



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 caret 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.

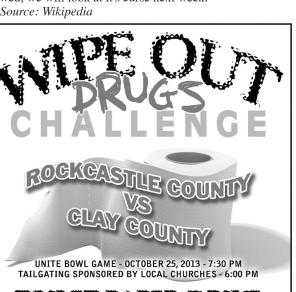
In 1894, Henry met an American singer, May Yohe', and they married later. He went bankrupt and had to sell the diamond to Adolph Weill, who sold it to Simon Frankel, who took it to New York. Frankel fell on hard times, and sold the diamond to Selim Habisle, a Turkish diamond collector on behalf of Sultan 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 re-

viewed, we will look at it's curse next week.

Source: Wikipedia



## 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:	eck one: 4K			1 Mile Fun Walk			
If Roundstone Studen (Roundstone Studen							
Circle Shirt Size:	YS	YM	YL	AS	AM	AL	AXL
		AVVI	1162)		AVVVI (-4462		

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

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

(Parent's signature if under age 18)

How that running/waking in a mee is a potentially hazardous activity. I represent that I am medically able and properly trained to participate in his event. I assume all trisks associated with this event including, but not limited, but not harmsten, falls, contact with other participants, effects of weather, ex, and all such risks being known and recognized by me. Thethy agree to discharge the Tagles Novel Tarent 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 have not concern a superior of origing to make the propose of the property of the pro

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.



mother's, Florence Powell's, farm in Jackson County.

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