

1973

Lisa Yates
Box 35
West Clarksville,
New York 14786
716-968-3295

On July 14, of this year, my husband and I will celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary. In 1973, when we were married, weddings were a little simpler than they are now. We were married in a small church in our town and had our reception at the American Legion. My wedding dress, ordered from a catalog, cost less than \$100 while the men in the wedding party wore suits rather than tuxedos. The only place we had ever considered for our honeymoon was Niagara Falls.

Although I had visited the Falls as a child, it was my husbands first visit. We stayed at the Niagara Falls Motel, on Pine Avenue, for two days. We paid \$23 extra when we rented the room for a limosine tour of the Falls. The tour took us to several points of interest including; the Floral Clock, the great gorge, Goat Island, and the Skylon Tower. Our driver told us stories of the great dare-devils who had passed over the Falls.

We enjoyed our honeymoon and returned in July of 1974 but stayed at a campground in a tent. We returned to the Skylon Tower as that had impressed us the most the year before. That year we travelled to the Canadian side and found it to be quite beautiful.

After the births of our sons, we didn't return for many years. When they were old enough to travel comfortably we did go back and took our first ride on the Maid of the Mist. We were as enamored as the boys at the beauty of Niagara Falls.

Our children are now older and their choices for vacations are amusement parks. Even though we haven't been back for several years the Falls holds a special place in our hearts. I find it amazing that we are so close that we can be there in a few hours. The Falls is so full of modern excitement yet it carries a rich history. Many famous couples have chosen Niagara Falls as their honeymoon spot since the early 1800's.

Today many couples choose expensive island destinations for their honeymoons rather than enjoy the majestic beauty of the Falls. My husband and I have many pleasant memories from the trips we have made. One thing we have missed is the annual "Festival of Lights" at holiday time but to celebrate our anniversary we may come back this year.