

Written by Thomas A. Hugo

When I was about 3 or 4 years old I went to round and square dances that my father used to play for. He was a fiddle player—played by “ear” only—and had an orchestra of 3 to 6 players. My sister, Blanche, played the piano and I believe that she had perfect pitch. She could tell me—much later—that I was playing a piece and she would say it was in the wrong key. My cousin Dwight Hugo, Uncle Ansell’s boy, played the banjo in the orchestra. They didn’t have “baby sitters” in those times and I was expected to go to the dances. I was a “boy soprano” and would sing to the music my father played. When it was time for me to go to sleep, my mother would put two straight chairs faced together, with mother’s coat placed in between. I would sleep until it was time to go home and I remember the hamburgers we had on the way home. My father played for dances every week—maybe Friday and Saturday—as far away as Coffeyville, Caney, Neodishaigh (?) or Cedarvale, Kansas.

My other sisters—Lucille and Mildred—were also called on to be a member of the orchestra. Lucille played the violin and Mildred played the piano and violin—but Blanche was the real piano player. She played at a Montaldon(?) Music store in Independence and would play any thing that the customers wanted played. She played for the silent movies in Independence. I was introduced to the movies early in my life and have seen silent movies, half talkies, talkies, and the introduction of color moves.

I had small pox when I was too ? My father had them and “Peg” Hugo, Uncle Ansell’s boy had them too. (This was crossed out)

My father played for dances even before I was born up until the time I was 16-19. I played for him in the later years by playing the piano and/or the drums. I wasn’t very good at either of them.

I continued to sing up until my junior high days and then my voice changed.

My father was a delivery man for a (this was also crossed out)

We had gas lights in the house, a wood stove for the kitchen and dining room (no central heat) and an outhouse. I can’t remember when we had electricity! My father was a delivery man for a laundry and was making a good living when I was in junior high school. We bought a new Whippet and put in a bathroom at the time when I was 12 or 13 years old. Then my voice changed and I was just a good singer, nothing special.

And then the bottom dropped out, my father lost his job, took most of his customers to another company and then when that company failed he went into the laundry business himself. My mother and father bought an “angle” and took in washing six days a week. When it would rain it was miserable drying clothes in the bathroom. I helped them during the summer and I remember making enough money to allow me to go to Scout Camp for one week —a total of \$5.00. The next year I continued to work in Scout Camp for 4 weeks at just room and board and no pay. For the next two years I made \$5.00 and \$10.00 respectively.

My mother and father continued in the laundry business until World War II. For the photographer who took my senior picture, my mother took in washing to pay the bill. I received a watch for graduation and we took in washing in exchange for payments!

In 1936 I became an Eagle Scout and a bronze palm(?). I lead a parade with the mayor of Independence (for whom the park is still named) and another man from Kansas playing the "Spirit of 1776" (I played the drums) taking the news to Alfred London that he had been nominated as the Independence candidate for President of the United States running against the Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt. I was a member of the Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corp. I first played the symbol and later the drums.

1936 Graduated from High School

Activities in High School: Class Officer 33, 34; Winfield Speech Arts Contest in on act play "Copy" won first prize; acted in "Night of January 16<sup>th</sup>," "Phantom Bells," "Double Door," Editor of Ink and Quill; Dramatics Club 34, 35, 36 Drum Corp 36, took second prize in humorous reading 36, at the National Forensics League, Emporia, KS; worked on school newspaper, 1936, business manager of Orange and Black on annual 1936.

1938 Graduated from Independence Junior College

1940: Completed one semester at Missouri State University

1943 Joined Navy, QM 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, saw active service in D-Day invasion of Europe, 22 trips across the English Channel.

1946 Married Beth Hugo in Washington, DC

1948 Graduated from George Washington University, degree in accounting. Began working for Price Waterhouse accounting firm (2 ½ years)

1951 Accepted position as Bursar-Business Manager at the Graduate School for International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC

Moved to Maryland, daughter Michele born, became Certified Public Accountant

1953 Son Curtis born

1955 As Business Manager sent with pioneer group of professors and administrators to Bologna, Italy, to set up the John Hopkins Bologna Center, a school to teach West European affairs, teaching students from U.S. and W. European student international affairs.

Actively participated in Adelphi Citizen's Committee, Treasurer, Adelphi Swimming Pool Association; designed sets and acted in musicals with little theater, the Adelphians, several years;

belonged to Adelphi Arts Association, studying pottery with Ada Appleton, local pottery prize winner, and at the University of Maryland for several semesters, exhibiting art work at Maryland University, Montgomery County Community College and the Maryland Capitol.

1980 Retired had stroke

1982 Moved to Florida