

## **The Schenectady, New York Period October 1948-April 1955**

I received my PhD degree in Physical Chemistry with a minor in Physics in an August commencement exercise at the University of Utah on August 28, 1948. The university at that time had a quarter system while a majority of institutions were on a semester system. Most of the graduates were receiving Baccalaureate degrees but there were a few medical doctors receiving their degrees.

I was the only person receiving a PhD at this commencement so I received a considerable amount of attention.

A. Ray Olpin was the president of the university at this time and my graduate professor was the world-renowned Henry Eyring who was also the dean of the graduate school. The persons participating in placing the university's investments on my person were President Olpin and Henry Eyring. The university's Director of Research, Carl Christenson, was also on the platform. The commencement exercises took place in Kingsbury Hall. Both of my parents (Florence and Howard Hall) were present at this event. At the conclusion of the exercises, there was a spontaneous outburst of applause. My parents recognized that I was the first person in the Hall and Tracy families to receive such an honor.

My previous attainments included the following:

1. Ogden High School graduation, Ogden, Utah, May 28, 1937
2. Weber College, Ogden, Utah, A.S. degree, June 9, 1942
3. M.S. degree, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, June 8, 1943

At the time that I was working for the M.S. degree, I was also working part time at the U.S. Bureau of Mines, which had a research building on the university campus. I was allowed to intersperse my Bureau of Mines responsibilities with my course work at the university as long as I worked eight hours at the bureau.

Before going forward, I need to tell you something about my friend Frank Davis. He lived in the same ward that I did. He also had a good job at the Sperry Flour Mill that was located at the foot of 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Our family also lived at 664 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Ogden, Utah. Frank and I both belonged to the 18<sup>th</sup> Ward in the Mount Ogden Stake. Therefore, we knew each other well. He then managed to get a good job for himself at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Salt Lake City and turned his job at Sperry Mills over to me. This was a part time job for me that I had for a couple of years and carried it on into our marriage. I worked night shifts because it paid \$.50 an hour, which was good money for me at that time in my life. Working in the flourmill was very interesting and I will tell more about it later on.