



## Bostonians Bob and Irma Quigley Happy At St. Joseph's

By Evelyn Beck

Bob and Irma Quigley met when they lived on different floors of a three-family house in Boston. When Bob invited Irma on a moonlight cruise hosted by the bank where he was employed, they realized that they both also worked for the same company—at different branches. They went together for four years before marrying 50 years ago. Living so close to one another while they dated helped them grow close to each other's family and to save for their future. "I didn't have to spend gas money to pick her up," said Bob.

They both grew up in Boston, where they attended Catholic schools. Irma was the only child of a mom who was a homemaker and a dad who was the last teletype operator at the Boston Stock Exchange. All of her dad's five siblings ran teletypes, too, and Irma still has the "bug," the button her dad pushed. Her dad's career took him to different places, including doing the play-by-play broadcast of Boston Bruins hockey games via Morse code. Bob's upbringing was similar. He and his sister were raised by their mom, a homemaker, and their dad, a master jeweler and watchmaker until World War II. Though too old to enlist at that time, he so wanted to be part of the war effort that he became a welder at the Boston Navy Yard.

After high school, Bob attended Northeastern University at night, earning an associate's degree in criminal justice and a bachelor's in industrial management. He worked for Raytheon Company and then the Northrop Corporation in production control. Next he took a position at Berger Instruments, working his way up from plant manager to vice presi-



**Bob and Irma Quigley**

dent and then president. Later he worked as a corporate officer for High Voltage Engineering Corporation, where his responsibilities included management, finances, engineering, sales, marketing, and manufacturing while serving as president of Berger Instruments and vice president of Shore Instruments.

During his tenure, Bob visited China five times. His first impression was of stepping back in time, with no running water in his Beijing hotel, people cooking chicken in smudge pots in the streets in the middle of the night, donkey carts clogging the roads, and a 500-mile train ride that lasted two days. He and his colleagues were once escorted from their plane, bypassing customs, and were always accompanied by military police until they left the country—a scary reminder to always notify the U.S. Embassy of their travel plans. Still, Bob managed to find some time for sightseeing. One of his favorite attractions—even more memorable than the Great Wall—was Terra

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## Retirement Allows Time To Share Their Talents

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Cotta, a city famous for building an estimated 8,000 statues to fool the enemies into thinking it harbored an army. Bob's own military service included seven years as a member of the U.S. Army National Guard as a weapons repairman.

A bookkeeper before starting their family, Irma has since then been a homemaker except for eight years spent putting frequencies on crystals for a medical company. She soldered crystals in a clean room to make medical instruments. "I loved working there," she said. "I love doing stuff with my hands." That passion is expressed most often these days in the kitchen. Known as "The Cookie Lady," she makes batches of treats for family, friends, and church functions. One of her specialties, raspberry thumbprints, was a favorite of Father Hayden Vaverek, St. Joseph's 16th pastor. She has her own citrus-free recipe for fruitcake and puts "whatever's around" into a spaghetti sauce that friends insist she should bottle.

One thing Irma doesn't do is drive. She tried to learn once long ago, but the experience proved traumatic. "My father took me into traffic in his big old Buick," she said. "He got out of the car and left me there to figure my way out. I panicked."

Bob and Irma moved to Anderson after Bob's company was being sold and he took an early buyout rather than relocate to Chicago. They had visited the area after son Bobby moved here and liked it. Bobby works at Michelin's Starr plant. Another son, Brian, lives in Largo, Florida, where he's the customer service manager for a company that handles outsourced collections from hospitals. Daughter Denise, a CPA, remains in the Boston area. There are four grandchildren.

Bob grew restless enough during retirement to work for two years for BorgWarner, a

Seneca company that makes four-wheel-drive systems. But he's finally settled into a slower pace. And he keeps busy at St. Joseph's, where he's an officer in the Men's Club and the head of the Building Committee. He's proud of the renovations to the school that created six new classrooms an office area, and a common area.

The Quigleys love the climate of South Carolina. They also prefer Myrtle Beach over Cape Cod, where they spent many memorable summers. "The beaches here are sandier and bigger, and the water is warmer," Bob said. Not everything Southern is better, though; they continue to follow their beloved Bruins and Red Sox from afar.

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