

January 27, 1993

1967

Dear Ms. Nye:

On August 5, 1967, Ron and I were married in Clintwood, Virginia. I was 15 years old, and he was 19. We couldn't afford a honeymoon at that time since we had to use our savings for a small apartment because we didn't want to live with my parents. Also, Ron had received his draft notice, and he had to take his physical for the Viet Nam War. We decided to postpone our honeymoon until we knew whether or not he was going to pass his physical. I remember him coming home after his physical and saying, "Well, hon, on April 16, 1968, I'm going to be drafted into the war." Since we didn't know whether or not he would be coming back from the war, we decided to take our honeymoon before he left for the service.

The first part of April 1968, we went to Niagara Falls for our honeymoon. We checked into a motel that overlooked the falls, and then we decided to go exploring. We drove over to the falls and stopped at the gift shop. There was a notice at the shop saying we could go down and look out underneath the falls. We went into separate rooms to prepare; and when we came out, we had to laugh at ourselves because we were wearing identical raincoats, rain hats and goulashes. My coat hung clear down to the floor, because I was so tiny; and he looked so funny in his. We went down in an elevator, and I remember there was such a roar from the falls that it scared me at first. We walked down on to this little ledge, and all we could see was water. It was the most fantastic thing I have ever seen in my life. We stood there, getting wet, and all we could see was water. What could be so romantic about looking at water? I don't really know, but it was. It was very romantic, even though we looked so stupid in those raincoats, especially me in that hat. Also, I was getting drenched from the mist that was coming off the falls.

When we left there, a taxi cab driver was standing outside. He said he would take us on a tour of Niagara Falls. It cost \$20.00, and he took us all over. We saw the most beautiful clock that was made out of different flowers. Although the flowers weren't in bloom because it was only April, it was so neat because it was made out of greenery. Then we went to several different museums, such as Ripley's Believe or Not. We went to another place, and I got my first pair of moccasins (in the years to come, I wore them so much that the bottoms were full of holes; but I didn't want to throw them away). The taxi driver took us to the Chamber of Commerce, and we registered there so we could come back on our 50th anniversary.

We've meant to go back because we had such a wonderful time, and it was the most romantic time of our life. But our children came along, and with all the responsibilities of raising a family, here it is almost 26 years later; and we still haven't made it.

We still love each other just as much as we did the day we were married, and one of these days we hope to get back to Niagara Falls because, after all, it is the "honeymoon capital" of the world.

Sincerely,

Nancy C. Large

Ron & Nancy Large
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