

Dear Relatives, Friends, Neighbors, and everyone who has been a part of our lives, we send our love and greetings!

First of all, we wish that you are in good health and able to enjoy life. I (Tracy) am now 77 and Ida-Rose is 76. We are both very active and in reasonably good health, getting along on proper diets and a few pills.

We recently celebrated a milestone. We are now great-grand parents due to a daughter born to Susana and Patrick Malone. Susana is a Grandchild. The great- grand daughter is named Elizabeth but they will call her "Libby".

Our youngest daughter, Nancy, now 38, surprised us with another unexpected grand-child, a daughter that they named Kesly.

On the scientific front, I have been struggling with trying to get a patent application on a new simplified high pressure machine through the patent office. The process moves along at a snail's press and costs tons of money. I still have an office at the University where I can go and continue to associate with my physics and chemistry colleagues.

As a regular faculty member at BYU, I spent 26 years in teaching and research in the field of high pressure and high temperatures. I retired early at age 62 after which we were sent to Zimbabwe as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After returning home, I worked about six months for Smith-Megadiamond, a company that was founded by myself and two chemical engineers on April 6, 1966.

I obtained my Ph.D degree in chemistry and physics at the University of Utah. For some reason the BYU Alumni Association thought that I received my Ph. D. at BYU. Consequently, the Association wanted to give me a "Distinguished Alumni Award". Well, I informed them that I did not graduate from BYU and told them to forget about the award. But they persevered and gave me an "Honorary Distinguished Alumni Award". The event took place at "Homecoming" and lasted three days. Actually, the events were quite pleasant. Ida-Rose and I, for one thing, got to watch the football game from the University President's Box along with other notables. We also went to at least three sumptuous feasts which concluded with the "Homecoming Spectacular." The performing Arts people at BYU put on the most elaborate show that I have ever seen. We will be going to these every year from now on.

You might be interested to know that there are five companies in the Provo-Orem area that are manufacturing industrial diamond products. Their company names follow: Smith-Megadiamond, U. S. Synthetic, Precorp, 3M, and Novatek. Smith-Megadiamond and 3M are the only ones of these companies that are traded on the stock exchange

Our Provo Home is now 41 years old. We have kept the house up on the inside. But the driveway and concrete sidewalks have been allowed to disintegrate. So we replaced the bad concrete with a much wider driveway and replaced the broken sidewalks.

We still have our farm home in Payson, Utah which is located 20 miles south of Provo at exit 252 on the I-15 thruway. This is where our "Hall's Tree Farm" is located. I don't make much money in this enterprise but it gives me plenty of fresh air and exercise from early spring to late fall.

Right now we are busy with customers, especially those with young children, coming to the farm to select and cut down their own Christmas tree.

We are especially grateful, at this time of year, for the opportunity to enjoy the many singers and and other musicians who are performing the Messiah and other great religious works that cause us to lift our spirits and ponder and reflect on our many blessings.

**Thanks for being our friends!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

Tracy + Ida-Rose