

there and wake up the crews. You would have thought they would have had an alarm clock or something.

Ida Rose: Well, no. They didn't know when they would go out.

Tracy: I suppose maybe that's it. Maybe there were unexpected calls. Trains would be late and what-not. Anyway, that was his first job on the railroad, and he continued working on the railroad and moved up the line becoming brakeman, fireman, and various things, and this is what he was doing when he met my mother at age -- around 31 or 32. 31, I guess. I don't know why dad didn't get married earlier. My mother had opportunities to get married that I remember her talking about, but she didn't like the guys that wanted to marry her. In fact she had to run away from one who chased her to Idaho and then chased her back to Salt Lake. She couldn't get rid of him. But, I never heard my dad talk about any former girl friends or anything. I never did.

But my mother had become a book-keeper. She had gone to Henager's Business College or LDS Business College. I think it was Henager's and had learned book-keeping. She also learned sewing in one of these sewing colleges. Maybe the business colleges were kind of trade schools that they used to have in those days probably taught sewing. Anyway, she took sewing and learned sewing and book-keeping both very well and I think she did both for a living at various times.

Ida Rose: I remember that she did sewing.

Tracy: Oh, yes. She was a good seamstress. She learned all the tailoring and everything else. Maybe not like your mother, but my mother made -- as boys, see, there were 5 of us -- she made all of our clothes. Shirts, pants, the works up until -- well, she made suits, too. As a matter of fact, Bishop deMik used to give my mom his old suits. He worked -- he was a top salesman at Fred M. Nye, and he always looked well dressed.

Ida Rose: Sharp looking!

Tracy: You know, he had on the latest suits -- and new suits. And he would occasionally give his discarded suits to my mom and she would cut them down to size to fit us boys -- clear up until I was age 18 or 19, she was doing this. So, she was a good seamstress.

Ida Rose: What a job!

Tracy: But, anyway, she was working in Wilson's Grocery store which was on Wall Avenue at approximately -- this is a guess, 27th Street, perhaps 28th Street and Wall Avenue. [The store was at 28th and Wall Avenue, northwest corner. The building still stands (1988) and has been remodeled into a shelter for the homeless and vagabonds, providing meals and a place to sleep, and can be recognized by the neon sign that reads "Jesus Saves."]

At this time my grandmother and grandfather Hall were living on Binford Street. North side of the street, I've forgotten the number, about 2 houses from the corner of Wall and Binford. [This house was torn down in the late 1970's, as were all the other homes on the north side of Binford Street, to

*Look up  
in city  
directories*

think this Stanger kid had stolen them from his uncle. They were hidden in this hollow tree down by our swimming pool down on the farm.

Ida Rose: Sounds like Tom Sawyer.

Tracy: Anyway, I got this Dana kid, I says, "We're not going to smoke anymore. I don't care what these other guys do, but we're not going to smoke!" And he agreed with me.

Ida Rose: Did you swear it in blood?

Tracy: Yeah! So we pricked our fingers, I don't know where we got the idea, but anyway, we got blood and we got a pen and we wrote on a sheet of paper on this date, you know, "Tracy Hall and Dana, it was Max Dana, will never smoke again as long as we live." and we each signed our names to that and put it in a Bull Durham can and stuck it in a hollow tree. I wonder if it's still there! And I never smoked again the rest of my farm days, and the rest of the kids kept going, and that Dana kid smokes to this day. So, he didn't stick by it, but I did.

Sherlene: I can remember when I was a little girl, once I asked you, "Daddy, did you ever smoke at all. Did you ever even try it. And when you said, "Yes," Oh, was I disillusioned! Because I thought you were perfect. How could my father have ever even tried, and then you told me how you wrote in blood and you made a covenant that you'd never do it again, even though those big bullies were always after you, and then I decided you were a hero after all. (laughter) But I can remember that.

Tracy: It's funny. I haven't tasted beer. I haven't tasted alcohol. I haven't tasted tea or coffee. I've tasted Coke, but I haven't really drank the Coke, but I have tasted it.

Ida Rose: I remember one time I was at Woolworth's and the first day of my period was always rough and I usually had to go home and go to bed (laughter) And I was working at Woolworth's as assistant manager

Voice: We'll withhold the tape.

Ida Rose: I was training as the Woolworth manager, and I was so sick, I wanted to go home, and she said, "What you need is a good cup of tea." -- "Well, I'm a Mormon and I don't" -- "Well, this is medicine, it won't hurt you at all." And I ... -- "Get on the other side of that counter!" So I got on the other side of the counter, and Mrs. <sup>Michael</sup> she was the kindest, she was the kindest woman. Everyone was scared to death of her, but she just the personification of kindness, and she brought me this cup of tea. I just tasted it and let it go, you know ... I didn't drink it, but ... *I did taste it!*

Tracy: We always had tea in our house, because my grandmother Tracy, being an old Englishman <sup>woman</sup> drank tea until her dying day.

Ida Rose: We used to love the smell of coffee. We made it at Woolworth's. It smelled so good, but *it has a better taste.*

out there, and they could hardly believe it. The dumb scrawny looking farm kid. And, golly, they got me and they quizzed me, and they didn't tell me very much about the test, but they were so concerned about my health. "What does your mother feed you? Don't you get eggs and milk? Anyway, they talked to my parents and told them they had to do something about me because I was wasting away.

Sherlene: Well, do you think you were really undernourished?

Tracy: Yeah! But, I don't know why.

Ida Rose: He can remember times when all they would have for supper was stale bread and water.

Tracy: Yeah, I can remember many a supper where you would just heat hot water on the stove. You put in a level teaspoon full of butter, some salt and pepper, and then you toast your bread. Then you pour that on your bread. That was supper!

Ida Rose: We used to do the same thing, but we would have milk. We called it, "Milk Toast."

Tracy: Well, we had "milk toast" too, but .... *with water.*

Sherlene: Just because you didn't have the money to buy the stuff!

Tracy: Well, Depression, no jobs, no —

Sherlene: But on the farm ...

Ida Rose: But my <sup>when</sup> mother didn't have milk. <sup>1</sup> She went out and got free skim milk.

Tracy: I don't know. We had a cow at times, but maybe the cow was ... You know, you have to dry them out at times -- it may not have been fresh.

Ida Rose: Fresh, they call it. <sup>the cow</sup> It wouldn't have <sup>milk</sup> it when it was having a calf. It would be fresh when it gives milk, see. And then when it would come in again, the <sup>milk</sup> calf would be real rich.

Tracy: I don't think my dad was a good farmer. That wasn't really his trade. I don't think he wanted to be on the farm, really.

David: I don't think he really had a trade until he was about ...

Sherlene: His trade was writing letters ...

Ida Rose: Yeah, to the senators. [Which he did plenty of, telling them what was wrong with the country and they better get back to the Constitution or the country would fall apart, with anarchy and all kinds of problems.]

Nancy: You never did tell us how Miss Stallings got you interested in G.E.