



Diamond Hill News

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Eulogy from Danny Snapp's funeral service

Given by Phillip D Carwile

"Our friend Danny Snapp arrived on Diamond Hill twenty six years ago next month. The day after he moved in the carpets were laid, the furniture placed, drapes hung, accessories placed, pictures and mirrors hung. I mention this because Danny quickly and quietly brought order to whatever he was involved with. He was the person in the center of the room making a lot of noise.

He quickly did the basic landscaping around the house, then slowly took on that cliff of a back yard removing tons of debris that had collected over a hundred years and turned the place into the wonderful garden it is today.

Prior to Danny moving to Thirteenth St. one of the chief characteristics of that block was that in summer the weeds and trees and vines on one side of the street would grow to meet those on the other side. It never happened again after Danny arrived. With snips, pruners, saws and a battered little lawnmower he brought order to Thirteenth St., and then up Clay and Madison Streets and to the serpentine walkway and then to Grace St. Many days as I drove home from work along Grace St. I would see piles of trash and brush and limbs of stinkweed and mulberry, often seeming to be falling from the sky, and though you might not be able to see him you would know he was up there on those cliffs quietly working bringing order to that part of our neighborhood.

Once the Diamond Hill Historical Society cleaned out the weeds and trash from what is now the Rebecca Yancey Garden it became the duty of each household to care for the garden for one month in a year. Most households promptly forgot when it was their turn so Danny did his month and any other time the garden needed work. He was

instrumental in selecting the urns on Grace St. and Church St., and getting their bases built and the urns placed and planted. Danny was active in the Diamond Hill Historic Society holding various offices and being on the board. He was on the beautification committee forever and for a period helped with the publication of the Diamond Hill News.

Christmas for Danny started in July with production work at the shop, then in early December moved to decorating the street post in the neighborhood with boughs of greens and bows. He did this by himself for years eventually teaching others who took over. He decorated dozens of houses on the hill at Christmas time especially for the years there were Christmas Candlelight Tours. Now we are not talking about just a bowl of fresh greens. Danny's mantle decorations flowed from the mantle to the floor and might almost touch the ceiling. He was a whirlwind doing this but the work was stunning. He said "You could never over decorate at Christmas."

There were numerous Diamond Hill Historical Society functions in summer months-often outdoors that called for floral decorations and Danny came through again and again often with greens and flowers gathered in the neighborhood making big scale arrangements that called for small limbs of trees and shrubs.

Decorating came natural to Danny. The furniture in his home is in the same place he placed in twenty-six years ago. He got it right the first time. He could get more items in a space than anyone I know. Tabletops, floor space under the table, tops of tall furniture, shelf space between books and tops of stacks of books all received objects of interest arranged properly by color, scale, texture, etc.

Danny was such a good host, he never failed to offer you a beverage and a napkin. He was always well dressed, pleasant and smiling and standing very erect

and proud. His house always looked good both inside and out.

And what about those jokes and tales. Whether it was the one about the photographer about to focus, or the woman hit on the fracas, the Navajo and the Arapahoe or Ethel Louise and the old hoe he kept us in stitches bring these characters to life with their characteristic dialects and accents. He was a big cog in the history of Diamond Hill. He is sadly missed."



J. Danny Snapp was born Jan. 13, 1946, in Hawkins County, Tenn., and passed into eternal rest on July 20, 2009, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was employed by Bedford County and Lynchburg Public Schools for 35 years where he served as classroom teacher, special education teacher, assistant principal and visiting teacher/school social worker. He was associated with Lynchburg Florist and Antiques for 33 years and won numerous design awards at state and regional meetings.

Danny's other interests included landscaping, reading, painting, collecting antiques and his home, which was built in 1884. He was a member of the Diamond Hill Historical Society and had served on the Keep Lynchburg Beautiful Commission and the Board of Directors of Lynchburg Forte. He was of the Methodist faith and enjoyed visiting his home church, McFerrin United Methodist, on return trips home.

Danny lived at 507 Thirteenth Street with his friend Ray Pulliam.

How did you spend your vacation?

Many of our members were busy during the summer. Julie and Vernon Neighbors, for example spent a couple of weeks with Julie's relatives in Massachusetts. Mary Kathryn McIntosh visited her daughter in Turkey. Ted and Jean Hannon were busy with their daughter's wedding on July 11 at the Lee Chapel in Lexington, VA. Fran and Rad Briley also had a wedding in the family; their son John Randolph married Kimberly Lyons on July 25 in Invermere, Canada, at the bride's home. Marla and Jeff Potter had the wedding of Marla's daughter in California. Jeff and Sally Schneider hosted their grandchildren for a full week! Jim Tracey and John Seminatore spent time in Florida. How did you spend your vacation?

Diamond Hill Yard Sale

Many thanks to our Yard Sale committee for organizing and publicizing the DHHS Yard Sale held Saturday, May 2, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Many, many thanks also to the Diamond Hill families who participated. We very much appreciate the cash donations we received from several of our neighbors.



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 P.O. Box 803, Lynchburg, VA 24505
 Website: www.diamondhill.org
 Email: dhhscontact@yahoo.com
 Newsletter articles:
diamondhill_news@yahoo.com

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Neighborhood Watch: L. Robert Halpin
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Meetings

Business meetings are usually held at 7:30 p.m. on first Tuesdays of each month except June, July and August. Owners of properties in the Diamond Hill Historic District and others interested in supporting historic preservation are welcome to attend.

Membership

Annual dues for Active Members are \$10.00 per person and the initiation fee is \$5.00 (first year). Active Membership is limited to adult members of households owning Diamond Hill property. Annual dues for Associate Members are \$10 per person (no initiation fee). All members receive this newsletter at no charge. Newsletter subscriptions for non-members are \$5.00 per year.

Publisher's Statement

The Diamond Hill Historical Society (DHHS) is a nonprofit historic preservation organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage—through the fostering of education, research and restoration—the historical and architectural integrity of the Diamond Hill Historic District. DHHS was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia February 22, 1979. Views expressed in the *Diamond Hill News* do not necessarily reflect the position of DHHS or its officers and directors.

2009 June Social

Everyone came bearing food and beverages—ready for a pleasant evening on the lawn at Jean and Ted Hannon’s home at 708 Pearl Street. And it was indeed a beautiful evening for our annual June Social, as the photographs below indicate. Our thanks to Jean and Ted for accommodating us. Thanks also to all of our talented cooks who prepared the spectacular food for the event.



HPC Secretary

Annette Chenault has retired. Thank you for all that you have done for all of us. Rebecca (Becky) McCharen is the new HPC Secretary.



Well Done!
Congratulations to
Norris Blanks who
received his
US citizenship in April
of 2009!

With sympathy

Our sympathy to Mrs McBratney’s husband, Mr. William E McBratney Jr, and his family on the death May 20, 2009, of Mrs. Leila Christian McBratney.

Born in Lynchburg on May 24, 1925, Leila was the daughter of the late James Dearing Christian and Josephine Percy Handy Christian. She was also preceded in death by her brother, James D. Christian Jr.

She was vitally interested and involved in First Presbyterian Church and Hampden-Sydney College, where she served as trustee.

Mrs. McBratney’s visited her grandparents on Diamond Hill many times—the Handy’s, who lived at 1416 Harrison Street (the Handy House) .

A memorial service was held May 26, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church.

Our sympathy to Ms Browns’s family and friends on the death May 9, 2009, of Ms. Portia Juliette Brown at her residence, 1514 Madison St.

She was born Aug.17, 1940, in Lynchburg, the daughter of the late Randolph Jack Brown and Altha Statham Brown. She was preceded in death by her only brother, Sidney Randolph Brown.

Throughout her life, Ms Brown was devoted to her family, friends, students and church. She taught for many years in the Campbell County School System, impacting the lives on countless students. She was loved, respected and admired by all whose lives she touched.

Her funeral service was held May 14 at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church; interment was at the church cemetery.

Learn How to Trace your House History

Several of our members attended the “Learn How to Trace your House History” class held Tuesday, May 19, at the Jones Memorial Library. A lot of useful information was given by the Lynchburg Clerk’s office, the Department of Community Planning and the Design Group. All who attended enjoyed the class and learned a lot regarding steps to take in order to research the history of their home.

Members volunteer to clean Diamond Hill

Many thanks to our Neighborhood Beautification committee for organizing the Spring clean-up. Many, many thanks also to the Diamond Hill residents who participated. We very much appreciate the help and the effort we received from several of our neighbors. The Diamond Hill area once more showed our neighborhood at its best!



The Lynchburg Historic Foundation

Invites you to attend the “Unveiling of the National Civil War Trails Marker For The Packet Boat Marshall”
Tuesday, September 1, 2009
5:30 pm
Riverside Park

New Members

A hearty “Welcome” to our new neighbors Julie and Louis Kibby who recently became DHHS members. Louis and Julie reside at 1420 Madison Street.

Welcome home, Bob!

After being in the hospital, Bob Brown returned home and is back on the road to recovery. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Bob.

LHF Tour and Patrons’ Party

Sally Schneider, Lynchburg Historical Foundation’s executive director, announces that the organization’s Annual Historic Tour & Patrons’ Party will be held Sunday, Sept. 27th. Five homes at the Oakwood Place and Lee Circle will be open 1:00-4:30 pm. Tour tickets are \$20 per person.

The Patron’s Party will be held that evening 6:00-8:30 pm at 106 Oakwood Place, the home of Statham and Martha Anne Gilliam. All proceeds benefit LHF programs. “It’s a great way to help raise funds for preservation while enjoying cocktails, wonderful food, music and a fabulous raffle,” Sally emphasized. Combination tickets for the tour and party are \$75. For details call (434) 528-5353.

Additional parking will be available at First Presbyterian Church on VES Road.

Sep. Meeting

Tues., Sep. 1st
7:30 p.m.

at the

Jones House
(1887)
601 Pearl St

Hosts: Katheryn and Hampton Brown

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