

Lost Love
January 2001

Hello friends, Wade McSpade here. For those of you looking for humor from Michigan's North this month, you should probably look elsewhere. It is not often that a man of the north shows emotion, especially one of sadness. We tend to hide our emotions behind our beer and ... well I guess, just our beer, but this month is an exception. I know most of you look upon us "northmen" as rugged and strong individuals in our flannel shirts and jeans, chain saws at our side who spend all day outside cutting wood till dark. Then down to the 210 tavern for a few beers and some arm wrestling before going home to a good meal and comforting wife. Yes, that is our lifestyle, and up until last week my lifestyle was kind of similar to that. However, beneath the rugged exterior, some of us have a sensitive heart and a soul of sentimentality. Only such a person could be both strong enough and sensitive enough to relate this month's tale; a tale that would bring tears to the eyes of even the great Paul Bunyan. A tale of love won and love lost. A short tale, a sad tale, but a true tale.

I should probably back up. It started several weeks ago, when on a trip to Alpena, Babe and I met Dave. Dave was a really nice guy I thought. Little did I know that he was a man to break my heart. I had only spoken to him once since that fateful trip and Babe had not even mentioned his name since we first met him. Dave however is a man much more opportunistic than his dull eyes portrayed. Imagine if you will my surprise as I came in from the woods one day to see Dave and the joy of my life drive out the driveway together. What a shock. Even more so, what a blow to my manhood.

Even though we had only been together a relatively short time, I thought that we had a good relationship. But, I guess most men think that. Sure, there were troubles, but I thought they were relatively minor; nothing to worry about; normal for what we were doing. In any working relationship there are heavy burdens. We worked hard together, but I thought we were a good team. Maybe I worked her too hard; but that is only expected of anyone who lives "up north." Guessing about my mistakes won't bring her back. Recognizing what I thought were minor problems as large problems won't bring her back. That is all hindsight and as we say in the north "hindsight is..." I guess we really don't have a saying about hindsight. Anyway, I don't know if or when she will be back. I can only hope and pray that I am forgiven for my neglect and that I have learned from this experience so that if I get her back, I can treat her the way she should be treated. Its funny how someone like Dave can see problems from afar, that I, living in the relationship, chose to overlook. In my defense, I did ask guys at the 210 if these things that were happening would be a problem. They all said that it was something that they had all gone through. Just part of the relationship and the problems were perfectly normal. Ol' Dave knew otherwise. He immediately took advantage of my ignorance and drove over and took her from me at the first sign of trouble. Now I sit looking at where she used to sit wondering "What happened? What did I do wrong? What do I do now?"

As I sit here staring blankly at my computer screen, it is difficult for me to continue writing. So, my friends, this month's newsletter will be short. I really thought that Babe understood me, but she didn't. I guess only those of us who own a brand new John Deere tractor, understand and feel the pain when they have to take it away for repairs. Gone for who knows how long. All over a simple hydraulic leak. Even though Dave, the John Deere mechanic, told me it wasn't my fault, I know I should have taken better care of her. As I close I can hear Babe on the phone downstairs talking to my brother "Quade, if you think Wade's acting strangely now, you really don't want to be around when his dog runs off."

Maybe I am overreacting, but just like Paul Bunyan wouldn't be the same Paul Bunyan without his big Blue Ox, Wade McSpade isn't the same without his big Green Tractor.