

just about to climb back through the railing when a woman who was passing by called out to him and said, "You're not going to jump are you?" As Kirk explained later, that question somehow gave him the courage he needed. He replied, "I think I will," and he jumped in.

The current took hold of him and he floated on his back toward the falls. He heard people on the bank screaming but he didn't look at them. Bob, who was filming everything, said later that Kirk looked like a 'floating ghost' as he went by.

Kirk went over the falls feet first. He was falling for about five seconds. He said it was like being in a giant, beautifully lit tunnel. And he said, when he hit the pool at the bottom, it felt like he'd landed on a rock. Then he dove down about thirty or forty feet. He was under the water, tumbling around, for about a minute.

When he came to the surface he was near a tourist boat. The tourists tried to help him but he refused to let them. He swam to some rocks and climbed out. Then he stood on the edge of the river with his arms raised and a big smile on his face while tourists took pictures of him. A few minutes later, the police arrived. They arrested him.

Kirk had a few sore ribs, but otherwise, he was completely uninjured. The police did take him to hospital though because they thought he might be insane. The doctors examined Kirk and said he was mentally healthy. Then he was taken to court and charged with doing an illegal stunt. His brother, Keith, who had come to Canada, put up the \$C750 bail. Later when his case came up he was fined \$C5000 and ordered never to come back to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

- information from: *Detroit Free Press*, 04.10.04, Shawn Windsor; *CBSNews.com*, 03.10.23; "How Stuff Works" (<http://travel.howstuffworks.com/niagara18.htm>); *The Guardian (UK)* 03.10.22; *The Guardian*, 03.10.24.