

*Hearty Season's Greetings to local friends,
friends of former times & places, and our relatives*

Our most exciting time in Provo this year occurred when two gigantic storm systems collided over our fair city. The odds for such an event to occur is only once in 100 years. Damage was estimated at ten million dollars.

The wind was clocked at 115 miles per hour at the BYU weather station and we live right next door to the University. So we lost our 50 year old, 50 foot tall colorado blue spruce. It fell all the way across the roof at the west end of our home. Total damage was over \$10,000. The BYU sustained a loss of \$800,000 in tree damage but damage to buildings was minimal.

The storm lasted only 15 minutes and then subsided. Ida-Rose and I got in the car and drove around. Tree limbs, downed trees and power lines, street and other types of signs, and damaged buildings gave the appearance of a battle field.

Ida-Rose had the privilege, if it may be called that, of seeing our blue spruce come down. She was in the south bedroom at the time, looking out the south window, while getting ready to attend the funeral of a neighbor at which I was scheduled to speak.

Although the wind velocity was very high, so was the inertia of this huge tree. It certainly weighed several tons since the trunk diameter at its base was 36 inches. Ida-Rose said that it came down rather slowly, settled on the house with a crunching sound, at the same time that the lights went out. At this point she found herself looking directly into the whorls of the tree's branches.

It took two weeks to completely restore electricity in Provo.

I mentioned the funeral. We had to leave immediately to attend it. Upon arrival we found all the lights were out. I had a flashlight in my car which I took into the funeral parlor. Others went to their cars and retrieved four additional flashlights. The widow was consulted with respect to postponing the funeral but she determined that the funeral should proceed. So all of the speakers, the organist, and others who needed light had to perform their responsibilities with flashlights. We will never forget that funeral!

Considering health matters, we are doing quite well. Ida-Rose as of July this year has recovered from her leg and lung blood clot problem. I am getting along quite well by taking 25 mg of hydrochlorothiazide every morning to control blood pressure.

I still have an office and a small lab at BYU. Additionally, I have a tree nursery in Payson, Utah located 20 miles south of Provo at exit 252 on the I-15 freeway. I tend to do science in the winter and trees in the summer. The farm gives me plenty of exercise in the summer but in the winter we get our exercise from walking on BYU's indoor, rubberized track, occasionally interspersed with "Water Walking" in the indoor swimming pool.

The Provo-Orem area is continuing to get raves from Money Magazine and others as being the best place in the United States to live. Actually, I'm selfish and don't want to share it with others. The population influx is causing problems.

Tracy

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