

Marjorie Grinzinger

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Dedication Page

I want to dedicate this biography to my grandma. Who was so patient during this whole time and answered all the questions I had for her. Also I want to thank her for always playing Tunk with me and making me laugh.

Grandmas are for.....

Grandmas are for stories
about childhood memories

Grandmas are for laughing
until your stomach pains

Grandmas are for swimming in her pool
and long games of tunk

Grandmas are for cookies
and homemade potato soup

But most importantly grandmas are for
funny stories and loving times

This Poem is for You

This poem is for you grandma

You are hilarious

You are kind hearted

And love the Lord

This poem is for you grandma

Your potato soup is the best

You always make chocolate chip cookies

And I love it when we pick blueberries together

I love the way you...

Are so caring to everyone

Always in a good mood

And never fail to make someone laugh

I hope that you will...

Live till you are 100 years old

Always have a kind heart

And make it to heaven to see you when you're gone

Marjorie Grinzinger

Marge

Funny and loving

Cooking, baking, swimming

Caramel Apples, quading, blueberries, card games

Grandma Rau

Family Recipe:

Banana Cupcakes

Ingredients:

1. 3 large bananas (ripe)
2. 1 cup sugar
3. 1 egg beaten
4. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour
5. 1 tsp. baking soda
6. 1tsp. baking powder
7. 1/3 cup oil
8. 1 tsp. vanilla
9. 3/4 cup chopped nuts

Directions: Mash bananas; add sugar and egg. Blend well and add sifted flour and dry ingredients alternately with oil. Fill muffin tins 2/3 full. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Frost with your favorite white frosting.

On February 6th, 1926 a wonderful and hilarious person came into the world, none other than Marjorie Grinzinger. She was born to Herman and Cecillia Grinzinger and two sisters and a brother with more siblings soon to come. Marge was born in her house in the small, remote town of Beal City, Michigan¹.

She grew up in the country in a white farmhouse with five bedrooms. The neighborhood was mostly just farms and big gardens. Marge's family earned their money by farming. They would farm pickles, and sell milk and chicken eggs. Her mom had five more kids and one miscarriage, making a total of twelve kids. Marge's mom was a stay at home mom looking after the kids and her dad worked on the pickle farm most of the time. Some animals on the farm were dogs, cats and cows that they took care of. Growing up on a farm Marge had a bunch of chores. Some of the responsibilities she had was to milk the cows, gather eggs and take care of the garden. When doing these chores she would wear overalls instead of her nice dresses.

When Marge was about four years old the great depression² started and it was really tough on her and her family. Her dad was a farmer, so selling his crops and getting supplies he needed for the farm was difficult. Marge says that she remembers when they had to use stamps as money and had to wear dresses that her mother made out of feed bags for the animals. Marge also had to wear the same pair of shoes for so long that she would look down and see holes in them. But her family made it through the depression and were overjoyed when the US got back on its feet.

¹ Beal city was established in 1880 and is a small community in the Isabella County in Michigan. The population is 345 people and has only 124 households. Also is only 4.0 square miles that is all land. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beal_City,_Michigan

² The Great Depression was a worldwide economic crises that struck the US in the 1930. The stock prices fell and the stock market crashed in 1929 which spread a world wide depression. Also it was the longest depression in the 20th century.

Marge attended Beal City Public school. She would walk to school occasionally or the neighbors would take turns driving the kids to school. For school she would wear dresses that her mother would make for her and her sisters. One of the most embarrassing moment she had was at school. She was in first grade and she wet her pants and was too shy to tell the teacher. Her teacher then made her stand by the heater in the front of the classroom until she was dry. Also around Christmas time her school would hold plays. One year they did the play "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and she tried out for it and ended up getting the role of Goldilocks. She was a good student and the classes were all the same as today except they called math, Arithmetic.

At home Marge would rarely play inside, instead she would play outside all day with her brothers and sisters. Some games they would play were runaway, ball and jacks, annie I over, green light, red light, hopscotch and hide and seek. Runaway was a game that Marge and her friends would play. They would take food from the house and run into the woods with it, trying not to get caught and they would have a picnic out in the woods. One of Marge's favorite summer activities was going down to the river to catch fish.

For holiday's a lot of relatives would come over and there would be a bunch of food. Unlike today, her and her family never went on vacations for holiday's, in fact they did not go on any vacations at all because money was scarce. During Marge's childhood she barely went 20 miles away, but she remembers that her family would go to the drive in movie theatre to get some time away from the farm.

When Marge was in high school she had a crush on a boy named Bernard Rau. He was a grade ahead of her and he would ring the bells in the morning every day. She was attracted to him because he was good looking and would smoke. Back in the day smoking made you a cool kid and most of the people who smoked did not

know that it could make you sick and you could die from it. Bernard finally had enough courage to ask her out on a date and they would go to drive ins, went rollerskating and would watch shows together. After a year since they had gotten together Bernard had to serve in World War II when he graduated high school. When he came back he surprised her by coming home on a furlough. A year later Marge graduated. There was only about 7-9 people in Marge's graduating class and she did not have a party, but instead just had some cake with the family. Marge wanted to be a nurse, but could not because her family did not have enough money for her to go to college.

After four years of being together with Bernard he proposed to her when she was nineteen. He had just gotten back from the army and brought her to a lake where he proposed. But unlike today he did not give her a ring and just asked her to marry him. They got married a couple years later when Marge was twenty one years old on June 21 1947. Their wedding took place in Beal City at the Saint Philomena church. For their honeymoon they went to Niagara Falls. This was the first time that Marge went out of the state. They bought a house in Beal City, which was a farm house. They had chickens, rabbits, a couple horses, and some cows on the farm. Bernard was a lab technician at Dow Chemical and Marge did not work, but stayed at home taking care of the farm.

When Marge was 22 they had their first child on April 23, 1948. They had a boy and named him Gary. He was a healthy baby and acted normal, but when he was eighteen months he was diagnosed with Polio³. Marge and Bernard were devastated when they found this out because it is a harmful and life threatening illness. He lived and was treated at Mary Free Bed for a few years and wore leg and back braces throughout his childhood.

³ Polio is a very serious disease that affect the nervous system. Often people who have polio are unable to move particular muscles in their body. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/polio>

Only months later after his diagnoses Marge gave birth to their first baby girl, Jan. They then had 5 more children after that which were, Bob, Jack, Sue, Barbie and Karen who were all a few years apart from each other. Marge's kids were very much like her. They were short, kind, loving, had a good sense of humor and loves God. The kids would help out on the farm by planting, weeding and harvesting the garden. They also had to feed and clean the animals in the barn. When the kids were young, Marge and Bernard shared a cottage with Bernard's sister. This is where they spent most of their summers and created many memories. Marge said that the best thing about being a parent is seeing your children grow up and be successful.

In 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated⁴ by Lee Harvey Oswald. Marge was only 41 at the time and was so shocked and confused when this happened. She thought he was a great president and could not figure out why anyone would have wanted to shoot him.

In her second youngest daughter, Barb got married to Kurt Mirandette in 1986. They had two twin girls 15 year later in 2001 when Marge was 76 years old. Their names were Lexi and Lacey Mirandette, and Marge said that this was one of the most proudest moments. She had always wanted twins herself, so this was the next best thing. Marge's favorite time in her life was her twenties because this is when she got married and had her first kids and according to her, did a lot of foolish things. Marge states that the hardest thing about growing old is that you don't feel as good, and start slowing down. When Marge was in her 70s she suffered a stroke while caring for her husband who was recovering from his stroke. It took her a few months to recover, but she never felt that she regained

⁴ John F. Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States. He was elected on January 20th in 1961 and was the youngest person to become president. On November 22 in Dallas, Texas John was shot and killed by Lee Harvey Oswald. It was a tragic day for US citizens as he was commonly liked as the president and no one would think that he would ever get assassinated.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy

her full strength or balance. About two years later she was totally devastated by the death of her husband, who went to bed one day and never woke up. His death made her become the leader of the family and household. She had many loving and dedicated children that lived close by and helped her with anything she needed.

Marge lived in her house alone for about 13 years and her kids would check in on her from time to time. She enjoyed cooking and would always had a meal sitting out for anyone who walked in her door. Marge also loved to bake things from cookies to brownies and really like to sew clothes and pillows for her kids and grandkids. Marge lived in a yellow house that her and Bernard moved into after his stroke. She had an indoor pool to help Bernard rehabilitate, and lived on 80 acres which made it fun for her children and grandchildren to ride quads and go hunting.

When Marge was 88 she had another stroke and was diagnosed with vascular dementia⁵. This really slowed her down and made her somewhat confused. She stayed at Covenant Village, in Grand Rapids as she recovered. She stayed there for about 5 weeks until she was not as confused, and then she returned to her home in Beal City. Marge stayed in her house for a couple weeks, but then it was clear that she would not be able to live at her house alone. Her family helped her move into an assisted living facility in Mt. Pleasant.

Marge is now 89 years old and despite her confusion she still has an incredible sense of humor. One of her special sayings is "take two they're small." She would say this whenever she would bake some cookies, so you would always leave her house with a full stomach. Marge said that her purpose in life is to follow God, keep your faith and always be kind to others.

⁵ Vascular dementia is the second most common type of dementia and is caused by problems in the supply of blood to the brain. It can also be caused from a number of small strokes or a big stroke and usually occurs just in older people. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vascular_dementia