**Remembering Our Friend, Danny Snapp**

**By Phillip D Carwhile**

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 freckles, the Navajo and the Arapahoe or Ethel Louise and the old hoe he kept us in stitches bring theses 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 Schoolsfor 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.