

H. Tracy Hall Oral History, Tape 3

This is Sherlene Hall Bartholomew, and Mom and Dad Hall, and Charlotte are visiting us. We are sitting here waiting for Ginger to have her baby and in the meantime, I've got them cornered to give their oral history. And I have a whole list of questions ...

Tracy: About 150, to be exact.

Sherlene: Two years ago we got through some of them out west and we are looking for that tape now, but in the meantime we are going to pick up from where we began two years ago — or where we ended two years ago, and I think we're on question number 14: What did you like to do with your spare time when you were a child?

Tracy: By the way, the date is August 7, 1977, a Sunday afternoon, and we've just finished a fine dinner that Sherlene prepared, and we are home from Sacramento meeting, and what-not. It's about 25 minutes after 4. What was your question again, Sherlene?

Sherlene: What did you like to do with your spare time when you were a child?

Tracy: Well, it depends on how young I was. When I was really young, my parents said my favorite past-time was climbing over the fence they built around the yard to keep me in. Or running a block and a half down to Washington Avenue in Ogden, Utah, to see the street cars go by. I don't remember that part. They said another thing I liked to do when I was very young was play in the water and squirt the hose around.

Sherlene: That's where Daniel gets it from!

Tracy: Every kid likes to do that. When I was older I had the wander lust. I liked to explore the countryside. I may already have said this. Too bad, we can't find that other tape. In Marriott, I ranged far and wide for about 5 miles around where we lived on west 12th Street. Well, we lived near west 12th Street. The street we were on was the next block north. I guess that was a long block north of 12th Street. We lived about one mile from the corner on which the INTERNAL Revenue Service building begins. The Marriott Ward used to be on that corner. I knew almost everything that existed within a 5 mile radius of my home. Swamps, ditches, canals and creeks.

Sherlene: It was a wonder you didn't get drowned!

Tracy: Fields, junk yards, all kinds of things. They used to have some trouble with gambling back during my youth, probably when I was around 8 or 9 or 10, and the sheriff would get the illegal pin-ball machines ... it was pin-ball machine gambling that would return money when you put the pin-ball holes in the right place. But they would take these things down clear to the bottom of West 12th Street. That road used to end at a bridge across the Weber River near where the Weber and the Ogden Rivers join, and I found out that they were smashing these machines up and just leaving them there. And they had all kinds of magnets and coils and lights and... so I could get neat junk out of those machines for my scientific experiments.

Sherlene: And you haven't ever quit from collecting junk for his neat scientific experiments.

Ida Rose: He's got a personal junk-yard now.

Tracy: Well, they say that my ... I think it was my great-grandfather Hall. I don't know which one. Probably the first Henry C. before my grandfather ... Was it Henry C. Jr., my own grandfather?

Ida Rose: Yes.

Tracy: You sure?

Ida Rose: He was the one who took the junk and started out...

Tracy: Any way he started out ... I suppose to go from Ohio to Iowa, and he had a wagon and a mule and his new bride and he would buy junk as he went along the way and sell it to people further along. So you see I am just a junk man by inheritance.

Ida Rose: Blame it on your progenitors, (laughter)

Tracy: Did you ask what else I liked to do when I was young?

Sherlene: Yes. What did you do in your spare time?

Tracy: I loved baseball. I may have mentioned that, already, too. It was my favorite game. I think I told you how the kids used to hold me when ... We'd march out. Things were formal in those days. For recess you would line up and march out of school ... to a record they played. A Victrola, you know. Well, they didn't have electronic amplifiers. And you would do the same to come back in when recess was over. You would do the same in the morning and for lunch, and what'not. All those periods. And so we would march out of school and we'd play "work-up" and the first one to run from the sidewalk where we were marched out after the principal blew the whistle when we were dismissed, then you would be the first one up to bat. I was a lot smaller than most of the kids, but I was very fast. And I was usually the first one up to bat. Even the 8th and 9th graders ... that school, the Marriott School, ended at the 9th grade. So they delegated a couple of big strong guys to hold me as soon as the principal blew the whistle, so I couldn't run out and and be the first one up to bat. But I loved baseball and about... that was in the days before Softball was invented. We used hard ball. I have had bad hearing ever since I was young, rather bad, in my right ear on account of playing baseball. One day I was out in right field, as viewed from where the umpire is. I don't know Why I have forgotten how you designate right field anyway, that part of the field, and the short-stop in front of me, a boy whose name was Hipwell, I forget his first name. Clyde Hipwell. This long fly ball was knocked way out there in that field near a fence. It was a long hard hit ball and he was in front of me, and he says, "I've got it! I've got it!" you know, and he held up his mit to get it. And it was such a long fly ball that he chickened out at the last minute to catch it... afraid that it would sting his hand or something. And he suddenly ducked, like that. In the meantime, I just turned my head because he was going to catch it. And the ball came and hit me right square in the right ear.

Ida Rose: Uh! Oh, I bet that hurt!

Tracy: And in those days you didn't get doctors for simple little things like having your ear bashed in. And that ear began to ache something fierce. Infection built up in it, and I had quite a bit of trouble with that ear. We had a play practice. The schools used to put on little dramatic things. They had one really dramatic production a year.

Ida Rose: At the end of the year.

Tracy: At the end of the year. Near the end of the school year. And I had a small part in the play, and so we went to the ward. The school building was just a 4 room schoolhouse. Upstairs, downstairs, hallway. And the church which was not too far away. Maybe a block away was where you put on your dramatic productions. I can remember that Marriott Ward. It had a stage. It had a very heavy roll-up curtain. It sort of rolled up from the bottom. And stage lights. And I was there practicing the play. And that pain got so unbearable, I went crying to my teacher, and she told me to go home. Then my mom and dad put warm oil in it and things like that. I lost some hearing in that ear.

Sherlene: I didn't even know that during all these years.

Tracy: Just recently, I lost hearing in this one. I really lost it in this one. I had a huge blow-out in my high-pressure machine about two weeks ago. The loudest one that I have ever heard in my 25 years of... Oh, yeah, it hit the wall. I was behind the shield, but a really huge blow-out. I saw the fire come out. It would have been at least 4 to 5 feet sheet of fire. I've seen that before, in the early days of high-pressure. I saw that fire and that noise was just like it hit the wall and was focused right in that ear. It almost knocked me off my chair. And that ear rang for 3 or 4 days.

Ida Rose: Oh, my. The doctor told him to come down and see him, but he never did.

Tracy: Yeah, I've never gone down to see how much hearing I've lost. But I'm getting pretty deaf, now that I have had those two accidents. Well, back to where we were. Things I like to do. I was good at baseball, so I liked that. I also liked basketball. I was not so good at that, but I liked to play basketball. We played football.

Ida Rose: Your radios.

Tracy: I think one of her questions later will lead me into that. Lets see. What else ... I liked riding my bicycle. I like to be on the go. I was just a natural go, go, go kid. I would get on the bicycle and I would ride the 5 miles to town. I would ride over to Wilson Lane, all through Slaterville.

Ida Rose: And you didn't have ? for your mother.

Tracy: Yeah.

Sherlene: Gee, your mother must have been very, you know ... trusted you, or something.

Tracy: Very trusting and tolerant of what I did.

Ida Rose: How old were you when you were galavantin' all around like that?

Tracy: I think I started when I was about eight. Seven, maybe. I loved swimming. We had a swimming hole on our own property. All the neighborhood kids swam in the swimming hole at the end of our 5 acre farm. It was at the north end.

Ida Rose: That's where they held you under the water.

Sherlene: OK! Thanks. Who were your neighbors? What do you remember about them?

Tracy: Well, our house was on the north side of the street. Almost directly across was a Stanger family. Earl Stanger, was the father's name. There was a daughter and a son that

I remembered. The son's name was Irving Stanger. The parents were not active in church, as I remember it. But they sent their kids. I had a fair amount of trouble with the Stanger boy. He was younger, but he was a husky, heavy kid. And he was somewhat of a bully. And he gave me a bad time on a number of occasions.

{Donald remembers an incident with this boy, who, as indicated, was often in trouble over one thing or another. One morning at school, Irving and his father appeared along with the school principal, in the classroom door where Donald was a second grader in the room among First, Third, and Fourth graders. The teacher was summoned and outside the door in the hallway could be heard a conversation of some kind. A little while later, Irving and his father and the teacher returned to the classroom. In front of the classroom, living's father began to trounce his boy, and beat up on him fairly well. Giving him a bloody nose. The father then demanded that Irving apologize to the class and to the teacher for certain problems he had created So Irving sputtered his apologies, while wiping his bloody nose with his sleeve amid his sobs and gasping for breath because of the injuries inflicted upon him. After the apologies, Mr. Stanger ordered Irving to promise that he would never again cause any more problems at school for anybody.

All the students in the room were so startled at the incident, that most had slumped down in their desks, half trying to hide, out of fear, wondering if they might be next to suffer Mr. Stanger's wrath, afraid that they, themselves, might get a beating of some kind. The end result was a new resolve on the part of everyone to behave themselves at school, or they might be next in what had just happened. There was a noted improvement in living's behavior after that, because he wasn't going to do anything to bring his dad down on him again like that.]

Tracy: To the east of us ... This is farming country, the houses weren't all that close together, was a Dana family. A red-headed boy named Max Dana showed up at the school, one day, as a new student, and I sort of fell in with him right off. He seemed to be a kid I liked. The Dana family was not active in the church. The father smoked, and they had quite a few kids. The father.... I know my parents were concerned with our associating with that family so much, and I used to defend them once in awhile. I remember specifically one time talking about them, and I says, "Oh, but, Sunday, I was over to Dana's and the father was reading the Bible, which he was. Most of the kids were pretty rough in their talk, but many of those farm kids were. Most all of them swore all the time. Probably like the bad-news bears, which I didn't see, but they used all those words that you've said they used. Bad news bears.

Sherlene: What's bad news bears?

Ida Rose: It's a movie.

Tracy: It's too bad that that film might have been quite realistic from what I saw when I was growing up. Especially out in that farming country. The kids were quite tough, and I don't know that their parents knew they did. I'm sure I took up some of that swearing, but I tried to not do it. You know how peer pressure was. I don't think I really — on occasion I may have done it, but not much.

Sherlene: I never heard you swear the whole time you were raising me. I can say that.

Tracy: The only swearing habit I can remember during the Navy days, I did pick up using "Damn" and "Hell" once in awhile And it's hard to quit that when you get used to it. Like, I knew a couple of general board members who couldn't quit using those 2 words. They

use them to this day. Inappropriate. You know, not every other word, like lots of people do. But not appropriate.

Ida Rose: I heard somebody say that if people swore it was a sign that they were so limited, they didn't have any ...

Tracy: Well, some farmers were great swearers. Even a member of the bishopric, when he would get mad at his horses and team... Boy, you can't imagine what swear words would come out. I can remember that. A member of my bishopric.

Then we used to have an old Dutch brother who was a nice old man. His wife was even nicer. I think their name was Hansen. That's not a Dutch name is it?

Ida Rose: It was probably Swedish or Danish.

Tracy: Well, no, they were dutch, and they had come from Holland, and man, he'd get his team, and he would start in dutch. You knew he was swearing from the way he did. But, many farmers seemed to be that way.

Well, let's see, what were we talking about? Oh, our neighbors. OK. The Slater's lived sort of across from the Dana's. They were to the east of us. And the Slater's had a large family. I think about 12 children. Some of the kids my age ... there was an Alma Slater, a litde older. There was a Marcia Slater, who played the piano in church for us. She was a nice girl. Just a bit older. She died. I think it was Marcia who died. Or was it Eleanor? I think it was Elinor. She was the one who died in her teen-age years. Just a litde younger than I was Blanche Slater, and then Marjorie Slater. That was the last one I remember, although they may have had some younger ones after that after we moved from Marriott.

We went to Marriott in about 1927 ... and left in 1933. The next house east of Slater's was Ritchie's. He was the bishop of the ward. A very fine man. I remember him as being older than my parents. He would speak softly. He was kindly. He was just the kind of a man you would expect a good bishop to be. You know. Kind, gentle, a gentleman, softspoken and nice.

Sherlene: Just like you!

Tracy: And he had a very large family. He had at least a dozen kids. His mother lived in a litde house next to his house. The Ritchie's must have been fairly well to do. I think his father ... I mink his name was James Ritchie, and I think his father's name was James Ritchie. And his father, I mink, would have been a counselor in the Bishopric with my grandfather, Helon Henry Tracy. No. James Ritchie was the Bishop. My grandfather, Helon Henry Tracy was a counselor to this James Ritchie. And I mink my grandfather got a little bit disturbed because this Ritchie was a sheep man and he would take off all summer long with his sheep and leave the ward with my grandpa. But that Ritchie family was a good ... they were a really good family. But I started to say, there home and their farm was neater and nicer and larger. Seemed to be equipped with good implements and whatnot as mough they had a little more money. Oh, they never made any show of that. I remember their farm as being a well-kept, nice farm and most farms ... of course, those were depression years ... were run down, poor equipment, and things like that.

We had a horse when we first went on the farm. His name was Nig. (laughter) Well, that was just his name, when we got him. He was a white horse. I used to like to ride him. I didn't like horse riding too much, because I would get a pain in my side when I would ride a horse. The galloping action would always give me a terrific pain in my side.

So I didn't enjoy horse riding too much on that account. But for just going generally around the farm, I liked that. We got rid of that horse. I think we probably only had him our first year on the farm. I don't know why we got rid of him. He stepped on my toe once. Barefoot.

Our neighbors going across the street west from us was another Stanger family. I forget his name. Some of the boys were Gene Stanger. There may have been an Earl. There was a girl Claunda, who now, I believe, calls herself Connie. Claunda Stanger worked at Internal Revenue Service with my brother Donald's wife, Louise. There was a Claunda had an older sister whose name does not come to me right now, who was really nice young woman that I remember, because she was a nice girl.

Further to the west of them were the Marriotts. The famous Marriotts, who went to Washington and made it good in the hot-dog stand business and expanded it into Hot Shoppes and hotels and all the rest. They lived there. But J. Willare Marriott, who was the man who apparently, you know, he and his wife, sort of got started and did most of it. I think he may have left Marriott just about the time we moved to Marriott in 1927. I think that's about the time he went off to Washington, D.C.

On the other side of the street was a house below us on the same side, on the north side of the street, whose name sort of escapes me. I remember them because they had an Essex automobile. A beautiful touring car that they had purchased, just brand new. That had all the chrome and extra spare tires and just an expensive car for that day. I can't think of their name.

Then came the pea vinery on the corner, which is quite a stink in the winter time ... summer time, during pea harvest time. 'Cause they stacked all the pea vines out in a huge stack and it fermented, and the cows ate that. It was good for the cows, apparently, although I think it was a little bit alcoholic. But the stench of the old pea vinery that used to dot the country-side was really something when the wind was blowing the wrong way.

Below them was a family named Amidan. And I can remember they had some girls. But that's all.

Sherlene: You should have remembered those girls.

Tracy: Then it was just fields below that. That's the end of the street on which we lived. It came to some fields and a big swamp. Mom and I went out there a few years ago, just to see what was in that part of the country. And there are houses everywhere now on the land we used to own. It has become a suburban area. Has a dozen or more homes.

Shirlene: All built up then. That's too bad. What about early church activity?

Tracy: Well, I usually had a church job. I can remember being in little church productions. My mother was in the Primary. I can remember having parts in Primary plays. I guess they used to have an annual Primary night just like they do today. I can remember memorizing little parts and wearing high hats, like I was a missionary, or something in ancient days. In older days. We were always active in church. Sometimes we had an old Ford truck to drive in. Sometimes we had to walk to church, which was about a mile or a mile and a half away. But our family was always active in church, as far as meeting attendance was concerned. I don't remember too much what my father did in the church in Marriott.

My father at times rode a bicycle the 5 miles into town to work when he was working, I believe, for Nelson-Ricks Creamery. We had a couple of Model T Fords. One was a truck. Neither one of them very good. Not at the same time. I remember sort of a touring car. A Ford that did not have a top on it. We had a cow in the early days. I had a hard time milking it. My hands weren't strong and I remember my dad getting provoked at me because I couldn't ever seem to milk the cow. I could just not squeeze the cow hard enough to get the milk to come out. Later on, I think we bought our milk from other farmers who had milk cows.

Our farm house was an old adobe house, which had been plastered over. There was obviously an older section and a newer section to the house. The house was sort of in the shape of a "T". It had a porch along the front. It was a very run-down house. We had usually only the kitchen stove for heat, but I can remember my father doing some remodeling, laying some bricks on an old section of the house, which was really run down with the roof caved in and what-not, he fixed that into a new kitchen. We had a pump in the kitchen. Wells in those days were driven by hand with a sledge hammer. The pipe probably only went down about 20 feet So we did have a pump inside the house. And a basin. No running water like modern day. You would heat the water on the stove in a tea kettle and pans. Wash your face in a basin. Out-door toilet quite a way from where the pump was, so it wouldn't contaminate the water. So in the winter time you would have to run outdoors and go to the "John." No toilet paper. We used old newspaper, old Sears-Roebuck catalogs. My daddy, when I was young, taught me how to crumple it up while you were sitting there to get it so it would be softer and softer. Well, that's the practical things you have to consider in those days.

Our house had a slanting floor in the living room. When Grandmother Tracy lived with us, she lived in a sort of a front bedroom. Then there was kind of a living room. Behind that sort of a kitchen area. And a storage area where my mom had her canned fruit. No basement. And then there were 2 bedrooms, and we had to go through the first bedroom to get to the second one. I can remember how wonderful it was one winter when my father got a pot-bellied stove in the farthest bedroom. So that we had that pot-bellied stove to keep warm by in addition to the kitchen stove to keep warm by. See, before that, you would just get into your night clothes and run into the bedroom and get under the cold sheets to try to stay warm.

It was a really old house. As I remember it, my father paid \$1600 for this 5 acre farm and home. And it proved to be too much money. He couldn't keep up the payments. They got into a little bit of trouble. They sold the farm. They got tricked in the sale of the farm. Didn't end up with any cash. And we moved into a home at 664 30th Street, which was in a brick-yard. We seemed to like brick-yards. Your mother grew up in a brick-yard and we grew up in one half a mile north of her brickyard. The clay in the hills around there was the reason the brick-yards were around there. But this old brick-yard home, my father paid \$8.00 a month rent for. In the beginning days, later on, the rent was raised to \$12.00. It was an old frame house. The worse looking building in our ward. But that's what we lived in when we were kids, because we were rather poor.

Sherlene: What was Christmas like in your home?

Tracy: Well, Christmas is something all kids look forward to. I think some of our Christmases were very bleak. Because, one Christmas we were ... I was allotted, and maybe my younger brothers were not allotted that much. I was allotted fifteen cent expenditure for Christmas. And I bought a coping saw. A coping saw was ... they now call them jig saws. You know, it had a wooden handle and it had a frame that's a "U"

shape like that and it has a little tiny blade across it. I wanted a blade so you could cut out things in wood, you know, make circles and curves and things with this wooden saw.

Shirlene: How old were you then?

Tracy: I was nine. I was nine years old. Fourth grade. I remember that very much. How much I wanted that coping saw. And I could get it for my fifteen cent limit in those days.

Shirlene: Well, then, what happened? Your parents gave you the money and you went out and got your own?

Tracy: No. They got me you know, I had to pick something that wouldn't cost more than fifteen cents.

Shirlene: And then they'd get it.

Tracy: And then they got that.

Shirlene: What about family traditions? Did you decorate a tree, or did your mom make certain kinds of food at Christmas or what... what did you go through? What were the Christmas traditions?

Tracy: Well, when I was real young I don't think we had any Christmases. I don't think they could afford ... What I mean, I don't remember Christmas trees and things like that. They were too poor to have them. Later on at 30th Street I know we had Christmas trees. We may have had them on the farm, but I certainly don't remember it. If we did I can remember popcorn strings on Christmas trees, and perhaps we had one on the farm in Marriott. Maybe we had one every year, for all I know. I don't know! I don't remember any big trees. Certainly until 30th Street, when we did have a big tree in the corner. But I was teenage then. I don't remember that tree until I was perhaps seventeen. I think we hung up stockings or something like that, and I know that we had a few things like oranges and little candy and peanuts in the stocking.

Shirlene: What Thanksgiving traditions?

Tracy: No traditions that I can recall. Other than we did have a Thanksgiving dinner. As a rule.

Shirlene: Did you have a turkey for Thanksgiving?

Tracy: I can't remember that. I don't know.

Shirlene: You can't remember what you ate. Did you have a favorite uncle or relative?

Tracy: Well, in a way. We had a few uncles in Marriott. Maybe I should take that back. My uncle Helon lived in Marriott. My grandfather's oldest son. My mother's oldest brother. Uncle Helon, he was a counselor in the Bishopric. We had uncles we had cousins. They were old people and we used to think of them as uncles. You see, my mother was 3rd from the bottom in a line of 14 children, and so the older brothers and sisters had children who were almost as old as my mother, see, so I would think they were an uncle, but they were cousins. And I can remember one of these cousins who was a Butler, his wife was Mary Butler, she's the one who gave me piano lessons briefly when I was in Marriott. I think she would have given them to me longer. It's probably my lack of practice and interest that didn't keep me coming longer. But I remember that at least during

part of the school year she gave me some lessons for free. 'Cause my mother thought I had some talent there that ought to be developed. That was aunt Mary. I can't think of her husband's name. And there children. I think there was a Carl Butler. They still play with those children sometimes. My aunt Mary had a son Henry, who was a policeman in Ogden. A detective in Ogden and what-not. They had kids that I used to play with. They lived on what was called Brooms Bench, which was about a mile, maybe a mile and a half, maybe even two miles due east of where we lived. These areas are not there anymore. They were taken over by the Utah General Depot during World War II. In fact, most of Marriott disappeared during World War II when the war effort decided to locate war facilities there, huge storage facilities. Later on the Internal Revenue Service came in. There is so little left of Marriott and also of Slaterville, which was a little bit west and north of Marriott, that those two areas are joined together now and they have a chapel that is Slaterville-Marriott chapel.

I had an aunt Jane, who lived on Broom's Bench. This is a higher bench than the flatlands of Marriott, where we lived. Who was my grandmother Emma Burdett Tracy's sister, who was also a wife of Helon Henry. They had kids that I saw a little bit of.

Shirlene: Also was a wife. Was he a polygamist, then?

Tracy: Oh, yes. My grandfather had 3 wives.

Shirlene: Did you know all the 3 wives right then?

Tracy: No. I knew the 2 wives. I can remember aunt Jane's funeral when she died.

Uncle Aaron lived in Ogden. Didn't see too much of him, but some. Most of the uncles and aunts lived up in Idaho. In 1927 or thereabouts there was a Tracy family reunion in Idaho Falls. We went up there on the train. I can remember that. I must have been around 6 or 7 years old. It may have been before 1927. I don't believe we lived in Marriott when we went up to that reunion. But maybe we moved to Marriott in the fall of the year. We stayed up there with Uncle Harold. He was kind of a favorite uncle.

Shirlene: Who, uncle Harold?

Tracy: Uncle Harold. He was a sort of

Shirlene: Now what was his name?

Tracy: Harold Tracy. He was a younger brother. In fact, he was the baby in the family. I believe. He had kids that we liked to play with, but we didn't see much of those. He was the joker type of an uncle. He would come and tell jokes and, you know, real friendly type of uncle. He had his problems. He used to smoke and a few other things. He went on a mission to the Southern States. He could tell good stories about that. I think he got over these problems. I know he did later on. But he was a fun uncle.

Then there was Uncle Sam and Aunt Vilate on the Hall side. My only living uncle, see, because Ralph Hall had died in the war and my grandmother Hall and grandpa Hall lived in the same house. I would ride my bicycle over there on occasions to see them.

Shirlene: Did Helon Henry Tracy with his two wives ... was he a polygamist when you were a child?

Tracy: Well, he had died. He died when he was 49, as I remember. [His actual age was 44 years when he died.] So I never saw him. In fact, my mother hardly knew him. He died when my mother was a young child, six or seven years old.

Sherlene: But you knew the two wives.

Tracy: Yes.

Sherlene: Did they get along very well?

Tracy: Yeah, presumably. But, of course ... when I was a youngster, my grandmother Tracy was living with me, and Aunt Jane, as we called the other wife, lived on Broom's Bench with her son Tom Tracy. Tom Tracy and his family, when I was young, they had problems of not going to church, and things like that. I think some of the kids turned out OK.

There were some other relatives there on Broom's Bench that lived near the home. The home that my grandfather Helon Henry Tracy built was still in existence when I was a kid, but no one was living in it. And I remember it as a home that ... see, my grandfather was a carpenter, as well as a schoolteacher. I remember the home had a nice porch. And as I remember it, it had graceful posts and filigrees and things like that. But for some reason the home was not being used.

My uncle Helon built a home of his own on my grandfather Tracy's land. There on Broom's bench in the Marriott area.

Shirlene: Tell us how the Depression affected your life and that of your family. And were you aware that it was a depression at all or ...

Tracy: Yeah, I was aware that it was a depression, but, you know, it didn't affect my life. I knew we were poor and didn't have what other people had at all, but it never bugged me. And I can remember my father telling me to never be jealous or never feel bad about people who had money. That was wrong.

Sherlene: I just remember a story about when you had to sell the farm. I think Uncle Donald wrote it. Well, those were trying ... I'm sure, you know, parents ... parents would try and take care of the children without letting the children know what dire straights they were in. To the extent they could, I'm sure. But I am sure that those were extremely trying times for my mother and father. It probably kept them on edge an awful lot.

I can remember a few quarrels between my mother and father during that time when they were moving from the farm back into the city, and I'm sure the tensions were over my dad not having a job, you know, and the depression situation with no money, and no food. I know we didn't have food. There were times when our supper was hot water with a little square of butter, salted and peppered, and bread. That was supper! Lots of times! And we weren't alone in that. There were other people that that would have been supper for.

Shirlene: Did you have any milk? You didn't have a cow or anything?

Tracy: Well, we didn't have a cow at that point. School teachers and others were always concerned about my health. I was a real skinny run-down looking kid when I was young. They were afraid that I was not getting enough eggs, citrus fruit, milk, and what-not. It was probably true.

Shirlene: But your mom knew about nutrition. Was it a matter of education, orI guess it was a combination of things. Did she think that was a well-balanced meal?

Tracy: I doubt it. I'm sure they wouldn't know about nutrition like they do today, but I'm sure they knew enough to feed you vegetables and milk and bread and but if you don't have it to feed, what are you going to do?

Shirlene: What can you do? How about your clothing. What kind of clothing did you wear during that time?

Tracy: Well, the average farm kid wore a pair of overalls that had straps coming over the shoulders that were made by J.C. Penny, and cost maybe 39 cents. No shirt, no underclothing, barefooted. That's how you went around all the time.

Shirlene: So, that's the only thing you had on!

Tracy: Yeah, all the time.

Shirlene: Is that what the other kids wore, too?

Tracy: In the main. Yeah. Farm kids usually wore just that.

Shirlene: So you went to school that way.

Tracy: No. When you went to school, you had a shirt, and the overalls ... or overalls, as we used to say. And stockings and shoes. But just running around the farm and at home, just a pair of overalls, was usually all you wore.

Shirlene: That made the laundry easier. Not so much to launder.

Tracy: In the wintertime, I'm sure we wore more than that. But in the summertime, just running around the fields, and swimming, that's what you wore. We may have worn underclothes. My mother was fussier about some of those kinds of things than other kids. We may have had underclothes besides those things.

Shirlene: What kind of wages ... did you work during the Depression? Were you old enough then to get jobs?

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Shirlene: Did you feel that this was good for you?

Tracy: Oh, yeah, sure! I loaned my father \$20.00 once, that I had forgotten about. So, I know that at one time I had \$20.00 that I had saved up. But during depression I forgot that I even had the \$20.00, but later on when I started college my father came forth with \$20.00. I didn't have any money to start Weber College. And I tried to turn it down. I figured I could get by, because I had managed to get a janitorial job at the college. But my mom and dad insisted that I take it. They told me that they were just repaying \$20.00 that I had loaned to my father years before when he borrowed the only \$20.00 that I had saved up to go to Nevada to look for a job. To look for work, so I know that during those youthful years I got up to \$20.00 at one point. That was a lot of money when you were 12 years old.

Shirlene: I'll say! Did you always pay your tithing on that?

Tracy: Oh, yeah. Always!

Shirlene: Did you have any special goals when you were saving mat money? What were you saving it for at that age, or did you need to spend it all for necessities?

Tracy: Before that, I saved money ... I became very interested in radio, and I learned from other older boys in the neighborhood, and from magazines, and books that I would get from books that I got from the Library, that there was such a thing as a crystal radio. That's the earliest thing that I can remember deliberately saving money for. Was to get my own crystal radio. And I built one, and it worked. And the first radio in the Howard Hall household was my crystal radio, with earphones, and the coil I had wrapped around a Calumet Baking Powder can for an inductor on the radio.

Shirlene: What kinds of jobs did your father try to get during that time.

Tracy: Well, he worked for awhile for this Nelson-Ricks Creamery. I don't know what other kinds of jobs he had. I think he tried selling and other things. He had been an insurance salesman early in his marriage. See, he quit the railroad where he had terrific seniority, because he went to work on the railroad when he was eleven years old. But he quit the railroad because the environment wasn't good, and he would have to work on Sunday. After he joined the church, he didn't want to be on the railroad. But he never really did have a good job after that. He would have had an excellent job, you see, as a railroad man. So he sacrificed in that respect, and caused his family to sacrifice, but nobody objected to that, we were always proud our dad quit the railroad.

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One of her grandsons became a salesman in some store that sold radios, and he got this radio for her for, as I remember, for something like \$30.00. It was supposed to have been a \$50.00 radio. But as the years went by, I sort of inherited that radio, and I took it all apart. Knew all about it. It's too bad that it still isn't around. It was that kind that was in a metal cabinet, oh, about 2 feet long and ten inches wide and ten inches high, with little rubber feet. A metal lid came off the top. The speaker was separate and a cord ran from this main control over to the speaker, which sat on kind of a little pedestal

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I can remember the tubes. It had one tube called the detector tube.. I can remember what that looked like. It was unsilvered. At least you could look inside and see the works that were inside the tube. But the rest of them were all silvered inside, and I gather that they used that to get the last traces of gas out. And they were sort of straight sided, sloping outward, like an ice-cream cone, but not as extreme, and rounded over the top.

Then there was one box that always intrigued me. There was a metal box within the box, at the back, maybe ten inches long, two inches wide, and there was stuff in there that was filled with tar, and it always bugged me that I couldn't see what was in that part and I couldn't figure out how it worked.

Shirlene: What about TV?

Tracy: Well, television came much later. I first heard of television in Schenectady, when I was working for G.E. and I may have seen it there.

Shirlene: Was it that late?

Tracy: Oh, yes. Television is an out-growth of World War n radar. Now I saw plenty of radar during World War II, because I trained in the field of electronics radar. Became an ensign and took some special courses in it at MJT, Harvard, Bowdin College at Brunswick, Maine, and Honolulu Naval Base. And I was pretty good at up-to-date modem electronics. When you go back to the year 1945, I knew it quite well. So much has happened since then that I am out of it But TV was an outgrowth of all that World War II experience in Radar. And I probably saw it at General Electric somewhere or other. There was a station , probably one of the early TV stations right there in Schenectady that would broadcast a few hours a day.

Shirlene: How about cars?

Tracy: Well, cars go way back, of course. I can remember Model T Fords. One car I especially remember. When my grandmother was dying, Ed Rich, Jr. who was a famous doctor ... delivered all of my mothers boys ... named Ed. Rich. He had a son, Edward Junior Rich, and his father was getting old and he would come out on house calls. In those days, a doctor would drive five miles out to Marriott to make a house call. It wasn't like today. So, when my grandmother was dying, he came out to attend to her, and he had one of the early V8 Fords. There was a Model T Ford, they had the Model A, which was a 4 cylinder with a gear-shift. And then they had the Model B, which was a very brief thing. The Model A's and the Model B's only lasted about 4 years. And then Henry Ford came out with a V8. The first V8 automobiles in the low-price range. Big Lincolns and Cadillacs, I think had V8 engines, but Henry Ford pioneered the V8 engine for passenger cars which became the standard. Chevrolet was a long time in coming to the V8, but finally all automobiles came to V8.

He had one of these V8's that was red, and it was a coupe, and it had a grill that was sort of a V, but slanting like that (indicated with hand gestures). ... and the chrome! Oh, it was just beautiful. Just beautiful! The latest thing that only a doctor could afford. A young doctor, I guess. And I thought that was so neat. I can remember that car. By that time, I was very car conscious, and I would ride into town on my bicycle and later on, when we moved into town, my friend Lane Compton and I would go see all the new cars. You know, a new model would come out every year. We would go see the Chevrolets and the Fords and the Dodges, and all of them.

I was always a Ford fan Some of my friends ... Chevrolet was the best automobile, and I just couldn't understand that. We would argue which was the best automobile. But I was a Ford fan on account of Henry Ford was one of my heroes, see. There was a period when Fords definitely were not as good as Chevrolet's, and others, but I held out. I wouldn't give in. Fords were the best.

Shirlene: Faithful, there! What about telephones? Do you remember any of the other scientific wonders?

Tracy: Well, yeah, we had a telephone when we lived on the corner of 16th and Jefferson Avenue in Ogden. So that was before I was seven or eight years old. And I don't quite remember the reason we had that telephone. I can remember my mother lifting me up to that telephone to talk to my grandfather Hall once. So, I must have been fairly young. Four or five. My dad had that telephone because of his job. And I don't remember what his job was that required a telephone.

Shirlene: Why was your grandmother dying? What do you remember about her death?

Tracy: Well, just old age. She was 83. She had been an invalid for a long time. I do not know the exact cause of my grandmother's ... Emma Tracy's death. Causes incident to old age, I guess. She had rheumatism very severely. That was the old-fashioned name for what we call arthritis, nowadays. They had rheumatism in their day. It was very painful. Very aggravating. I think it was more severe in their day than in our day, because of their diet and nutrition. They didn't know the things we know nowadays.

Shirlene: What did they do for the funeral? What was a funeral like in those days?

Tracy: They used to sit with the dead in those days. I know that the viewing was at my uncle Helon Henry's house. They sometimes used to bring the casket to the home. And then they would have a wake. Not like some wakes you hear about, but, at least, somebody would always sit up with the dead person until they were buried. I can remember that.

Shirlene: What was the reason for the wake?

Tracy: I don't know. They don't do that anymore.

Shirlene: Some people do.

Tracy: They still do it? Well, out in the west they don't do it nowadays. I can remember that my uncle Helon ... I'm sorry, my Uncle Aaron talked at her funeral. My uncle Aaron was probably the only educated Tracy in those days. He had a master's degree which he had obtained by correspondence course.

Shirlene: Was he the one that was president of Weber?

Tracy: President of Weber College. He brought a stenographer to take down the proceedings of the funeral. I can remember that because of this old-fashioned stenotype machine. Remember those ... Maybe they still have them, I don't know. Just a few keys on there. It's a short-hand, you know. But he brought this secretary, which I guess he had at Weber College, and she typed on this stenotype machine the proceedings of that funeral. I don't know where that record is. I'd never even thought of that until just now. Somewhere there should be a typed record of the funeral of my grandmother Tracy. And it is probably in the effects of Aaron Tracy. His widow, Aunt Ethel, Ethel Marriott Tracy, probably has those somewhere.

Shirlene: Now what was your grandmother's name?

Tracy: Emma Marie Burdett Tracy.

Shirlene: I can't remember if you told us about her or not on your first tape.

Tracy: Well, I don't know. She was a woman that looks ... you've seen the picture of her and all of her children at the family picture taken at the Tracy reunion in Idaho Falls around 1927. We have that picture. You probably have a copy of it. She looks just like she does in that picture. She, no doubt, was a very good-looking woman when she was young. She still looked quite good up until around age 75 or so. She braided her hair and usually put it up on her head like many older women did in that day. You know, wrapped it into something on the back of your head. So her hair was usually tight, braided, and in that roll or that bun or whatever you would call that kind of a hair-do. She would mend our clothes. She would mend our stockings and sew patches on our clothes, to try to do something for her board and keep. But that's all she was up to. She couldn't walk.

My father was very patient with her, he would carry her around to where she had to be in her rocking chair. They didn't have wheel chairs in those days. She sat in a rocking chair. She would have to be lifted into the rocking chair. Lifted out of her bed. I was never too observant on this, but I know that she had to be taken to the bathroom, you know. Put on a bed-pan like a hospital bed-pan. I know we had that at the house for her.

Her kids would come to see her once in awhile. I think Uncle Harold was as frequent a visitor as any. He would come in with a ten dollar bill, give it to Grandma and say, "Now, Mother, do not pay any tithing on that. I have already paid tithing on that!" and he would give her a lecture on that, every time. But she would pay her tithing on it every time.

Shirlene: Now is this the one that always wanted to listen to KSL?

Tracy: Yeah. I have the impression that her children did not help her much. This occasional ten dollars was once a year maybe, or twice a year, at most, from Uncle Harold was about it. My parents provided for her upkeep in the main. I can remember hearing my mother complaining a little on occasion about the fact that nobody else ever helped. I think in particular the oldest son who owed money. You know, it's sort of the story of Grandfather Langford. The kids see money there, and they come after it. So, I don't know. I remember that my Uncle Helon was supposed to pay my grandmother's funeral expenses because he had owed for the farm. He took over my grandfather Tracy's farm, see, and what I gather from hearing my parents talking, he never paid for it.

Shirlene: Well, that's too bad!

Tracy: A thing that often happens in families. He was supposed to pay the funeral expenses. I don't think he ever completed the job and my mom and dad ended up doing it. I don't know how much of this kind of stuff anybody should ever put in. You know ... I have no grievances against any of my people or any of them, but you know these things do go on.

Sherlene: Well, you might as well be realistic. Get the whole story. It gives some insights in the family.

Tracy: We could edit it out.

Sherlene: And it says something about your parents, that they took care of her ... under very trying circumstances, and they were obviously having a very hard time.

Tracy: Well, my grandma Tracy lived with us when we were on 16th Street. I can remember her clear back to then. When I was four or five years old, she lived with us at Jefferson Avenue and 16th Street in Ogden. She was somewhat stern. Seemed that way, because I was a kid. She would be telling me not to do things. Maybe she wasn't stern.

I can remember... Kids had greater freedom then. Fireworks were legal and I was playing with some fire-crackers when I was 5 or 6 years old, and I guess my parents knew it. But just using fire-crackers was never enough for me. I had taken a pipe and put it in our sand or dirt in the back yard and I would set a fire-cracker in there and light it and bash it with a coal shovel. We used to have a little coal shovel that was about 4 inches by seven inches for shoveling coal into the stove ... and knock the fire-cracker down to the bottom with that as soon as I had lit it, and then put a rock in as fast as I could. So I had a cannon, see,

Sherlene: If I had been her, I would have been stern, too!

Tracy: I can remember my grandmother out the window, the back window one day, scolding me for that. It was dangerous! But I never got a kick out of just shooting off a firecracker. I wanted to make a cannon, or put it inside a Raleigh tobacco can and blow up the can and stuff like that Get something out of your firecracker.

Sherlene: High pressure already then!

Tracy: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Sherlene: In your blood! Was she It's just that my mom was telling me about some relative in there who thought that children were terrible. Who had a very stem idea, puritanistic approach to sex and marriage and having a family, and she thought it was terrible to have children.

Tracy: I have the impression that was my grandmother Hall, but she had had 5 kids herself. But, I have a distinct impression ... probably a correct impression that after she had these kids she somehow had a change of heart, that people should not be having kids. And, ah ... but I don't know. See, my Uncle Sam... my dad's brother and Aunt Vilate never had any children. I don't know why they didn't. But I have this impression that they didn't have them, because they agreed with Grandmother that they shouldn't have kids. My grandmother Hall. But that could be all wrong. But I sure do have that impression from hearing my parents talk. Or, maybe they just couldn't have kids. I don't really know. But I heard that kind of talk. Maybe that kind of talk was erroneous. Presumptuous.

Shirlene: I've only heard that once, but I thought I'd ask you

Tracy: Well, no, I heard that from my parents, I'm sure. They didn't have kids simply because they didn't want to. I don't know that that's the truth. My grandmother Hall, yeah, she was a stern woman. More stern than my grandmother Tracy. But she looked stern. She had a stern appearance.

Shirlene: She looked very dominating. Very haughty looking or something.

Tracy: Well, I don't know. I liked to go to my grandmother Hall's. She had deep, really deep set eyes. And a rather stern appearance. That was ... Woodcox, would have been her name. Mary Ann Woodcox Hall. I liked to go to her house. She always had cookies, but Grandfather Hall smoked a pipe and he drank his liquor and their house always had that odor of tobacco. And I never did like that even as a kid. To go in her house and have that odor of... she had a clean house. She was a good housekeeper and she always had cookies around and something like that.

Shirlene: What do you remember about your grandfather, besides that he smoked and drank?

Tracy: Well, my grandfather Hall always looked neat. It was hard to talk to him. I tried when I was in my teenage years. I rode up there on my bicycle and sat out on a chair on the porch with him and try to talk to him, but he was a quiet man, and, you know, I was not an aggressive type individual myself, and so, we just sort of sit there with each other. When I would ask him questions, his answers would be brief. But we really didn't go into anything. I was very interested in trains, railroading, and things like that. I'm sure I asked him those kinds of questions, because he was an old railroad man. And I didn't really learn anything.

Shirlene: Was that how Grandpa Hall got started on his railroading? Was this his father?

Tracy: Yeah. That was my dad's father. But, when I was growing up, my grandfather Hall was only with the railroad indirectly. He was in the transfer business. And that was a business apparently financed by my father. My father did not get married until he was 32 and he went to work when he was eleven. And his mother took all his money. He kept living with his mother until he was 32 years old. And he contributed to the household. The whole works! They took all his money. Really! And my dad, I remember, told us

Shirlene: Was that tradition in general?

Tracy: Yes. In general that was the tradition in those days. I can remember my dad talking about how bad he felt one time when he took his paycheck and bought a bottle of soda pop for himself and for his friend. That came out of his paycheck before he took it home to his mother. And his mother scolded him about it. So, as I understand it, that money of my father's was what set my grandfather Hall up in the transfer and storage business. And my dad was a kind of a partner. I don't know what kind of a partner in that business. And the business was located on lower 25th Street on the south side. I would judge, one and a half blocks east of Wall Avenue. It wouldn't be there any longer today.

My grandfather Hall had trucks for transferring baggage and moving household goods there mainly in the moving and storage business. I can remember him having Dodge trucks. One of the early trucks they had was a Ford. As a matter of fact, my father claims that my grandfather Hall ... It was called City Transfer and Storage, was the name of the

company ... had the first trucks for the transfer business in Ogden. See they used horses pulling wagons. If it wasn't the first that they had, it was the first large trucks. They bought the largest trucks available as soon as trucks were available, to operate in the transfer business.

But, my dad used to drive all over. He would carry ... even in that day of dirt roads, and what-not, he would take household furniture clear into Wyoming. Clear into Idaho. Places like that on his truck. And I can remember interesting stories he told. I think we've got him on tape on some of these things. Of the troubles he would have when the truck was broken down. On his long trips and days when there weren't garages, gas stations and things like that. Behind my grandfather Hall's home, which was on Binford Avenue, slightly east of Wall Avenue in Ogden, on the north side of the street. He had barns behind his home where he kept his horses. Stables, you know, before the day of trucks. They had transfer business with horses.

Now I don't know at what point my dad was in the railroad business and in the transfer business. I don't know the sequence of things on that. But, I gather he may have been in the railroad and then the transfer business and then back on the railroad again, so maybe he didn't have a continuous wage from age eleven on. But the time he married my mother, he was a brakeman on the railroad. You work your way up from this, that ... I don't know how it goes. Brakeman, fireman, engineer. My dad had been all of these. Engineer was the top post. And my dad was fireman on the railroad back in the days when you shoveled coal, and it was hotter than blazes. And there you were just constantly shoveling coal into the boiler.

Shirlene: I wonder if that's what affected his heart later on.

Tracy: I don't know. Dad was a strong vigorous man. Pretty much. He had a mild heart attack at 65, but he lived, to what ... 85? He was strong. My father was a small man, but very strong.

Shirlene: Well, he used to move furniture and carry it around ...

Tracy: He claimed that he could lift a whole piano all by himself. And take it upstairs. I don't know whether he could do it, but he claimed he done it.

Shirlene: Well, he wouldn't lie!

Tracy: Well, he was a very strong man! I can remember when he was 65 he could do one-handed chin-ups.

Shirlene: What happened to that ferris wheel he made that was in your shop?

Tracy: Well, if you want any of that stuff ... David has thrown it around, and I haven't straightened it up. Some of it's still there.

Shirlene: I should have had you bring that with you in the car for me. I've been going to bring that every time.

Tracy: Well, it's just kicking around the shop getting ruined. Some of it may be missing because David's not too sentimental, and ... David is not a collector. David is not a junk man like I am. Anything not in current use, David would be inclined to throw it away.

Sherlene: I was a dummy. I should have had you bring that with you out here for me. I'll have to talk to David. Tell him to keep that around. I was very sentimental about that. The only reason I didn't get it back here was because we couldn't fit it in our car.

Tracy: I know .. Oh, I've seen the ferris wheel, but it's out stacked in the junk. You know it's not being protected. It's just getting shop-worn, so to speak, 'cause it thrown around here and there as you move stuff around.

Sherlene: I'll come and get that. He did tell me I could have that. It's on tape! OK. What were your biggest fears as a child? Can you remember any? Besides those bratty kids ...

Tracy: I can remember being afraid of the dark at some time when I was young. And I remember being afraid of lightning. I heard wild stories about lightning from my grandmother. I can remember them talking about what to do to be safe in a thunderstorm. Don't be in front of a window. Be inside. Put tea cups under the legs of your chairs and sit on the chair. All kinds of stuff like that. Somehow I developed quite a fear of lightning. That's when I was, oh, six or seven or eight, something like that.

Shirlene: When do you think you first had a testimony of the Gospel?

Tracy: I couldn't tell you that. It just developed slowly and stayed. I always believed the church was true as long as I can remember.

Sherlene: You never had any doubts or questions?

Tracy: Oh, I had doubts and questions when I was a teenager on occasion, but, not... I don't know if I can even say that, honestly, because I always defended the church. I never, even with my friends, who had doubts. I don't think I could say that I really did have doubts, all I could say is I may have had my spiritual highs and lows, but not really doubts. I was very valiant as a youth. Teenager. Very, very valient. Never questioning. Always defending.

Shirlene: Did your parents ... What was your family routine as far as the gospel was concerned? Did you have daily scripture reading? Did you have family home evenings back then?

Tracy: Well, I know there was something like family home evening, but I don't remember the term. But, yes, I can remember Book of Mormon reading around the stove. Particularly in die winter time. At the kitchen stove in Marriott, I can remember Book of Mormon reading. We had family scripture reading. I can remember that definitely. At a young age.

Shirlene: Did you have family prayer? Did you kneel down ...

Tracy: Yes. Always had family prayer. Yes.

Shirlene: Did you have 2 Sunday meetings like we do now? One in the morning, and evening service in the evening.

Tracy: Yes.

Shirlene: Was Fast Sunday like it is now.

Tracy: No. In rural areas, Sacrament Meeting was late. I imagine our Sacrament Meetings came at 7:00 or 7:30 P.M. After the cows were milked. I don't remember when Fast Meeting was in Marriott. I just don't. Whether it was afternoon or whether it was the same time as Sacrament Meeting. I don't know. Sunday School and Priesthood in the morning. Sacrament Meeting in the evening. I can remember having cleaning assignments at the church when I was young. Our whole family sweeping, mopping, cleaning.

Shirlene: What were your useful hobbies? I know you liked radios and junk yards.

Tracy: I liked radio and junk yards. Oh, I made whistles. There is a way you can make a whistle out of a willow by skinning a whole cylindrical piece off die willow and cutting out a notch in the wood beneath and cutting a hole in that and making a whistle tike the kids were just playing, you know. We used to make those. Swimming was fun. I'm thinking of Marriott days now, which were my youthful years where I was real conscious -- that's age seven through around twelve, thirteen, fourteen, something like that.

Shirlene: What was your idea of a fun date when you were in your teens? Were you still in Marriott when you were a teenager?

Tracy: We left Marriott when I was ... around Christmas time, when I was in the 9th Grade. Marriott school house 9th graders were sent to Wilson Lane that year. We caught the school bus to go to Wilson Lane. And then we moved to 664 30th Street setting, and I rode with schoolteachers who lived not too far away out to Wilson Lane to School, and continued to finish my 9th Grade at Wilson Lane. Oh, I noticed girls fairly early. One reason I think I noticed girls early was the Marriott kids were rough, tough, farm kids. And I was a gentle person.

Shirlene: And the girls were a litde nicer.

Tracy: Girls were gentler. I can remember the first girl where I, you know, I had some feelings that girls were nice, was a little black-eyed girl whose name was Powell. I don't remember her first name. I was in the fourth grade. She was in the third grade. And I can remember playing jacks with her on the schoolhouse steps. And the boys, you know, "Oh, you big sissy!" But if you ask me about a girl where I had some feelings that "Here's something nice," it would have been that little girl when I was only 9 years old.

Later on at Marriott school there was an age when the boys had girl friends. I don't know what age that was. I couldn't have been more than twelve. And they sort of assigned you a girl friend in a way.

Shirlene: What, the tougher boys?

Tracy: Yeah, I had ... Let's see! How did that work? I'm not sure. There was a Hales family in the ward. And there was a girl named Rolene Hales that I sort of had a crush on. I don't know. Maybe I was thirteen, fourteen. But, some of the other boys wanted her. And they says, "She's not your girl. Irma Carter is your girl.

Shirlene: And you didn't like Irma Carter?

Tracy: Not as much as Rolene Hales girl. But, to tell you the truth, a girl I liked better than either one, was a girl who was older than I, whose name was Wanda Hales, a sister of Rolene. She was a nicer girl. And more mature and she was a nice girl. She was somebody elses girl friend. I think Alma Slater, or someone else, had his eye on her. When we moved into the city, 664 30th Street, I had learned that the Hales had moved to

the top of 30th Street in those days. Up the hill, which was Harrison Avenue and 30th Street. They lived on the corner. It would have been the southwest corner of the street. And I can remember riding my bicycle up there and talking to her a couple of times, but no more than that.

Now, in the case of Irma Carter, I may have even ridden my bicycle out to Marriott to see her on occasion. I guess there was a time when I decided she was OK. I can.. in those days you go up to somebody's and you wouldn't knock, you would just call ~ if your friend in there was LeRoy, you would just go up to the house and call, "LeRoy!" You wouldn't knock and say, "Is LeRoy there?" You would just holler. That was the thing. I just did what the other kids did. That's what you did. And so ... you didn't call for girls, though. I was too bashful to knock on the door. I would just call for LeRoy, you know, and then hope that this ... what did I say her name was? Carter. (Wanda, someone asked) No, it was, anyway, the Carter girl, whatever her name was.

Later on this Carter girl became a... you know these theaters that have the glassed in cage that have the tickets ... she was a ticket gal in there and I saw her a few times and said hello and talked to her a little bit. It was the last I ever knew concerning her. She had a sister Stella Carter that was my age. This girl was a year or two younger. Stella was a nice girl. She was not as pretty as the younger girl. But she was a nice girl and I know, one time, I don't know how it was, I was in the fifth grade. She was in the fifth grade too. For some reason or other I got kissed on the cheek by her.

Shirlene: By Stella.

Tracy; Yeah, by Stella. That seemed like it was nice. I don't even remember the situation.

Sherlene: Your first kiss! (laughter)

Tracy: I can't tell you when my first kiss was. I don't think. Oh, later girl friends, when I got up to be a teenager where, you know, your passions and emotions were starting to run strong - maybe fifteen years old, maybe sixteen — No sir! No sir! Fifteen years old. I got a real crush on a girl in our neighborhood whose name was KatherirftleMik. She was Dutch. Dutch father and mother. He was later the Bishop. Bishop deMik. And I had a real crush on her. My friend Lane Compton and I sort of decided to pick out a couple of girl friends, you know, and he picked out a girl — what was her name? — and I picked out KatherinedeMik. And I really had a crush on her. I can remember going to a football game, or something, and holding her hand. Oh, boy! Wow! I didn't know such feelings could exist, you know!

I think I got a kiss out of her once. So I probably kissed a girl by the time I was fifteen.

Shelene: Oh, dad!

Tracy: Terrible! I'm not sure on that. I think I did. But then she jilted me, you know. Oh, what agony! I can remember praying that Heavenly Father would make her like me ... and all kinds of silly things. Desperate love! But by the time I was doing that ... I think I was, maybe ... I don't know. I was in high school, maybe seventeen.

I saw her when Mom and I went up to our ward and went out on a canning project, and Katheriitfwas there. She was married. She married a fellow named ... Can't think of his name. But then at the chorus reunion a year ago. You know, the 18th Ward Boys Chorus reunion, we saw her and her husband. She sent one of her sons. They have lived in California most of their life. The husband has been in the Navy. Norman Chatfield was

the boy. They sent a son ... they had a son going on a mission and he stopped off in Provo for some reason, and Katherin has him look us up. He was really a fine boy. We were really impressed with her kid. That's the only kid I've ever seen of hers. Was that the boy who stopped at our house for a day or two.

Oh, I don't know. There were other girl friends. I was in love with teachers. The way you are with teachers. From time to time. I really was probably in love with my 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teacher, Beulah Stallings. She was really wonderful to me.

Shirlene: She taught you three years?

Tracy: Yeah, all in the same room. Three classes in the same room. Good set up. I like it that way. She is probably dead by now. I seen her once.

Shirlene: What's her name again?

Tracy: Beulah Stallings. She was not married yet. I don't know her married name. She was from Eden, Utah, or Huntsville, or somewhere up in that part of the world, as I remember it. She married the sheriff. One of the sheriffs, or maybe the sheriff ... I don't know if it was of Weber County, or what. I have heard his name, but I can't remember it. I went to see her once after we were married and after I was working at G.E. I don't know whether I had made diamonds yet, or not. I don't think I had. She gave me a picture or two of days in Marriott that I was very happy to get that time.

She said, this Stella Carter that I mentioned before, who married some band leader, you know, some musician, back in the days when we had bands. Had got copies of every picture this teacher ever had and had a very fine collection of Marriott days. And if I wanted certain pictures to look up this Stella Carter. I have never done that. But, of course, I don't know her married name, except she married a musician in a band, a fairly famous one.

Shirlene: You don't know her married name. So it would be hard to track her down then. Could you still get in touch with this Stallings.

Tracy: I doubt that she is still living. She might be, but I kinda doubt that she would be.

Shirlene: It would be interesting to have those pictures. I'm curious about those myself.

Tracy: I was in love with our chorus leader, Ena Barnes, as were a lot of the other boys.

Shirlene: I heard about her. (laughter)

Tracy: I was terribly in love with her. She was ten years older than me. She never did get married.

Shirlene: She is the one that had that long hair. Clear down the front of her dress.

Tracy: Yeah. Oh, then there was an era in there, sort of after I finally began to realize, that you can't be in love with a lady who is ten years older than you. And the boys were ... Oh, this was during the time when the boys were going around with all the girls and they were sitting in cars and hugging and kissing and what-not. I got in on that kind of business. I guess some people escaped that, but in my day, I don't know a single boy that escaped that kind of thing.

Shirlene: Oh, what business, I missed it because of Daniel?

Tracy: Oh, just going with the fast girls who hug and kiss. Oh, May Ritchie — I shouldn't name these girls off. I guess was sort of that way. There was a Ruth Nye ... there was a Sims girl, and there was a ... I think most of these girls turned out all right. I know they did. I know some of them. As a matter of fact, I can't say any of them turned out bad. They were just fairly free with hugging and kissing.

Shirlene: Not more than that.

Tracy: Not to my knowledge. Except in a few ... Well, these girls that I'm talking about. No more than that, that I ever knew. Very free with hugging and kissing. And I got mixed up with some of that. With some of the girls. I couldn't tell you how many. Maybe 2 or 3 of them. One kiss out of 2 or 3 of those kind of girls.

Shirlene: I'm shocked!

Tracy: I wasn't bold like my other friends. And then after that kind of business, that was when I started going with Mom, I guess. I really never had many girls, you know, #br one that I would have wanted to marry. Like Katherin deMik, I would have wanted to marry her. I would have thought of marriage in terms of Ena Barnes and Mother. Probably those are the only ones, you know. I ever thought of. As someone that I would like to marry.

Shirlene: For that many years, that's pretty good, Dad! I don't know how this one got in there, it doesn't really fit in, but what chores did you dislike or like the most?

Tracy: Well, in those days, you had coal and wood for heating and cooking. I had to chop wood, and bring in wood. The same with coal. I didn't like those too well. We had to hoe ... Hoeing! Rather a hard job for kids. Hoeing in the hot sun for 8 hours. That's a hard job. But I did it. Picking beans is hard, but I did that. Picking cherries, thinning beets, topping beets,...

Shirlene: Did you do jobs like dishes?

Tracy: Not too much. Apparently I was not a good dishwasher. I can remember my mom always scolding me for being ... she would say, "I might as well do them myself!" or something like that. I don't k^w^ Anyway, it comes out that I didn't do too well. I can remember dusting. Dusting the piano and chairs and things like that. I don't think I did too much dish washing. I did some dish drying.

Shirlene: You've always been so orderly and so systematic in all these neat little piles. Everything just where it belongs. Were you that way when you were a kid?

Tracy: More so then than now.

Shirlene: Oh, really! Right from the start

Tracy: Oh, yeah, I would have my little box and everything all organized in my boxes and I would really get mad when my brothers would mess up my orders of things.

Shirlene: And you were the oldest, weren't you?

Tracy: Yeah. I was very possessive of what was mine, and I was very orderly. Because I took good care of my things. You know, my brothers wouldn't. I didn't like them using them. They wouldn't put them back ... and they would break them and stuff.

Shirlene: Did you ... what were your sleeping quarters like?

Tracy: In those days you would sleep with a brother. You wouldn't have an individual bed. I slept with my brother Eugene all of my growing up years. And Wendell slept with Donald.

Sherlene: Were you all in the same bedroom?

Tracy: All in the same bedroom.

Shirlene: There were 5 boys in the same bedroom?

Tracy: Oh, the youngest boy may have been with my parents. Delbert, the youngest, was probably in the bedroom with my parents. At least when we were young.

Shirlene: How well did you get along with 5 brothers?

Tracy: Fairly well. Gene and I had problems sometimes. We were quite different in our interests. But no ... I think as a general rule, that we got along well.

Shirlene: You sure did ... From our observations later on you seemed like a very pleasant family.

Tracy: You see, there are no tempers in our family. No tempers. I could have been much more of a brother to Gene than I was, I think. At least, at times, I can remember in my life, I wanted to be out ranging the countryside ... Gene was a reader. He would stay home and read the Junior Classics and things like that.

Shirlene: How did you learn to play the piano?

Tracy: I guess I fiddled with it a little bit and then my Aunt Mary [Mary Butler] graciously offered to give me the lessons. Which I flunked out on. Then during our years as Explorers — Vanguards, they used to call them in the MIA when I was in high school. Probably a junior in high school, a man came into the ward whose name was Salter. As our Explorer leader along with another fellow, whose name I have forgotten. I can see his face, but can't remember his name. This man was a musician. He had drums. He played the drums and he played the piano. Exploring in those days was somewhat like it is now. You know, "What do you Explorers want to do? Don't you want to do something ... " You know, you have exploring posts that sort of get together and build boats and do something. Well, we had enough guys playing instruments that we decided that we wanted to play in an orchestra. Our own orchestra. And he^ffoyed in dance bands in California. And so that's how our dance band got started. Which we perpetuated beyo«d after he left. So, he sort of showed me the ropes of learning to play chords, and gave me a few of his books to look at. I bought some of my own and I became a self-taught piano player.

Shirlene: You were pretty good back then, weren't you?

Tracy: I was quite a good piano player years ago. I gave up piano playing when I quit the band because of problems ... I think, probably somewhat personality problems. I was the natural leader, apparendy. I was always the president of the class, this, that, and the

other. And I was leader of the band. Salter used to take us out. He had a great big Packard. Packard was better than Cadillac in those days. He had this wonderful Packard automobile. And he would take us around. We played at Ogden High School and places like that. But, as Salter moved on and went back to California, or wherever he went. This Salter was having some trouble. I don't know if he was having a divorce, or what-not ... and they smoked too, and they went out with girls who smoked.

You know I always wondered what happened to Salter. He was in the optometry business, too. Fixing eyes and all that. He was a guy with lots of talent. But he just had trouble with some bad habits. I wondered what happened to him. And two or three years ago, I read his obituary in the Provo newspaper. He was living right there in Provo.

Sherlene: And you didn't even know it until it was too late.?

Tracy: And I didn't even know it until he was dead. Because I would have sure gone to see him, you know. I understand that he wasn't active in the church, but still, you know, he did a lot for me, and I wanted to thank him now that I had grown up and had enough sense to do it. I probably didn't when I was young.

Shirlene: But he probably read about your activities in the Provo paper. Didn't he know you were in town? It makes you wonder.

Tracy: He couldn't have missed, but he probably felt bashful about approaching me, I guess. It's really a shame. But, anyway, he loaned us his drums and all kinds of things. We had silly instruments in our first band. The standard band in those days had piano, base fiddles, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and saxophones doubled on clarinets. We had a guy who played the clarinet. A guy who played mandolin, a few other strange things, you know. But we had a band anyway with all those fellows,

End of Tape, side 4