

Love At First Site
By Christa Vandenburg



As a little girl you dream of your perfect love story. Prince charming coming and sweeping you off your feet and love at first sight. However for Cheryl Koch this was not the case at all. In January of 1976 Koch was excited to be spending a J-term in Chester England. The small group consisted of many different students and chaperons. Among the group was a father and son pair. England was beautiful and the trip couldn't have been going better until one day it took a hard turn.

The group was heading to tour multiple churches and Cathedrals across England. Unfortunately, the first church they stopped at was having services going on. They quickly decided to cross the Irish Sea, and ended up at a beautiful Irish Park. Koch being spunky and full of energy decided to play at the park while other group members joined her in the fun. As Koch began to go down the slide, she had no idea of what awaited her at the end.

What Koch didn't know was that there was a huge piece of metal sticking out of the bottom of the slide. The metal not only ripped her pants, but her lower butt to the middle of her back thigh. There was blood everywhere, and the closest establishment was a pub a few miles away. The father and son in the group carried Koch to the pub. "I was laying on the pub floor with my butt hanging open, blood everywhere, in front of people I had only known for a week" said Koch.

The ambulance arrived after what seemed like forever. "I was taken to the hospital and stitched up with no pain medicine before, during, or after the procedure" said Koch. "They just stitched me up like the olden days" said Koch. Sadly, the rest of Koch's trip consisted of lying in bed in pain. The term was over and the group headed home, but for Koch the journey was just beginning.

After arriving back home her leg began to get infected from the lack of medical attention received in Ireland. She quickly went to the hospital and began the process of healing her leg. While in the hospital she received flowers saying "For the beautiful injured, hope you get better." Little did Koch know that her little incident left a lasting impression on the son. That father and son, soon became husband and father-in-law, and forty years later the story is still being told of "The twist on love at first sight."