

H. Tracy Hall oral history, tape 15,16

I'm telling about the gentleman from India that came to visit me. I said we better go up to the school and see what you have come to see, so I took him up there and showed him a press that I had built with my own money. A 300 ton cubic press, one with square bases that were cut out of big steel plates that I had been calling the Indian press lately. Anyway I showed him that and made diamonds in it, and he saw how quickly and easily that was done. He left and .... some diamonds and he went on his way back to India. Well, I ... he left a book with me that he had written. I looked in this book afterwards and found out he was a real big shot back there in India. So, I thought, Oh, Boy, I really blew that one.

I sometimes have so many visitors come through the " Y" I get sort of ignorant to them and don't treat them .... I've tried to reform in recent years. I'm sure I've turned a lot of people off in the past, but they were coming through so constantly, I couldn't get my work done, but I decided that that's bad for the church, so I have tried to reform and I really encourage them and invite them to stay at our house and all this, that, and the other. Get David involved, take them to Temple Square, whatever I can do to try and help them live their knowledge of the church, which might eventually help us some and, who knows, get some converts. But anyway I figured that was the end of him. Later on they came back and wanted to buy that press. And, of course, I sold it to them in the fall of 1965, October or November.

Ida Rose and I went to India and after having shipped that press over there, and installed it and put it in operation for them.

Sherlene: Did you ever talk to him about that whole thing.

Tracy: Oh, No. No, I never brought up the subject, but the thing you have to realize here is the cast system in India which was officially abolished, but which still exists. It was very frustrating to be over there. Indian scientists do not want to do a single thing with their hands. Manual labor is almost against their religion. It's part of the cast system. Anyone who works with his hands is lower than somebody who just sits and commands and directs and tells. And when I was over there with a crescent wrench in my hand underneath the press trying to assemble it, they didn't like it. I was lousing up their system. "Oh, No! Give the wrench to this man. Tell him how to do it!" It was very frustrating.

My impression of the people who call themselves scientists in India is pretty bad because they do not want to work with their hands and you can never have good science without having .... Scientists themselves who have a theoretical knowledge also willing to do a certain amount of the manual part of science. I could give you a whole tape or two on India. Mom and I kept sort of a log and diary when we went there and it's in a book. You can read about it in that book we wrote on our trip. I think you'll find that book interesting. I forget what kind of ... I think it's a bound notebook that we both wrote in ... various impressions of our trip, and that's at home in Provo.

Sherlene: With your Books of Remembrance and that kind of record.

Tracy: It's not in that kind of record. No, it's in just a separate bound volume that we would take turns writing in.

Sherlene: I mean, do you keep it with those kinds of records?

Tracy: Oh, it's on my bookshelf with my books in my study.

Sherlene: What are some of the most embarrassing things that have ever happened to you?

Tracy: Before we answer that question, let me tell you that ... my scientific notebooks do contain some comments from time to time that could be about our family history. I've never kept a diary continuously. Mother kept a diary during all the trauma of our General Electric experience before we left there. And you ought to know that that diary exists.

Sherlene: Oh, where is that?

Tracy: Well, it's a brown covered hardback notebook with sewn binding and everything. She kept that faithfully through that whole period, so that's a very interesting thing to look into.

Sherlene: That ought to be typed up as part of our history.

Tracy: She kept a diary there quite faithfully for a long time. It's too bad she didn't continue. But, I would say that diary covers maybe six months, which would be a good thing to know exists.

Sherlene: I'll say.

Tracy: I think it's located on her bookshelf in her study, I think.

Sherlene: What are some of the other things you have hanging around the house that we ought to know about? I know you have a drawer full of silver dollars.

Tracy: Yeah, we have currently, we have two hundred dollars worth of brand new 1963 pennies in sacks. \$200, I think. I think it's fifty dollars a sack. I think we have four sacks. We probably have \$100 in silver coins. You see the penny is our most valuable money right now. Intrinsic value. What it, in and of itself, is worth. The penny has the greatest worth. Isn't that something! (laughter) Isn't that something! Our lowest money has the highest intrinsic worth and maybe you have read in the newspaper occasionally how they want to change the composition of the penny so it's not so valuable.

Sherlene: Ha! That's something!

Tracy: Oh, I've tried to mark most of my slides throughout the years and many of our pictures. I've seen so many undated pictures of my mother's and former people that you don't know who the people are. The dates or anything. I have been rather faithful in dating slides and pictures that I have taken. So you'll find all that kind of stuff. OK, what was that next one? Embarrassment?

Sherlene: How about family heirlooms? Do you have some neat things stored away in your drawers that not too many people know about?

Tracy: Probably the most valuable heirloom that I would leave would be my scientific notebooks, of which there are only two. I had many scientific notebooks at General Electric, but, of course, that's their property. I've thought, on many occasions for many years, I ought to try and see if General Electric would give me copies of those, but I've never asked them.

One time Suits wrote to me and he never asked me any questions, you know, about how I felt about this thing he was writing up on the history of diamond, but he just said, "Here's the history of the diamond at General Electric." All wrong, you know, and spread over everybody, credit all over the place and not true correct at all. "But, I was interested in the history, so I gave this big speech in Rochester and here we printed umpteen thousand of these and gave them to the libraries all over the country, etc."

I wrote back to him. I wasn't nasty, I just thanked him for sending me his version of what happened and suggested that... I would think if he was really that interested in the history of diamond, that he would take the notebooks of all of those who were working on this project and contribute those notebook to the Schenectady Museum, which is a good museum, or else to the ... What's the big one in Washington? The Smithsonian Institution. And let historians decided what the true history of the synthesis of diamond was from the notebook records and not have a corporate officer of a company, who is likely to be biased, tell the people what the history was. I never heard from him. (laughter)

Sherlene: Oh, that's something! I sure hope no one has damaged those.

Tracy: Well, I worry about that. I'm sure they milk them dry because.. I know of one ... those notebooks were during my youthful really creative years, and I had just hundreds of ideas in those notebooks. I'd like to have them to work at. They've milked them dry as best they could, I'm sure. One thing Td me off because Francis Bundy patented in his name the stacking of belts, which I think they do in their plant, instead of one belt in die machine, you have two or even three belts in a machine. He patented that idea, which was definitely in my notebook as my idea. This happened .. This patent came, of course, after I left the company. In his name and not in my name.

Now I suppose it's conceivable he may have thought of it later and maybe didn't know mat ? If they did not pour over my notebooks trying to fish out all die ideas, they would be mighty dumb. I don't think the General Electric Company is that dumb. They should have known mat.

Sherlene: What are some of die most embarrassing things that have ever happened to you?

Tracy: Oh, I don't know. I don't embarrass too easily. Probably in your youth when you're a teenager you get embarrassed at things. But I couldn't name anything. Just being around girls is embarrassing when you're a bashful teenage boy. I can't really, offhand, recall any embarrassing event that would come in my mind.

Sherlene: What achievements have given you die greatest satisfaction? You really haven't told about your awards yet.

Tracy: The whole farmly has given my my greatest satisfaction. Of course, I take great pride in ... I always pray to Heavenly Father to help me in my scientific work and feel that he has, particularly in the synthesis of the diamond. And, I guess, maybe in some ways I shouldn't take all die credit that I have done. I think I haven't got enough credit because the General Electric people diluted it with taking die credit with various people. They deserve credit for developing in their processes and improving die diamond quality and in developing the different types, but they shouldn't take die credit for die first synthesis. That was me. I was the guy who did that, see. And that's the tiling. And, of course, that was the breakthrough. That was the achievement, was die initial synthesis.

Sherlene: I read in a big ad that I saw in several recent magazines. I think it was advertising tooth paste. It listed the hundred greatest, or was it twenty. I can't remember now. I think it was the hundred greatest discoveries in the past one hundred years, or something like that. One, of which, was supposed to be Crest toothpaste or something like that. But it listed synthesis of diamonds as one of them. Greatest! That was with a lot of other very impressive things. And that made me proud to see that

Tracy: Well, there are different ways you can decide which was the greatest. If you wanted to decide .... The thing about the diamond was that people worked on it for so long. People had been trying .... Oh, it depends on how you want to look at the situation, but for at least 125 years to make it. And perhaps even as long as 175 years. Science, including Nobel prize winners had been trying to do this for that long a period of time. And taking that into account, the effort that had gone into it. The guy who finally made it had really done something.

Sherlene: He should have a little more credit given to him. What was the most thrilling day of your life?

Tracy: It was thrilling to have been made bishop of our ward on July 4, 1976. That was a thrilling day. I think Mom was proud of that day too. I don't know if that was the most thrilling day, but it was the most recent thrilling day.

Sherlene: How would you describe your own personality?

Tracy: My natural tendency is to be introverted. I like to think and dream. But the dreams, you know, are not .... It's daydreaming, but it's daydreaming about scientific things. If you did this, what would happen? And I wonder how I could do that... this, that, and the other. It's hard for me to be gregarious for long periods of time. I can be friendly and get along with people, but if I'm with people too long, I have to get away. I have to get by myself. I have to have my own periods of just meditation by myself. I could not be with people perpetually. It would do me in. I'm not that gregarious. In fact, I can't spend a whole day constantly with somebody. It's hard on me. It's just because I am somewhat introverted.

Sherlene: I know! It's a miracle that you have been doing this all day. (laughter) How would you describe your own appearance?

Tracy: My own appearance? I was better looking when I was younger than I am now. Oh, I don't know about my own appearance. I was jealous of many of my boyfriends when I was younger because they were so handsome and seemed to have such a way with the girls, (more laughter)

Sherlene: I've looked at some of your early pictures, and you were handsome!

Tracy: I'm not. I tend to be thin and don't have too much trouble with my waistline. In recent years I have had to decline food. Most of my life I never had to worry about eating. I could eat all I could possibly eat. Now I do have to watch it I would like to stay around 145 pounds. My usual weight is about 155 pounds. I've gone for long periods at about 165, but that's too heavy for me. I would like to be at 145 pounds. I'm five foot ten and a half, small boned. My wrists are very small boned compared to the average man. Mine are very small.

Sherlene: I think you look young for your age. I think you're very youthful looking.

Tracy: People tell me I look young for my age. Your Mom tells me that.

Sherlene: You have very quick eyes.

Tracy: Is that right?

Sherlene: Like you notice your own eyes. Your eyes are very quick and darting, almost piercing, but in a kindly way.

Tracy: My desire as a man is to be, well, Bishops have influenced me in that way. Bishop Ritchie, in Marriott, was the kind of a man I wanted to be. I somehow pictured myself as an older man. That was my goal to be a kind, generous, soft spoken, good, grey-haired man someday. And I pictured Bishop deMik as being that way in the 18th Ward. Also, Bishop William Z. Terry.

Bishop Lofgreen was a great bishop and I liked him. He was... seemed to be the ideal of the youth. He became Bishop at twenty-six years of age. And was made the bishop simply, you know, to rev up the youth. He was the youth's kind of bishop. But, I was a serious young man. I was always serious and studious and not frivolous. And that was not my kind of a man. I preferred the old gentlemen with the wisdom and the knowledge and who looked graceful and gentle and kind. And that's what I wanted to be.

Sherlene: I think you are, Dad! I think you are.

Tracy: Well, thanks, Sherlene!

Sherlene: I know you are! What's your idea of good food?

Tracy: Oh, I love malted milks more than anything else when I was young, and I occasionally get them now and they just don't have that old appeal. It's funny. Your tastes change and things I didn't like when I was young I now like. I like this new soft yogurt. What's the name of it? Yoplait! Yoplait! That's nice. I'll eat one of those every day, if you'll buy me one.

Ida Rose: And I'll eat 4 or 5 on the day.

Sherlene: I've never even heard of it. What is it called?

Tracy: Yoplait! Y-o-p-l-a-i-t. It's French, and I think was introduced into American from Canada.

Ida Rose: But originally from France.

Tracy: And they now sell it around Provo. At die BYU and many stores.

Ida Rose: Thirty-five cents for for a little carton.

Tracy: Yeah, thirty-five cents for 6 oz. It's much better than the hard custard yogurt. This is actually runny. But it's much better flavored. I love it. That's good food, I like that. Well, I used to tell Mom after I'd been out on a trip ... we used to do a lot of traveling as Director of Research, I'll take bread and butter and beans at home over steak away any day. I like plain food. I'm not one ... too much for gourmet cooking and big steaks and stuff like that.

Sherlene: What's your idea of a good breakfast?

Tracy: A good breakfast for me is cracked wheat, glass of orange juice, a glass of milk, and toasted French muffin.

Sherlene: And what's your favorite desert?

Tracy: I like the pineapple fluff that Mom makes. That's a good desert I like fruit for desert, or cheese. These are things I wouldn't have chosen when I was younger. Let's see, what are some of the other goodie things that Mom makes? Mom, what are some of the deserts you make? I can't think of them.

Sherlene: Pineapple fluff!

Tracy: Yeah, I've already mentioned that one.

Sherlene: She makes a good banana cream pie.

Tracy: Yeah, banana cream pie and strawberry shortcake is great in season. Mom's strawberry jam is just great. Strawberry jam on whole wheat bread and butter and a glass of milk. That's a great desert! Her frozen strawberry jam.

Sherlene: OK. What's your idea of good music?

Tracy: Mozart. Most of the masters. Classical music. More modern stuff just doesn't have too much appeal to me. Occasionally I'll hear something that's OK. I like soprano singers. I disliked it when I was kids. I particularly like Joan Sutherland and I have quite a few records of hers. I like to listen to those.

Sherlene: What do you like to read?

Tracy: For reading, all my life I've read mainly scientific books. Scientific publications of one kind or another. I read the industrial scientific magazines. I read the church magazines, I read the scriptures. As far as reading a novel, that's a twice in a lifetime thing for me. I sometimes read the Reader's Digest. I read, sometimes I'll plow through a non-technical work. I like biography, particularly church biography .. church leaders. I like biography of scientists, great men of science, and I've read quite a number of those in my day. I have never read much poetry. I like history and I will read a history, particularly when it's attached to biography, if it's talking about George Washington or Thomas Jefferson or Abraham Lincoln. I've already mentioned great church leaders. I would like to read that. I have several large sets of books. In volumes that I will read on occasion. I will read church history. I would say next to science that I like biography and history the best.

Of all church jobs you have held, which did you like the most?

(Tracy is reading the questions while Sherlene has disappeared into the kitchen to take care of some of her duties there.)

Well, I think my current position as Bishop in the church. The least was when I was the high councilman and a stake clerk in the BYU Tenth Stake. At this point I might mention some of the church jobs I've held. I've been Bishop of the Pleasant View First Ward, Sharon East Stake in Provo since July 4, 1976, which is a day easy to remember. The celebration of our bicentennial. Prior to that I was young adult class teacher in the ward. I enjoyed that very much. And prior to that I was the Priests advisor and I enjoyed in

particular Sunday lessons that I gave to them. Prior to that I was in the Tenth Stake. Prior to that I think I was in the MIA somewhere. I've been in that on and off all my life. All my adult life.

In 1961 I was second counselor in the Pleasant View First Ward to Bishop Lloyd Free, the first counselor was Chase Allred. Prior to that I think I was in the MIA, I've been in the MIA presidency, I've been in the Elder's presidency in the Pleasant View First Ward. I've been ... Oh, other jobs, mostly in MIA through my years. Even when I was a counselor in the Bishopric, the MIA was my responsibility. Prior to Pleasant View First Ward ... in Schenectady, I've already mentioned, I was Sunday School superintendent. And then for most of the time I was in the District Council. Going back to my youthful days, I'm sure I was Deacon's Quorum president and an officer in the other quorums through the years.

I was a counselor with my friend Lane Compton when my friend Frank ... Frank ... Our friend Frank, who got me a job at the Sperry Mills and the Bureau of Mines.

Ida Rose: Frank Davis.

Tracy: Frank Davis was the president. I was in the Elder's Quorum presidency in the Pleasant View First Ward at one point. Councilor to Harry Hodson. I've been on the stake Sunday School Board. I guess I've been on MIA boards. I think that covers most of the church positions. I've had ... I was High Councilman in the Tenth Stake. And also stake clerk in the Tenth Stake at the BYU.

Let's see, what other questions? What countries have you visited?

Well, I've been to Europe three or four times. I've been in South Africa. I've been in Asia. Japan. Experiences there would fill too many pages to cover that at this point

If you could live in any country besides the United States where would you live?, is a question Sherlene has written down here.

I don't know where I would live if I had my choice other than the United States. I would probably go to Canada as a first choice. It would be so much like the United States.

What is your hope for your children? I've covered that.

Primarily, that they live righteously and that they be successful, and that they stay close to the church. Work hard and are useful to themselves and to their own families and to their fellowmen.

What advice would you like to leave your posterity?

Well, primarily the same. Just live righteously. Stay close to the church.

Tell us about Mega and HTH Incorporated. When it started and what is happening?

Oh, that's too long a story. Mega was started when Bill Pope and Duane Horton approached me and says, "Let's each put in \$20,000.00 and let's start a diamond company. Really, we didn't start a diamond company, we started... that company was first called Mega Pressure Products and Research Corporation. We were just going to do research on various things that might be made that you might be able to base a business on that required high-pressure and high-temperature. And later on I came up with the sintered diamond, got

some patents on it and started making these sintered diamonds. It's a long story, and it's very complicated.

Let's see. Tell us about some of the famous and interesting people you have met. Timpanogos Club, she mentions.

Well, I don't know who the most famous person is I have ever met. I have met quite a number of famous scientists. Famous and interesting makes two different kind of statements. Percy Bridgeman was a Nobel prize winner and I had talked with him at G.E. ? Libby, Nobel prize winner, I've had him call me on the telephone and ask me questions about high-pressure. There are several Nobel prize winners that have called me and asked me questions about high-pressure.

Fields outside of science? Oh, I've probably been able to shake hands with all the church presidents since Heber J. Grant. I have been able to converse with some of them like President Kimball and President J. Reuben Clark and others.

Politically? Well, I've talked with people like Governor Rampton of the state of Utah. I've talked with senators like Moss and, oh, other Utah senators that don't come to my mind at this time. I've never met and shaken hands or talked with a president of the United States.

The Timpanogos Club is a club formed about 1913 in Salt Lake City and to belong to that club you are supposed to be a successful business man or artist or scientist or something like that. The various university presidents in Utah have been members down through the years. I was elected by a brother who had been a missionary in South Africa many years ago. I've forgotten what his name was. I think it was one of the Cannons. He had me talk at Timp Club on diamonds. They liked me a lot and he nominated me and I was elected to membership.

Successful business men? University president's, governors of the state, some scientists and people like that are members of this club. I've been a member for almost 20 years.

Who is the most important person you have ever met?

Well, to me as a Latter-day Saint, it was probably, to say the various presidents of the church, and I wouldn't want to point one out specifically.

If you had a million dollars what would you do with it?

Well, I would quickly establish me a first-rate laboratory and expand the HTH Incorporated machine shop and just get the things that I've always wanted to have in my own personal research laboratory.

What do you think about the future of America?

Well, I hope for it, but I fear for it.

What do you think about the theory of evolution?

I stick it in the back of my mind as a possibility. I tend to not believe it, at least at this stage of my life. I think a direct creation of\* things by the Lord is just as much possible as the theory of evolution. There are things that the theory of evolution "tends to explain",



quotation marks! There are things that, if you just take the biblical story which offers no explanation of how things are done, you can be worried about

One thing I've learned. Science is not all truth as it claims to be. And there are many holes in science. Many unanswered things. There are many unanswered thing about the scientific theory of evolution that tend to be neglected and overlooked.

People who propose theories in science are kind of like lawyers at a trial, they are only presenting their... they believe it first and then bring all the evidence they can to bear

end of tape 15

As I was saying there are many things in science that are unexplained. Some things that are contradictory. There are things like that in religion. Even in our religion. I just hope that someday, at least, they will be resolved.

You know there are many people who will throw out Mormonism on one ground. 'They say well, this doesn't make sense to me, and if there is just one thing wrong with your religion then that means it's not true. I've never bought that, because if you applied that to science, you wouldn't do anything in science either. So, just because there is some ... thing to us that is contradictory or unexplained, does not mean that you don't adhere to it.

I love science and I eat, sleep, and drink it, but I don't make it my religion.

Let's see, Sherlene's question number 98. If you could be twenty years old again and retain everything you have gained and done by now, what would you do with your time?

Well, I don't like to philosophize about those kinds of things. You can't really .. I don't think I would change a thing.

Tell about the Hole in the Rock accident. By that I think Sherlene means that scouting accident which occurred on June 10, 1963, I believe. Darrel Taylor was the scoutmaster in our ward. As you know, scouts and explorers have these high adventure trips that they are supposed to do one of each year and the scouts had selected for their High-adventure trip this year to go down a float trip on the Colorado River starting somewhere near Escalante . in southern Utah. I was a member of the Bishopric, second counselor to Lloyd Free, who was responsible for the Mutual Improvement Association.

Big trips like this, though, had to be approved by the Bishop and the Bishopric in general. This was approved. A firm in Salt Lake, the name of which I have forgotten, was regularly running these river trips, which were all the vogue in Utah and Idaho and other places in those days. It was a ward that had started this up in Salt Lake. The words Sacatwa runs through my mind. Sacatwa Expeditions, or something like that Anyway, they sort of semi organized into a company and sponsored these things. Well, I was scheduled to go on that trip. Our two boys were going, David and Tracy, and when we were up in Ogden visiting my brother Eugene, Ida Rose mentioned something about this trip. And later on we were called up and our nephews, Gene's sons Alan and Randy wanted to go on this trip, so they signed up for this trip also.

Quite a number of scouts and several scout leaders from our ward including the scoutmaster and two assistants. Well, now, I got a sore throat a week or so before this trip, a terrible sore throat and it just got worse and worse and worse. I went to the doctor and had my shots trying to get it cleared up, but it wouldn't clear up. The day before the trip I went to the doctor had him examine me again and asked for his advice. And he said,

"Don't go on the trip!" Well, there was only one other person free to go on the trip from the Bishopric and that was Chase Alfred, and he had to make some adjustment in his schedule to do that. So he went on the trip.

Well, when the truck and whatever else was involved to carry the gear, arrived at our ward, there were other people on the truck going on the same trip. Something that our leaders had not known about. There were people from other wards in Provo also on this trip and at least one other scoutmaster from another ward. Well, this was disappointing, but they went on the trip anyway. The truck, and I think there really only was one big truck, had all this heavy gear of these boats and all of these young men and their leaders. The truck, unfortunately, was driven by an unexperienced youth, who was twenty-one years of age. He met the legal requirements, but was just too young a man to have been driving this very heavy, probably overloaded, truck. The truck was a fairly new truck, however. Well, of course, we learned of all these happenings later. And it was a traumatic experience as we learned and listened to the radio and waited for telephone calls.

But, as they were going up a hill on dirt road towards their destination on the river, the truck had become overheated, and you know how overheated engines are ... they're kinda balky. And this young man stalled the engine. Well, with a stalled engine, when you have power brakes, the power brakes didn't work. So, he had no brakes. Instead of leaving the truck in gear, he shifted it into neutral, and he tried to start the engine. And then, of course, the truck started to roll backwards and gained momentum. A few people, well, there were some people as I understand it, who were even sleeping in the truck. But, some were standing up and managed to jump out, but most of the people in the truck .. it rolled over a cliff and the truck rolled over. It pinned our nephew Randy underneath. David. Our son David was right next to him and Randy was killed. David says that the weight of the truck on Randy and on Randy's chest, held the truck up sufficient from him. David was also pinned under the truck, but it held the weight of the truck sufficiently, that David wasn't killed.

Tracy was thrown out. Thirteen people in all were killed and many were injured seriously. Five boys from our ward were killed and our scoutmaster and our assistant scoutmaster. We heard of Randy's death over the radio, but did not know about David and Tracy and the others. Ida Rose and I as soon as we heard of the accident, we quickly went and knelt in prayer and asked the Lord to enable us to bear whatever we might have to bear, and asked for the Lord's blessings and guidance on ail of the young men, including our own, if their lives could be preserved, if that was at all possible.

We heard from David. I don't know what time, maybe nine or ten o'clock at night. We first heard this word around four o'clock in the afternoon. Four or five in the afternoon. Tracy, we could not learn of his whereabouts. David had told us that he thought Tracy was OK. The last he knew of Tracy ... the police had taken Tracy to ride in their automobile to some place to make identification of dead or locate something or other... anyway, Tracy Jr. ended up riding for hours with the police before he finally ended up at the hospital. Our boys both came home with bruises and black eyes, but... and David had a slight concussion, but we were grateful their lives were spared.

This was a very, very sad affair. There were lots of sad things from it The insurance situation. Some of the men did not have insurance because the trip was supposed to be insured, but the insurance had to be split so many ways. And there was fights and suits and problems over it. And it was a very very sad affair. We went to the funeral of Randy up in Ogden. It was held the same day as the funeral for.... I guess we went to Darrell Taylor's funeral, but the funeral for 5 boys was held together in the tabernacle in Provo at the same time as Randy's funeral, so we were not present at that.

What do you remember about the death of your parents and our grandparents?

I went to the funeral of my grandmother Tracy. My grandfather Tracy died long before I was born. I went to the funeral of my grandmother Hall and my grandfather Hall. I think my grandfather Hall died around 1936 and my grandmother, I believe, preceded him by a few years. I don't remember too much detail about any of these funerals. My own parents, my mother had, I think on account of her high blood pressure, it had affected her brain and she was becoming less mentally alert and wasn't aware of the things she was doing. I think she lost control of her urine and perhaps even her bowels toward the end. They were living in Ogden and we were living down in Provo. We'd go up there quite often and see them. My mother would wander away at night. Go walking down the street in her nightgown and my dad would have to... my dad was very kind to my mother. He took care of her, bathed her, and everything, but it got beyond my father's strength and he finally decided to put her in a rest-home. But Mom died, I think, just a couple of weeks after she was put in that rest-home. I dictated a letter to my secretary on learning of Mom's death and that letter is probably still on the recorder, you know, what do you call it? The dictaphone. I think I probably still have a dictaphone tape of that where the letters are that were sent to the kids, I don't know. Some of the kids were on missions when I wrote that letter telling them of Mother's death.

My father was living with us at the time of his death. I've already mentioned the operation which I think lead to what I considered an early death for my dad. But, Dad was going downhill so fast, he couldn't eat. He couldn't even drink any water. He was having a very difficult problem. He'd go to bed, and he would tell us that he was going to die that night. And he wanted to die, he was ready to die. He'd wake up in the morning frustrated cause he hadn't passed on to the other side. But, he got so poor .. we didn't know .. his wish was, Leave him alone, let him die. But, we wanted to take him to the hospital. So, Marty and Liz were visiting us and Marty and I got hold of Dad and very firmly just told him we were taking him to the hospital, and we just physically took him to the hospital.

And he was in the hospital. The doctors never really figured out what was wrong and I had a speaking engagement at the American Chemical Society tour of the northwest. Ida Rose and I went off on that. And we received a call from my brother Wendell on the 20th of October of 1972 that my father had passed away. That was my birthday. The 20th of October. He was being visited by our niece Bonnie Hall, who is my brother Delbert's daughter. And he passed away rapidly right there while she was visiting him in the hospital. We heard that news just before I had to give my talk. Just five minutes before I had to give my speech. We gave the speech. I staid there that night as we were tired and worn out and then early the next morning headed for home where his funeral arrangements were made. All the boys and all the daughter-in-laws were home for my father's funeral and also for my mother's funeral.

I've forgotten details of my mother's funeral. I think my Uncle Aaron spoke. Uncle Aaron died right shortly after my mother. I can remember him at the graveside. I didn't learn of Uncle Aaron's funeral, I was ... Well, I did ... I remember now, I did attend Uncle Aaron's funeral. Ernest Wilkinson was there at that funeral. Ernest Wilkinson admired Uncle Aaron. He was a student when my uncle was president of Weber College.

My father's funeral. Very nice things were said about my dad. Charles Metton gave a very inspired talk concerning my dad. I'm sure we have these funerals on tape, although I couldn't tell you where the tapes are for either my father and my mother at the present time. But they were taped and in the case of my father, I know there's more than one copy around. In the case of my mother, I don't know.

I took pictures of my mother in her coffin. It's the only ... I didn't for my dad. I don't know why, I just wanted to in the case of my mother. In general I don't like to do that.

Who are some of the people you know who you admire the very most?

Well, let's see, When you hire a man what are the first qualities you look for?

Well, ability, of course. I usually hire someone for either their technical ability in Science. I have hired lots of secretaries. Yeah, I look at their ability. How fast can you type? How accurate are you? How good is your shorthand. In science, I want to know the same kind of questions. In addition to ability, of course, I want honest people. And I want people who get along with others. Sometimes I want someone with leadership qualities. But most of the time I just want someone who can do a good job, qualified for a definite kind of a task. Like for a machinist, I like somebody that's dependable. I don't want loafers. It's difficult to find these things out, but you size a person up .. and whenever I can I hire them on a trial basis, and if they're good, I praise them and I promote them and I make good deals for them. If they're bad I don't, with the idea that they will leave. It is difficult to fire people. I don't know that I've ever directly fired anyone, but I have had them leave indirectly just by not increasing their salary and not giving them any praise because they didn't deserve it. And things like that.

Sherlene: How about when you call someone in the bishopric to a job?

Tracy: Well, same way! But, there is a great deal of inspiration in the calling of church people. I can attest to that. You use your mind. I mean you just don't say, "Heavenly Father, please tell me who ought to be in this job." Now, you may do that on occasion, but that's unusual. You look over your people, you know who they are and what they can do, and you think about it first. And you think about it, and I think most of our calls have been made with the Spirit of the Lord telling us that's what to do.

Who are some of the people you know who you admire the very most?

Well, I admire both my counselors in the bishopric. They are very fine men, We get along very well and all think alike. The current people I know. Those are the closest to me. Reese Hansen, who is an attorney, assistant dean of the law school. And William T. Wolf, whom we have known since Stadium Village days. He's a former Bishop. He was bishop of a student ward years ago, at that time. So he's already an ordained bishop, so when I leave I say, "Bill, you're an ordained bishop, anything the bishop has to do, you do!"  
(laughter)

I admired Wilkinson. He had his quirks, but he was a guy I could admire. Many people hated him. But I admired him ... crusty character. Tough, ornery, but he, you know, he had the right ideas. Great free enterpriser. A man who wanted you to work hard. He would really cuss you out, but he never held a grudge. Most people couldn't take his raking over the coals. Just one raking over the coals by Wilkinson and they were dead. They had to get out of BYU.

Sherlene: Did he ever rake you over the coals?

Tracy: Yeah, but not real hard. I could almost always get Wilkinson to agree with my point of view.

What are some of the happiest memories you have of experiences with your children?

Tracy: We have sort of gone over those. Summer vacation trips and things like that. Performances and their graduation. Things they do in church. The fact that they were active.

Of all the awards and recognitions you have received, which brought you the greatest satisfaction?

Well, I think being Bishop before I am through with it will bring me the greatest satisfaction. It's a recognized position. I was getting so ... you know, I think ... You don't aspire to church positions, but I think I had always hoped that someday I would have the chance of being a Bishop. You know, in those stakes that we're in, where you got stake presidents, patriarchs, mission presidents, almost general authorities running out your ears all over the place. I was called to be a counselor, you see, and having had that experience, as years went by, I, well, you know, you've had your turn. That's the best you can do. But, if your out in the mission field you get to a bishop or maybe even a stake president. But not here. And I was getting too old, because I'm the oldest Bishop in the stake. They're all younger. They usually pick bishops in their early forties. Even their late thirties nowadays. So, it was a surprise and a happy surprise and I appreciated it. And I like it. I like being Bishop. And I know you're not supposed to recognize Bishops and stake presidents, but it's one of the ordained callings in the church. You know, you're ordained a Bishop. You're not ordained to be a counselor. And I think Mom ... Mom has told me that of all the things that have happened to me, that's the one that she likes the best.

Sherlene: That was proud for all of us. We were all there. To see that happen.

Tracy: And we've just arrived at question number 104, and Sherlene ... I'm worn out and that's the end

Sherlene: Was that the end? How about that!

Tracy: There is still a little left on this tape, but I'm not going to use it up. Oh, there's about ninety cents worth of tape left, but I think that's got to be the end.

Sherlene: Well, what question? What question now, "There's got to be one more question. What question didn't I ask that I should have? A very important question that you always should ask at the end of every interview. What important question should I have asked that I didn't ask? I haven't asked what your deepest spiritual experiences have been?"

Tracy: Well, I've never had an angel come and stand next to me. I've never had an open revelation, and some have had these things. I have never really aspired to it. I don't think I need it. I think it would be great to have that kind of an experience. I haven't particularly actively sought that kind of thing. The spiritual experiences that come to me, come to me when you may not be expecting it. Some situations, something develops and I get a lump in my throat and I get tears in my eyes and I feel the gospel's truth. Trace the gospels truth, you know. It's right! And that has happened hundreds of times in my life. But, I haven't seen the face of the Savior like some people say they've seen. And some people say you have to see that or you're not going to the Celestial Kingdom. And so I'm not going to the Celestial Kingdom, (laughter)

Ida Rose: Yes, you are, dear, but guide me through the door, too.

Tracy: ? happens to me, and I have spiritual highs and lows like everybody does. I try to stay on high as much as I can, but sometimes you go months with ... I don't know, you just feel a little bit negative. Not real negative .. and it's all relative, too, because I think as we grow older we are striving to perfect ourselves and we're more critical of ourselves.

But, I frankly, went through a rather long period of... I don't know what you would call it. Not being on a spiritual high in a way, being lower for no reason that I can understand. It lasted too long, but when I got back on top again was when I went into that cemetery and these guys didn't go with me, and I'm still living on that.

Sherlene: Tell about that. You wrote it the other day, but tell it!

Tracy: Well, there is essentially nothing more to tell than what I wrote in the little book, Sherlene, but... I'm sure Satan's around, you know, trying to poke you and persuade you and kick you every which way he can, so that if you're in the spiritual doldrums long enough, you know, you can probably get in trouble someday or another. So ... doesn't everybody have those? I'm not unique in that, am I?

Ida Rose: Oh, no. No!

Sherlene: Everybody does.

Tracy: I don't ... I don't doubt that ? in these low periods, you know," that sometimes ? "I wonder if this is all worthwhile." Something like that, you know .

Sherlene: Everybody hits that!

Tracy: But being a bishop tends to keep you on your toes spiritually most of the time. You see lots of depressing things. Get into impossible problems that people have that you wonder how on earth you could ever in a million years help them get out of their problems. Mom was saying the other day that we seem to have the best if not certainly one of the best wards in the church. Way up there in the top, but

Sherlene: In fact, the top, Right! You ought to tell it on the tape. Let's tell about that ward.

Tracy: I was thinking the other day, just yesterday, that our ward is the top ward as measured by ten items which the stake considers. These are statistical items, and when the general authorities come to our stake, they say we're the top stake in the church. So, I have never really thought of this before. It just suddenly hit me yesterday. That, boy, you ought to be real humble, Tracy Hall, you are the Bishop of probably what is the top ward in the whole church. And there are almost 4,000,000 members of the church. Boy, you better do your job right. 'Cause you have a real special privilege. And I have. You know, we have our problems, too, and I wonder what the problems would be like in a ward that wasn't up where ours is, sometimes. But, it's a challenge to be the bishop. I enjoy it. I enjoy it a lot. And I try to do my job. I know that in jobs as you get used to them, that you can tend to slack off. I hope I don't do that.

It's embarrassing to me to bare my testimony on a public record, and that's what they've asked me to do. I have a testimony. As I was just saying, I haven't had a translating experience. It's been a testimony that has essentially been with me all my life. It's had its highs and its lows, but it has always been there. I know the gospel is true, and I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet. The prophet of this latter-day to establish the work in this

time, and I know that our current president Kimball is the prophet And I know that Jesus is the Christ, as he claimed to be, as the true Messiah. I'm grateful and thankful to him for the great blessing he has brought to all mankind. And I just pray that I can always be worthy of that blessing and take advantage of it and be an example to others and not slip and fall between now and the time I pass away. That's a testimony that is true. I haven't really, you know, I haven't added to that. I've just stated the bare facts of it. That's what I believe. I haven't had any conflict with science and religion in my life and I've born testimony to that on many occasions when I have given talks at firesides and other places. And in church, and I say this in the name of our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We still got one inch of tape, Sherlene. What are you going to do with that?

Sherlene wants to know if I love my children. I love my wife and I love my children very, very much, and I just pray for the best for all of them. Tell them to keep improving. There is always room for improvement. Every day.

Sherlene: We know you love us. I just figured we might as well get it on the tape again.

Ida Rose: Well, I'm going to bed and tomorrow morning, turn it on.

Sherlene: OK. Goodnight!

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