

Receiving My Doctorate Degree From the University of Utah

H. Tracy Hall, son of Mr. And Mrs. Hall of 25 Fowler Avenue of Ogden, Utah, received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Utah Commencement Exercises held Saturday evening on August 28th, 1948. His field is Physical Chemistry with a minor in Physics.

My doctoral thesis was written on my fundamental investigation on “The Isomers of Chromic Salts” and additional research on “Liquid Junction Potentials.”

I was the third person to have received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Utah, but was the first “home grown” candidate, having received my Bachelors degree in 1942, my Masters in 1943, and now my Doctorate, all from the University of Utah. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to have done my Doctoral work under Dr. Henry Eyring, who had come to the University of Utah just before I started work on my Doctorate.

I was a native of Ogden, Utah and graduated from Ogden High School and Weber College.

I am a member of Sigma Xi, Honorary Graduate Society, and a member of Alpha Chi Sigma.

There were a number of persons who were receiving medical degrees at this commencement and they took up most of the time, but I was the only one who was getting a Doctorate in Chemistry so I received a lot of attention. A. Ray Olpin, the university president himself, along with my mentor, Henry Eyring and Carl Christensen (who was the director of research for the university) all helped to dress me in the doctorate robes.

My parents were present at this convocation and were proud that I was the first of our relatives to have achieved this honor.

The day following these exercises, I departed for the East, where I was to visit some of the nation’s largest research laboratories in order to find employment. Every one of these organizations offered to hire me, namely DuPont, Kodak, Carbide and Carbon, and some others that I can’t remember. I also interviewed with General Electric, where I had wanted to work since I was about in the fourth grade, because Dr. Thomas Edison, who had always been a hero of mine, founded the company.

After returning home, the offers soon came in. I received job offers from all of the above, except for GE, and I was about to accept a position with DuPont when I got a telephone call from General Electric asking me not to accept any offers until I received theirs. It soon came and it was the one I finally accepted.

At that point in time my wife, the former Ida-Rose Langford, and our three children Sherlene, Tracy, and David were residing in Stadium Village in Salt Lake City.