

1943

### The "Golden Honeymoon Memories" Contest

To rejuvenate "Niagara Falls" sounds just wonderful! Your article in the Anderson Independent in Anderson, SC even rejuvenated my husband and me!

I immediately got out 2 albums full of pictures of our honeymoon, 1st Day, September 6, 1943. We then lived in Ohio and were married at St. Cyril & Methodist Church in Lakewood, Ohio. Coming from the photographer, on our wedding day, we got a flat tire due to the retreads on our 1936 Plymouth. So, we got to our reception late! All day on & off the sun would come out but mostly, we had rain. Due to the second world war we could not get film so all we had was one roll. The pictures were satisfactory. You could not get a photographer for the church or wedding, so that was why we had to go to the studio and only got about 6 pictures at that time.

When we got to Canada, we were shocked because we were able to buy all the film we wanted!

We had a Ration Card because gas was rationed. We put a big auxiliary tank in our trunk and filled it up to make sure we had enough for our trip from a friend who worked at a gas station, which probably was illegal to do. But my husband was determined we were going to see the exciting Falls which neither of us could afford to see before due to the depression and hard times.

We needed a ration coupon for just about everything. Gas, sugar, meat, shoes, appliances, etc. As we look back, I'm surprised we weren't discouraged from the start.

We were determined no matter with all our problems, to make it the the gorgeous, romantic Falls.

We made it and had reservations at the "Beautiful General Brock" Hotel. We listened to the roaring of the falls continuously and watched the falls from our window, to see the beauty of them every chance we got!

We walked as much as we could. We looked through the binoculars and saw the American and Canadian sides. What beauty! We remember seeing the "Cigar Store Indian" we called him. We rode the train across and way, way, up on top we hung and stopped in the middle to look down to see the whirling rapids. It was so terrifying way up there, but we were determined to do and see all we could while we were in our glory! I never dreamed we would be able to do this.

Finding a wonderful man who wanted what I wanted was so special.

Then we got on the "Maid of the Mist" but first they gave us a full length rain coat and a hat to cover our heads and neck. I think they were all yellow.

The captain went so close to the stones and rocks when he was turning, that I was sure we were going to crash. How thrilling! We walked under the Falls. One thing we were disappointed about, when we walked around at night, we didn't see the falls all lit up. Once again due to the 2nd world war, they were not allowed to put the color lights on, because of the black-outs at night.

We very willingly left the falls and of course we stopped at the Customs Border and our car was searched. My husband was taken inside showing them we only had bottles of Canadian Whiskey, one for each of our fathers. Then, unexpectedly, an officer came to our car and asked me what I had that I couldn't have bought in the states. Good thing I showed him a new pair of shoes I was wearing because they already had gotten that information from my husband. I told him I had no ration coupon and needed one if I bought them in the states. I used it for my white wedding shoes. We were let go on those two counts and did not get fined or paid any duty tax.

We continued around Lake Erie to see the "Historical Henry Ford Place in Detroit". We also went to services at the "Father Coughlin Church" which had a round seating inside. It was quite popular at that time. The pews are all circled, it was different! We ran into a terrible storm and we almost slid sideways off the road.

Not too far from home we were admiring the great big flower basket put in the ground in Lorain, Ohio. My husband started to tell me he got a ticket for speeding right around there. Sure enough, believe it or not, right then we heard a siren behind us. The policeman said we were speeding. He said 47 in a 35 mile zone. My husband just had his speedometer adjusted (or so he thought) before we left. We then invited the policeman to ride with us in our car while we followed the other officer to the police station. Our speedometer was not installed properly. The 2 policemen asked us many questions and we told him we were coming from our honeymoon in "Niagara Falls". He congratulated us for just being married and wished us good luck in our marriage.

Now, it's 9 children, 21 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild later. We relocated to Anderson, SC from Cold, Rocky River, Ohio almost 20 yrs. ago.

Unbelievable as it may seem, this coming Labor Day is again September 6 the very day and date of our wedding 50 years ago. We will be celebrating our Golden Anniversary! What a thrilling, thrilling, thrilling experience, if after 49 years we could celebrate our coming 50th Anniversary by going to Romantic, Niagara Falls. We tell ourselves that now, 50 years later, it must be more beautiful and I'm sure lit at night also!

Both of us would be so happy to be invited to the "Golden Honeymoon Memories" Contest and relive. I'm sure, more beauty and excitement now, 50 years later, like we did almost 50 years ago when we were both young and very shy. Nothing bashful or shy about either of us now. Just imagine how spectacular once again being at the Falls ~~where~~ we started our married life together.

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