Some boyhood memories (October 17, 1996)

The Train Trip to Idaho Falls in 1927

All of the Helon Henry Tracy children were there along with grandma Emma Burdett Tracy. They had their pictures taken at ????? photo studio in Idaho Falls. I still have a framed picture with labels on the back.

Getting there was interesting. My father had not quite given up railroading so my father and mother, Eugene, Wendell, Donald and I could go on the railroad company's passes. My brother Delbert had not yet been born.

The trip was dirty and noisy and the coaches were not warm. The train would stop every once in a while for the water and coal required to run the engine. One thing that I especially liked was the trains whistle.

At one of the stops, a group of Black Feet Indians, entered the coach that we were in. Of course, I asked my mom why the indians had black feet. She said that this was just their name and that they could ride for free because we were traveling across land that belonged to those indians.

My mother as a young woman had lived in the Idaho Falls area for a number of years with Tracy relatives who farmed. She paid her way by doing farm chores and household work. Consequently, she knew her Idaho relatives very well.

We stayed with her younger brother, Harold, who had a big two story white house.Since all of mother's children were boys we slept with some of Harold's boys. His boys slept in the same shorts that they wore in the day time. Mother always made pajamas for us to sleep in. Somehow, I thought it would be neat to do like uncle Harold's boys.

Uncle Harold had a store where he sold coal and cattle feed. His boys spent a lot of time having fun in the store so we sort of "hung out" there too.

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Regarding potatoes, Ida-Rose and I lived in Brunswick, Maine during World War Two while attending Bodoin College. We learned there that Maine potatoes are no match for the ones from Idaho.
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