

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.

