

Those acquainted with H. Tracy Hall might say that he does his best work under high pressure. While working on a research team at the General Electric Research Laboratory, he invented "The Belt". This device was capable of generating the extremely high pressures and temperatures needed to transform graphite into diamond which he accomplished on December 16, 1964.

His invention was considered so important that a federal government secrecy order was placed upon it, ranking it as important as atomic bomb secrets. This kept him from using his own device at BYU after leaving General Electric to serve as Professor of Chemistry and Director of Research.

Within one year at BYU, however, he invented the "Tetrahedral Press" which had capabilities equivalent to the Belt. He first made diamonds in the Tetrahedral Press on December 27, 1957. Then a secrecy order was placed on it!

About two years later the secrecy was removed from his inventions and he was finally free to pursue his endeavors in high pressure-high temperature research. During the next decade, he and his colleagues published about 150 peer reviewed scientific papers, attracted the attention of Scientists from all over the world and obtained more than one million dollars in grants for research.

Additionally, he invented a synchronizing device (called the "Anvil Guide") to coordinate the motions of the Tetrahedral Press and newly invented "Cubic Press".

The work horses in the industrial diamond manufacturing industry are now the Belt and the Cubic Press. Wherever diamond products are made, they are manufactured in his machines.

The recipient of numerous awards from professional societies, Tracy holds 17 U.S. And 70 foreign patents.

At age 61, he tutored himself to pass the patent law section of the bar exam and became a patent agent.

It is interesting to note that five diamond manufacturing companies are located in the Provo area and they all use Tracy's machines. In order, they are **Megadiamond, U.S. Synthetic, Precorp, 3M** and **Novatek**. The estimated combined annual sales of all of these companies is in the neighborhood 1.5 million dollars and they provide employment for about one hundred and fifty people.