

December, 1958

Dear Friends and Loved Ones:

It is hard to believe that Christmas, 1958, is almost here. When we pause to look back on the happenings of last year, we realize that we have been greatly blessed--that our year has been eventful, joyous, and bountiful.

The big event of the year for all of us was the arrival of Nancy, on April 1. Wt.: 7 lbs., 14 oz.; Ht.: 20 in. She is now 20 pounds of sweetness and stands to a tall 28 inches. She is into everything, and keeps the houseplants well pruned. It is sad that with her new progress must come the inevitable introduction into the world of "no." She is the darling of the whole family, and it will be a miracle if she is not outrageously spoiled.

Ida-Rose has a new hobby--genealogy--which threatens to disrupt our happy home. Between that and Nancy, the garden has gone to the weeds this year. When it got too bad, Ida-Rose declared a field-day and we all headed for the garden. All except Tracy Sr., that is, who almost always had a good excuse why he should be somewhere else. Mother is teaching the Blazer class in Primary.

Tracy Sr. has published four scientific papers this year, the most significant of which concerned his "Tetrahedral Anvil Apparatus." This is what his new high-pressure, high-temperature apparatus is called, and it represents two years of hard work. Tracy is still Director of Research at Brigham Young University, and this responsibility, his research, and his three church jobs keeps him quite busy. (Stake Jr. M-Men Leader, Ward Jr. M-Men Leader, Ward Visiting Teacher). However, he still found time to take us exploring on the shores of Great Salt Lake and for a brief jaunt into Idaho this fall. He makes several trips East every year --but we still miss him when he is gone.

David, Tracy, and Virginia, are still sawing away on their violins, but their sawing is rapidly becoming "music." In fact, David and Tracy are becoming quite proficient on the violin, and Virginia can play tunes which we can now recognize. Sherlene is getting so good on the cello, that Tracy Sr. finds it increasingly difficult to accompany her on the piano. To remedy this, Elizabeth has been studying piano for the last year. We are amazed at her progress.

We're bursting buttons all over the place over our "students." Sherlene, 15, was an honor student this year and took the award for the fastest typist in the school. 76 words, net, per minute after only one year of Type. We think she gets prettier every day. Tracy, 13, was also an honor student. He likes type, too, and so do we--we can now read his writing. He likes Math--but his interest in Shop runs a close second. He shows all indications of being our future "scientist." Tracy is a scout and recently learned first hand what it means to "be prepared." His scout troupe spent overnight in a heavy snowstorm in the mountains, and hiked out next day to anxious, but proud parents.

The last report given to Ida-Rose on the younger children's work at Wasatch School, left her so cocky, that one would have thought SHE had done something wonderful herself. David, 11, is in the 6th grade, and doing splendidly. He is enthusiastic, energetic, and keeps us broke buying pants which he promptly de-knees. Both David and Tracy have paper routes. Elizabeth, 9, is in the 4th grade, and a Lark at Primary. She is taking French, and learning how to knit. Virginia, 6, is in the first grade and is taking to reading like a duck to water. Charlotte, 5, is home taking care of Mother and Nancy.

We extend our warmest season greetings to our Friends and Loved Ones, everywhere. We hope the past year has been as richly rewarding for you and yours as it has been for us. And may our Heavenly Father bless you and yours with all his richest blessings in the coming year of 1959.

With love,

*The Tracy Halls*