

1951

NIAGARA FALLS

A HONEYMOON AND A FAMILY TRADITION

A Dye family vacation in 1951 to Niagara Falls convinced me that someday I wanted to return. In November 1955, Norma Jean Dye married L. Dale Antill. We planned our honeymoon to Niagara Falls. The weather was beautiful as we newlyweds traveled through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York to Canada. My 20 year old groom and this 17 year old bride found the Blue Moon Motel in Canada. The falls were so breathtakingly lovely, the park along the river so clean and well planned. The guided tour, in a limo, of so many interesting points really thrilled us.

What wonderful memories of the lovely towns on both sides of the roaring, cascading falls. We received a honeymoon certificate signed by Mayor Hawkins on the Canadian side. Crossing the bridges-Peace, Rainbow and Goat Island-were an exciting time as we had never traveled outside the United States. We still have a souvenir water globe of the falls from 1955. When we arrived home someone asked if we saw the falls at night, guess we didn't!

I so loved Niagara Falls, we returned in 1965 with three beautiful daughters. We visited a park with racoons sleeping on the limbs of a dead tree. We look at that picture often. But what I love is watching the Niagara Falls tumble, foam and create rainbows.

The attraction I have toward Niagara Falls draws our family to return again in 1975 and this time a son joins us on the trip. Just wonderful to see the beautiful floral clock again. Some changes in parking and more hotels and the "Needle" is a big

attraction but the falls are unchanged as they roar and tumble.

Again in November 1990, we, Dale and Norma Jean, return for our 35th wedding anniversary to the wonderful Niagara Falls. We found our Blue Moon Motel of 1955 but decided to stay closer to the falls this time at the Empress Motor Lodge. I even had saved my wedding nightie, it returned also.

This was a very cold, freezing time of the year but it was still my same wonderful falls. Just so thrilling to stand and be there as the falls roared and share the past memories of all the lovely times and remember some events not so lovely.

Niagara Royalty tours' guide was very friendly and informative, even though some points of interest were closed at this time of year. We received another certificate as we had in 1955.

This time we drove at night to see the lights illumine the falls. The weather was so cold, the wind blowing so, that our windshield froze and we had to roll the windows down to see. But it was worth all the cold to be on another honeymoon at the most beautiful, most memorable place to visit. I hope to return again and again and again.

Our daughter, Brenda, and her husband, Mark, visited the falls on their honeymoon in December 1990.

Norma Jean Antell



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