

Ida Rose Hall

THE FIRST YEAR

After we moved into Lucy VanCott's apartment and were somewhat settled, I applied for a job at the drug store on the corner of 13th East and 2nd South and also at Woolworth for either counter work or work in the cafeteria. The corner drug store called me first, but they only wanted a part time worker. I told them that I had applied at Woolworth and that if it came through it would be a full time job, but they said that they really needed the help and to work for them as long as I could. ~~So I started work there.~~ About a month later the Woolworth job came ^{through} ~~up~~ and so I transferred to that job. "Full time" meant six hours a day, six days a week. The wage was .25 cents an hour. ~~At first they put me in the Cafeteria,~~ saying they would put me on the floor just as soon as a vacancy opened up. That vacancy opened within a week or two and ~~was for~~ ^{I became} a "change girl", which meant that I ran from counter to counter taking ~~their~~ large bills, and furnishing ~~them~~ ^{the girls at the counters} with whatever change they needed. I stayed with that job until after Christmas, and then I was given ^{the notions} a counter. ~~It~~ ^{Correctly,} remember, it was the "notions" counter, ~~and at~~ ^{that} that counter I had a million (it seemed) little items ^{that needed} to keep ordered from the basement each day, ~~but~~ ^{we} at least the job wasn't as tiring as the job of running change. Things like buttons, pins, snaps, hooks-and-eyes, etc.

Tracy started his senior year at the University of Utah on October ^{1,} ~~the first of~~ 1941. ~~The~~ ^{commute to Ogden where he ends to} Tracy planned to keep his part time job at the Sperry flour mill in Ogden on Saturdays. Our local ward was the University Ward and we hit the jack pot for a ~~Sunday~~ ^S School instructor. His name was Lowell Bennion and he was an extremely good teacher.

Dr. J. Victor Beard, one of Tracy's physical chemistry teachers, found out that Tracy played the piano and asked him to be the piano player for the opening exercise of the MIA in his ward. Dr. Beard was the MIA ^P President for that ward. The chapel was located on 13th

Lenebaugh -
they had a baby
and moved in after we did.

East, not too far from where we lived. ^{at that time} ~~In those days~~ there was a singing time in the opening exercises of MIA. It didn't seem to matter that Tracy was not a member of the ward. The bishop of the ward either didn't know that Tracy was acting as the organist of the MIA, or else they were so hard up they didn't care. Dr. Beard and his wife were very kind to us and had us to dinner several times that year.

We ^{were} ~~got~~ introduced to Thora Whiting, who lived in the larger basement apartment, the very first night we were there. Thora liked to play the piano and sing. This evening she was playing a piano solo which had gained popularity that year and was taken from the theme of the Concerto #1 in B-minor by Tchaikovsky. And she played it with gusto. We heard that piano solo a lot that year. In all fairness, Thora had a nice soprano voice and she played the piano well. Our complaint was that sometimes her timing wasn't the best.

Lucy VanCott was either a friend or a relative of President Heber J. Grant, because on several occasions during the year of 1941-42, he drove to the front of Lucy's home and took her for a ride.

We had a lot of fun that year. The occupants of the apartment house were all congenial and got along just fine. Mrs. Marsh was somewhat of a character. She was a divorcee and had a little girl about the age of six ^{years}. She soon let us know that she was descended from ^{P?} the Thomas Marsh who had been president of the Council of Twelve in Nauvoo. Later, when we looked him up, we found that he had been excommunicated from the church during the Missouri persecutions for signing affidavits against the brethren, ^{and} which ^{consequently} led to the death of David Patten ^{and others at the battle of - ?}. We didn't know if he was ever reinstated, but we do know he came West ^{to live} at sometime because he was buried in the Ogden City Cemetery.

The bed on that open-air sleeping porch left much to be desired, as both mattress and spring slopped to the center. No matter how ^{well} you moved away from the center, sooner or later during the night both of us would end up in the middle of the bed, and not necessarily by design. That was alright for Tracy, because he had always slept with a brother, but for me, sleeping with another body in the bed took some getting used to. That bed helped me to get over my "closeness" problem.

At first we tried doing our washing, ^{no cotton} ~~including our sheets in~~ the laundry tub-sink downstairs. Tracy helped me, especially with the large items such as sheets and towels, but the laundry soap was irritating my eczema, ^{even though I wore rubber gloves} ~~which I was still fighting~~. Finally we ask Miss VanCott if we could use the antique washing machine that was in the storage room, and that was a big help. To both my eczema and the washing.

On a wintry day, the 7th of December, myself and one of the other student-occupants were sitting in the kitchen putting together a jig-saw puzzle, when one of the boys from the apartment across the hall came ^{hurrying to the room} ~~running in~~ exclaiming, "The Japs have just bombed Pearl Harbor! They've sunk a lot of ships and stuff!"

"Where's Pearl Harbor?" I asked.

"In Hawaii!" he answered.

"Oh, they wouldn't dare!" I exclaimed. But they ^{Italian} ~~had~~ dared—and it was war!

From that time on until the war ended, ~~the war~~ was the primary concern in all of our lives, ³ ~~especially~~ ^{me} the lives of the young men who had to do the fighting and those that loved them.

Immediately America started priming her war machine. Any factory capable of building anything that was useful for the war was turned to that use. There was an ordinance

depot out at Hill Field in Davis County, and the University of Utah soon had classes to train ordinance workers for that facility.

Dr. Bonner, who was the head of the Chemistry Department at the U knew Tracy was a married student, and handed him the plum of being assistant to ^{Dr.} Corles R. Kinney, one of the U ^{chem} professors who was teaching ^{explosives} the class. The wage was one dollar an hour which was an

almost unheard of wage at the time. We felt rich! I was making twenty-five cents an hour at Woolworth ^{and Tracy was earning 50 fifty cents an hour at the flour mill,}

^{During the holidays} At Christmas, Miss VanCott invited everyone ^{still at} who had not left for the holidays to her kitchen for turkey soup. We had a hard time enjoying the soup because she had not strained the broth for the soup after she had boiled the bones, ^{& turkey leftovers,} and while it tasted all right, the skin and the floating pieces of stuffing were not ^{very} the most appetizing. We ate it! We knew she was being kind to us, and we did not want to hurt her feelings. I often remember her Turkey Soup when I make broth of my own from the turkey leavings, but I always thoroughly strain the broth before adding the vegetables, etc.

During the Christmas holidays, Sperry Mills offered Tracy a full time job. It was a temptation. And we would be able to stay in Utah. ^{If Tracy accepted,} Before giving them an answer, Tracy decided to go see Dr. Bonner, who was the Head of the Chemistry Department. He advised Tracy to finish his bachelor's degree before he ^{task} even looked for employment. When we look back on this we realize how foolish we would have been ^{to} to not finish his ^{bachelor's} degree.

We got re-acquainted with Louise and Alton Wangsgard. Louise's maiden name was Emmett. The Emmetts lived in the 9th ward while I was growing up. I don't remember any Mr. Emmett, so perhaps Sister Emmett was a widow. Both daughter and mother were master teachers. The Mother held together a large group of 18 to 20 year olds by being the M-Men,

~~Gleaner~~ ^{their m. l. a} girl teacher ~~of the ward~~. She held firesides, invited prominent Ogden speakers, and just in general kept us coming to church. Her daughter, Louise, had married Alton Wangsgard, who was Tracy's physics teacher ^{at} in Lewis Jr. High School. He had a PhD at the time, but ^{free cause of the depression} was unable to locate a teaching job at a University ^{over industry} during the depression, so had to be satisfied with teaching the ninth grade at the time.

When we were at Lucy's, he was teaching at the University of Utah. They had us to dinner several times, and we kind of kept in touch during the years following Tracy's graduation, by christmas cards, and by visiting the Wangsgards whenever we were visiting ^{where} the areas they lived in ^{after} subsequent to leaving the ~~U. U.~~.

Another couple ^{influenced in our lives} was the Frank Davises. He was responsible for Tracy's obtaining employment at the flour mill, ^{at the time} and Frank ^{was working} took a job at the Bureau of Mines which was located ^{after he left} just East of the University of Utah campus while we were there. If we had not known Frank Davis, Tracy certainly would never have obtained his master's degree. More of that later.

In February I became very ill with fever and cold chills alternately. Tracy went into Miss VanCott's apartment to see if he could use her phone to call a doctor. She asked him what my ^{symptoms} symptoms were, and told him she thought I might be having a miscarriage, ^{she} and I ^{advised him} should get to my home town doctor as soon as possible. We did see a doctor from Tracy's phone call. He came but did me no good for his ten dollar fee. I think he thought I had the flu.

We went almost immediately to Ogden where Dr. Edward Rich, Jr., did, indeed, confirm Miss VanCott's diagnosis, and took care of me. ^{I miscarried a bank pregnancy} It was about a six ^{week} month pregnancy, and I hadn't even ^{known about} noticed ^{was pregnant} missing my period. I was surprised that I felt so bad about losing a baby that I never even realized existed.

Because we both worked on Saturday, we never attended the football and basketball games. The closest we came to school activity was ~~that when he graduated in June of 1942,~~ ^{attending ~~the~~} we went to the dinner and dance at the Country Club for the graduating ^{chemistry} seniors and their dates or wives in June of that year. It was a formal affair—even for the fellows. Tracy looked so handsome in his tuxedo. During the dance he took me ^{for a walk on the lawn} ~~out on the lawns~~ of the country club and gave me a necklace with the University of Utah insignia on it. Probably thanks to the explosive class.

He graduated June of 1942 with Honors. ^{and} He went to work immediately at the Bureau of Mines, ^{to} a job which had been orchestrated by Frank Davis. ^{Tracy's employment was} He ~~worked~~ in the Spectroscopy Laboratory as assistant to Graham W. Marks. A very nice man, except ^{for the fact} ~~that Tracy had to~~ ^{that he smoked a pipe almost constantly,} enjoy the constant pipe smoke he put forth.

When Tracy took employment at the Bureau, he told them he expected to be drafted momentarily, but they told him to work until that time came.

The bureau had a wonderful policy. Since they were so close to the University, they allowed their employees to take time off to take a class or two, and make up the time as they could. Tracy immediately enrolled in a couple of classes leading to a master's degree. ^{m?}

One day I was home sick from Woolworth's for some unremembered reason, and Tracy said, "Why don't you quit working, Ida-Rose. We can get along without your wages."

✓ I went right to the phone and quit. I didn't take any coaxing.

We had ^{enjoyed living} ~~fun~~ at Lucy's and liked our co-tenants. But when a larger apartment opened up a block west of us at 309 So. 13th East, we moved. (To be continued)