Research Corporation

Last Friday, March 14, 1959, I (Tracy Hall) received a call from Research Corporation saying that they wanted to apply for patents on my tetrahedral anvil press before his releasing anything in April, so as to protect my U.S. and foreign patent rights. Research Corporation handles our patent rights. This is the patent on my tetrahedral anvil press design on which I will publish a paper. I told them, "No, not until the date of the talk." But he is now trying to reach them to tell them they can apply the date before the abstract is released. This was the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society that is being held in San Francisco.

The title of my paper was A New High Pressure Machine that is Capable of Transforming Graphite into Diamond. I call it the "Tetrahedral Press."

Since the title gives away the nature of the machine, a half dozen GE people from the General Electric Company were sitting on the front row, up front, to see if I spilled any GE secrets. Of course, there were not secrets. I was the only one who had any secrets, and that was me, and I was now going to tell the audience the details of this new device.

It was a great day for me. The audience gave me a standing ovation. I had brought about 20 copies of my paper, but that was hardly enough. I had to take orders, so to speak, and take down their mailing addresses and promise to send them a copy later.

A footnote: after leaving General Electric, I had invented and designed the tetrahedral press and put it into operation. I made diamonds in it on the 27th day of December in 1957. At the same time that I was getting up to go to the Chemical Society meeting, my wife was giving birth to a baby girl. So we were very, very busy.