SPENCER AND THALIS FARR FAMILY HISTORY

(as told by Spencer and Thalis Farr)

[Spencer]

I met Thalis in 1934 through a friend named Joe Winters, who was from Salt Lake but living in Southern California at the time. Joe had taken Thalis out a few times. Around Easter that year Thalis and I double dated with Joe and his date. I left California shortly after and went to Howell, Michigan for my job. I left in the fall of 1934 and didn't see her again until 1935. When I did see her again, I realized she was a very beautiful girl. I hadn't had any aspirations for marriage when I first met her, but when I saw her again in 1935 and started dating her, I became interested in marriage and thought it was about time I seriously considered it.



Thalis - Age 24
Engagement photo

Thalis' parents were not particularly happy with the fact that I was courting their daughter because I was not active in the Church. Thalis had been going with Alan Hansen, a returned missionary. The Jacksons would have been much happier had Thalis considered marrying him instead of me.

[Thalis]

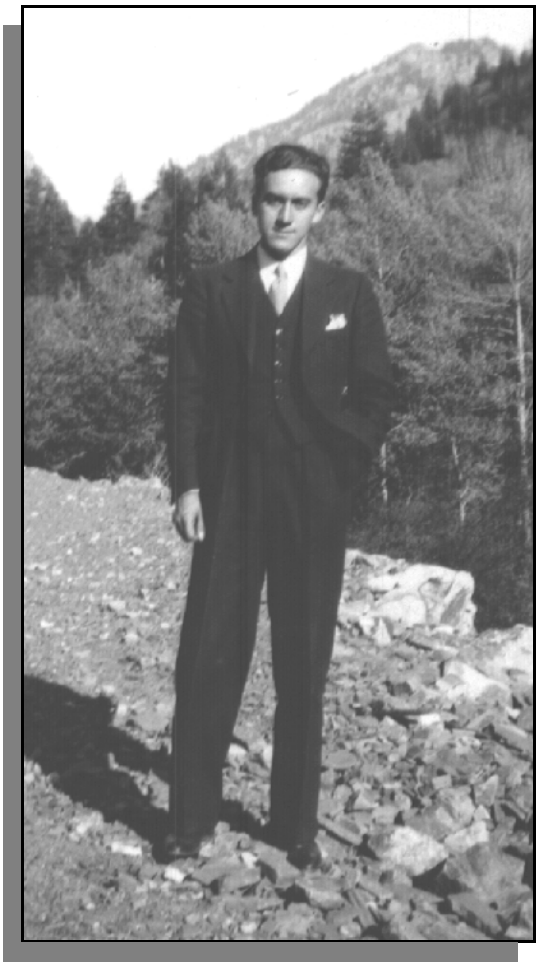
When we started to go together, Spence didn't have any money. We chose activities that were inexpensive, such as going for walks or to the movies. My parents didn't know Spencer very well, but had heard from Barbara Richards, a family friend, about his parent's divorce. Spencer's mother and father were divorced in 1935. Mrs. Richards had known Spencer's mother and father all their lives. She thought that she should tell my parents that Spencer's father was not a good Mormon and that Spencer wasn't a good Mormon because he smoked and wasn't active in the church. I thought she was pretty meddlesome.

[Spencer]

When the final decree was made for my parent's divorce, I was in Howell, Michigan. It didn't come as a surprise to me. I remembered when I was 10 or 11 years old, riding home on a street car to our 468 'J' Street address in Salt Lake. It made a turn at the Beehive House and across from the Beehive House was Amelia's Place, built for Brigham Young's last wife. It was a two story house and had iron railings. I remember thinking at that time that if my mother and father were ever divorced, I would throw my lot in with my mother. My mother and father did not seem to be at all compatible. My Mother was a beautiful woman. Father pursued her until she agreed to marry him. He met her when she was 16 and they were married when she was 21 in 1909. My father went through the temple to please her and never went to church after that.

[Thalis]

My parents tried to convince me not to get serious with Spencer. They worried about the fact that he wasn't an active church member, and wondered whether he would be a good and stable person for me. Influenced by their pressure, I told Alan Hansen that I would marry him. I was torn and didn't sleep well for weeks. In the end, I decided that I just didn't feel good about Alan Hansen. Although he was a very likeable young man, I really didn't know him that well.



Spence at approx. age 24
Holiday Park

[Spencer]

When I proposed to Thalis, in January of 1935, we were at a drive-in stand on Pico and Manhattan in Los Angeles. I remember telling her simply that I thought someday we should be married.

[Thalis]

He said, "You know, I'm going to marry you some day." I asked him if that was a threat or a proposal. I thought that it was a strange way to propose and I didn't know whether to take it as a formal proposal or not, but secretly, I thought he was very right. I had been turned off before by men who became too serious too soon. I had gone with Spencer for five months before I even suspected that it was more than friendship he felt for me. He played it very casual. I think that when Alan Hansen began getting serious about me, Spence realized that he wanted to marry me.

[Spencer]

Thalis turned me down. She said "no" because I wasn't a very active Mormon, and religion was very important in her family.

[Thalis]

Spencer's mother called me and said she wanted to see me. She took me for a drive and told me how wonderful Spencer really was. It was very difficult for me, being in love with Spence and my parents thinking I should marry the returned missionary. I didn't hear from Spence for a while because I had rejected him.



Jean Farr (BaBa) with her mother's doll

After a while, Spence called me and asked if I would go up to Big Pines with him. We went with a group of friends. Spence and I went off for a walk and I told him I wanted to marry him.

[Spencer]

We went up to Big Pine in February of 1936 with Dick and Audrey Esselman, Dick Farr and Marty Anderson. Thalis and I went for a walk and they got very impatient with us because we were gone longer than we said we would be. On our little walk we sat on a log and talked for quite awhile and she agreed that we should get married.

[Thalis]

The others were very angry with us for being gone so long because they wanted to start back, but when we came back we were engaged. Oh, those long walks!

[Spencer]

My mother, BaBa, gave me her diamond to give to Thalis for our engagement ring. We were married four months later on June 6, 1936. Nicholas Smith, who was Mission President at that time and a distant relative of mine, married us on Stanley Drive at the home of Bill and Ruth Jackson.



Wedding Day - June 6, 1936

[Thalis]

My parents and I didn't have a lot of money. Spencer and I had just a very simple little wedding with few guests. Following the wedding, we had a reception with more people attending.

[Spencer]

The wedding party consisted of just the immediate family. My brother, Richard Farr, was best man and Thalis' sister, Nell, was bridesmaid. There were ten in the wedding party. After the wedding, in a borrowed car, we stopped by to say hello to my Dad and his new wife of approximately one year, Aldean. After our visit, we drove towards San Diego. We honeymooned for two days, staying in Laguna Beach the first night. Thalis had anticipated staying at the Laguna Hotel but I had not made a reservation. We stayed at a little hotel called the Coast Hotel. (Now no longer in existence.) We were right on the water and could hear the waves. Thalis thought it was very romantic. The next night we traveled on to San Diego and stayed at the U.S. Grant Hotel.

[Thalis]

I've had a wonderful life with Spence, so I'm happy I was smart enough to change my mind. Alan Hansen has been married twice and divorced. I don't know if it was because he was unlucky or whether he didn't make a good husband.



Wedding Party: L to R - H. S. Jackson, Richard Farr, Jean Farr, Spencer and Thalis, Mrs. Jackson, Nell Schade

Our first year of marriage we lived with relatives for a few months at a time. It was a common practice in those days. Spence's mother went up to her cabin in Holiday Park for a month or so and we stayed at her apartment on Manhattan Avenue and 10th or 11th Street, while she was away. When she returned, I wanted our own place. We rented a court apartment on Serrano, but I was frightened by the ethnicity of the neighborhood, something I had not been used to growing up in Idaho. We moved in with my sister Nell and her husband Marlon.

[Spencer]

We lived with family off and on for a couple of years after our marriage, trying to get started. In October 1936, Thalis' sister Jerri asked us to stay at her home. She was having a new baby and needed help taking care of her other children, Wallace and Bobby, while she was in the hospital and afterwards for a while. After that, we rented a house on 58th Place near Crenshaw and lived there for a couple of years. We had a victory garden there during the war. The lot along side of us was vacant and we extended the garden and planted fruits and vegetables there.

Our next home was on Wilton and Washington Boulevard. It was a lovely apartment and cost $45.00 a month. It was really much more than we could afford and so we didn't stay there long.

[Thalis]

We came upon rough times. It was the depth of the Depression and we were struggling. We found we could get a big sack of vegetables for 15 cents and it cost around 15 cents for a pound of sirloin beef. We could live on about a dollar a day for food.

[Spencer]

The first Christmas we were married Thalis was very sad that we didn't have any money. We couldn't afford to give gifts to anyone. We managed to scrape together a dollar, which we used to buy a dozen eggs and some sausage and invited Grandma and Grandpa Jackson over for breakfast. That was the extent of our Christmas present to them.

Thalis had never experienced the problems of the Depression before. Her brothers and father were all working, and she was working at the bank. She had never really felt a lack of money the way we did now. It wasn't until she got married that she knew what it was really about.

I had been working for a company that my Dad had an interest in, called Consolidated Electric. We rewound some motors and did a little miscellaneous electrical repair. I made about $25 a week and when we got married things were so bad my salary had dropped down to about $15 a week. Thalis had been making $100 a month at Security Pacific Bank. In those days the economy was such that a married woman was not permitted to work as long as she had a husband that was providing for her. We had an awful time making ends meet.

[Thalis]

Spence was having a tough time. In July of 1937 he and his father, Morrill Newton Farr, and brother, Dick Farr, started a business. The Farr Company, was to make air-filtration equipment. During the early days of the founding of Farr Company, I wasn't very enthusiastic; although I tried not to show it. I used to wish that Spence would just go and get a job somewhere so we could depend on a regular paycheck. The other employees were always paid first and I felt I could never depend on what Spence was going to bring home. Later, when we became successful, we appreciated it all the more.

[Spencer]

Thalis' brothers, Harold and Bill, had a successful contracting business. I know they must have asked once or twice why in the world I didn't go to work for somebody else so that I could support Thalis. That made me more determined than ever to show that I could make a success of it.



Thalis & newborn David
February 28, 1938

[Thalis]

I was able to get a job with a big real estate company downtown, through a girl that used to go with my brother, Bill. I worked there for about nine months, but quit when I became pregnant and didn't feel up to working. Just before I was due, we rented a room with my sister, Erma. I looked after her children while she worked. It helped both of us because we shared the rent. The house was on 4th Street just east of La Cienega. It was a very nice house, much nicer than either one of us could have afforded alone.

While we were living with Erma, her youngest child, Bill, was a little puzzled by my role. He was about 4 years old and didn't understand my relationship to him. In the neighborhood we lived in, most people had domestic help. One day he came home from a neighbor's house and said to me, "Maid, I want my lunch." I informed him I wasn't his maid, but his Aunt.

I was learning about children, as well. When Erma came home form work one day, I confronted her and told her Bill was a thief. She asked me what he had stolen and I replied that he had stolen cookies from the cookie jar.

David was born on February 28, 1938, after 12 hours of labor, during a big rain storm with a lot of flooding. Spence was worried because the basement of the house was flooded and the heater wasn't working but he was able to get the basement pumped out and the heater working before I arrived home from the hospital. In those days, when you had a baby you stayed in the hospital for 10 days. We paid the hospital by cashing in an insurance policy that Spence's mother had paid on for years and that we had continued. We received approximately $70 out of it. It was enough to pay the hospital.

My doctor's name was Carvel James. He was married to one of Spencer's cousins.

[Spencer]

I didn't have the money to pay him and apologized to him. I said, "Carvel, I had to get a new

suit. My other suit was threadbare and I owe you money and I apologize". He said that it was alright. He turned around and gave me an English suit that he didn't like. I subsequently paid Carvel's bill.

I hadn't wanted to have a baby. I felt it was important to see how we were getting along and whether we were going to be happy together. Thalis was determined to make the marriage a success and I was doubly determined because my mother and father had divorced. Nevertheless, we were both delighted when David came along.



David - Age 1

[Thalis]

In fact, we were thrilled to have a baby. The evening before David was born, I had invited my sister, Jerri and her husband, Wally over for dinner and cooked a roast beef. I was very upset because it turned out to be tough. In the middle of the night I started having pains and woke Spence up and told him we had better call the doctor. He said," Can't you wait til morning? I don't like to disturb him." I think that being so upset about how the roast had turned out brought on my delivery three weeks early.



Morrill Farr & grandson, David

David weighed 7 lbs., but he wasn't premature. Spencer thought, like everyone, that the baby was beautiful. BaBa wanted us to name the baby Alan Spencer after her oldest brother. I felt it was too soon after I had gone with Alan Hansen, so I chose "David". I had always wanted a "David".

J.D. Spencer and his wife, Clarissa, Spencer's grandparents, came to California to visit Spencer and me in the spring of 1939. In those days we weren't able to get to Salt Lake very often. We all visited together at Dick's house. It was a very pleasant visit. J.D. was a gallant man. I was impressed at how he would always hurry to pull a chair out for you and help you get seated. He was really a gentleman of the old school. J.D. wrote poems about David and Linda which I have kept. J.D., one of the friendliest of men, said you needed to write letters and keep in touch to keep your friendship in repair. He

had a beautiful voice and was well loved. He sang at over 1,000 funerals in his lifetime.



Jean, Spence and David Farr, John D. Spencer

Spencer's father, Morrill, was antagonistic towards the Church. He would try to get a rise out of me by making unflattering remarks about the Church. It bothered me at first, but I finally learned to ignore it. Morrill and Aldean never became as much a part of my life as Spence's mother, BaBa, did. We had dinner with them occasionally, but Aldean didn't have much to talk about except her housekeeping.

Jean, (BaBa as she was known to her family) had a wonderful personality. She had many friends and was a very outgoing person. She was aggressive about planning things. Spence inherited her outgoing personality. They both helped me overcome my shyness. When I first met her, Baba was giving book reviews in her apartment. Those that attended, paid her. She made the stories come alive. Dick either learned or inherited her talent of telling stories. Spence did, too, but not quite as effectively as Dick. I would have to watch Spence, because he had a habit of changing the punch line and it wouldn't turn out as funny as it was supposed to be.

Dick loved to tell stories, and they were very effective. He loved to have a new audience. Spencer didn't like me to interrupt Dick in the middle of a story, but I often felt the only way I would get to talk at all was to interrupt Dick. Spence's brother, Dick, was more like his father - shy and reserved as a rule - although he was very outgoing and comfortable with his business and golfing friends. I remember once at a party given by Baba's relatives, Spence went around and met everybody, but Dick just stood in one place.

We lived with Erma twice. It was so pleasant to live with Erma. She was easy to get along with and always so happy and cheerful. She adjusted to other people well and made them feel comfortable. Her grandchildren loved her. Everyone loved her. She was invited to every occasion. Her hospitality



Spencer, Baba, Clarissa, David, Dick & Linda
'Four Generations'

was well known. The missionaries lived in her home for many years. Recently, in 1997, her nephew wanted to take his Aunt Erma to dinner, but he only had a motorcycle. Erma accepted his invitation to ride on his motorcycle to dinner. Her family teased her about becoming a motorcycle groupie, or "Hells Angel".

Erma always insisted on not being helped up or down the long stairway leading to her front door on Manning Avenue. At her 90th birthday, David said that going up and down those steps had kept Aunt Erma spry and healthy. He asked her, when she declined his help at the stairs, if she could please help him, as he was tired.

Nobody had money in those days. We enjoyed simple entertainment with our friends. We enjoyed going to movies, and in those days there were good movies. Potluck dinners, where everyone brought something, were very popular. These were difficult financial times, but also wonderful times because we learned to depend on our friends and on each other. In my opinion, we experienced some of our happiest moments in our most difficult times.

Our children were little, as well, and the difficult teenage years hadn't arrived. Erma advised me to enjoy my children while they were little.

David played with a little neighbor boy and I heard him one day bragging that his mother was older and taller than the other little boy's mother. Once David learned my birthday, he learned to add one year each year to keep track.

[Spencer]

Alan was born September 30th of 1941, just 3 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. We lived in a little house on 58th Place.



M. S. Farr Family 1942
Spencer, David, Alan, Thalis

[Thalis]

I had a difficult time conceiving Alan, so we were very happy when we discovered I was pregnant. Since David had taken ten hours to deliver, we weren't in a hurry when my water broke with Alan. Because of this, we barely made it to the hospital in time. We were very happy to have Alan join our family.



Alan - Age 2

There was no lawn in the backyard and so we put one in. I became very interested in gardening and planted a lot of flowers.

I remember Pearl Harbor vividly and what a shock it was and how awful it was to think that we would be involved in a war. I didn't know whether Spence would have to go.

[Spencer]

I would automatically have been in the service as a second lieutenant, but at 31 years old, I was over age. Dick, then 26 years old, was called up but didn't pass the physical. It was discovered that he had a cyst and that kept him out of the service. Interestingly enough, years later during the Vietnamese War when our son, Jerry, was called up for service, they found that he had a cyst as well. We were glad of that, believing Jerry would have gone to Canada rather than into the service. Dick and I were also exempt because we were in an industry important to the war. We felt lucky that there wasn't really anyone close to us that was involved in the war. Thalis' brothers, Bill and Harold, were also too old to be called up.

After Pearl Harbor in 1942, people were apprehensive. Everyone had blackout blinds. City wardens patrolled the neighborhood to make sure that lights weren't visible. One night there was a loud commotion and fireworks in the sky. We ran outside to look. It came from the direction of Long Beach. It was suspected that an enemy plane had been sighted. It was a false alarm, but with all of the anti-aircraft fire in Long Beach, it was quite an aerial display.



M. S. Farr Family 1945
Thalis, Alan, Spencer, David

[Thalis]

There were a lot of shortages and deprivations during the war. We had to have stamps for meat, butter, sugar and other items, but we didn't feel as though we were suffering too much. Naturally, the war helped the Depression come to an end.

[Spencer]

We did quite a bit of work on the house and after we had fixed the house and yard up very nicely, the landlord decided to sell it. We were paying $45 a month rent and it was tough for us to pay it. The house sold for $4,000. I thought it was a horrible price and wasn't interested in buying. Of course, even if I had been interested, I wouldn't have been able to come up with the down payment to buy it. We moved to Erma's again in 1943 and stayed with her for almost two years.

[Thalis]

We started the tradition of staying with Erma. Since that time, hundreds of relatives have visited and stayed with her. She is the official family hostess. She had a house on Tremain by this time and later moved to Manning Avenue.

[Spencer]

After Alan was born, Thalis had a miscarriage and then it was a long dry spell before we had Teresa. Thalis had a difficult time getting pregnant. Her gynecologist had recommended a solution for Thalis to use. We misunderstood what it was for. We both drank it, thinking it would help Thalis get pregnant and later found out it was not to be taken internally. Maybe it worked, because Thalis finally got pregnant with Teresa.



Thalis and Baby Teresa

[Thalis]

It was nice having two boys, but now we wanted to have two girls. We were very thrilled to have Teresa born. She was a beautiful little baby.

[Spencer]

Thalis decided it was time for us to move out of Erma's house. Harold and Bill had built houses, speculatively, and there were two or three of them left. We put $1,000 down, it was just 1,000 square feet and cost $6,000. Our loan from FHA, with principal and interest, was $65 a month. We also made our first major purchase at that time and bought a washing machine for about $65 from the Department of Water and Power. We paid it off at $3.00 or $4.00 a month.



We eventually added an addition to the home which included a play room, washroom and bathroom. We enjoyed Westchester very much. We had been used to being nearer the city, and there wasn't much out there in Westchester, but it was a nice neighborhood with a lot of young people. Teresa was born there, November 3, 1945. It was also Jerry's birthplace, August 1st, 1947.

(David]

I remember Westchester as having a lot of open bean fields and that a lot of African-Americans would bring their dogs out there to hunt rabbit.

[Thalis]

We became close friends with our neighbors, Bill and Gay Yess. After a few years the Yess family moved to El Monte but Gay has kept in touch over the years. With all their moves and our moves, she still has always written letters and birthdays cards and I have telephoned her.

The war came to an end on May 8, 1945. Uncle Bill and his family moved out to Westchester to one of his houses that was available. They were saving money to build a larger home for themselves in Beverly Hills. We enjoyed having them so close. Our lots were back to back. Bill had a gate put in so we could visit each other and the kids could go back and forth easily.



Teresa at Age 3

The Farr Company was doing better and I was able to have a cleaning lady once a week. I had always hated to iron so the first time I could afford to have any help, I had her do the ironing.

One day when David was playing with his cousin, Bill Jackson, my cleaning woman told me that the boys had taken some money out of her purse. I was shocked. I couldn't believe that my boy could do that, nevertheless I talked to him. It was one of his first lessons in honesty, that you didn't take things from people that didn't belong to you.

[Spencer]

On another occasion, our neighbor came and told Thalis that Teresa was taking bread and milk off of their doorstep in the morning. I wondered whether she felt that she wouldn't get enough food at home or if she just had taking ways. I remembered other times that I had found peanut butter under her bed.

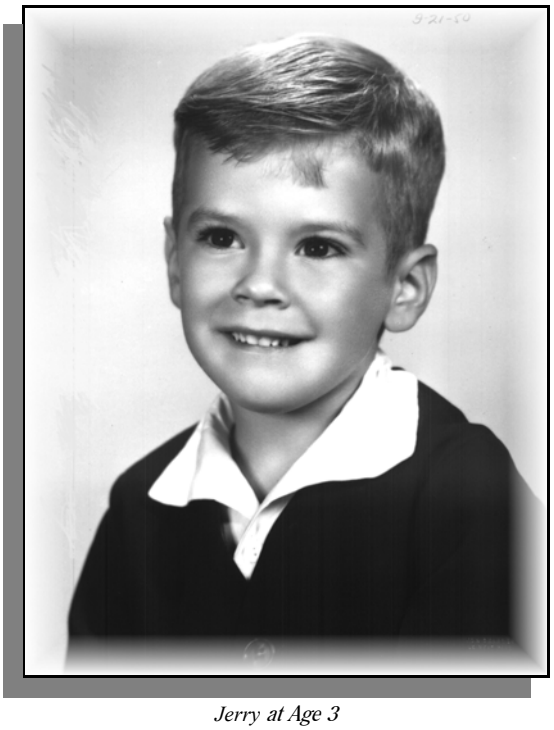


David, Thalis, baby Jerry, Teresa, Alan
1947

Teresa was not pretty as a baby, but she grew up to be beautiful. I believe she felt kind of alone, being the only girl in the family and that she felt that the two boys, Alan and Jerry, were always taking advantage of her. She was very cute as a child. Her musical talent appeared at about the age of 15. She was the only one in the family that had a good voice or could carry a tune.

[Thalis]

After Teresa was born we didn't practice birth control as we felt the time between children was too long. Jerry was born 21 months later. I had wanted a girl, but I was happy to accept this beautiful six pounds of boy. David had a very close friend named Gerald Blackwell, and we named our newborn Gerald Anthony Farr, after him. Grandpa Farr was always able to nickname the grandchildren. He called Jerry, GAF. I always liked the name of David, and Spencer had always wanted to name a child after his favorite uncle, Alan Spencer. I had always liked the name Teresa. I named all the children except Alan. We had a little difficulty with Gerald's name and for years Jerry didn't know he was Gerald Anthony. I told him one day and he didn't like it. He was very unhappy with the name Anthony. I chose the name Anthony from St. Anthony where I had lived in Idaho. Spence's mother was of the opinion that I should have named all the boys with my name Jackson as a middle name. I always felt people should have their own distinctive names and they should all be different.



Jerry at Age 3

In 1948 while we were living on 84th Street,

Spencer contracted polio. He became ill with a respiratory illness where he had a lot of headaches. The headaches lasted so long that finally after about a week, he went to a doctor and it was diagnosed as polio. It was a terrible shock. He had to go to the general hospital because it was the only hospital that had a contagious disease department. The family had to be quarantined. Jerry was one year old, Teresa was three, Alan was seven, and David ten.

[Spencer]

Cousin Maxine Williams did grocery shopping for Thalis and the children during the quarantine. She would leave the groceries on the doorstep, not wanting to risk exposure. Maxine and her husband Bob lived on 81st Street, just a few blocks from them. Thalis had a woman who helped her in the house, and she was willing to stay with them, but her daughter was scared of the polio and wouldn't let her. Thalis was stuck home with the four children. She couldn't even go to the market or send laundry out, so she had to work hard.

[Thalis]

The children were wonderful together. They got along much better than they usually did when there were other children playing with them. I received many telephone calls from people concerned about Spencer.



Henry and Mary Jane Jackson Family - 1946

[Spencer]

When I returned home, I was relieved to see Jerry, happy and well, in his crib. I had been sure that they hadn't been telling me the truth at the hospital and that Jerry had polio, too, and would be in the hospital. I was relieved when I got home to find that everyone was all right. I was very fortunate and had no ill

effects from the polio. I was in the hospital a week. The doctor told me that many people had polio and never knew it because they didn't suffer after affects. It was much like the flu.

[Thalis]

Christmases were always important occasions. My family, the Jacksons, always got together every Christmas. For a few years we exchanged gifts, but finally gave that up and just visited. We did this for years, until about 1984 when it became too difficult for all of us to get together. Everyone had small children, a lot of them had moved away and were living out in the valley and all over Southern California. It just died a natural death.



The Farr home on Arizona Avenue



M. S. Farr Family 1951
David, Alan, Thalis, Teresa, Spencer & Jerry

We built a house on Arizona Avenue over in Westchester in 1949. We were lucky enough to be able to buy a half acre. We built a large house, 3300 square feet, and later put in a pool, a cabana and dressing room, a large grassy area and a large court for badminton, basketball, or volleyball. We decided we didn't want to raise our children in Beverly Hills because it was such an affluent area. Later, the children were embarrassed by having more than others. They wouldn't let Spencer have a Cadillac because it was a status symbol. With that big yard, we had several dogs given to us by people who thought it would be a wonderful place for their dogs.

[Spencer]

I put a pen in the back yard for the dogs.

Someone gave us a Collie, but that Collie was so destructive in the yard that we gave it to somebody else. We were given a Springer Spaniel. It was a very cute Springer Spaniel. We liked that dog and decided it would make a good hunting dog, but she was too old to be trained. We decided if we were going to have a dog, we should have a hunting dog. I bought a Labrador in 1951 and named it Blackie. I had been doing a little hunting up in Idaho with the Kerrs, the Warners and Jerry and Wally Hunt. When I bought Blackie, a trainer told me that I shouldn't have two dogs, so I got rid of the Springer Spaniel and later regretted it.

Years later, when Blackie was no longer able to work as a hunting dog, I was given a dog named Prince. I decided Prince needed a companion and got a black dog, a mongrel, a very nice dog which we called Dar - that stood for David, Alan and Rich Farr. Teresa always loved the dogs and would bring them in the house when we weren't home, much against my rules and regulations. Teresa also had a number of cats. They were well taken care of. Once she opened a can of liver pate' that Dick had brought me from France. It was probably very expensive. She wanted some food for her cat. The cat didn't like it so she threw it away. I was not too happy about that.



Spencer and Flash

My next dog was named Flash and was the best dog that I had ever had. Flash, however, was a barking dog. I tried to solve Flash's barking problem by having his vocal chords cut. That made it worse. Flash still could bark, albeit hoarsely, an even more annoying whisper-like bark. I subsequently had to give him away because he barked so much.

Alan was a very outgoing child. Once he appeared on a radio program with Art Linkletter. They must have chosen him because he was outgoing and pretty cute as a child. Alan showed an early natural ability for building. One of Alan's main hobbies was building forts. He constructed several different forts. He spent a long time out in the backyard on Arizona Avenue building them.

Alan used palm fronds that he collected around the neighborhood for his first fort. One time he built a fort in the northeast corner of the lot and started another in the southeast corner. He built this one of lumber. He was building one day when I went shopping. I told him not to build it above the fence. When I got home the fort was a two story building that looked like a chicksale (outhouse). Alan built a similar structure in the vacant lot next door. These buildings were his forts. As soon as they were built, Alan lost interest, but the rest of our children and the neighborhood children played in them.

[Alan]

Not much has changed. Now I build cabins and as soon as they're completed, I lose interest in them. Then I have to find another project to do.

[Spencer]



Teresa, Alan, David & Jerry 1949

Thalis and I felt that Alan should have been a carpenter. Had the Jackson Brothers not already had so many family members employed in their business, they would have liked to have him work for them when he got out of college. I believe it is still what he most likes to do.

[Teresa]

I remember that on Arizona Avenue the girls would collect rocks in boxes and the boys would throw rocks at the boys from the apartments.

[Jerry]

I remember throwing a rock and hitting a boy in the head. Father immediately picked me up from behind by my arms, swung me in the air and spanked my behind. Then I was hauled into the house.

[Thalis]

We had an annual 4th of July party. Jim West and several families including the Allens and the Matsens came to the 4th of July parties. By that time we no longer had the sewing club, as families were moving far away and the women didn't like to drive at night. Bessie and I had joined the sewing club before we were married. The sewing club began in 1928. The Russons, Allens, Bessie Matsen, Margaret Fox, Rosella Jensen and myself were members of the club.



Spencer, Frances and Dick 1946

We had our 4th of July parties at home until we happened to go up to Holiday Park around the 4th of July one year, and I saw the wild flowers in bloom. I decided I wanted to go that time of the year again. We stopped having 4th of July parties and went to Holiday Park instead.

We enjoyed visiting with Spencer's brother, Dick and sister, Frances and their families. We would hold parties at each others homes, so our children could get to know their cousins. We had BaBa's birthday parties at our house. Spencer was especially close to Dick, as they worked together every day and also went on hunting and fishing trips from time to time. Spence went on a few Elk hunting trips with Dick, but he preferred hunting game birds.



Spencer & Richard Farr - 1946

I became very interested in anti-communism in the early 1950's. I used to go to meetings at Freedom Hall and would write letters to the Times. I had a couple of letters published. I was active in the cause just a year or two and then there were too many fringe organizations that became involved and attended the meetings. I decided that the John Birch members were too extreme, so I stopped attending.

Someone in Westchester built a bomb shelter and there was a lot of talk about building bomb shelters. We did not build a bomb shelter. All we built were little huts and forts by Alan Farr.

[Thalis]

David, by the age of 12, was very active in the Church on his own. He took to it like a duck to water. Teresa and Alan loved MIA. Teresa started taking piano lessons in her teens and participated in some high school plays. David like to study in his room. The other children enjoyed rough housing and making lots of noise. Alan and David shared a bedroom together until I stopped having live-in help, then David moved into the maid's room. Alan and Jerry shared a room and got along well even though they were six years apart in age.



The Farrs - Christmas 1952

In 1951 we went to Sun Valley. Jerry was four years old. We went with David and Blanche Freed and their three daughters; Jasmine, Josephine and Jane. David Freed wanted to leave early in the morning. I felt we needed to have breakfast before we went any place. I got the children up practically in the middle of the night. We took them to a Chinese restaurant, which was the only place open, but they wouldn't eat anything. We went back to our motel and Jerry started taking his clothes off. I asked him what he was doing and he answered that he was going to bed.



Farr Family 1953

"What do you think we got up for?", I asked. He said, "To go to breakfast."

When I would complain about the work involved at Holiday Park, David Freed would say, "Just wait until we get to Sun Valley and you can rest, then you'll really have a vacation." We got to Sun Valley and David Freed had made reservations for us in the ski lodge. There was a wash basin and four bunk beds in each room. I took one look, sat down on one of the beds and started to cry. The men had left to fish. Blanche, who probably wouldn't have complained, saw how I felt and said, "I think I know somebody over at the lodge, let's go over and see what we can do." We went and were able to get better rooms. It turned out to be a very nice vacation. While there, a man from the L.A. Times took pictures of us in Sun Valley. We ended up in the Society Section of the L.A. Times.