

Going to the Ball...



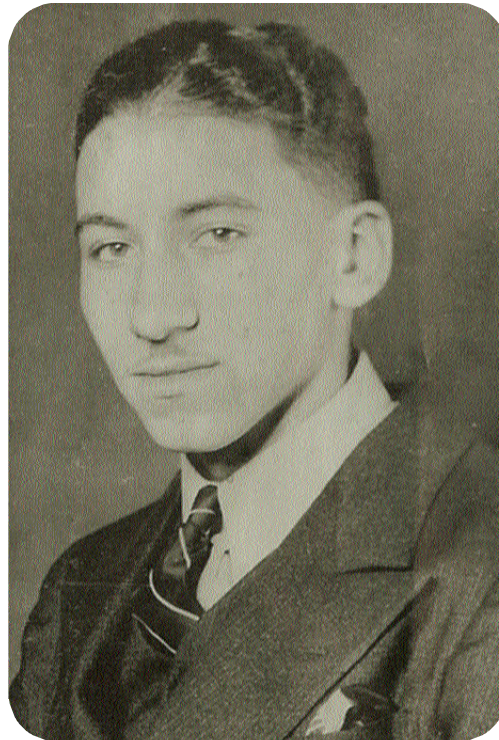
“I remember my first June German Ball. It seems like it was a hundred years ago. The band that came was Cab Calloway, I think. I was only 15 years old and you had to be 18, so my two older sisters dressed me up to make me look like them, and fixed my hair. I had long hair and they balled it up in a big clump back there. Later it was Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Jimmie Lunceford, Blanche Calloway and Earl Hines, Chick Webb.

After I was married, I didn't go to any more of the balls.

—Ethel Howard, 87

“I wore that suit to the June German Ball. It cost me \$22.50. And that's for the jacket, pants and vest. I bought it at R. J. Atkins clothing store. Dan Church did the measuring. That would have been in the '30s. The photo is from 1939. I went to the June German Ball before I was married on June 22, 1940. If I had been married I'd never have been allowed to go.”

— Thomas T. Hodge, Sr., 87



Photos courtesy of Ethel Howard and Thomas Hodge, Sr.; map courtesy of the City of Martinsville's Engineering Department

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WORKING AND PLAYING ON FAYETTE STREET: an exhibit created through the partnership of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative.

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