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Revella Hughes at Douglass High School, 1986

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Herald-Dispatch/Frank Altizer

Revella Hughes ... on stage at the former Douglass High School.

Talented friend shares story of long life filled with music

By MARA ROSE
Of The Herald-Dispatch staff

When one stops to remember the greats who once walked the corridors of the old Douglass High School, one name is sure to be on that list — Revella Hughes.

A "name" indeed.
A nationally known concert organist and famed in the 1920s as a singer and musical director of the Broadway stage, Mrs. Hughes helped organize the Douglass High School band and numerous musical productions when she taught there for 10 years, starting in the 1930s.

A native of Huntington, Mrs. Hughes, like a precious treasure chest, holds valuable memories of her 90 years of life as a student, a performer and a music teacher.

Since memories are better shared with others, Mrs. Hughes took the opportunity last night to share hers with former students and colleagues who, like she, came home to Huntington this week to celebrate the fourth Douglass High School reunion.

During a program, "Reminiscing with Revella Hughes," at the Douglass High School auditorium, Mrs. Hughes was interviewed on stage by Dr. Dorothy Johnson, Marshall University professor and chairman of speech.

But Mrs. Hughes turned what was intended to be a formal interview into an intimate stroll down memory lane as she pulled, with impeccable recall, small vignettes of her life and the era of her youth from her memory.

What a smile the small 90-year-old woman flashed as she stood before the audience which stood in an ovation at the sight of her.

"Well, you know I'm happy to be here," Mrs. Hughes said, squeezing her body like a small child in glee at the sight of something spectacular.

Seemingly at home with her audience and the stage,

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