

# Kit

## Arlington in the 1930s

In 1934, while Kit was writing her own newspaper for her family and the boarders in their house, another young woman in Arlington was living Kit's dream. Margaret Troxell, who grew up in Bristol, Tennessee, and went to college in Maryland, came to Arlington in 1932 to work for the *Commonwealth Monitor*, a weekly newspaper.



Margaret Troxell covers a county meeting, the only woman in the audience.

## ORIGINS OF THE SUN GAZETTE

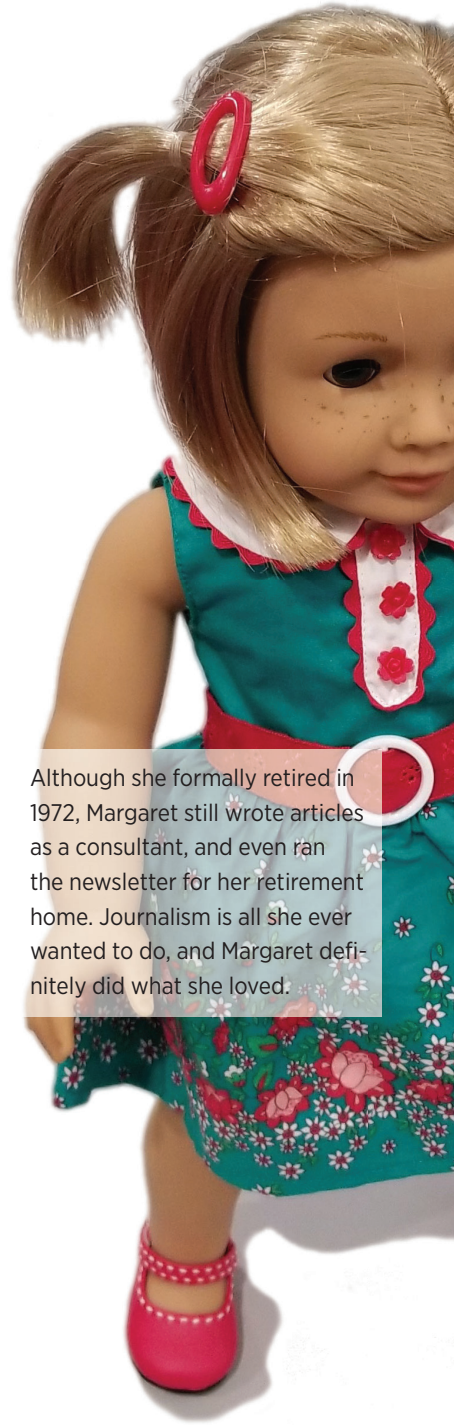
Margaret started writing in elementary school, and was sending off articles and getting published and paid at age 11. Her first salary with the *Monitor* was \$8 per week; she paid \$4 per week for board, much like the boarders at Kit's house. She soon took on part time work with the *Washington Post* and the *Washington Times*, and in 1936, she and some other local journalists founded the *Sun*, a weekly Arlington newspaper. Margaret worked as a journalist and editor, and occasionally worked all night to run the presses. During her time at the *Sun*, Margaret never missed a meeting of the County Board!



Margaret Troxell at her desk.

Margaret and the other owners of the *Sun* sold the paper in 1951, and after many years and name changes, the paper is now known and the *Northern Virginia Sun-Gazette*. Margaret had her own public relations firm, and then worked as a Director of Publications within the Department of Labor.

Although she formally retired in 1972, Margaret still wrote articles as a consultant, and even ran the newsletter for her retirement home. Journalism is all she ever wanted to do, and Margaret definitely did what she loved.



## BASEBALL

Kit loves her hometown baseball team, the Cincinnati Reds. Children growing up in Arlington in 1934 were cheering for their own hometown team, the Washington Senators. The Senators played in Griffith Stadium, and in 1933, lost the World Series to the New York Giants. Senators pitching greats Goose Goslin and Walter Johnson by then were long gone; they became perennial losers after the 1933 season, and in 1961, moved west and became the Minnesota Twins.

The real local Arlington teams were the Virginia White Sox and the Green Valley Black Sox, two African American teams that played both one another and other African American teams from farther afield. They usually played in Highview Park, where Virginia Hospital Center is now. However, when the land was sold for development, both teams folded since they did not have a place to play.

Closer to home, children could play baseball in one of the many open spaces in Arlington. However, it was just that – open space, with no backstops or basepaths. Some parkland existed, financed by local community groups, and in 1935 the county started giving money to individual schools to have recreation programs during the summer. Arlington did not have a formal park system until World War II, when a system of fields, courts, and playgrounds was finally developed.

## THE GANG THAT ROCK VA. THE MIGHTY BLACK SOX



*The Green Valley Black Sox.*

Kit's father, along with many other people in Cincinnati, lost their jobs in the Depression. In Arlington, the Depression forced some businesses to close and people lost their homes; the county temporarily had to shorten the school year and defer paying teachers because not enough people could pay their local taxes. But in general, families in Arlington were luckier than most.



*The Virginia White Sox*

The government agencies created as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal, such as the Works Progress Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (where Kit's brother Charlie worked), had offices in Washington DC, just across the Potomac. People moved to Arlington to work for these agencies. This was good steady work, and families could settle in Arlington and purchase homes.

## MEMORIAL BRIDGE



*Postcard showing the completed Memorial Bridge, looking into Washington, D.C. from Arlington.*

In 1932, Memorial Bridge opened, spanning the Potomac River near Arlington House in Virginia and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. It made traveling to the capital much easier for people working in Washington while living in Arlington. In fact, by 1940, 40% of working adults in Arlington were in "Public Administration," most of whom were federal employees.