

1966

HONEYMOON MEMORIES

Beautiful, romantic, magnificent Niagara Falls! A paradise for honeymooners. Such were the words ascribed to this wonderful creation of Nature. The vision of such a place was certainly enticing to a Saskatchewan born boy. Being somewhat of a sentimentalist, I thought it would be an intriguing place in which to honeymoon if/when the day should ever come that I married.

The likelihood of that happening---honeymooning in Niagara Falls, that is!---was quite remote. One reason was because Niagara Falls, Ontario was almost 3000 kilometres from Saskatchewan. Also, at the time I had been, and still was, a student who was financing his own education. The possibility of being able to afford to travel that far on a honeymoon did not seem possible. However, as I have already mentioned, the sentimentalist in me never allowed me to give up on the idea that it might happen.

Given the circumstances listed above, why then am I writing about "Honeymoon Memories"?

I was fortunate enough to meet, in Saskatoon, a young lady who had grown up in the London, Ontario area. Margaret was a student in Saskatoon at the same time I was. We were married in London on July 30, 1966. London and Niagara Falls are somewhat closer in distance than Saskatchewan. So, honeymooning in "honeymooners' haven" became a possibility.

Finances, however, were rather meager. Margaret was also responsible for paying for her own education. However, since we only had a long weekend for our honeymoon, we knew the accommodation costs would not be too exorbitant. Niagara Falls became our honeymoon destination!

Our trip to Niagara Falls was our first trip with our Studebaker Lark which we had purchased for one hundred and fifty dollars. One hundred miles and one quart of oil later, we arrived in Niagara Falls.

The city of Niagara Falls was beautiful. We were enthralled with its well manicured lawns and abundant flowers as we strolled through the many parks. The grandeur of the Falls was very impressive. It was a happy, pleasant place to be.

Even though we had very little money, I decided that we would book an expensive motel--one with a swimming pool!

I guess I thought we might not visit Niagara Falls again for a long time and so I thought that we had to do many of the "tourist" things. In addition to the walks in the parks, and the visits to some of the museums, we rode the "Maid of the Mist" and walked beneath the Falls. That was somewhat of a romantic experience. We

-2-

also visited the lower part of the falls and crossed to the other side of the river via the gondola. That was not so romantic especially for my wife, who, I discovered, did not like heights or situations like that. But we survived and enjoyed the beauty and the ruggedness of the area. Unfortunately, my new bride did not appreciate so many tourist activities. She had done much of the wedding planning and preparations herself. Our wedding was on Saturday. We had both worked the previous Friday and had to be back to work on Tuesday. Margaret was exhausted and would sooner have spent more time around the swimming pool. She would probably enjoy the rides and views a lot more now if she had the opportunity to visit the Falls again!

In addition to staying at a motel with a swimming pool, for the first time, there were some other "firsts". It was the first time that either of us had room service i.e. a Continental breakfast ordered in. On our honeymoon, I appeared in walking shorts in public for the first time. I guess I thought that it was too late for my bony knees to scare off the girls. It was the first time that my wife and I had dinner in a "tower". The filet mignon we had there were firsts for us (big time spenders eating steak!).

Even though our time in Niagara Falls was short and busy, our memories of being there on our honeymoon are ones that we cherish. I had hoped that we would be able to go back on an anniversary--especially on our twenty-fifth--but that has not worked out to this point.

While travelling through Niagara Falls with our children, we have stopped to share with them magic of the area--both in winter and in summer. Who knows, they may even honeymoon in Niagara Falls should they decide to marry.

Margaret and I are still very much in love. A second honeymoon in Niagara Falls would add "fuel" to the spark of love that is already there. July 30, 1993 would be a wonderful time to be in that honeymoon haven once again!!

Submitted by:

Donald and Margaret Stiller
339 Crean Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7J 3X1
(306) 955 4963