(David)

We really have enjoyed being associated with the David Freed family at Holiday Park over the years. The Freed children - Jasmine, Jo and Jane were good companions for us Farr children at Holiday Park. We enjoyed riding their horses, having parties and doing the outdoor activities that come with staying in the mountains. I enjoyed fishing with Dad and Dave on trips to mountain lakes and to Dave's reservoir on his land near Coalville, Utah. We have kept up our relationship by seeing the Freeds when we are at Holiday Park. We enjoyed taking them to dinner recently and talking about our memories. After Dad's death, Dave lamented his passing and would say, "How many people can say that they have been friends with someone for seventy years like I was with Spence?" I have since gone fishing with David Freed, taking Alisa (my daughter) and Stuart (her husband) at times. I told Dave he had to be my surrogate father, since my dad had passed away.



The David Freed Family - 1980

[Spencer]

In 1951 a cub scout pack was being formed in Westchester. Thalis told me I had better get active

in it if I wanted the kids to do anything in scouting. David had been in scouting in the church group before that, but I had done nothing to help on it. He only attained the rank of Star. Bob Van Der Lohe was David's scoutmaster. I went to the organizational meeting and ended up Assistant Cub Master, and a week later was Cub Master. I truly enjoyed working with the kids, appearing before the kids and their parents and talking a little.



Spence and Scout Troup

Thalis was a den mother for Jerry in the Westchester Ward. I became acquainted with Lynn and Joy Johnson, as I wanted to get Gary Johnson into my scout troop in 1953. Lynn subsequently became the leader of the LDS troop and was an excellent scoutmaster. Eight or ten of the kids obtained the rank of eagle. Alan was one of the eight or ten that received an eagle when he was fourteen or fifteen years old.



Spence and Thalis with Alan and others at Eagle Ceremony

[Thalis]

I had been trying to figure out a way to get Spencer involved in church and so I thought scouting would be a perfect vehicle. When Alan turned 12 and wanted to become a boy scout, he would join the church troop. It worked out very well.

I helped Alan earn his badges. When Alan became a boy scout, Spencer became chairman of the committee. In 1955, when Jerry was 8, I

became den mother. We would have handicrafts and sit around the breakfast room table. I had six boys. After an hour or so of handicrafts they would go and play in the backyard. The kids loved it. They would go out and play ball and then I would serve them refreshments.



Spence remained in scouting 45 years and received numerous awards for scouting, including the Silver Beaver Award in 1968, one of the highest awards granted adults for service.

[Spencer]

In 1972 they asked me to head up the southwestern region of the Explorers. I did this for eight or nine years. I was difficult to replace. In 1955 I became active in the Rotary Club in El Segundo and became president of the rotary club there in 1958. I retired from the Rotary in 1965 when I began doing a fair amount of international travel and was not able to keep a perfect attendance.



Spencer receiving the Silver Beaver award - 1968

I rejoined the Los Angeles Rotary Club four years later in 1969 and eventually became a senior active member, which meant I didn't need to meet attendance requirements.

In 1960 I became involved in the United Way. I served as chairman of Region Four United Way for two years - 1978 and 1979.

[Thalis]

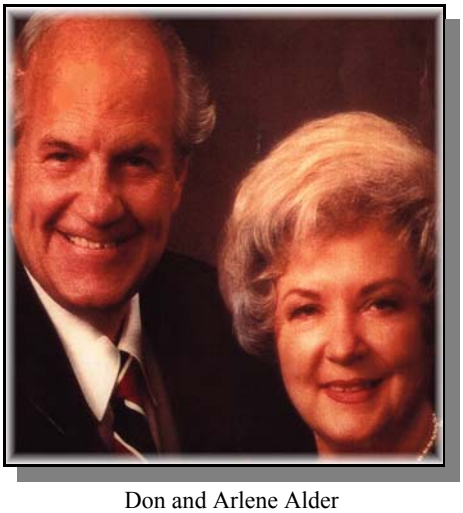
In the Westchester ward, Bishop Donald Barraclough was kind, gentle, understanding and easy going. It made Spencer enjoy going to church. If Bishop Barraclough had been a different kind of person, too gung-ho, or had tried to get Spence to be more religious or more active in the church, it would have driven Spencer away. He was the bishop for about 17 years, one of the longest tenures of any bishop. David had Mary Barraclough as a seminary teacher and he said that she was excellent and well-prepared.

[David]

I felt very close to the Barraclough family as Mary Barraclough taught my seminary class and Don Barraclough served as Bishop for so long. He was an excellent example as a leader and influenced me greatly in the Church. Dad served under Bishop Barraclough as finance clerk. Bishop Barraclough said Dad was the best finance clerk he ever worked with.



Farr Family 1956



Don and Arlene Alder

[Thalis]

Don Alder, one of the counselors, also made church attendance comfortable for Spencer and for the family. Everyone loved the members of the bishopric. Don Alder became a very dear friend. Teresa said that Arlene Alder, who was her seminary teacher for a year or so, was a great inspiration to her. She hated getting up to go to seminary, but Arlene inspired her to get up and have the strength to go. Much as she loved Arlene's teaching, she loved to confound her with all kinds of questions that were rising out of her doubting mind. Arlene would always rise to the challenge and

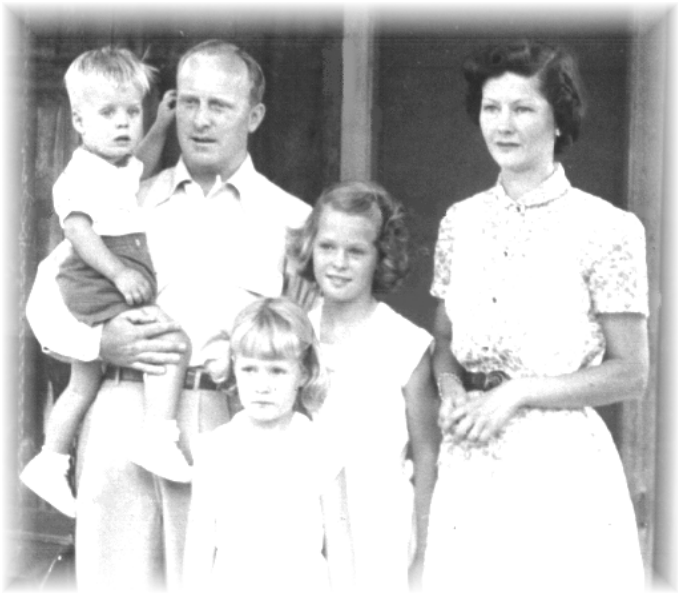


The Farrs - 1957
Alan, Teresa, Jerry, Spencer, Thalis and David

would go home and study some more and come back the next day and answer the questions that she hadn't been able to answer the day before. She was a very stimulating teacher and had an inquiring mind. Arlene was so hungry for education that she went to UCLA and earned a Sociology Degree; which inspired Teresa to get her degree in Sociology at UCLA.

[Spencer]

I remember Al Hardy being instrumental in purchasing the property where the Westchester Ward is now located. It was a very nice location with approximately two acres. Thalis and I helped work on the Ward building and we were helpful in building the scout house, which became part of the ward building. Al Hardy was in the bishopric.



The Al Hardy Family



The Farrs - Christmas 1956

[David]

I remember playing tennis and church softball with Al Hardy. He had always been a great athlete, although only 5'4" tall. I enjoyed fishing with Al at Holiday Park. The Hardy's owned a cabin right across the road from us. I remember hiking with Al over the mountain to Fish Lake, a grueling hike but shorter than going the Dry Lake Trail, which was 7 miles - 3 hours. Al was a great fisherman and more than once came back with an old fashioned limit of 30 fish.

I was sad to hear of Alan Hardy's death shortly after his 40th birthday, while playing golf in Ogden. The Hardy family had suffered from high cholesterol and heart disease, with Al losing two other brothers before him to heart related deaths.

I knew the Hardy children well in Westchester, as I babysat them and also through our association in Holiday Park. I have enjoyed seeing June Hardy Allred and her sister, Anne, mother of 13 children. June sings in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, so I occasionally see her singing on conference broadcasts or on satellite broadcasts of the choir.

[Spencer]

We made a lot of good friends in the Westchester Ward, but we were closest to Don and Arlene Alder and Joy and Lynn Johnson. Lynn died recently. The Johnson's moved to Escondido some years ago and we lost contact.

We were active in the Westchester Ward. I served as finance chairman for approximately two years. We attended church through the late 50's and early 60's up to the time the kids were grown. BaBa had taken David to church in the late 40's.

[Thalis]



Thalis Farr - 1957

Spencer had a mild heart attack when he was 43. He had experienced some pain in his arms. He went to the hospital without telling me about it. I found out when he called me from the hospital. I didn't worry about it very much, because he sounded like he was okay. He was away from work for a month. In the long run I feel it was a blessing in disguise because he spent more time with the family. He didn't feel he needed to be working 16 hours a day anymore. The quality of our lives improved. He quit smoking and I didn't know until a week after. He stopped, just like that. He said he always knew he would quit smoking when he had really good incentive. I thought that was a wonderful thing, too.

[Spencer]

In 1956 we went to Honolulu with the Allens. It was our first trip and it was a lovely trip. BaBa was sixty-eight at that time and we asked her to come up to Arizona Avenue and take care of the children. I didn't realize what an awful burden we were putting on her until I got to be sixty-eight myself. It made me shudder to think of what I would have done had I been asked to take care of three children. David was attending Brigham Young University. Jerry was only nine.



Dick and Spencer Farr Families - 1957
Dick, Richard, David, Alan, Spencer
Thalis, Susan, Linda, Marty
Teresa, Carol, Julie, Jerry

[Thalis]

Alan liked a girl in Westwood Ward that he had met when he had been visiting Judy Matsen. One night, while we were in Hawaii, he hitched a ride over there and couldn't get a ride back. He walked all the way home from Westwood (10 miles) in the middle of the night. It wasn't as dangerous in those days as it was

later. BaBa never even knew about it.

[Teresa]

Alan was really popular with the girls. My bedroom was next to his, and when he was a teenager he showed me an escape route that he was creating in his closet. We had built-in shoe racks, and he had sawed a very fine line at the side of the shoe rack, so he could lift it off and get under the house to the sub-floor. I think he was planning to sneak out to visit girls in the night. He ran into some sort of drainpipe under the house though, and never could make it out.



The Farrs - 1960

[Spencer]

Jerry was a beautiful child. I believe he was the most beautiful of any one of the four children. He was very sensitive about the family. I didn't realize until later that some times when Thalis and I were out, he would wait up for us, concerned that we wouldn't return. When we went to Honolulu in 1956, he was very unhappy to be left home at that time.



Jerry at 5

The oldest child, for some reason, seems to take on most of the responsibility. Dave, as a child, used to keep to himself a fair amount. He had a room of his own and by the time that he was twelve he knew that he wanted to go on a mission. He was very dedicated and much more religious than any of the other children. He was very quiet and the only time he ever gave us any real concern was when he and David Salisbury went to Mexico one night.

[Thalis]

David had gone to a church party when he was 16, and we had been out, too. When we came home he wasn't there. It was so unlike David. I went a little crazy, not knowing where he was. We called

the Salisbury's, as David had been out with David Salisbury. They didn't seem to be worried. I didn't sleep all night. The next morning, David called me from Mexico.

[Spencer]

David had left a message on the bed as to where he was going, but David Salisbury had seen it and tore it up because he thought we would send the highway patrol after them. I called Tom Redden, who was in the police department at that time, to see how we could trace him.

[Thalis]

In September of 1956 David left for Brigham Young University. It was a wrench to have my first child leave home for the first time.

In 1957 we put in a pool and cabana. We'd had such a good time in Hawaii, I wanted to go back the next year, but decided I'd rather have a pool.



Farr Family at Holiday Park 1957

Before putting our pool in, we all learned to swim at Bill and Jane Bailey's pool next door. My brother-in-law Val Burke, tried to do a back flip at the Bailey's pool and came down on the board, injuring his ankle severely. He walked with a limp ever after. I remember his son, Michael, jumping in the pool to rescue him, crying out "Dad! Dad!"

The Baileys had three children; Jeannette, Susan and Bobby. Bobby was killed as he darted into the street behind a parked car and was hit by the owner of an auto repair shop, Ashton & Leigh. I witnessed it and rushed out and covered up Bobby with a blanket. David was in his room and heard the screech of tire and impact. Jerry was in the kitchen and also heard the screech and impact. Jerry ran to Bobby, finding him already dead. I discovered later that Bobby had made a pact with Jerry that he would run across the street without looking. Jerry told me later that Bobby would often dash across the street without looking as a dare. Bobby was six, just six months older than Jerry. Teresa was friends with their middle child, Susan. Later, their daughter Jeannette died in a car accident with her boyfriend. To top it off, someone ran a red light and killed Susan's husband and badly injured her. The Bailey's moved after

Bobby's death to Palos Verdes. They kept in touch. (Bill and Jane were at Spence's funeral in 1996.)

We lived in our home on Arizona Avenue from April of 1949 to 1973. Westchester was a wonderful place to raise the kids. There were a lot of young families there and we were very active in the Westchester ward. It was a very warm and loving ward.



Spencer Farr - Duck Hunting approx. 1955

[Spencer]

We owned the largest house around and our home was used a great deal for ward parties, for swimming parties and for the Farr Family parties. We would also always have a party right around June 16th for BaBa's birthday. We had the swimming pool and just outside of that a badminton court and basketball court. Beyond that we had about 7,000 square feet of lawn where the kids played a lot of their games.

[Thalis]

We did have wonderful parties there and wonderful family reunions. We put in a garden again and had an apricot tree, a pineapple guava tree, an avocado tree and a couple of peach trees. Teresa learned to love peaches ever after. The pool made our backyard a wonderful resort-like place. It was great because the kids didn't play in the streets. Spence had been the only one who hadn't wanted the pool. He ended up using it the most. He always had to get his money's worth out of everything. They started digging the pool in January 1957, after a lot of rain and the caterpillar getting mired in the mud. It took longer than anticipated to complete. It was 18 x 40 feet. Many friends and relatives enjoyed the pool.

We entertained business people quite often at home. We also had big church parties at our home. We had a lot of parties with the Elder's Quorum.

In the 50's we went on a lot of hunting trips with other couples: Alex and Carolyn Kerr, Wally and Jerry Hunt, Don and Carolyn Warner, Jeanne Crane, the movie actress and her husband. This continued

for several years. We went on Dove, Pheasant and Duck hunting trips in California, Idaho, Oregon and Arizona.

[Spencer]



I had done a little hunting in Utah, at the age of 18. When I came to Los Angeles, I found there was no place to hunt. Wally Hunt, Thalis' brother-in-law, was a hunter and I would go duck hunting with him occasionally. In the early 50's we went pheasant hunting in Idaho with the Hunts and several other couples. I joined a duck club in 1950 in Palmdale. In 1953 I moved to a club in Bakersfield and joined with Alex Kerr. Alex owned 75% and I owned 25%. We were there for several years. Alex bowed out after two or three years and I got some of my friends to help and we made payments for a few years.



I joined the Beverly Hills Club and then finally, in 1970, joined the Ventura County Game Preserve Association in Oxnard, which was only 50 miles from home. It was an interesting club and a very good duck club. I didn't care for rifle shooting and so never cared to hunt big game. I enjoyed Upland game and duck hunting very much. In 1960 I joined a club in Simi Valley that Bruce Strathern had started. The Strathern family had purchased 12,000 acres in 1895. Bruce took over 6,000 acres of it to build a club where he planted pheasant and chukkar. There were also rabbit and quail. In fact, the excellent quail hunting there, was the reason I joined. Later on, Tom Williams put in a flight of Mallard. Oftentimes, I would take customers out where they could have an array of birds to hunt. The whole family went with me on occasion. I remember going to Tom's place once, after he had separated from Bruce and had a small place of his own. The boys and I went quail hunting and really had a great day. We got over 30 birds. The boys 'skunked' me, but it was a lot of fun.

[David]

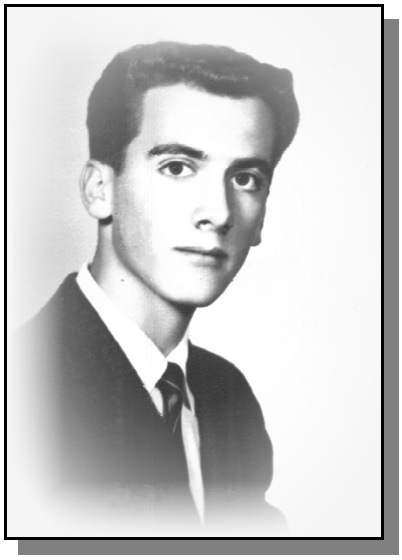


1961 - David, Alan, Teresa and Jerry

I can remember hunting with Dad at his Bakersfield Duck Club and on Don Warner's ranch off the ridge route. To hunt at Bakersfield, we came in the night before, slept in a motel and then got up at 4:00 a.m. for breakfast and a cold ride and walk to the duck blinds, so we could be ready for the flights of ducks coming into land on the ponds liberally stocked with feed. It was always a challenge to bring down a duck, as you would have to lead the duck a certain number of feet, depending on how high he was. It was important to have follow-through so you didn't stop your gun and miss the bird.

We hunted quail, chukkar and dove on various California ranches owned by friends of Dad. Once, I invited Dad to hunt down on Avery Ranch with Jim Giddings, a friend of mine and equipment manager for the ranch. We hunted quail, a little nervously, as the Giddings boys hunting with us were not real careful with their shotguns.

[Alan]



Alan Farr 1959

In the spring of 1958, Dad drove home a beautiful 1953 88' Oldsmobile hardtop convertible for me. We had been looking for a car for several months. I was 16-years-old at the time. I remember Dad wanted me to buy Tony Allen's 1954 Chevrolet, which was for sale, but I didn't like it. So when he drove home this Olds, I instantly fell in love with it. I remember him saying, "Well, Al, what do you think of this one?" Knowing full well I would be enthralled with it. I loved his sense of humor. I was so thrilled and excited I almost wet my pants. Anyway, I had to show my girlfriend, Karen Edwards, right away. So I drove out towards her house and spotted her walking home from school. I drove up alongside her and slowed down and just drove at her pace for a short distance. She didn't look over at me because she didn't recognize the car and probably thought some guy was just trying to pick her up. After

about a minute of this, I called her name and she looked over at me. She got very excited when I told her this was my new car.

The car cost $1,600 and Dad had me pay half. I had earned the money by working around the house, mowing lawns and painting the fence. I really loved that car, but had to sell it in 1961 when I got married.

[Thalis]



Building new cabin in Holiday Park

Most of our trips and vacations were spent going to Holiday Park. When I went to Holiday Park for the first time, it brought back memories of Parker, Idaho. At Holiday Park we had a coal stove and a boiler on the stove. We had to boil drinking water. We took our baths in a round galvanized tub and used an outhouse. We weren't able to go very often during the war, but afterwards we went almost every summer. It was hard work to get ready to go. It wasn't easy taking four children across the hot desert without air-conditioning. When we arrived at Holiday Park it was even more work trying to keep house in the old cabin with a coal stove and outdoor plumbing. Every year I would say, "I won't come back again." Every year, around April, the family would start working on me and I would give in and we would go again. I was particularly happy in 1959 when electricity was brought in. We planned to build a new cabin with all the modern conveniences.

We had some wonderful times up at Holiday Park. We went with Dick's family in 1956 and had a great time. That was the year we decided to build a new cabin. Spence and Dick decided to build a cabin together, but I said "no" as I had seen the conflicts caused by sharing cabins with other families.

[Alan]

The summer of '57 or '58 Dad asked Rich and I if we wanted to help build the new cabin the following summer. I was thrilled, finally a real building project. We got started in 1959 and I was in my element. It turned out that Rich wasn't that fond of hard work, so he hated it. I had a great time. But in

September I was riding one of the Freed's horses, Joker, bareback and shirtless, and got thrown. I had to go home to recuperate. While at home, a friend of mine, Bud, brought a girl over to my house. That was when I met Jeanette.

[Thalis]

On Labor Day, 1959, I went up to Holiday Park with Teresa, Jerry and my nieces, Carol and Julie Farr. The cabin was to be built out of concrete block by Harold Wild. We were paying him $2.50 an hour and after two months had passed we went to Holiday Park, thinking we would be able to move into



Farr Family and Friends at Holiday Park - 1960
L to R: Robin, Bob and Maxine Williams, Alan, Richard, Julie, Carol,
Betty Small and son, Susan, Dick, BaBa and Thalis

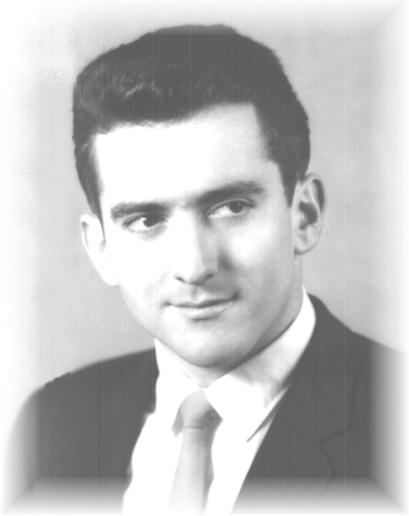
it. To my intense disappointment, I saw that the cabin walls were only up about 4 or 5 feet. We never did get into the cabin that Summer. We stayed in the old cabin, which was difficult with all the children. Spence was very disappointed when he finally came up. We stayed as long as we could and worked on the cabin. We arrived home just in time for the kids to get into school in the middle of September 1959. By the time we left it was all closed in but it wasn't complete inside. The total cost of the cabin was $20,000. The builder had made so many mistakes that things were delayed. Someone was there all Summer to work on the new cabin.

Dick's cabin in Holiday Park was built by Harold Nielsen and was completed in 1962. Within the next two or three years, Dick had an open house. Wayne Ewing was there and there was talk about going on an elk hunt. I expressed a desire to join them and Harold Nielsen said he would like to as well. We went with a group of 8 or 10 people, including my brother Dick, Wayne Ewing, Harold Nielsen and Wayne Ewing's two twin brothers, Ted and Ned. Roy Rogers also joined us. It was the first time that I had met Roy Rogers. One of the men from the Sante Fe Railroad, Tom Blickle, was there as well.



Roy Rogers and Spence

Our guide turned out to be an alcoholic and didn't do a very good job. The first night out he didn't provide tents and it was raining. We just put our sleeping bags under a big canvas. He was always late. We traveled to about 9,000 feet and found a beautiful, beautiful spot. We were right on the edge of Yellowstone Park. I went down into the park and fished one day and enjoyed that. However, I never got a shot at an elk and was glad because I don't know what I would have done with it if I had gotten one. We decided that we would go over to Fish Hawk Pass. The guide didn't want us to take the horses there and we realized later why. It was a very dangerous spot. Once we got to the top of the pass, I saw a little chunk of wood about 6-8 inches long, 2 inches wide and an inch thick. I thought, "By golly, some wood chopper has been up here". I got off my horse and looked at it and it was a piece of petrified wood. Then I saw a fallen tree that was about 30 feet long and all the roots were intact. It must have been 12 to 15 inches in diameter and it was a petrified tree. It makes you wonder how many hundreds of thousands of years before, this tree had been submerged in the ocean and then subsequently from earthquakes and upheavals, here it was out on top of this Fish Hawk pass at about 11,000 feet.



David Farr - 1958

As we went down the other side, the trail was so steep that we had to lead the horses down. I remember looking back up and saw Dick

right behind me leading his horse. He must have been 20 feet above me. It was almost a 45 degree angle. If one of those horses had slipped or fallen it really could have caused a lot of damage. As a matter of fact one of the pack horses that we had, after we had traveled over the pass and were riding along a slope that was about a 45 degree angle, dropped part of its pack on a log as it stepped over. A canvas flap on the pack came loose and it made the horse fall. The horse rolled down about 100 feet, just end over appetite. When the wrangler went down to the horse, I really thought that I would hear a shot, that the horse would have been killed. Nothing was broken. We had some fishing rods on top of the pack, even those were intact. Nothing in the pack was broken at all. The boys had a case of whiskey in the pack, none of that was hurt, but there was one bottle that was partially open that was broken, but that was all that was damaged in that pack.

[Thalis]

I suffered when David went on his mission. When he had gone away to school in 1956, it had been a wrench, but we were going on a trip to Hawaii right afterwards, so that helped. I saw him once in a while, too. When he went on his mission in 1958 to the Northwestern States, it was for two years without seeing him. He wasn't too far away and we did telephone him once in a while. My father passed away about a month after David left on his mission. He was 87 and died of heart failure.



The Farrs 1961 - Teresa, David, Alan and Jeanette
Thalis, Jerry and Spencer

Alan went out for track in his last year of High School. He had been too interested in girls up until then. He won the 70 yard high hurdles with a fine 10.1 second time in a meet against San Pedro. His class was the first to graduate in the new Westchester High School in 1959. They called themselves the Premieres. Alan had his first date, with Jeannette Cooper, on graduation night. They dated that Fall and started going together when they were at BYU. They married in 1961. Alan went into the army reserve in 1960. He went in for six months service. We visited him in March of that year while he was at Fort Ord in Monterey.

[Spencer]

We tried to dissuade Alan from getting married because he was so young, but he would pay no attention to us. They were married in Las Vegas. They divorced after 20 years of marriage.

[Thalis]

Teresa graduated from Orville Wright Junior High in June of 1960. She was a good student. She was in the high school choir, sang in the musicals and was very active in the music department. Later Teresa went on to college at BYU, but this really was not the school for her. She was very rebellious, and not very active in the Church. She got into some trouble there and eventually came home and finished college at UCLA, getting a degree in Sociology.

With some of the problems that we had, it seemed to me that things were falling apart. I was also going through menopause. I got through my trials by praying a lot.

I served in homemaking in Relief Society, where I taught the sisters how to do flower arrangements. At one time, after all the children had left home, I thought of having a flower shop. I discarded the idea when I realized that I would be busy at all the times I wouldn't want to be - on all of the holidays.



Farr Family 1963: Spencer, Teresa, Alan and Jim, Jeanette, Thalis and Alison, Patricia, David, Gerald

Before David went on his mission he had managed to stay uninvolved with girls, but when he came

home from his mission he was interested in finding someone. He attended all the inter-stake dances and
finally met Pat LeSueur in November of 1962. He liked her immediately. When he brought her home to meet us, we thought she was a very sweet and attractive girl. We liked her. I thought it was about time David settled down. He was 24 and I was happy about him getting married. David always tried to do everything right.



Dave & Pat's Wedding Day
Spence, Pat, Dave, Thalis

[Spencer]

We were increasingly active in church and in 1962 Thalis and I were married in the temple and three children, excluding Alan, were sealed to us at that time.



Thalis 1962

Alan graduated from UCLA and received his masters in Production Management some time after he was married. Jerry had just two years at Santa Monica College and didn't want to finish any more education.

[Thalis]

We often socialized with business contacts. We went to Europe for the first time in 1962. After that, the Farr Company organized a partnership with the Germans. Our first grandchild, James Spencer Farr, was also born in 1962 to Alan and Jeanette. They were awfully young, so we, along with Jeanette's mother, helped them out for the first few years. Alison was born the following year, and Michael was born to David and Pat in 1964. So within a couple of years, our house started filling with grandkids.

My mother died in January of 1963, of heart failure, after an illness of several months. She was 85. In March of 1963 we went to Mexico and took Teresa.

[Spencer]



We joined the Los Angeles Country Club in 1965. Before that I had never played any golf to speak of. We were too busy raising a family and trying to make a living and I realized that I just didn't have the time or the money. Over the years I tried to get Thalis interested in various hobbies and was unsuccessful in hunting or fishing, which were my main hobbies.

After we joined the Country Club she wouldn't play there for about three years. She played at the public courses until she finally got enough confidence and joined the women's auxiliary at the Country Club. We both enjoyed golf and it was something we could do together as we grew older. We didn't play very well, but it gave us a chance to get out, enjoy the outdoors and socialize with friends. The Los Angeles Country Club became the center of our activities. I joined a golfing group of 50 members called "The Unplayable Liars", within the country club. I also joined a couple of outside organizations - The Southern California Seniors and the Terrible Twenties. Each of these three organizations met once a month for a golf game, so there were at least three golf games that I had scheduled during a month.



Thalis and Spencer - 1961



Spence and Thalis
Carmel 1974

[Thalis]

One night Jerry brought a girl he had been dating home to meet us. Sandy was black, and it was a shock for us. Spencer told Jerry to end the relationship or he would take him out of the will. Jerry replied sarcastically, "Oh, I'll break up with her tomorrow". Dave went to Jerry's apartment to try to smooth things out. It didn't do any good. Dave and Pat decided to have Jerry and Sandy over. They had just seen a movie starring Sidney Poitier, "Guess who's Coming to Dinner", about a black person invited to dinner by his white girlfriend, and so they were joking about "guess who's coming to dinner" all night before the dinner. Finally she came and they liked her. She was very pretty and they had a nice visit. I think Jerry met Sandy at college in the San Fernando Valley. Later, he asked her to marry him and gave her an engagement ring and they bought a car together. They eventually broke up and Jerry later told us he probably wouldn't have gone with her as long as he did if his Dad hadn't tried to forbid it.

[Teresa]

I was so irritated with Dad's rebuff of Sandy, that I wouldn't spend Thanksgiving with Mom and Dad. Instead, I spent it with Jerry and Sandy at her mother, Ruth's house. It certain was different than we were used to, but we had a really great time.

[Thalis]

Teresa and Jerry went to college when the Vietnam War was on. They, like a lot of college kids, were very much against the war and they had very liberal ideas. They would argue with Spencer and he would get very upset. I tried to listen to them, although I didn't agree with them. I felt we couldn't become estranged from them, we had to listen to them. We were not very thrilled when they went out working for George McGovern and his campaign for the presidency.

[Teresa]

The Vietnam War was a huge issue to our generation. Our parents had lived through wars that meant something to them personally. This war was not our war. We knew McGovern didn't have a chance against Nixon, but we supported him because he was going to end the war. I wanted to get out of L.A. and decided to move to Salt Lake. We had heard that the draft board in Salt Lake wasn't as tough as the one in Los Angeles, so Jerry moved with me.

Guys were going to all extremes to avoid going to Vietnam. They went to Canada, got letters from psychiatrists saying they were crazy, took drugs, or went to prison. I was really worried about Jerry, but when his draft number was finally called, he didn't pass the physical because he had a pilanodal cyst. I was really relieved.

[Thalis]

In 1972, when all the kids had left home we decided that we would like to move out of Westchester and closer to the Los Angeles Country Club. I decided that Cheviot Hills would be a nice location because it was near the Santa Monica and the San Diego freeways and the Los Angeles Country Club. Spence was still working, so he could get to the office easily. I started looking with the help of Helen Meigs who was the chief realtor in that area and a friend of mine. I had played golf with her. For six months we looked at houses. I had been looking for a smaller house because I thought that was what we wanted. Everything that we showed Spencer, he hated. He wasn't really that enthused about moving.



Spencer - fishing in 1973