

Pastor's wife recalls year

By ROSE WEBER
It sounds like the plot of a movie or novel — beauty queen meets seminary student and it's love at first sight.
But in the case of Nancy and Jeff Patnaude the truth is even better than fiction.
"It was August and my last appearance in Schuylerville, N. Y., after a year as Miss Dominion of Canada. My contact there was to be a Angelo Gentile and of course I had no idea what he looked like," Mrs. Patnaude said.

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day together but both of us knew," she said.
As Miss Dominion she left for Japan the next day and it was October before Jeff could visit her. In August, 1970, they were married.
Mrs. Patnaude was in the 13th grade in Chatham, Ontario, when the executive director for the Miss Dominion pageant approached her at a fashion show where she was a model and asked her to enter.
"I was surprised but decided to do it. He said it would be a lot of fun. My dad reminded me that I had better look at it as just a lark so I wouldn't be too disappointed when I lost," she said.

BUT SHE NOT only did not lose but went onto to be the first Canadian girl to enter all the international pageants. She was crowned Miss North America and competed as a finalist in the Miss Universe World, International and Queen of the Pacific.
What is the life of a beauty queen like? Hectic, tiring and like a college education crammed into one year, she said.
"I had so many beautiful experiences and met so many nice people. I always felt a little guilty because I was the only one from Canada having those experiences," she said.

The worst part is always smiling and being pleasant and never showing anger or tiredness.
"I flew from Canada with a temperature of 25 below zero to Australia with a temperature of 95 degrees above. And in spite of the temperature extremes and jet lag, I had to participate in a full day and evening schedule," she said.
SHE PARTICULARLY remembers a small fishing village in Newfoundland for the warm friendliness of the people. She arrived by car after eight hours on the road.
Her luggage was missing and she was car sick, "but the people treated me like the Queen of England. They live such limited lives and they were so thrilled that I came they couldn't be nicer."

Unlike Miss America, Mrs. Patnaude traveled unchaperoned. And instead of a talent part to the competition, contestants were judged on native costume. Hers was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police costume.
"A lot of emphasis was placed on personality. Because how can you judge between the beauty of a Miss Japan and a Miss Congo? Both are equally beautiful in their own way," she said.

Mrs. Patnaude thinks she won the Miss Dominion pageant because she stayed true to herself and really worked on not letting the honors change her.
"I KNOW THE women's liberation movement is against these kinds of pageants but I haven't had any problems. I have always felt liberated.
"It disturbs me when people try to label me. I never in all the pageants felt like a thing to look at. I was a person promoting good will for my country," she explained.
After she married Jeff, she worked at managing apartments and tennis complexes to put him through school. She also helped in his ministry whenever he asked for assistance.
Her husband is the Rev. Jeffrey Patnaude, assistant at St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham.



NANCY PATNAUDE

"He doesn't expect me to do more than I want to do. I will join the St. Catherine's Guild at St. James Church and help him with the play he and the young people are producing," she said.
She considers her year of reign an experience not to be forgotten or missed. She considers it a valuable maturing experience and recommends it to any girl.

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