

Art and Trish Rawson

Keeping "A Zero Bubble" for 50 years

by Neal J. Conway

Patricia "Trish" Rawson says that when she first met her husband of just a little over 50 years, he was "a shrinking violet." Now, Art Rawson is the kind of guy that everyone knows. When he helps Rock Creek Knights of Columbus sell raffle tickets outside St. Jane's, he makes sure that everybody rushing out at least takes a look. He is noted for moving newspapers closer to front doors on early morning walks, for his Hawaiian shirts and the various pins he always sports on his lapel. Even the U.S. President has noticed these pins, twice. In addition to his church and K. of C. activities, Art has been active in garden clubs and since his Roanoke, Virginia, youth, the Boy Scouts. In fact, for his service to Scouting, he received the St. George Medal from Bishop Corrada in 1995. Trish sang in the St. Jane's Choir for many of the 32 years the Rawson family has lived in the parish.

Take one look at Art and you'll say, "This guy was a sea captain!" and indeed he was, not only a sea captain but a U.S. Navy submarine captain for half of his Navy career, one of his commands being The USS Conger. His license plate proclaims that he graduated from The U.S. Naval Academy in 1942, a "Hail Columbia" of a time to begin a military career. Art attributes his early interest in the Navy to his aunt, Commander Sophie Deaterla who was Chief Nurse at a navy hospital. One of his accomplishments was sailing under the ice of the Bering Sea to determine if the proximity of Magnetic North would mess up a ship's compass. It did. Later in his career, he did duty with NATO, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Mediterranean Submarine Area and the Military Sea Transportation Service during Vietnam. Submarine service remains Art's favorite duty and he is active in submariner "alumni associations" as Trish is in Navy wives affairs. Art's favorite expression-philosophy of life if you will, is an underwater counterpart of "steady as she goes": Keep a zero bubble! Art met Trish O'Toole - born on St. Patrick's Day into a large Chicago



Submariner Capt. Arthur F. Rawson, USN Ret. and wife, Trish celebrated their Golden Anniversary on August 29.

family - at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard (San Francisco) where she, in the Navy at the time, was stationed in the coding room. The couple were married on August 29, 1946 at St. Philip Neri Church in Chicago. They made their first home in a quonset hut in Hawaii furnished, as Trish says, "by things from a packing case from Sears Roebuck." Now, when most senior couples would be looking for smaller quarters, the Rawsons just added a large, airy room to their house called "the teapot room" wherein is housed Trish's collection of teapots, some 60.

Fifty years of marriage have brought the Rawsons six children and sixteen grandchildren, soon to be eighteen as youngest daughter, Lee Carol is expecting twins. Two, Patricia and Kevin, have had Navy careers themselves and a grandson is applying to the Naval Academy for entry in 1997. Margaret and Catherine live in Pittsburgh and Ossining, New York respectively. The oldest son, Art, lives in Derwood.

With children and grandchildren living all around the country, Art and Trish figured that the best way to celebrate their golden anniversary would be to gather the whole family in

Norfolk, Virginia so that the widely scattered grandchildren could get to know each other better.

Family Facts

ST. CATHERINE LABOURE

Baptisms

Alvaro Mauricio Vaca-Pareira; Kevin Joel Martinez; Brendan Kyle Ayala; Dylan Anthony Jaleel Charles; Markus Giovanni De La Rosa; Patrick Michael Wenzlaff; Evelyn Patricia Franco.

Marriages

John James McHugh, Jr. and Sonia Zanetta Grayson; Samuel George Wilson and Patricia Elizabeth Akpan

Deaths

Helen L. McCurry; Sharon Marie Mosbrook

MOTHER SETON

New Parishioners

Welcome to the following families or individuals who have joined the parish since September 1: Eden Barbely, M/M Paul Butterfield, M/M Marco Calderon, M/M Trevelyan D'Souza, Patrick Estes, Kathleen Ford, John Herbstomer, M/M Raymond Infanti, M/M John Kennedy, M/M David Lively, Lisa Lombardo, Kathleen McManus, M/M Alan Milback, M/M Charles

"Art & Trish Rawson: Keeping "A Zero Bubble" for 50 Years" by Neal J. Conway was first published in the October 27, 1996 issue of *Our Parish Times*. Neal Conway is the author of *Tales From Old Bethesda* and lives in Washington, DC. See nealjconwaycom. Subject: Sunmarine r Capt. Arthur F. Rawson USN Ret. and wife, Trish Celebrate 50th Anniverary.