

Strange... But True?

by: Tonya J. Cook



The Hope Diamond: A Cursed Jewel

The Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, DC, is in possession of the most famous and beautiful diamond ever known, but...is it cursed? In this column of the “Strange...But True?” series, we will look first concerning the history of the stone, then its curse, if any.

The story is said to have begun when the stone, quite larger than its present form, was stolen from the eye of an Indian goddess sculpture, Sita, the wife of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu. The possessor of the cursed stone is said to be cursed, as is anyone that ever touches it. Many believe the “curse” was invented in the 20th century to increase the sales appeal and add mystique.

The 45.52 carat diamond has changed hands several times on its path from India to France, Britain, and then, the United States. It is known as “the most famous diamond in the world”. It appears blue in color, but will glow red for a time after being illuminated by ultraviolet light, which adds to its curious reputation.

Its first owner, Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, obtained the stone by purchase or possibly by theft in 1640-1667, and sold it to Louis XIV of France in 1668 or 1669, along with other stones. Louis XIV had the stone reset as a 67.125 carat stone, which he wore as a pin supported by a ribbon, to most ceremonies. His successor, King Louis XV, had the stone, “The French Blue”, reset in 1749, and it became the “The Order of the Golden Fleece”. Later, the stone became the property of his grandson, Louis XVI.

On September 11, 1792, while Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were imprisoned during the French Revolution, the diamond was stolen during a five-day looting spree. Some of the royal gems were recovered, but not “The French Blue”. It disappeared from history for a time. Louis and Marie Antoinette were guillotined, and this may have been the origin of the curse.

The jewel was smuggled into London about 1792, after being recut in a “butcher job” and now was in two pieces. The larger of the two became “The Hope Diamond”. This wasn’t confirmed until 2005 after rediscoveries in the French Natural History Museum.

The diamond found its way to Duke Karl Wilhelm of Brunswick about 1805. He was under attack by Napoleon, and had the stone cut again when fleeing to Britain in 1806 to hide its identity. He joined his daughter, Caroline of Brunswick, who was the wife of George IV of England. The diamond was “under cover” until 1830. King George IV had it until his mistress, Lady Cunningham stole it, or it was sold in private channels to cover the king’s debt when he died.

Thomas Hope, a banker, retained the diamond for \$65,000 to \$90,000. His nephew, Henry Phillip Hope, came into possession of the gem and he died in 1839. His only daughter, Henrietta, was wife of the Duke of Newcastle. In 1884, the diamond went to her younger son, Henry Francis Pelham Clinton in 1887.

In 1894, Henry met an American singer, May Yohe’, and they married later. He went bankrupt and had to sell the diamond to Adolph Weill, who sold it to Simon Frankel, who took it to New York. Frankel fell on hard times, and sold the diamond to Selim Habisle, a Turkish diamond collector on behalf of Sultan Abdulhamid of the Ottoman Empire. The stone was sold to settle the debt in 1909 for \$80,000.

The jewel made its rounds until falling to Pierre Cartier for \$150, 000 in 1910. He sold it to Washington DC socialite, Evelyn Walsh-McLean, whose dog, a Great Dane named Mike, wore it to parties in the 1920s. Harry Winston bought the stone from the McLean grandchildren. He donated it to the Smithsonian in 1958. Winston sent it in a box insured for \$145.29, paying \$2.44 for postage. The Smithsonian had it insured for \$250, 000, 000.

Now that the history of the Hope Diamond as been reviewed, we will look at it’s curse next week.

Source: Wikipedia



The Redskins football team went undefeated to win 1st place in the league championship this season. Pictured are, front from left: Jason Puckett, Tristan McFerron, Austin Tillary, Josh Thacker, Aaron Clark, Isaiah Didelot, Byron Abney, and Caleb Williams. Second row from left: Tristan Bullens, Drew Hopkins, Dakota Kirby, Andrew Didelot, Trevor Todd, Bentley Taylor, Jacob Anglin, Colsen Stevens, Landon Broaddus, Dylan Bullens, and little sister Allie Todd. Back row from left: Head Coach Mike Hamilton, with Shane Thacker and Billy Todd.



Willie (Bill) Coffey grew these large sweet potatoes in his garden on Hurricane School Road in Brodhead. The sweet potato on the left is over 5 pounds and the one on the right is over 6 pounds.



Eugene and Carolyn Brandenburg grew a 4 pound sweet potato and another 4 and one-half pound twisted sweet potato in their garden on Smallwood Road in Conway.



Ronald Powell, of Brodhead, killed this 43” rattlesnake with seven rattlers and one button on his mother’s, Florence Powell’s, farm in Jackson County.

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**ROCKCASTLE COUNTY
VS
CLAY COUNTY**

UNITE BOWL GAME - OCTOBER 25, 2013 - 7:30 PM
TAILGATING SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES - 6:00 PM

**TOILET PAPER DRIVE
DEADLINE OCTOBER 24TH**

Donations will be accepted at each of the local schools
or contact Karen King or Precia Bowling at 256-3976.

*All toilet paper will be donated to the following
men's and women's drug treatment centers:
Chad's Hope, Karen's Place, and Hope in the Mountains*

**RUN LIKE EAGLES
CROSS COUNTRY 4K &
1 MILE FUN RUN/WALK
Roundstone Elementary
Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 2 p.m.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Age _____ Male _____ Female _____

Please check one: 4K _____ 1 Mile Fun Walk _____

If Roundstone Student Check here Teacher _____
(Roundstone Students race FREE, but if want t shirt, must pay \$10)

Circle Shirt Size: YS YM YL AS AM AL AXL
AXXL(add \$2) XXXL(add\$2)

Cost: Pre registration \$15 (Deadline is Friday, October 11th)
Race day \$20 (Registration starts at 1 p.m. No t shirt guarantee)
Make checks payable to: Eagles Nest Parent Teacher Group

Mail registration to: Roundstone Elementary
C/O ENPTG
6701 N Wilderness Rd
Mt Vernon, KY 40456

OR drop off/pick up form at front office of Roundstone Elementary or send to school with student \

AGE GROUPS: 7U, 8-11, 12-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
No walker medals. If you want to compete for a medal, sign up for the 4K and run or walk at your own pace.

Questions: call or text Teresa Hamilton at 606-308-4462

RELEASE OF LIABILITY
I know that running/walking in a race is a potentially hazardous activity. I represent that I am medically able and properly trained to participate in this event. I assume all risks associated with this event including, but not limited, heat exhaustion, falls, contact with other participants, effects of weather, etc. and all such risks being known and recognized by me. I hereby agree to discharge the Eagles Nest Parent Group, Roundstone Elementary and all respective directors, officers, and employees or any other personnel assisting or connected with this event any rights, claims or demands therefore which I may have or which I may hereafter accrue to me arising out of injury to my person or my property incurred in connection with participation in the Run Like Eagles 4K held on October 20, 2013. I hereby release all publication rights of any photographs or video taken at this event. By signing below, I indicate that I agree to abide by this agreement and acknowledge that I ASSUME ALL RISK ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT.

Signature: _____
(Parent's signature if under age 18)