Thalis showed amazing strength of character. She didn't mope around after Spencer's death. She started expressing herself a lot more than she did when he was alive, he being more dominant. The family really got a kick out of her new found independence. Teresa and Jerry both were concerned about how she was doing, expecting her to go through a greater adjustment and sense of loss. It didn't seem to happen. Nor did a great fountain of tears pour forth. Thalis never had been very emotional. One day Jerry called her to find out how she was. She replied, "Fine, but I don't have any time to talk to you right now." Everyone was thrilled to see her so full of life.



Thalis with Alan and Carol at Bookworm's Ball 1996

In February 1996, Alan, Carol, Teresa, John, Pat and David attended the Bookworm's Ball with their mother, which was held at the Bel Air Country Club. It was a lovely dance with a good dinner. Thalis really enjoyed herself, dancing with her sons and other friends of hers that attended. Dr. Nemathy, an 80 year old retired medical doctor, danced with Pat, Carol and several other younger women, swinging them vigorously around the floor.



Memorial Service for Spencer in Holiday Park
Jerry, Dave Freed, Thalis, Alan, Teresa and David

Thalis and her kids went through Spencer's personal belongings, dividing them up to cherish and take home. It was kind of a sad event, realizing he was gone and would no longer use the guns and other items they sorted through. All of her children were paying Thalis attention and seeing her as regularly as possible. She really appreciated being able to remain in her home. John and Teresa were the most diligent in giving her attention, often going to her house on Friday's and staying through the weekend. When she and John can't get there, Teresa made sure her mother was looked after by calling her brothers, Jane and others to be sure she was not neglected. The gratitude to Teresa and John for their outstanding service in this regard was felt by everyone.

David took Thalis to see her sister, Erma, the oldest of the surviving children of Henry Somes and Mary Jane Jackson and the healthiest. Thalis has helped Erma out by having her housekeeper, Vicky, shop for Erma and give her rides to different places. Thalis wanted to hire a housekeeper for her so she could remain in her home for as long as possible. Thalis was very generous and especially helpful to her niece, Jane Jackson and her children. She helped them get through school and helped in other ways that they needed. She prefers to help people she knows rather than just leaving money to charity at her death.

Thalis attended some church with David's family, but had a hard time getting through the three hour block of time. Once she got a real good sleep in David's Sunday school class while he was teaching. David felt if you can't instruct, then at least allow participants to get a good rest!

David had spent a lot of time organizing Spencer's financial affairs, files and other data in his office so he could act in his official capacity as the trustee of his parent's trust. Jerry looks after the family real estate ventures and Alan handles the Holiday Park Trust and cabins up the Weber River. It is a good team effort. They sold some Farr Company stock for a handsome profit and purchased property in Sacramento for a good buy which was later sold at a nice gain, thanks to Jerry's efforts. They have had a number of meetings with Jerry Larson, concerning estate planning, discussing how they could further reduce estate taxes.

Thalis began to step out financially, doing things she wanted to do for years but was held back by Spence's reluctance. She had new heating and air conditioning installed and remodeled her kitchen. Not to be slowed up, she had Jerry purchase a condo in Park City that she always wanted for the family. Unfortunately, due to health problems, she wasn't able to use it very much and so in 1999 it was sold. It turned out to be a poor investment. She bought a new Buick Park Avenue after seeing one at the Auto Show in the downtown convention center. Her latest project was to add a sun room to her porch and redo her front and back yard in attractive brick and landscaping.



The Farrs in Maui 1996

A trip had been considered before Spencer's death to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in June 1996. They were going to go to Hawaii with their children and spouses. Thalis



Maui - 1996 Thalis and family snorkeling trip

wanted to go ahead with the trip, so the family went in October 1996 instead and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

They stayed at the Kea Lani Hotel on beautiful Maui. The whole family rented a sail boat for the day and went snorkeling along the shores of Maui. It was very enjoyable for everyone. They had a great time eating dinner together and hanging out, and all got along together very well. Thalis, John, Teresa, Alan and Carol went for a Sunday ride to Hana, on the other side of the island, where Thalis and Spencer had first visited 40 years prior. They also enjoyed going to a Luau at Kaanapali Beach at the Marriott Hotel, where a toast was offered to Spencer and Thalis's long and successful life together.



Farr Family 1996
Alan, Teresa, Thalis, David and Jerry

Much of this life history has been based on taped interviews with Spencer and Thalis at Flathead Lake Lodge, a tradition which began in 1985. The family returned to the Lodge in 1996, their first year without Spence. It was a little bit sad for everyone that year without him. The owners of the Lodge, Doug and Maureen Averill, had a bear made in honor of Spencer, out of a large piece of hardwood. It was carved by a chainsaw and burned by a blowtorch, and a plaque on the Bear reads "In Memory of Spencer Farr". Thalis and the rest of the family were all very moved by the Averill's acknowledgment of Spencer.



Thalis with Dave Clark and Bear Memorial

With Spencer's usual foresight he had set up a special fund to enable the family to continue the annual reunions, as long as they choose to go.

Thalis always loves to have her family visit, so it was with happiness that she had Stephanie stay with her for a few days to work on her photo albums in March 1997. Sunday David, Pat, Stephanie and her girls went to meet Thalis at the LA Country Club, where they enjoyed brunch. Ciera and Brianna were so cute and quite the center of attention as many club members stopped to say something to them. David and Pat stayed overnight with and then departed for Disneyland the next day with their granddaughters. Stephanie stayed with her grandmother for three days. She worked on Thalis's photo album, bringing that up to date. Thalis took Stephanie to a Scout event with LA radio personality, Dennis Praeger, speaking.



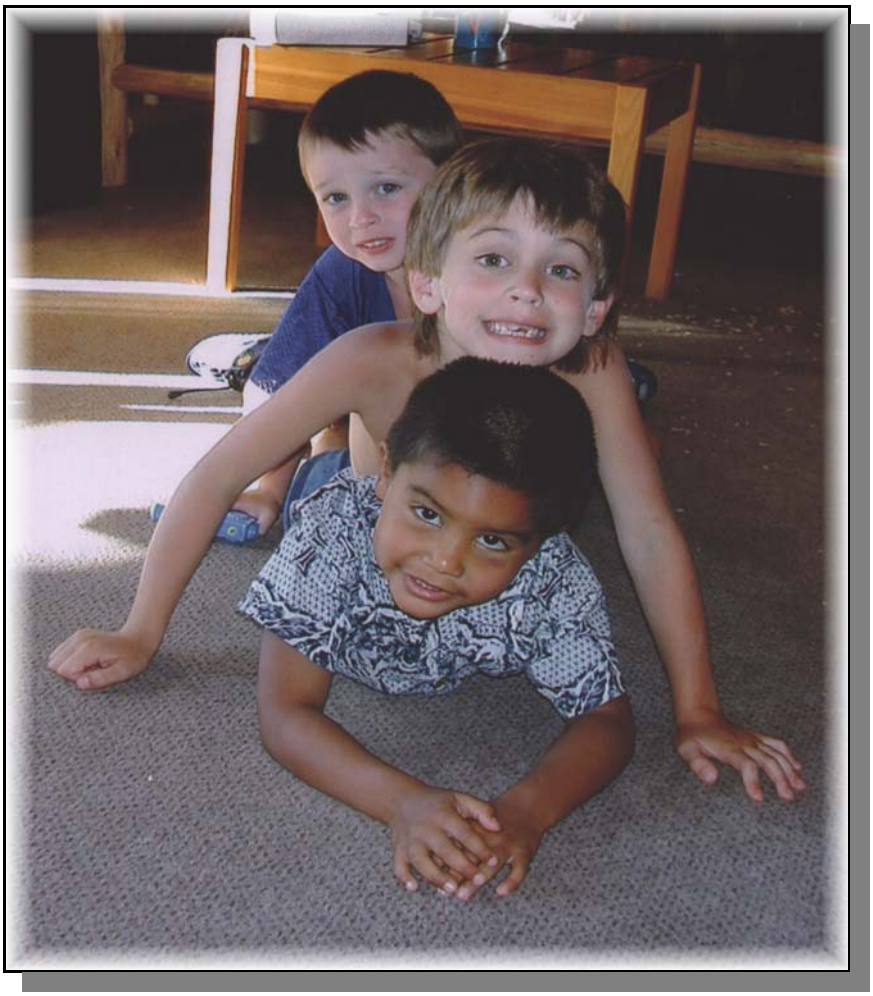
Frances Burke, Spencer's sister, died in April 1997 after a long and painful illness. David took his mother to a reception of family and friends in honor of Frannie.

Thalis was staying very busy. In October 1997 Carol and Alan took her to Sedona. They stayed at an Inn near a river. They took a train ride and drove to the South Rim. Across the rim, Thalis was able to see the Inn where she had stayed on a

trip she had taken with Spence. She quite enjoyed herself as it reminded her of that trip.

Unfortunately, Thalis suffered from ill health in 1997 and had an attack of shingles which never really subsided. She called and asked David to come to her house, as the shingles were causing her great pain. She was in tears from the pain. As his mother rarely complained, David knew this was for real. He spent the day obtaining medicine, getting a wheelchair delivered and enlisting the aid of the Relief Society in visiting her regularly to keep her spirits up. Her visiting teacher, Elizabeth Tanner, took her to see a neurologist the next day.

Her poor health continued as Thalis began to spend some time in the hospital with respiratory problems. Her heart stopped once, for a short period, until a nurse applied an electric stimuli to get it started again. During this time of difficulty she received a lot of help from family and especially from her Philippine housekeeper, Victoria Ruiz. Vicky was a real godsend to Thalis and the family. She took care of the home and Thalis and drove her around to various appointments. She is a very cheerful person and makes it possible for Thalis to stay in her own home in her advancing years.



Cousins at Flathead
Jack Farr, Evan and Alex Brisker

One activity David really enjoyed with his mother was going to the L.A. Country Club to play golf. She would drive the cart while he played the game. She liked to get out and walk on the fairway for exercise when there was no one pressing them to move forward.

Once again, another great vacation in Montana with the usual visiting, sports, eating, rodeos, horseback riding, songfests, dancing and other activities associated with Flathead was enjoyed by all.

After Montana, many of the family went to Holiday Park where Ciera Boyd was to be baptized. Stephanie spent a couple of weeks at the cabin before and after Montana. They had planned Ciera's baptism there on Tuesday, August 4th. It was a challenge finding the right spot, but they finally



Ciera Boyd, Age 8



Carrying Thalis across the Weber

concluded that the right fork of the Weber with a little damned hole up over the bridge near Felts, and up the mountain and then down the trail to the spot was best. It was a logistical problem for Thalis as she couldn't walk over the little mountain and down the trail. A big Samoan friend of Jamey carried her across the river at the Felt's stable and sat her on a chair on the bank of the river just across from where Ciera was baptized. Two other men walked with him to make sure she didn't fall in or her carrier slip. She got quite a kick out of the whole operation. Great-Grandma was queen for a day and Ciera, the princess.

In December David got a call from Dave Freed saying that he had been baptized a Mormon at age 89. David asked him why he got baptized and he replied, "Because my family wanted me to." President Gordon B. Hinckley was in attendance, saying it was about time after waiting 80 years. Dave's youngest daughter, Jane, is married to President Hinckley's son, Dick. Dave said Spence had always encouraged him to get baptized and was always his special missionary in this regard. Some of the Farrs have enjoyed going with Dave to fish at his reservoir near Coalville. They had tremendous luck there catching and releasing some beautiful big rainbow trout.

In May 1999, David and Pat took Thalis with them for a visit to see the Boyd family in Texas. They really enjoyed being there. It was a little difficult for Thalis to get around. They took her wheel chair, but she didn't like to use it. David insisted on it when she was going to have to walk some

distance. At the Dallas Airport, Thalis decided she would walk to the restroom which was a lot further than she anticipated. David grabbed the wheel chair and began a hot pursuit to catch her. She didn't realize how far it was and was glad to see him with her wheels. She really enjoyed seeing her great grand-daughters on this trip.

Thalis has shown much independence since Spencer's death. At one point she was talking with her sons about scheduling their time at Montana and some of the conflicts they were having. David told her that he and Jerry had discussed it and had decided that they should do what their father had counseled. Thalis immediately said that what *she* thought counted now. Consequently, they went in opposition to what they thought Spencer would have done.



Farr Family 1997 at Flathead
Clockwise: Alisa, Sasha, Jana, Carol, Stuart, Teresa, Jamey, Jenna, David, Stephanie, Alison, Alex, Pat, Mike, Jim, Jerry, Tim, Mary Anne, Jack, Kaitlyn, Brianna, Evan, and Spence's empty chair

David's youngest son, Jason, returned from his two year mission in Ecuador on May 31st. Many relatives and some friends greeted him with hugs, tears, kisses and many signs and balloons. Thalis really enjoyed the various activities associated with his coming home. His first meal, naturally, was at In and Out Burger.

1999 was a busy planning year. The Thalis J. Farr Living Trust was set up, replacing Spencer's original trust so that Thalis could give more to the individuals she wanted to help and less to the various charities that had been named in Spencer's trust. Thalis has been a regular contributor to both



Thalis with Great Grandchild - Evan Brisker
Flathead Lake, Montana

the Farr and Jackson family history endeavors.

In October of 1999 David played golf with his mother at the country club. She drove him around in her cart and they quite enjoyed the north course with its secluded hills, trees and foliage. That night they showed Thalis's house to some experienced real estate agents, the Wilder's, who felt the home was worth about $1,200,000.

David and his family rang in the new millennium with Thalis in subdued fashion, with dinner at Black Angus. Later they watched the Times Square celebration in New York on television and enjoyed a pleasant sleep, free of crowds and commotion.

In April, Thalis's housekeeper, Vicky, orchestrated a celebration of her 89th birthday at Jerry and Jana's home. They combined this into a "Spring" birthday celebration and included Carol, Alison, Jason and Missy's birthdays. Many family including some cousins attended. It was an especially meaningful gathering as Thalis had been in the hospital six or seven times that year for congestive heart failure, and had come to a stark decision. Her cardiologist suggested open heart surgery to correct the condition, and gave her an 80% survival potential. She felt she would rather take the 20% chance of dying than spend the rest of her life in and out of the hospital. So it was a rather bittersweet party that all hoped was not to be a farewell party. Thalis gave away some of her jewelry to her daughter and daughters-in-law. David, Alan and Jerry drew for their dad's college graduation ring. David won. The ring had been given to Spencer by his Aunt Ethel when he graduated from USC. Alan said David should have it as he was the one that says 'no' now.


Cousins Kaitlyn Farr, Alex Brisker, Jack Farr and Evan Brisker at Flathead, Montana

Surgery was scheduled for April 16th. Stephanie and Ciera flew into town to see Thalis before her surgery. Everyone was pretty leery of Dr. Levine's recommendation to do open heart surgery on an 89-year-old. The morning of the operation Thalis's family sat in the waiting room anxious for hourly updates from the nurse. To everyone's relief, she ultimately came through it quite well. And luckily the tests for stroke came out negative. She is an



Thalis 1998

amazing person, having survived breast cancer, Guillian-Barre, shingles and now heart disease.

The family thought Thalis's travels would be limited from this time forth, but she made the trip that summer to Montana, and even spent some time at the cabin at Holiday Park. She did, however, get a wake-up call in the Fall, when her refusal to use a walker caused her to take a spill that landed her in the hospital. She got quite bruised up and broke her finger. She put her pride aside and began using her walker and cane after this incident.

With the perilous condition of the American family today, with divorce and family break-up so common, Spencer and Thalis Farr showed exemplary family values. They endured through thick and thin for which their children were very thankful.

Spencer was a unique blend of high accomplishment, engaging personality and a temperament that could blow in like a sudden storm on a calm day. He was always interested and supportive of his family, although working long hours in building a business. David remembers him showing up at his various sporting events and in particular, coming home from a Junior Legion baseball game which his team had lost in a close contest. David was tearful and remembers feeling his father's reassuring hand on his shoulder.

Thalis was the calming force when Spencer would 'lose his cool'. She said less, but had a great effect on her children by her loving, uncritical nature. She truly is a person without guile. She is non-judging, agreeable and accepting of all those who know her. That didn't mean that you didn't know where she stood. Always a person with high principles and morals which were exemplified more by her actions than by words.

Her patience was like Job's. It had to be with Spencer's sometimes stormy self and her children's trying years of growing up. David remembers being gone overnight to Mexico one time without his parent's knowledge. There can't possibly be a more trying feeling than not knowing where your children are for an extended period of time. When David returned home from his adventure, his mother did not rebuke him. She was just so glad to see he was safe and sound. To see that she had suffered in his absence and that he was the cause, was punishment enough.

Thalis was supportive of her children in their various sporting, school, scouting, church and

musical activities. Music lessons were a complete flop for her three sons, but a great success for Teresa. As the generations have grown, Thalis has been interested and supportive of in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Farr Family 1997 - Flathead, Montana

She was always supportive of Spencer in their many activities. They had a wonderful life of family, business, service and social life together. They had a loving marriage, in spite of storms. Spencer was always grateful for Thalis's "Jackson" roots that were so exemplified in her loving, uncomplaining nature. Spencer had passed through turbulent family seas as he was growing up and so appreciated the steady anchor Thalis supplied in their marriage.

Her silent but strong traits surfaced even more when Spencer died. She enjoyed making certain financial decisions that he had held her back from while he was alive. She relished this new independence and showed great strength in establishing herself apart from Spencer's sustaining influence. She missed his companionship, but proved her mettle in her new single status.

Thalis has gone through some painful and trying illnesses, but always showed her strength in overcoming them. She has always tried to show her independence from her attentive children, especially when they try to help too much. Even though she is unsteady on her feet, she is a determined lady. Sometimes her determination gets her in trouble, like when she decided to do some sit ups and at her advanced age, did 100 of them. Her legs and hips were in such great pain that her housekeeper, Vicky, had to take her to the emergency room. David wanted to call Ripley's Believe it or Not, or enter her in some kind of Olympic record book. Once the pain was gone, she and her whole family had a good laugh at that experience. Her spunk and 'true grit' at her age is an inspiration to her family and friends alike.

As this history comes to a close it is hoped that it will be of benefit to the Farr family in relaying the inspiring story of the two who made them all possible - Spence and Thalis Farr.