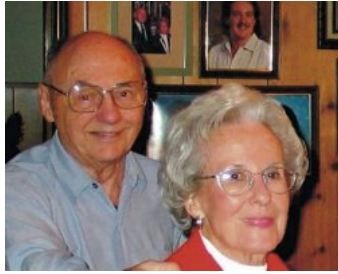


## A Happy Birthday!

Elizabeth City, NC

By Rod Dawson



The birthday was actually February 15, 1924 but we celebrated the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of it on February 15, 2006.

Anne and Art came up to Elizabeth City on Monday, February 13 and arrived shortly after noon. We unpacked the car and got them settled into their rooms. We had seen each other on the night of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party but we didn't have time to really talk then. We had plenty to talk about and sat up way past my bedtime.

Tuesday was a busy day for Anne and Sybil. They went "shopping." They picked up a delicious sugar free cheese cake from Montero's, a new restaurant in town. Sybil had convinced them to order one for me. From there they did more real shopping at the Mall. Anne bought a helium filled Valentine balloon which she tied around her neck and strode off through the Mall. I'm sure people wondered who that crazy woman was!

While the women did their shopping Art and I went to town as I had some shopping to do for Wen-Yu and the kids in Taiwan. I took care of that and mailed it. That only took a few minutes and Art and I returned home. It doesn't take long for men to do their shopping! Later Sybil came into the house trying to hide the cheese cake and I never knew what she was concealing. Jeanne McCain stopped by after she got off work. We had a long discussion; there are no short discussions when Anne is around! It was another late night but earlier than the night before.

The 15<sup>th</sup> arrived. We got up early for coffee and breakfast. When everybody was finally together, I opened my gifts. Nobody my age really needs anything so gift ideas are difficult to come up with. However, these appeared in the house: A neat little hand held massager, A new shirt, a sugar free cheese cake, a groovy pecan cracker, sugar free candy, a bottle of sand from Nags Head and a Pucker Up balloon. Later we had a delightful lunch at Montero's. That evening Jeanne and Edie came over and gave me a bottle of Kahlua-Caffe Sugar Free syrup. Now, for somebody who didn't really need anything, the haul couldn't have been better!



Thursday morning we had our wake-up coffee and went out for breakfast. Anne, Art and I had a rather normal breakfast while Sybil had a Belgian Waffle with strawberries and whipped cream. We watched her eat the whole thing then guided her out of the restaurant to the car where we said our goodbyes and Anne and Art left for home.

It would be hard to imagine a more pleasant birthday. Now, what can we plan for next year?