

Student Handout 1-Poem of Joe Magarac

Pittsburgh's Legendary Hero Joe Magarac (author unknown)

Joe Magarac – Made to make steel
Part of him legend ... part of him real.
Born out of Braddock, earth, rock and hill
King of the Ingots, Pride of the Mill.
Joe Magarac, over seven feet tall
Nothing about him was timid or small.
He gathered the scrap iron, the limestone, the ore,
He fanned the white heat to angry red roar.
He poured liquid fire in each ingot mold,
And taking a handful before it got cold,
He squeezed through his fingers and watched it congeal
From taffy-like ribbons to straight rails of steel.
They talked of improving the steel that they made
And Joe overheard them and went to their aid
By throwing himself in the steely soufflé
And smiling, Joe Magarac melted away.
A true Pittsburgher, legend or real?
Joe Magarac is the symbol of steel.