

## A Short Biography of H. Tracy Hall

I was born October 20, 1919 to Howard Hall and Florence Almina Tracy in Ogden, Weber county, Utah. I was the first of five sons born to this couple. The names of my brothers are Eugene, Wendell, Donald, and Delbert. My Mother's father, Helon Henry Tracy and her mother, Nancy Naomi Alexander were early Mormon Pioneers, who knew the prophet Joseph Smith personally and went through all the persecutions of the early church.

My grandparents on my father's side came West to follow the railroad. My mother converted my father to the church before they were married, and I do not know anyone who was a more staunch member of the church than my Dad. None of the rest of my father's family joined the church.

After arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, my grandparents settled in Mariott, Utah, a small farming community North and West of Ogden. Both my father and his brother served in world war I. His brother died in England of flu while in the service, leaving behind a young widow and two children.

Although my parents met and married in Ogden, when we were still young, my parents decided it would be good to raise their family of boys on a farm. They moved back to Marriot, to the place where my mother's family originally settled. My early elementary and secondary education was in Marriott. (Grades 3 thru 8) Then my parents moved back to Ogden.

While I was still in Marriot an interesting thing happened. In the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, when I was nine years old the school board gave a progressive test to all the students. The test progressed from elementary material to more difficult material. This was given to all students grades 1 through 12 in the county. Some time after the test was given my parents got a call from the Superintendent of the Weber County Schools asking my parents to come to his office and bring me with them. I had passed the test the highest in the whole district. I guess they wanted to see what this 4<sup>th</sup> grade genius looked like. ←

I credit this to the frequent visits my parents made with my brother Eugene and I to the Carnegie Library, five miles away in Ogden. Here I headed for the science section of the library. From these trips Edison, Firestone, and other prominent scientist became my heroes. Once my teacher asked the students what they wanted to be when they grew up. When my turn came I said, "I want to be an engineer for General Electric Company—the Company founded by Edison. I think the board was a ~~little~~ disappointed in the skinny little boy who visited them.