bench was another newly weds, her husband was sick and she was feeling fine. The bride and my husband thought this was quite humorous, but we felt like we were dying. We finally got off that boat and walked a few blocks and I started feeling better with my feet on the ground and said to my husband that I wanted something to eat, I was hungry. He said, " what, just after you fed the fish your breakfast." Anyway I got my way and we stopped for a bite to eat and I was feeling just fine again.

We then caught a train for Calgary, Alberta.

We shall never forget our honeymoon in Niagara Falls. We did do back to Niagara Falls on our 30th Wedding Anniversary but this time we travelled by a car pulling a trailer. I think by this time the Cayuga was no longer sailing and had been discontinued. I'm sure if it was still there you couldn't get me on it and to this day I don't like big boats.

We will be married 48 years to each other this August, 1993. We have raised two sons, have three grandchildren. We intend going back to Niagara Falls in our Motor Home within the next year as we have such fond memories of such a beautiful and wonderful spectacular sight. It probably is true that it is a beautiful place for a honeymoon and that negative ions generated by the falling waters act as an aphrodisiac.

Thank you.