

Lucy Chosa Lefto, the last surviving child of Henry Chosa and Clara Dufauld Chosa, died at her apartment in Huntington Park, California, on Friday, September 9, 2016, after a brief battle with cancer. She was 98 years old.

Lucy (Gay-zhee-ona-ma-doke) was born on 19 February 1918 at Basswood Lake, the seventh child of her parents. Like her siblings, she was educated in the Indian Boarding School system. This, of course, was long before computers existed, so businesses in those days used comptometers for managing revenues and expenses. Lucy became a skilled comptometer operator and spent her working life in the employ of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

During the early 1940s, in Minneapolis, she met and married Earl Lefto (1907-1975); the couple had no children together, but Lucy was always a kind and loving aunt to her many nieces and nephews and Earl a genial uncle or inlaw to his wife's relatives. During the 1950s the couple relocated to southern California, settling in Huntington Park in Orange County. After Earl's death in 1975, Lucy moved to a smaller apartment in the same city and spent the remainder of her life there. She had many friends, particularly among the other residents of the apartment building where she lived. She also kept in touch with her relatives and was able to return to northern Minnesota for an occasional visit.

During recent years, the infirmities of age caught up with Lucy, including virtual blindness after cataract surgery and a fall which broke her backbone but fortunately did not damage her spinal cord. She recovered, kept her spirits up, and did her best to enjoy her life.

In August of this year, Lucy was diagnosed with inoperable cancer; her last weeks were spent at home, where most of her care was provided by her loving long-term caregiver, Sofia Landeros, and by Sofia's family, who had often invited her to share their own holiday celebrations during her last years. We are especially grateful for the tenderness and dedication Sofia and her family showed in Lucy's last days, when they made sure that Lucy was always as comfortable as possible, and never left her alone.

In accordance with her wishes, Lucy's ashes came home to northern Minnesota and were laid to rest with

those of other family members. A private memorial service was led by her nephew Maurice Champagne.