



"Deck the Halls with boughs of Hall-y....."



If we were to deck the halls with boughs of the HALL family tree, we would have a good many more boughs to work with than we had the last time we sent a Christmas letter. There are now eleven grandchildren to grace our family group sheets, and one more expected by April. The only thing that we object to is that four of them are in New York and New Jersey, (David and Karen's two, and Dan and Sherlene's two) and the other seven are in Palo Alto and San Jose, California. (Liz and Marty's two, and Tracy and Betsy's five, the youngest of which was born Dec. 4, and we haven't even seen her yet.) We have to do most of our grand-parenting from a distance, which is most unsatisfactory to us.

Since our last letter, Virginia has completed a mission to Scotland, finished her schooling, and is now teaching first grade at Maeser School right here in Provo. We thoroughly enjoy having her around.

Charlotte is in Argentina on a mission for the LDS Church and we are looking forward to her return in May. She is our fifth missionary.

Nancy will finish High School this year and has not decided just what to do next year. We hope she will go to College and pursue her interest in Art.

In July we had a wonderful family reunion at the BYU Aspen Grove Family Camp, where the cousins had a chance to get acquainted with each other. Grandmother and Grandfather Hall had a wonderful time gloating over their beautiful children and grandchildren. It was a joyous week--especially since someone else was doing the cooking.

Tracy Sr. is on a one year leave from the BYU and is doing research. In October he took Ida-Rose with him to India, where he was teaching the scientists at the National Physical Laboratory how to operate a high-pressure apparatus which had been presented to them by the United Nations Development Program. After two interesting weeks in India, we took a leisurely month to return home. We visited Thailand, HongKong, the Phillipines, Japan, Hawaii and then returned to spend Thanksgiving with Liz and Marty and Betsy and Tracy in the San Francisco area. Ida-Rose is having a hard time getting back into the routine of cooking three meals a day again.

Our family is all grown up now. We once complained of the house bursting at the seams. That is seldom the case now and with our youngest, Nancy, nearing eighteen (she can hardly wait) we realize that we will soon be where we started thirty-four years ago--just Tracy and I. Retirement is still some time away for Tracy, but we find that a new dimension has entered our life. Each year our circle of friends and loved ones is shortened by the death of one or more who have left our earthly circle to join those on the other side. We miss them and mourn with those they leave behind. We are grateful for the comfort and assurance the Gospel brings to us at times of mourning.

Our greatest happiness is seeing our children serving in the church, advancing in their chosen professions, and establishing righteous families. We sincerely hope that this happiness is shared by all of you, too, in your family circles.

At this beautiful time of year, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, it is wonderful to reflect upon his divine gift of resurrection and eternal life that he gave freely to all men, everywhere. And with the coming of the new year to re-dedicate ourselves to living worthy of the even greater blessings promised through living the Gospel and keeping his commandments.

May our Heavenly Father bless you and yours during the coming year--and May 1976 bring all that you desire in righteousness.

Sincerely,

Tracy, Ida-Rose & Family
1975

