

On Being a Farm Wife

(and other
hazards)

Joyce Bupp



It took a long time. But we finally made it.

Honeymooners today often fly to Cancun for a week. Start their life together in Hawaii. Lounge and sun on the beaches of Florida. Maybe even go skiing somewhere in the Rockies.

Most newlyweds in our days of wedding planning couldn't afford such romantic getaways to begin life together. Especially when they were milking cows.

And so we spent a day at the campus of Penn State (visiting the dairy barns, surprise!) and made an attempt to get into the hunting camp in the mountains. That failed, due to two-foot snow drifts from a blizzard, which had hit the entire region just days before, barring our four-door sedan from even attempting the effort. Which, looking back, was probably a blessing because the camp would have been about 20-degrees and I don't recall having sufficient mountain gear along to cope with such rustic reality.

Niagara Falls, a popular honeymoon getaway of the time, was never even considered. Who'd go there in February, anyway?

A few folks, it turns out. Including some of us veterans of marriage.

Although it took us two years of trying. We made an attempt last year, but were thwarted by what turned out to be a rotted hose in the pickup's water system. Easily fixed, as it turned out, it nevertheless snatched enough time from our small window of opportunity available at that time that we bagged the dash to the border.

So, when our anniversary rolled around again, The Farmer determined that we would try this one more time. Providing that persistence pays off, we found ourselves recently perched and gingerly peering over the edge of a wall of cascading greenish water sending mist spiraling high, high into the cold winter air.

There was a minimal number of us hardy folks braving the damp, misty chill from the churning millions of gallons of water which pour over the Falls every minute. All of us bundled up to the hilt under layers of sweaters and heavy coats, hats, scarves, hoods, mittens, fashion tossed to the winds in deference to just keeping warm. And, while summer would certainly be warmer, we would have missed the dramatic ice displays built up from the Falls' perpetual mist.

Actually, for the time of year,

it wasn't a bad day, allowing us to hike around deserted park areas, smiling back to the few fellow, equally bundled-up visitors we passed. After thoroughly exploring the American park side, we passed over into Canada, where officials who eyed our pickup waved us through, figuring we posed absolutely no threat to international security.

Pausing for awhile at Canada's larger Horseshoe Falls side, we then meandered along the downstream Gorge and its massive hydro-plants, went looking for the Welland Canal and instead stumbled into a prime fruit and vineyard growing area. Typical farmers, we spent the rest of the closing day looking at how others grow things, until it was so dark we could no longer see.

Opting to spend the night, we returned to briefly enjoy the Falls after dark, lit with changing pastel lights, then decided to go for broke on this rare occasion and book a room overlooking the display. Which, between the off-season rates and the favorable U.S.-to-Canada currency exchange rate, turned out to be a great bargain. From the 11th floor of a warm hotel, the lovely display of changing color on the majestic falls was predictably even more enjoyable than when viewed from an icy sidewalk on edge of the precipice, being showered by freezing mist.

So we have finally made our "honeymoon" visit to traditional Niagara Falls, albeit a couple of decades later and during the dead of winter. If you enjoy stunning natural beauty, but dislike crowds and waiting in lines, you might enjoy it as a winter vacation spot, too.

Be sure you bundle up well.



Think spring. Attend the York Garden and Flower Show, York Fairgrounds Expo Center, York, now through March 4.

York Garden And Flower Show Grows Bigger

YORK (York Co.) — Plans have been finalized for the expanded ninth annual York Garden and Flower Show. The show moves to Memorial Hall at the York Fairgrounds Expo Center, York, and will be two times the size it has been in prior years.

With double the amount of floor space, the move to the larger exposition hall allows the show to expand to become one of the five largest exclusively garden and flower shows in the East, according to Larry L. Shaffer, the show's executive producer. Dates and hours are Thursday, March 1, from noon to 9 p.m.; Friday, March 2, from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For years the focal point of the show has been a series of large display gardens, and with the expansion this year, "we've been able to add over a third more," said Shaffer, "bringing the total to 13 in all."

About 100 exhibitors will participate.

Special feature displays include floral designs by Federated Garden Clubs, Daffodil Challenge, Baltimore African Violet Club and a private collection of fascinating cacti, along with several other displays.

There will be thousands of flowers, plants, and accessories and beautiful gardens with ponds and waterfalls. Other interesting exhibits include garden statuary, gardening accessories, orchid plants, fresh-cut flowers, bonsai

plants and everything needed to get started in herbal gardening. Experts will be on hand to discuss tree and lawn care, and professional landscape designers will be available to discuss specific gardening and landscape needs.

"Full-scale gardens highlight the York Garden and Flower Show" according to Shaffer, who noted that "landscape contractors and garden centers will take up to four days to install gardens." About 20,000 square feet of space is devoted to these large display gardens that have become a favorite with show visitors.

Professional floral design symposiums will be offered this year with tips on how to effectively use floral arrangements in the home plus other subjects helpful to consumers. As they are completed, the designs will be added to the growing exhibition of floral designs adjacent to the symposium room. The symposiums are offered in addition to the traditional seminars held throughout the show that cover a wide range of gardening and landscaping subjects.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors age 65 and over, and \$2 for children ages 10 to 15. Group rates are available. There is plenty of free parking. The York Fairgrounds Expo Center is on Carlisle Avenue, Rt. 74 south of Rt. 30 in York. Information is available by calling (717) 755-5885.

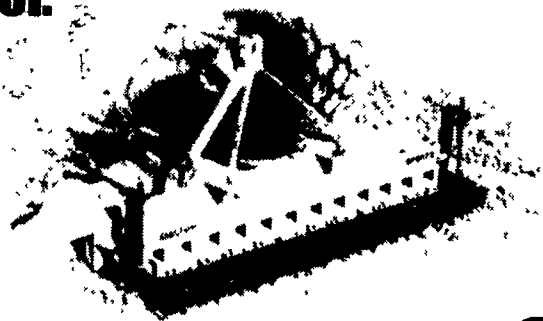
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