South Dakota, where they now reside and are retired. Earl is a Civil Engineer graduate of the University of Minnesota.

Lyla attended Huron College at Huron, South Dakota, and was a private secretary before her marriage. Lyla married Fred Wiemor, who was branch manager of National Films in Los Angeles, in the advertising section of the movie industry for that company. They have two sons and one daughter. Leon lives in Phoenix and Corrine and Steven in the San Diego and Los Angeles area. They have five grandchildren. Lyla and Fred are retired and live at San Marcos, California, a half hour’s drive from San Diego.

Delight, a graduate of Moorhead State University, and a teacher for a number of years, married Kenneth Tehven, an implement dealer from Hillsboro, North Dakota, where they lived for several years, until moving to Moorhead, Minnesota, where they have also been homemakers until his death in 1969. Delight lives in Moorhead and is retired.

Mrs. Albert Spokely died at the age of sixty-two in 1936, after being seriously afflicted with neuritis for a number of years.

Albert Spokely passed away at the age of seventy-two in 1946.

GULIK SPOKELY

Gulik Spokely was born in Fyresdal, Norway, June 12, 1842. His wife, Gunvor Heia, was born in Vinje, Norway, in 1847.

Gulik came to the United States in 1860 locating in Houston county, Minnesota, and there worked as a farm laborer.

Gunvor Heia came to the United States in 1861, also going to Houston county, Minnesota.

In 1870, Gulik and Gunvor were married in Houston county.

In 1871, the young couple came to Polk county, Minnesota by ox-cart.

Mr. Spokely squatted on a quarter section of land in a section not yet surveyed. The law was that such land had to be taken up on a pre-emption claim at $1.25 an acre, but he preferred to take his as a homestead, and he succeeded in doing so.

For two years they lived in a dug-out on the hillside, and he worked for other settlers as they had very little money. At the end of two years he put up a one-room log cabin and in that cabin they lived till 1913, when a new, quite roomy dwelling was built. Later on, this was replaced by another house, which still is on the Spokely farm. A large barn was built before the large home, taking the place of the log cabin. The first large house was home to all their twelve children.

When they were still living in the one-room log cabin, Jim Hill, the railroad builder, and a companion came while they were inspecting sites for the new railroad. They shared their meal, supper and breakfast with Jim Hill and his companion. It was necessary for them to sleep on the floor in the one-room cabin as there were no extra beds. No stranger was ever turned away from their door. Room and board was offered to anyone who came. It was not always a pleasant task for Mrs. Spokely to clean up after certain strangers had gone, as it was quite frequent that the strangers also had little creatures living on their bodies and in their hair.

However, Mrs. Spokely was a very kind and tolerant woman and always said, “Where there is heart room, there is house room.” On stormy, wintry nights a lighted candle was left on the window sill to guide any lost wayfarer.

In the large woods on their farm on the banks of the Red River there were numerous deer, bear, rabbits, wild berries, and the river was teeming with fish, goldeye and over twenty-pound catfish, etc. On the prairie there were numerous buffalo, from whose hides Mrs. Spokely made coats, robes, and coverings for beds, besides having the flesh of the animals to eat. Honey was also found in hollow tree trunks, their only supply of sweets until they were able to buy sugar from the Hudson’s Bay steamships that eventually came down the Red River from Winnipeg and established trading posts. The “Trading Post” which was nearest to them is what is now Caledonia, North Dakota.

Friendly Indians called on them the first Christmas Day. They lived in the dug-out, enroute farther south, seeming to know it was a special day.

Their first grain crop was hauled to Alexandria, Minnesota, by ox-cart.

Later on, Mr. Spokely bought eighty acres of railroad land adjoining his homestead with a rebate provision of $2.50 an acre when he should have sixty acres plowed, and an allowance of fifty cents more for every acre delivered in grain.

He broke up most of his land with his team of oxen.

He sold cord wood to the prairie settlers, worked in the north lumber woods, and was employed on the Red River boats going to Winnipeg and back.

Mr. and Mrs. Spokely took a great interest in school and church matters. They were one of the organizers of the Conference Church at Nelt.

Mr. Spokely’s mother, Haechi Heia, took a homestead south of the Spokely farm after being a drummer in the Civil War, for which he received a $15 pension a month for a number of years. That farm is now known as the Antone Paulsrud farm, bought by him in 1907. About a mile north of the Spokely farm another brother of Mrs. Spokely settled, using the name of Paul Simon.

Mr. and Mrs. Spokely celebrated their golden wedding in 1920 with a large crowd, surprising them at their farm home. Mr. Spokely died at the age of eighty-four and Mrs. Spokely was eighty-six. Neither one was ill or bedridden before their sudden deaths.

OSCAR VIGNES

Oscar Vigness was born February 6, 1892, at the home of his parents, east of Nielsville in Polk county. He was baptized at St. Petri Lutheran church in Nielsville and attended Prairie Queen school two and one-half miles from his home. In October, 1906, Oscar was confirmed in the Norwegian language at St. Petri Lutheran church. In 1930, Oscar married Olga Skale. They bought a farm three miles east and one mile north of Nielsville. They had two daughters and two sons: Betty, Jean, Palmer and Leo. Mrs. Vigness was a member of St. Petri Ladies Aid. She received a life-time pin. On January 7, 1973, Oscar Vigness passed away at the age of 80 years at Riverview Hospital in Crookston. Mrs. Vigness passed away March 8, 1974, at the Americana Nursing Home at Moorhead, Minnesota. They were preceded in death by their son Leo. Both Mr. and Mrs. Vigness were buried at St. Petri cemetery two miles south of Nielsville.

Betty Elaine Vigness was born at Crookston on December 23, 1930. She was the third grandchild of Borre and Bronda Vigness. Baptized on March 30, 1931, in 1937 she attended the little country school in district 19. In September, 1945, Betty was confirmed by Rev. Fristad at St. Petri Lutheran church in Nielsville. On May 25, 1949, she graduated from Climax High school, one of 38 seniors.

On June 30, 1950, Betty married Ervin Haugstad at the Lutheran church in Moorhead, Minnesota. They have a daughter, Kristine, and three sons: Kevin, Kim and Kurt. They made their home at Caledonia on a farm and in 1954 moved to Nielsville. Later they built a new home there. Ervin farmed with his father and Betty worked at Jiffy Fry at Crookston, Minnesota. In 1973, Betty and Ervin were divorced. Ervin remained living in Nielsville with his mother and Betty lives in her home at Nielsville with their three sons. Kristine lives in Fargo, North Dakota and works at the North West Computer Center located in First National Bank of Fargo. Kevin attends Climax High School and also works part-time at Red Owl of Crookston. Kim attends Climax High School and is a sophomore there. Kurt is a sixth grader at the Climax school.

Betty’s sister, Mrs. Earl (Jean) Thorson, lives at Cavalier, North Dakota. Her husband manages a Farmer Union Oil Station. They have a son David and a daughter Diane. Both are married.

Palmer Vigness lives at Grand Forks, North Dakota. He works as a plasterer. He is married to the former Jean Stromstad and has three sons and one daughter, Brent, Bryan, Jeffrey and Mary Beth, all at home.