

Pioneer Parishioners

Earl Unze

Earl Unze was one of the Campaign Drive leaders helping Father Lacey raise funds to build our church. Actually, his family was attending St. Charles Church--where the older children were in school. He remembers, "When the boundaries were redrawn to accommodate the new parish, we were surprised to learn that we now lived in St. Matthias territory. De Anza Street was the boundary line then."

He has 4 children (two boys and two girls...including a set of twins.) His twins were in the final graduating class from the St. Matthias School.

He says, "I really found it strange and a bit folksy to go to mass in the one room of the old hardware store. But we were a small group and we all fit there. It inspired us to get our church built as soon as possible."

He later served on the Finance Committee and worked on fund-raising projects including the Bingo events.

Earl was born and raised in Minnesota. He was drafted in the Army in 1941 and served in Intelligence. He recalls, "It became my specialty because I knew how to type." He explains, "If you take code down by hand you can get about 20 words a minute. I could type 50-60 code words a minute..."

When the war was winding down, he was stationed at the Presidio. A friend introduced him to his wife. He notes, "She was a lovely, red-haired Irish girl named June Bonney. We were married in the little chapel on the Presidio by a Full Bird Colonel who was the chaplain."

As to how they moved down the peninsula. He says, "We took a drive one Sunday and found the charming little community of San Carlos. We promptly bought a lot and built our home."

Earl worked in the insurance industry mostly in marketing health insurance. This included a stint with Pacific Life as well as consulting work. He states, "And I am right up to date on the health care reform plan the president is proposing."

Earl's wife died in 1992. He sold the family home and moved into the Woodside Terrace where he currently resides. Three of his children live in the Bay area with the other one in Oregon.

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He continued, "I did consider an Army career; but decided I wanted to be in charge of my future."

So he put his skills to work to help his new church