

Theodore "Ted" Deger Hodapp

## EARLY LIFE

Ted was born on November 25, 1932 in Dayton, Ohio, the day after Thanksgiving. His mother told him, he was "a gift from God." He is the youngest child of Albert and Angela (Deger) Hodapp. His eldest sister, "Betty" Elizabeth was followed by "Bert" Jr. and Nancy. Family called Ted, "Little Boy Blue," the only one in the family with blue eyes.

"Little Boy Blue" by Eugene Field,

*The little toy dog is covered with dust,  
But sturdy and stanch he stands;  
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,  
And his musket molds in his hands.  
Time was when the little toy dog was new  
And the soldier was passing fair,  
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue  
Kissed them and put them there.*

*"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,  
"And don't you make any noise!"  
So toddling off to his trundle-bed  
He dreamed of the pretty toys.  
And as he was dreaming, an angel song  
Awakened our Little Boy Blue,  
Oh, the years are many, the years are long,  
But the little toy friends are true.*

*Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,  
Each in the same old place,  
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,  
The smile of a little face.  
And they wonder, as waiting these long years through,  
In the dust of that little chair,  
What has become of our Little Boy Blue  
Since he kissed them and put them there.*

## EDUCATION

In Dayton, Ohio, Ted's family supported Catholic religious schools for their children, founded in 1850. He despised going to the Catholic school. He detested having to wear a uniform and disliked every Nun. He graduated in 1950 from Chaminade, an all-boys School. There was a passenger flight Ted boarded where a kind stranger in the seat next to him appeared and encouraged him to investigate engineering school. When it was time to exit the plane, in the empty seat he found a used newspaper with a circled ad for a technical school. He felt good about this and began the process of an engineering career.

## MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Ted met Joan Humphries at a dance in Glendale, California but they never danced. They chose to visit away from the music and Ted noticed she was different than anyone he had ever met. Their courting got serious, but Joan broke it off until he agreed to listen to the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He thought after all his twelve years of Catholic school, he could teach them a few things. In fact, the opposite happened. The Elders shared about Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Ghost as three separate beings who were one in purpose. Reading with the missionaries about Jesus' baptism and praying in Gethsemane, their discussions confirmed his thoughts of long-held questions now answered. Rather than reciting written prayers, he felt the Spirit when they prayed together, speaking from the heart led to a strong conversion and desire to be baptized.

Joan is the youngest of six children. When Ted and Joan decided to get their marriage license, her father, Harold, said he'd like to go along with them to the county seat. When the question was asked, have you been married before? Ted answered, "Yes." Harold about lost it, "Oh NO, this isn't going to work" (as Ted told this). Then it was asked, have you children from a previous marriage? Ted answered, "Yes." Again, the father-in-law, "Oh NO, this isn't going to work!" Ted indicated it was over ten years before Harold said he thought the marriage just might work out. Especially after Joan took her father aside and assured him they were very happy. The couple celebrated sixty-six years together.

Our dear Ole' Dad always seemed to tell on himself to Joan.

Ted and Joan married on January 1, 1960, sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple with their six-month old son, October 23, 1961. Their union was blessed with two boys and two girls.

He never called anyone to fix plumbing or car repair; he naturally did all this for himself and created unique designs for the scouts to make canoes and other fun wholesome events as the family grew. He used a hot wire to shape Styrofoam into airplane parts for the boys. He enjoyed RC airplanes and memories of picking walnuts and drying apricot halves in the backyard. There was a garden, the tallest swing set, a chicken coupe, a rabbit hutch, lots of fruit trees, a large magnolia tree, a dog, and Ted tried his hand at bee hives until it was discovered one of the children was allergic to honeybee stings.

Joan & Ted made their home in Los Altos, California, Boston, Florida, and back to California before relocating in Manti, Utah. They loved Utah, they felt very welcome and jumped right in serving their neighbors in numerous ways.

Joan used to give him an allowance of \$5. a week. In the last several years he got a raise to \$50 a week. They lived a frugal life. This helped him save for his invention projects. Joan's budgeting skills got them through the lean years.

## WORK, CAREER, and HOBBIES

Around the Dayton, Ohio area, the Hodapp family made their living in the construction business. There is a street in Dayton named *Hodapp Avenue* because Ted's father built all the homes in that area. This is where he learned to manage many trades and talents, fixing anything in and around his future home.

Ted graduated with honors in Tool & Die Design, he worked as an Engineer for multiple tech companies including Lockheed, IBM, Seagate, and many others among Silicon Valley, California. He worked as a contractor for Job Shop on various projects for different tech companies, blessed to be in demand by his reputation for fast design skills.

He only took one day of sick leave that anyone can remember. Though he was an independent contractor, he was never without a job. Good health and prosperity could be attributed to paying generous tithes and offerings, work to reserve and rotate food storage, financial savings and keeping the Word of Wisdom.

In Dayton, Ohio there was an excitement for flight. Connecting the Wright Brothers having lived and died in the Dayton, Ohio area. Ted's father learned to fly, and it seemed natural that Ted would also train to fly.

In his early adult years, he worked as a crop duster. Later he enjoyed building and flying RC airplanes with his sons as they grew.

After moving to Utah, Ted worked at I-Omega in Roy, Utah. He commuted weekly by car but much preferred when he flew his Mooney airplane from Ephraim to Ogden for the workweek and home on the weekends.

Ted was an avid inventor, getting involved in various start-up companies including lime and activated carbon processing. He designed and built the heat calcification unit to speed up the treatment method. He helped to design and pattern several mechanical technologies and sold dredges used for cleaning out rivers and lakes.

He also built a modified single engine, bi-wing airplane in the garage and many neighbors asked if he was ever going to fly it. He finally towed it to the airport and flew it to Utah. After completing a hanger with the help of his son-in-law, he began assembling a Rotarway helicopter with his son. Then he chose to sell it to begin his travels with a Mooney airplane.

## SERVICE

Ted served in the army during the Korean War as an MP. He accomplished target shooting benchmark advancements with honors.

When Ted and Joan took the family to ward activities or volunteer service at the church farms, they didn't just eat the meals served, they stayed to take down the chairs, tables, and sweep the floor. He served in Scouting and enjoyed taking the family camping.

Ted's drive to study gospel lessons for church often became opportunities to share the gospel with others whom he worked with at various engineering jobs.

Together, they were dedicated to the service of others. They served full-time missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a Bishop's Store House management and proselyting Missions: the Chicago Illinois Mission and Sunday School lessons at the state prison. They also served a double shift every Saturday in the Manti Utah Temple. Ted served faithfully until his health began to fail due to the effects of shingles. He endured to the end, a final testimony of the Spirit of Elijah,

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”*

(Malachi 4:5&6)