

## Looking for a Job

When it was evident that Tracy was going to graduate with his Ph.D. in August of 1948, he started wondering what he should do about securing employment. He was determined to stay in Utah. The University of Utah offered him an Assistant Professorship teaching freshmen chemistry. The salary, however, was lower than the \$4100, which he could earn if he returned to the U.S. Bureau of Mines. He investigated the situation at Weber College. However, even with his high recommendations, the first thing President Aldous Dixon asked him was, "How many education classes have you had?" The salary, again, was lower than the Bureau of Mines, and the research possibilities at Weber were practically nil.

I persuaded him to send out some feelers to some of the large companies in the East, to see what they might have to offer in the way of employment. He had done this after he received his master's degree, and had received many replies. What we didn't know—and didn't find out until after he had accepted employment with G.E.—is that when you seek employment with a Ph.D. after your name, you do not send for application forms—you send a résumé.

August 28, 1948, Tracy received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah. He was the second graduate to receive a doctorate in chemistry from that university.

The first week of September, Tracy went on a tour of some of the large research laboratories in the East who had invited him to visit them. Those he visited were: E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Delaware and their rayon plant in Waynesboro, Virginia; the General Electric Research Laboratories in Schenectady, New York--to which he had no formal invitation, but had been told he could "drop in" if he was in their vicinity; the Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory in Cumberland, Maryland; and the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York.

He returned quite enthusiastic about his prospects from the trip. He was particularly interested in the G.E. Research Laboratory, where he had been given a big build-up about the *fundamental research* they allowed their associates to conduct.

The offers followed closely upon his return. He received offers from almost all the laboratories he had visited. He was really hoping for an offer from G.E., but none seemed to be forthcoming. All the offers were for over \$5500, which was a good salary for those days. He was about to take an offer from DuPont, when he received a wire from General Electric asking him to not accept any offers until they could get *their* offer to him. Their offer was for a salary of \$6200, which he accepted, since it had been the one he had been hoping for.

He always felt a little guilty because G.E. was the only company who had not offered to pay his travel expenses. The plan before he left was that the companies he visited would divide the expenses of his trip among them. G.E. later offered to pay his entire expenses, but everything was settled by then. So G.E. got Tracy for the small travel expense of \$23.81.

Dad Langford had come through with the initial money for the trip, as he always did when we were in a tight pinch. We returned his loan as soon as the trip funds came through.

There was another important factor that entered into his decision to go to G.E.: there was a substantial branch of the LDS Church in Schenectady. We felt that it was especially important for our children to have regular contact with the church.

Early in the fall of 1948, we left for Schenectady, New York, with our three young children; in an old, dilapidated car we named "Betsy." We thought our move would be for life!