

Margaret Mary Coogan Herzog

Born 21 April 1905; Died 1 January 1965, Pittsburgh, PA Age 59

Prepared by William Quinn Coogan

February 2003

Margaret, sister to my father, was a very unselfish person. Born in Fayette City, PA she was baptized there in the parish church of St. Edward.



**Margaret
Herzog**

When we were quite young, maybe in 1936, she took Jackie and me by train to see Sister Margaret at Seton Hill. Margaret was always good to us and let us stay at her house a few days one summer.

Earlier on, she and her husband Joe lived on the second floor above her father and stepmother on Woodstock Ave., Swissvale. Jack remembers visiting there on a number of occasions; this also afforded him an opportunity to get to know grandfather Coogan better. Jack also recalls that Margaret took him on walks and once, while passing a shoe store, he admired a particular pair of brown and white oxfords. When they got home, Margaret mentioned this to her dad who said, "Buy the boy the shoes!" She did but Mom was unhappy about the incident and Jack maintains that the shoes were never a proper fit anyway.

Jack can also recall how on these visits his grandfather would walk him to the corner pharmacy for ice cream. Again, he remembers a train ride to Irwin with Margaret to see Sister Margaret who was stationed there. Other visits were to the Herzog's in Aspinwall (the senior Mr. Herzog was an engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad). Yet, again, they visited Joe's brother in Glenshaw who had a Ford dealership in Allison Park.

Later, Joe and Margaret moved to their own house on Woodlawn Ave., Swissvale. There, they had a son Joseph W. Jr. born September 1, 1938. When visiting, we would walk to the edge of the nearby hill and watch the activity in the mills below. The "dinky" engines provided much of the noise as they chugged around the Homestead Works.

The blast furnaces at Carrie Furnaces, directly below, generated graphite escaping from the molten iron. The light silver specs would float in the air and eventually settle. Before you could sit on the outdoor glider in Margaret's yard, you needed to dust it free.

Margaret had a tiny kitchen so visitors had to eat in the dining room all of the time. A can of Carnation Milk was always on the table.

Margaret generally had her Coogan relatives for New Year's Day dinner. Jim remembers that she insisted on allowing Christmas tree to stand until the Epiphany (January 6). She always had a dog; Perky was the longest in residence. Margaret took in many foster children before having a son of her own, Joseph.

Margaret Mary Coogan Herzog

Joe, her husband, was forever repairing their old Ford automobile. It is recalled that he worked in the bus garage of the Pittsburgh Railways Company at Lexington Ave. and had a keen interest in automotive repair. When they purchased a new car after WW II, we thought Joe would have nothing to do. However, it was not long before he had the new engine out and the car up on blocks.



Jos. W. Herzog

They later moved to a home of their own at 610 Lamar St. in Wilkinsburg where Joe made a career of rearranging the walls of the house. Margaret, bless her soul, was never heard to utter a complaint.

Margaret was my godmother much to the disappointment of my aunt, Betz, who thought she had the job until her father told her differently. Betz also had to wait two more years until her “little jewel” James Leo, came along.

Margaret always had a gift for my birthday but unfortunately, I cannot remember celebrating any of hers.

She worked as a telephone operator at the Pennsylvania Railroad, and later at the University of Pittsburgh. I had occasion to call a few times and can still hear her say, “University.” She made it a point to attend my graduation from Pitt and we all had a great lunch at Poli’s restaurant along with the Itzel’s daughter, Dolores, who received her Masters in Education on the same day.



The Herzog’s had a son Joseph, born in 1939 so he would be a year younger than Gert Coogan. He graduated from Central Catholic in the Sixties but after his parents died, we did not see much of him. Sister Margaret Frances kept in touch with him and his wife Pat Glastetter – they were married at St. James (Wilkinsburg) 11 September 1971 and had two children, Heather born 23 November of 1974 and Shawn, born 17 July 1974, and who

Jos. Herzog Jr. graduated from Central Catholic in 1995. However, after Sister passed away in 1995 we have not heard from him nor did he attend her funeral. Meanwhile, Pat separated from Joseph after seven years of marriage. It is sad, maybe he had a personal problem that caused him to shy away from the family.

We see a resemblance to Margaret in our daughter Nancy Lesniakowski and this is in both temperament and physical appearance. That is why we call her the Margaret Herzog of the family.

Margaret had some medical problems along the way and died excessively soon. It could be recalled that she was diabetic and this complicated by a heart condition caused her to leave off work early. These contributed to her death at the Montefiore Hospital in 1965. She never had an easy life but enjoyed what she had and was always quick to laugh and smile.

Margaret Mary Coogan Herzog

Joe Herzog lived for about another nine years and died in 1974 of severe arthritic and heart complications. Their son, Joseph, continued to live in the family home. Once the parents and Sister Margaret Frances passed, young Joe did not seem interested in maintaining contact with the rest of the family and has now dropped completely from the picture.

Joseph, Sr., who died October 10, 1974, and Margaret are buried at All Saints Cemetery, Braddock Heights, PA Section Y, Lot 60, and Grave #12.