

Margaret **Hass**

May 5, 1922 - September 3, 2012





Margaret's Life Story

Margaret Hass was an energetic and talented woman who, in addition to raising a family and working, also managed to volunteer her time to a wide variety of organizations. Margaret always had time to help a friend, and supported her family members in countless ways. Cheerful and kind-hearted, Margaret's greatest joy in life came from her 68 years of marriage, and her beloved family members. She will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Margaret, or Maxine as she was called as a child, was born on May 5, 1922, in Tyler, Minnesota to proud parents Edward W. and Johanna (McDonald) Dressen. Maxine grew up in Waverly, Minnesota, with her younger brother Cyril. As a child, Maxine would spend hours playing with her dolls, and also enjoyed playing jacks. Sadly, Maxine's mother passed away when Maxine was in sixth grade. Her aunt, Rose Dressen, came to stay with the family, and helped to raise Maxine until her father married Anna Smith in 1938..

When the time came for Maxine to enroll in elementary school, she attended a one-room schoolhouse near the family farm. Maxine was the only student in her grade level, so she joined the class ahead of her. As a result, she completed the second and third grades in the same year. After fifth grade, her parents decided that Maxine was old enough to attend the parochial school in town. Her father and a neighbor took turns driving their children to school - in the winter, they would drive a horse-drawn cutter across the frozen lake.

By the time Maxine made it to high school, there were six students in her class - five girls and one boy. The girls wore homemade uniforms: a royal blue denim dress with a white collar, tied with a grosgrain ribbon. Maxine was artistically talented, and participated in drama productions at school. In her senior year, she played the female lead in "The Wonderful Monk." In her free time, Maxine loved dancing, and danced the polka, the waltz, and the schodish at the local Lakeside Pavilion.

After graduating from high school in 1939, Maxine applied to the Teacher Training Normal School of Buffalo, Minnesota. By the time her application was received, however, the class was already filled (they only accepted 12 students per year). So, Maxine took a year off, living at home and helping out with whatever needed to be done. On July 4, 1940, Maxine went on her first date with a young man named George Hass, to the Excelsior Amusement





Park. Maxine and George hit it off right away, and in the months to come enjoyed dancing and watching movies together.

In 1940, Maxine began her year of intensive training at Buffalo Normal. While taking classes, Maxine shared an apartment with three other women. They each put \$1.00 a week towards milk and other food they might need to purchase from the store, and took turns cooking meals. Maxine graduated with her teaching certificate in June of 1941. Maxine's first job was as a teacher in the District 101 schoolhouse near her family's farm. She worked there for two years, living at home and walking to school.

On June 22, 1943, Maxine married her sweetheart, George, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Waverly, Minnesota. Maxine and George settled into married life on the farm where George worked. Maxine

found a job at a nearby school, but it was far enough away that she needed to drive. George had a car, and was in the process of teaching Maxine how to drive. One day, however, Maxine decided that she could drive well enough, and George looked up from the field to see his car going down the road - he remembered wondering, "Who is driving my car?" Maxine taught until 1947 when she became pregnant with their first child. At that time, it was common knowledge that married women didn't teach. Maxine liked to remark, "The war changed that idea - thank goodness!"

Over the years, Maxine and George were blessed with two children: Judy and Jim. The family moved first to Kenosha then Racine, Wisconsin, where George had found work as a telegrapher for the CNW Railroad. Maxine found a job with Racine Plating. Shortly after she found work at Western Printing where she employed for 30 years. It was employment in Wisconsin that she began to go by the name on her social security card, Margaret. Margaret was very family-oriented, and her husband and children were the most important part of her life. She was actively involved in her children's lives, and attended drama performances, recitals, concerts, and athletic events. She would change her work schedule to accommodate her family, taking the third shift at work so as not to miss any of her kids' events.

Margaret was a natural homemaker, and created many treasured family traditions. For the kids' birthdays, she would place presents at the foot of the bed during the night, so the presents were waiting for them when they woke up in the morning. Margaret also went all out for holidays, and Christmas at the Hass house had a magical feel. She filled stockings every year, and sent them in the mail if children or grandchildren couldn't make it back to the house for Christmas Eve (mailed stockings were always promptly returned, so Margaret would have them for the next year!)

In her free time, Margaret was an active and tireless volunteer. Just a few of the organizations she donated her time to included the St. Edward's



Altar Society, the Cookie Walk, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, St. Catherine's High School, and Meals on Wheels, where she and George delivered meals for over 20 years. She and George loved traveling, and George's job as a travel agent meant they had lots of opportunities. Some favorite destinations included London, Madrid, and Caribbean cruises.

As the years went by and Judy and Jim had children of their own, Margaret embraced her role as a loving grandmother. She cared for her grandchildren from their first day home from the hospital, and supported them in many ways: helping to deliver early morning newspapers, bringing soda when they were sick, and writing weekly letters and sending care packages when they were in college. She always remembered birthdays, and even celebrated each gravchild's half-birthday.



Kind and thoughtful, generous and energetic, Margaret was a devoted wife, a loving mother and grandmother, and a loyal friend. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her many friends and family members.

Margaret Maxine Hass passed away on September 3, 2012, at the age of ninety. Her family includes her children, Judith (Honorable Wayne) Marik and James (Nancy) Hass, all of Racine; her grandchildren, Jennifer Marik (Kurt Gardner) of Brooklyn, NY, Peter (Maira) Marik of Wauwatosa, Dr. Patricia Marik of Milwaukee, Gina Hass of San Diego, CA, and Benjamin Hass and his fiancé, Erin Collins, of Oakland, CA; her great-grandchildren, Stefan, Lukas, and Zakary Marik, and Margaret Gardner; her nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, George; and her brother, Cyril (Maryann) Dressen.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 14, at St. Edward Catholic Church, 1401 Grove Avenue, with Rev. Allen J. Bratkowski officiating. Relatives and friends may meet with the family on Friday at the church from 10 a.m. until the Mass at 11 a.m. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. The family was served by the Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Homes, 803 Main St., Racine, WI. Please visit Margaret's personal memory page at www.meredithfuneralhome.com, where you can learn more about her life, share a favorite memory or photo, and sign the online guestbook.



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