

The Tracy & Ida-Rose Hall 1991 Christmas Letter

Dear Friends and relatives:

The highlight of our lives in 1991 was our 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration which lasted for three days; all planned by our children. Everyone was there except three grandsons who were away on missions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Ida-Rose and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple on September 24, 1941.

The celebration began on Friday, September 20th with a 47 person breakfast at the Village Inn in Orem. This was followed by games at Vivian Park up Provo Canyon. Later in the day, there was visiting and reminiscing followed by a barbecue in the evening at Nancy's river bottom home. Saturday morning the more adventurous youth and some adults hiked to the top of Rock Canyon.

The main event came Saturday evening. Back in 1941, dancing to the big-band music of the day was a weekly event and every wedding reception included a live band and dancing.

Our children tried to recreate that atmosphere at our 50th anniversary party. They hired a dance band that could play the music of that era and held the event in a lovely hall known as the Womens Cultural Center here in Provo. There were lots of flowers and other decorations, and tables where people could talk and enjoy old-fashioned ice cream sundaes and wedding cake.

The parents of both of us have passed away but Ida-Rose's three bridesmaids were there and also my brother Eugene, who was best man.

In an adjacent room, fully visible to the dancers was a slide show highlighting some of the events in our life.

Interestingly, counting ourselves, our two sons and our five daughters and their spouses plus our 34 grandchildren, there are 50 of us—quite a coincidence: 50 years and 50 people.

After church on Sunday we all gathered for dinner at our Lambert Lane home.

Unknown to us, our eldest child, Sherlene stole our address list and used it to invite written responses— anecdotes, interesting experiences, etc. concerning Ida-Rose and I from friends and relatives. She says that she discouraged eulogies.

However, we received both anecdotes and eulogies and thoroughly enjoyed the numerous responses. .

Your interesting, kind, and gracious remarks coming to us while we are still alive are just wonderful. At our demise, all they will need to do is bury us.

We appreciate your place in our lives and esteem your friendship. May God bless you all!

Three of our children, and their families (Tracy, David, and Nancy) still live nearby in Provo-Orem (the most livable city in the United States according to Money Magazine). Sherlene is in Basking Ridge, NJ trying to sell their home so that she can move to Provo where her husband, Dan, is now employed at BYU in computer Science. Elizabeth is in Los Altos, California. Charlotte is in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Virginia lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Tracy Sr., Tracy Jr., and David are all still involved in High-Pressure, High-Temperature research and diamond technology.

David is the entrepreneur. One of his companies is NETLINE, an electronic software enterprise. The other company is NOVATEK. This company is concerned with all aspects of industrial diamond production and usage.

Rotating hammer drills for rock drilling are one of Novatek's specialties. Another is the manufacture of hemispherical, diamond coated carbide inserts for rock drilling. Tracy Jr. has recently developed an insert that has considerably more impact strength than the only other manufacturer of dome-type inserts. Tracy Jr. and David are in high demand, all over the world, as consultants in these areas.

Ida-Rose is in her 25th year as an orchid grower. She grows them to give the blooms away to the sick and afflicted, for weddings, birthdays, and other occasions.

Churchwise, she is the Relief Society Homemaking Leader.

Tracy is nearing the end of his third year in producing the weekly "Pleasant View First Ward News" which is delivered to each Ward family every Friday. (over)

Some Local News

You should have all heard by now that "Money Magazine" and some other publications have recognized the Provo-Orem area of Utah County to be the very best place to live in the whole United States of America which means that it is probably the best place to live in the whole world.

We hope that too many people don't get the word and move here, though, and spoil our little "Happy Valley". Among the things we enjoy are the cultural aspects, high employment rates, low crime, tidy homes, the best skiing on earth practically at your back door, glorious sunsets and much, much more."

Then, of course, this is the place where you can really make money. Those prescient investors who bought Novell stock in the early '80s are now all millionaires. Word Perfect Corporation has also made its mark. They seem to be responsible for the many 750, 000.00 dollar homes that are being built along the eastern foothills of our mountains. Then there is Nuskin. They have built Provo's first skyscraper right behind the Provo Tabernacle where the J.C. Penney store once stood and they have a nice new address: "No. 1 Place Center Street." Another powerhouse in the valley is Geneva Steel. They have done very well until just recently by making money in the face of foreign competition. For this, they should be commended but there is so much pressure on the company to have zero emissions, particularly of particulates that they may eventually be forced out of business.

Most of the culture in the valley emanates from Brigham Young University (BYU). There are ten times as many events taking place there than one could ever attend. Then there are sports. BYU won the Western Athletic Football Championship this year for the umpty-ump time in a row. We even had a Heisman award. It went to a senior student named Ty Detmer. The Utah Valley Community College (UVCC) is expanding and progressing and is a very good place to go before transferring to BYU. It will be a four year college in a few years.

Farther south in the valley, specifically, Payson City, there is "Hall's Tree Farm", located at the I-15 freeway's exit 252. Tracy has been trying to establish this tree farm on-and-off for about 12 years. Unfortunately, the farm is in a low spot in that part of the valley and thousands of tree seedlings have died each year because of extreme winter cold. This is one of the valley's losers. Anyway he keeps going on the grounds that he is getting physical exercise while doing useful work.

Tracy, though retired from BYU, still maintains an office and small lab on campus. He is the last living Distinguished Professor. The four others are deceased and they are not bestowing that title anymore. Tracy is also maintaining a machine shop at 1190 Columbia Lane in Provo where he works at improving High Pressure-High Temperature machines that are capable of making diamond.

He is now 72 and, healthwise, flunked the Stress EKG test last April and is taking medicine for high blood pressure. Ida-Rose and Tracy are each watching their diet and walking one to one-and-one-half miles most every day for exercise. Tracy only sees well with his right eye. His left eye has retinal problems.



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