

The Bugle

THE BUGLE, NAMED FOR THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN BRENTWOOD



The Bugle

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Historical Society



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SPRING TOUR EVENT HIGHLIGHTS TENNESSEE EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

Officially known as the Tennessee Executive Residence (pictured, right), the Governor's mansion in Nashville will open its doors to the Brentwood Historical Society and guests on Saturday, April 6th. The tour starts promptly at 12:45 pm and is free of charge. So that we may better plan for the event, please contact Suzanne Burns at 373-1614 if you will be attending.

By Joe Lassus



Originally known as "Far Hills" because of its beautiful view, this home was built for the William Ridley Wills family in 1929. It became the third governor's mansion when the state purchased it in 1949 after the death of Mr. Wills. He was the founder of the National Life and Accident Insurance Company. Former resident, Ridley Wills will attend the event, providing his experiences and insights into this grand residence.

The firm Hart, Freeland and Roberts designed this residence in the Georgian Colonial style that took two years to build. Sited on ten acres, the home contains sixteen rooms and nine baths com-

by a reflecting pool, swimming pool & pool house, tennis court, putting green, greenhouse, vegetable garden, guest house, and garages. The first floor is state maintained with many pieces of Tennessee art and antiques located in the state dining room, family dining room, governor's office, and formal drawing room. The second floor holds the Governor's personal quarters and guest rooms. A comfortable recreation room exists on the third floor where guests can relax or play pool/billiards.

Interestingly, the house is virtually fireproof. It has a reinforced concrete floor downstairs, a slab of concrete over

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Governor's Mansion tour to be special event.
- Founder's Day Celebration 2002 - Special Recognition Awards
- Changes coming to Boiling Springs-Fewkes Site



SPRING TOUR EVENT HIGHLIGHTS TENNESSEE EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE (CONTINUED)

By Joe Lassus

the second story ceiling, and masonry walls throughout the three levels. Sleepers were set above the concrete floor, and the space between the sleepers was filled to the top with baked sand. The structural floor was laid over the sand followed by either marble floor or quarter-sewn white oak.

The Georgian architectural home is furnished in the 18th Century Style with some fine examples of Queen Anne, Chippendale and Hepplewhite furniture. Light fixtures, sconces and the unique "egg and dart" molding are original to the house. Former governors that have lived in the mansion include Gordon Browning, Frank Clement, Earl Ellington, Bryant Dunn, Leonard Blanton, Lamar Alexander, and Ned McWherter. As we know, Governor Don Sundquist will turn over the residence to a new family in the near future.

Please join us on April 6th. Travel Interstate 65 to the Harding Road exit in Nashville, turning west on Harding Road. Upon reaching Franklin Road (U.S.

Hwy 31) turn right (north), go 2/10 mile to Curtiswood Lane and turn left. The mansion will be the third house on the right.



Left: The foyer of the governor's mansion provides a splendid entrance, showcasing a beautiful elliptical free-standing stairway.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2002 – SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDED

BY JOE LASSUS

Our annual Founder's Day Celebration produced another memorable evening for members and guests attending the festivities at the Marriott Conference Center in Cool Springs. The well-attended occasion afforded an excellent opportunity for socializing and fine food. Our fifth anniversary event was highlighted by the historic speaking presentation of Jim Crutchfield and the lively music of Paul Ross and the Kadillacs.

Jim Crutchfield centered his lecture on the Native Americans that once populated the Brentwood area. He related new evolving theories on the time frame of the original settlement of North America by Native American groups. Previously, the Clovis culture, dating back some 10,000 years, was thought to be the earliest settlers of the continent. Mr. Crutchfield explained that recent anthropological finds may demonstrate that the continent was instead inhabited as much as 20,000 to 30,000 years ago. We will explore this historical issue further in upcoming editions of *The Bugle*.

The Brentwood Historical Society expanded its traditional Founder's Day event this year to include **special awards** for historic preservation activities in Brentwood. This new aspect of the annual program has been instituted to provide recognition and encouragement to those helping to conserve our historic legacy. Awards bestowed during the 2002 Founder's Day Event included the following:

Good Shepard Episcopal Church: award for preservation and continual upkeep of the **Crockett and Owen Cemeteries**. The church has faithfully worked to preserve one of our oldest historic resources.

Peggy & Buzz Cason: award for the historic restoration of the barn at **Forge Seat** on Wilson Pike. The historic barn had been destroyed by a fire, and the Cason's recently restored this outbuilding in its original design.

Edwin Raskin: award for creative and adaptive reuse of the **Ward House (Maryland Manor)**. Mr.



City Commissioners Bob Higgs (left) and Anne Dunn (right) accept award from Wendell Edison for Bed & Breakfast ordinance, providing preservation incentive for historic homes.

Raskin accepted the award for a group of individuals and investors most responsible for restoring this historic structure that is now occupied by the Mere Bulles Restaurant.

Fred Minderman: award for continual care and maintenance of the **Green Hill Cemetery**. We all owe the Minderman family a great debt for this important contribution to the community.

City of Brentwood (Board of Commissioners): special recognition for enactment of the new **Bed & Breakfast Ordinance** that will help facilitate the preservation of historic structures in Brentwood. The op-

tion of providing bed & breakfast facilities can often make preservation economically feasible for historic property owners. Commissioners Anne Dunn and Bob Higgs were on hand to accept the award.

Finally, we cannot forget the splendid music of Paul Ross and the Kadillacs (photo below) which is fast becoming a tradition at our annual event. Paul's group provides an exciting blend of old and new tunes that fills the dance floor for this mid-winter celebration. Thanks to everyone who made the event such a success.



Boiling Springs-Fewkes Site to Experience Major Changes

by Joe Lassus

Those driving along Moores Lane near the intersection with Wilson Pike have surely noticed the protective covering over the historic Boiling Springs Academy structure. This temporary measure is intended to protect the 1830's vintage schoolhouse from any further ravages of the elements. City officials are presently negotiating with representatives of the Primm Family whose property surrounds the small tract belonging to the long vanished Boiling Springs Academy trustees. Property ownership issues are being explored, and we are informed that all concerned

parties are most interested in saving this historic structure for the benefit of community.

The surrounding site holds perhaps some of the most important historic resources that now exist within the City of Brentwood. In addition to the historic schoolhouse, the site also hosts the Fewkes Mounds, both resources being on the National Register of Historic Places. In the near future, a new residential subdivision, dubbed Montclair, will begin construction adjacent to this historic site. Almost 140 homesites will be created with large open space reservations to comple-

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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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BOILING SPRINGS-FEWKES SITE TO EXPERIENCE MAJOR CHANGES (CONTINUED)

BY JOE LASSUS

ment the development. Fifteen acres will hold the Fewkes Mounds, once central to a large Native American settlement that populated the site approx. 1000 A.D. This property will be dedicated to the City as future park land, hopefully incorporating the Boiling Springs Academy structure.

Due to the known historic resources nearby, the developer completed an archeological investigation of the 140-acre tract. No dramatic discoveries resulted from the study, however, two interesting finds are more than worthy of note. They will require some adjustment to the original planning for the Montclair development. In the area near the planned entrance road there are a silted-over historic period cemetery, and a burned prehistoric Native American house containing the remains of someone who died in a house fire and was never recovered for burial.

The historic period cemetery has 11 confirmed primitive graves thought to be of either pioneer or slave origin. The courts have been petitioned for respectful relocation of the graves to a specific spot just west of the Native American mounds in the development "open space." The burned prehistoric house and deceased inhabitant lies outside of the planned roadway right-of-way, and will not be disturbed at the present location.



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Goldin, Brentwood Camera Club

