

## Blinded by Night Vision

*By Cindy Peters*

My mother-in-law told me that nothing good happens after midnight. These were a few of my experiences in my youth:

My boyfriend, now husband Randy came home from college for my high school graduation. In celebration we bought a bottle of the finest wine and we found the highest hill above the plains and watched the glowing lights of my hometown below. We parked on a gravel road near a farmer's land. There was a full moon and it was a lovely night. As we were enjoying our romantic evening, I noticed these huge eyes closely approaching. I screamed and quickly rolled the car window up on my side. Randy's window stuck and suddenly we heard this loud, "Moo." One of the farmer's cows broke through the gate and stuck his big, fat, ugly head through the car window on the driver's side.

Randy blared the car horn to scare the cow. We pushed the cow away and with a sigh of relief we began to laugh. Then we saw some bright search lights from a state trooper quickly coming from behind us. We tore out of there in a flash leaving behind a cloud of dust and gravel. This state trooper proceeded to follow us. Fortunately, we were a few miles from the Minnesota state line, and he quit following us once we drove into Minnesota. We were scared kids and we did not know what would have happened had we not escaped him.

We were straight-laced kids as both of us were inexperienced virgins. However, one hot, humid South Dakota night we decided we were going to be naughty. We got the crazy idea that we wanted to sneak into a nearby state park. This was the famous Palisade Park outside of Garretson, South Dakota. It made the history books as Jesse James and his gang use to hide out at this park. This park was very spooky at night as the granite rocks and cliffs emerged in giant proportions from the flat plains. Below the jagged cliffs was the rushing Missouri river.

We parked a few miles from the park and climbed over the fence to enter it. Randy had a flashlight as he led the march to the river below. We were both quite shy as Randy undressed behind one huge rock and I behind another one. Then I heard the rustling of leaves with footsteps behind me. There out of nowhere appeared a game warden. As Randy bent over to reach for something the game warden flashed his lights and it appeared as if Randy was mooning him with his buttocks. Fortunately, for me I was thinking about backing out from the plan and I had only removed my socks and shoes. I was mortified that we were caught in the act of attempting a naughty adventure. We were very embarrassed as the game warden lectured us as he removed us from the park.

One other incident happened after midnight which was quite traumatic. We were driving West on a paved road towards Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Just before we were approaching a stop sign, I saw a car rounding the corner at full speed headed right for us. I screamed out that we were about to be hit. This car crashed into Randy's 1966 Chevy on the driver's side. Randy threw his body over mine to protect me. The loud impact noise and shattered glass were deafening. I was fine but Randy had a torn shirt with a piece of glass embedded in his left arm.

As we left the car the two men from the other car stumbled over to us in a drunken stupor. A policeman had been following the drunks and pulled them over and arrested them. The problem was that the policeman left us stranded at the side of the road with an inoperable car and Randy's bleeding arm. We had to walk a couple miles to get assistance.

These were my night visions that were very real and not in a dream. Randy and I laugh at them now and are glad we survived!