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Huntington, IN 46750
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Niagara Gazette
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Attention: Golden Honeymoon Memories Committee

A few hours ago, I discovered an article in the Fort Wayne, IN Journal Gazette from Sunday, January 31. I had kept one of the sections to read a particular article, and in doing so earlier tonight, I found the article on Niagara Falls and the Memories contest.

It was meant to be, as my husband and I have often talked fondly of our honeymoon days at Niagara Falls so many years ago. It always brings a smile to our faces as we think back to those innocent days of naivete'.

We're wiser now and better prepared travelers, but that first "vacation" at Niagara Falls was indeed truly memorable. It would be a great honor and privilege to be chosen to relive our honeymoon in your wonderful city. I know my entry isn't as "polished" as some you may receive, but it certainly comes from the heart!

The clock reads 2:09 a.m. as I type these final lines. The article says the deadline is simply "Thursday"; I assume that is tomorrow, but since there is no date indicated, I hope you'll accept my entry in case it's a day late. I'll be sending it off in a few hours via expedited mail of some kind.

Sincerely,

Diane Shields

Mrs. John Shields (Diane)

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Enclosure: Official Entry

PS - I'm 50 + my husband 53 - old enough to have "Golden memories,"
but hopefully young enough to build many more!

GOLDEN HONEYMOON MEMORIES

Honeymoon in Niagara Falls! Yes, that's the dream of many.
And in August of '65 we included the "Falls" in our itinerary.

Reservations? Of course not! Couldn't be that many tourists there!
We quickly learned differently from motel clerks' astonished stares.
Arriving after sundown, naive from our inexperienced years,
The excitement of Niagara transformed to "NO ROOM?!" and tears.

We yearned to see the beauty of the lighted Falls at night
And savor the awesome power of the churning Falls in daylight.
We wanted to have golden memories of this wonderful honeymoon,
But with no room, the memories "to be" would be tarnished soon.

On we went, from lodging to lodging, only to hear the same.
My tears flowed like the Falls, and my eyes displayed my pain!
But my knight in shining armor, my husband of only a few days,
Assured me we'd see the Falls, there had to be ~~other~~ places to stay.

Well, lo and behold, our quest for lodging finally came to pass,
We found a kindly motel clerk with a room to spare at last!
Without a look or questions asked, we took the room right away,
It was late at night and we were glad just to have a place to stay.

Yes, it was a room, but not the honeymoon room of our dreams,
The furniture worn, the curtains old, and the rug apart at the seams,
But we had each other & a roof over our heads, so no cause for sorrow;
Besides, we had the promise of Niagra Falls "tomorrow!"

Almost 28 years later, with two children raised, it's suddenly 1993;
Many memories have been built over the years, mostly trouble free.
We count our blessings daily and smile as we understand over time,
How our "slightly tarnished" honeymoon memories have become GOLDEN
in our minds!

Entry from: Diane Shields

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