

Chapter 8. Romances:

As a young boy, I never really understood the difference between a natural attraction of a boy for a girl, nor the definition of love which is common to teenagers. So, it was with me. I would get attracted to someone and feel that was a great thing and very exciting.

I thought I should discuss some of these attractions for the appreciation of the Reader.

1. There were many girls that I had met, and we enjoyed youth and the precious fantasies that young people experience. There are many memories but no relationships that ended with "commitment" words. We just moved from one to another searching the right one. Being a gentleman with girls was part of my commitment and advice to my sister Mary. That is the way it was in those times. Respect for the female was ingrained in the majority of boys in my era.
2. Marilyn Verishine of Langham was as a result of a Doukhobor Youth meeting and in whatever reasons these matters occur, we met in the fall of 1958. There was very little interaction between us that year and it was three years later that we actually started to date. This resulted in a proposal to her in April 1961 prior to my usual leaving for work in Trail, B.C., with my brothers. I knew that I needed to talk to her father to get his permission as was customary in those days. That was a "tough" process as I was not as brave as I thought I was.

We were visiting at the Verishine farm, and I nervously searched for the appropriate timing and saw my future father-in-law go to the barn.



I followed him and stutteringly started my question which was not a well stated request. He understood and answered with "something as important as this, needs to be discussed in the house". So, I followed him into the house and my future mother-in-law sat down with Marilyn as I did a better job of making my request.



Marilyn's parents Helen (nee Maloff) and Alex Verishine.

Photo taken beside their home on their farm near Langham, Sask., where permission was granted. Now owned by Jeff (Marilyn's brother Allan oldest son) and Tracey Verishine. They retained this house but built a new one further into the property to the south.

I am not sure if there ever was a real answer but suddenly everyone started to cry and hug and so I assumed that we were all in agreement.

So, in the Doukhobor tradition, a blessing by the parents is considered a sacred unification of a young couple. Usually this was followed by an announcement at a public gathering in days gone by, but I was off to British Columbia the next day so that had to wait. See my blog at [https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/A Marriage Proposal](https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/A-Marriage-Proposal).



Elmer's parents William and Anne (nee Morozoff) bidding farewell to Elmer in July 1957 from the family farm in Pelly, Sask.

The 'bunkhouse' used by the 4 siblings in 1947-8 is in the background

William never met Marilyn as he passed away in November 1958. Anne attended the wedding in Saskatoon in December 1961.

Marilyn followed me to British Columbia after she finished her teaching year at Dunfermline. I had purchased an engagement ring with some of my earnings and had brother Russel's father-in-law, George Cheveldave, order a ring from his wholesaler and so I was prepared for a formal engagement when Marilyn arrived in July.

Brother Lawrence's wife Mabel favored formalities and had arranged for all of us to go the Trail Night Club "The Skylark", at that time, where would have had a dinner and I would formally become engaged. Well, she really did not bring me into her circle of information as I just drove down to the home of John Verishine, Marilyn's uncle, where she was staying and unceremoniously, presented her with the ring. Yes, Mable was very disappointed when she announced at the Skylark, that I had something to show Marilyn. That is when Marilyn showed her the ring on her finger to Mabel's surprise.

Oh well, I was always a bit impatient which is an attribute that I still carry to this day. We had a good time at the Skylark anyway.

We planned to have a wedding in the Spring of 1962 after my Undergraduate year in Civil Engineering which I had decided to take rather than complete my Chemical Engineering final year. This switch was as a result of planning that took place with my two brothers, that we would form

a construction company after graduation as a Civil Engineer which would be more compatible and useful to a Building Construction firm.

As all well-planned schemes, this one to have encountered a "hitch" so to say as Elmer became a bit too lonesome when he arrived that fall from British Columbia and our reunion at the Verishine house near Langham was the conception process for Nona.

A group family decision was reached that we would advance the wedding to two days before Christmas (December 23, 1961), just after my classes would break and just before I wrote five (5) midterm examinations during the first week of January 1962. I am not sure that I would recommend this to any student, but those finals were the highest scoring that I ever had.

We rented a suite at Marilyn's Grand Aunt Strelloff's on Avenue G in a Rooming House that would render the movie "Peyton Place", a high school play in comparison, but that will be part of my story later in this Chronicle. Marilyn and I started our married life amidst my continued studies and weekend trips to the farm to visit with her parents to stock up on much appreciated provisions.

(A photo of the Avenue G Rooming House is shown in a future chapter)

Edited by EWV October 24, 2021