

The Bugle

THE BUGLE, NAMED FOR THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN BRENTWOOD

A publication of the Brentwood Historical Society



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SUMMER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS THE HOPE

The hope diamond is the world’s most fabulous gem. Its origins are shrouded in the mists of time. There could be a curse on those who try to own it.

On August 10, 2002, the Society will have the opportunity to hear the story of the mysterious blue gem called the Hope Diamond. Evalyn Walsh McLean was the last private owner of this large blue diamond. Mrs. McLean’s great grandson, Joseph Gregory will be on hand to present the most interesting story of both the stone and its most interesting former owner, Evalyn Walsh McLean.

The stone was discovered in India prior to 1668, the year that King Louis XIV bought a blue diamond of 110.5 metric carats. This diamond is said to be most likely from the Kollur mine in Golconda, India. During the French Revolution, the stone disappeared, reemerging in London in 1812. After brief ownership by King George IV, the

diamond’s namesake, Henry Philip Hope purchased the gem. In 1912, Pierre Cartier sold the Hope Diamond to the American heiress Evalyn Walsh McLean. Mrs. McLean’s estate sold it to Harry Winston, who in turn donated the Hope Diamond to the Smithsonian in 1958.

During the centuries, the Hope Diamond was cut down at least three times from its original size, now recorded at 45.52 carats. The stone is flawless, and phosphoresces a strong red color, which will last for several seconds after exposure to short wave ultra-violet light. The diamond’s blue coloration is attributed to

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Hope Diamond presentation to highlight summer activities.
- Bob Dennison recognized for special contributions.
- New Sons of the American Revolution Chapter Founded.
- Morrow House renovation is proposed.



SUMMER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS THE HOPE DIAMOND (CONTINUED)

BY SUZANNE BURNS

trace amounts of boron in the stone.

You are invited to join the Brentwood Historical Society on August 10th when we will host Joseph Gregory. Mr. Gregory and his associates have researched his great grandmother's life and legacy, and present a fascinating program about her life and the diamonds she loved. By the way, she also owned another "small bauble," a teardrop shaped diamond named "The Star of the East," and she often wore the two together. Now that makes a statement!

Various artifacts belonging to Mrs. McLean will be on display as well as a model of the Hope Diamond. This is not a lengthy presentation, but one you will certainly enjoy. The meeting will be held at the Brentwood Library on Concord Road at 2:00 p.m. on August 10, 2002. We hope you will be able to join us.



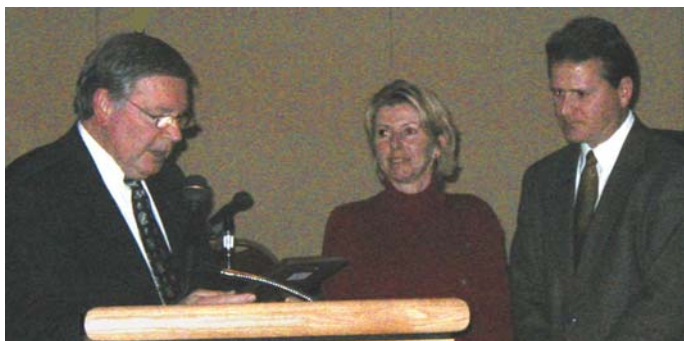
Above: Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean wearing the Hope Diamond with the McLean Diamond and the Star of the East attached.

BOB DENNISON – RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY

BY WENDELL EDISON

Recently, the Brentwood Board of Commissioners formally recognized the outstanding contributions of our own, Bob Dennison. As Bob stepped down from his extended active participation on the Brentwood Historical Society Board, the City took time to reflect on his efforts.

Our past Founder's Day Celebration (February 2002) marked the retirement of Bob Dennison as the Editor of our newsletter, *The Bugle*. Bob had served in this capacity for the Brentwood Historical Society for



Bob Dennison (left) presents an award to the Minderman family for preservation efforts at the Green Hill Cemetery.

almost four years. He became Editor when *The Bugle* was in its infancy and took it to new heights. New and interesting stories were featured, and within a short time, color was added to the publication. To everyone's delight, Bob set new standards for future copies of *The Bugle*, and we were on our way to a very professional Society newspaper.

Bob Dennison served on the Brentwood Historic Marker Committee from its inception in 1991. He helped the Committee sign 26 historic homes, 16 historic cemeteries, and 13 landmark markers. Also, as an interpreter of historic characters, Bob participated in two historic cemetery tours, playing the role of James Sneed.

Bob will continue to serve the Brentwood Historical Society as Historian. His knowledge of local history is a precious asset to the community. We appreciate his dedication to the history of Brentwood and look forward to our continuing relationship with Bob, and his wife Ann.

NEW CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FOUNDED IN BRENTWOOD BY VANCE LITTLE

A new chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has recently been organized for Williamson County. Called the Andrew Crockett Chapter, it is named for early Brentwood settler Andrew Crockett, whose house still stands on East Wikle Road. Anyone who descends from an ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War is eligible to join this prestigious patriotic organization.

Regular quarterly meetings are planned. The first president of the newly chartered chapter is Fount Smothers, a descendant of Andrew Crockett. Other officers are vice president, T. Vance Little; secretary, Denver Dan Horton; treasurer, Scott Holmes; registrar, Gardiner Jones, III; historian, Trent Johnson; chaplain, Harold McMurtry; and chancellor, Jack Case Wilson.

For further information, call Vance Little at 776-2682.



Historic Morrow House Slated for Restoration

BY JOE LASSUS

Reflecting the agrarian lifestyle of a bygone era, the historic Morrow residence offers a special glimpse of Brentwood during the early 20th Century. Stephen Franklin Morrow and his family had moved from Clarksville to Nashville during the early 1900's to provide a better education for his children. The family eventually settled in 1917 on a 250-acre tract on Granny White Pike in what is now Brentwood.

In 1918, S.F. Morrow built the brick craftsman-style residence (see photo, right) that still stands on the property. The home replaced a two-story frame farm house formerly occupied by the Owen family. A dairy barn and tobacco barn (see photo, next page) predating the Morrow residence still exist on the site. Morrow family heirs are planning to restore the old home and barns in the near future, and have received encouraging structural assessments as of this writing.

Foxland Hall was developed on a portion of this tract, and its entrance is immediately north of the remaining 5 acres of the Morrow farm. The Cambridge Hills subdivision was also sited on this property.

The late Lyle Morrow Jr. recounted to Vance Little of his journeys to Owen Chapel by horse and buggy



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A citizen organization of the City of
Brentwood, Brentwood Historic Commission,
dedicated to the study and preservation of the
city's history and culture.

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Bob Dennison, Society Historian

Historic Morrow House Slated for Restoration (continued) BY JOE LASSUS

when the car wouldn't start. In *When Cotton Was King on Concord Road*, Vance writes, "Lee Choate, who grew up on Granny White Pike, remembers playing in the barns on the Morrow place and learning to *milk* cows there. He also recalls that the Morrows could always be depended upon to provide the tractor, wagon, and hay for hayrides for the younger members of the community.



Mark your calendars for a Christmas candlelight open house in historic Brentwood. The event will take place on the evening of Thursday, December 5th, highlighting the grand homes at Liberty Hill and Knox Crockett with a reception at the Cool Springs House.

