NOBLE'S CORNER

Compiled by members of Leadership Brentwood Class of 2008:

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The attached information was compiled from the following sources:

- Historic Description provided by T. Vance Little.
- Unknown (December 12, May 9, and July 25, 1929) Review Appeal.
- Back Home in Williamson County, by Lyn Sullivan Pewitt, © 1996; page 37.
- Historical Markers of Williamson County, by Rick Warwick, © 1999; page 16.
- Granny White and Her Pumpkins, by T. Vance Little, © 1993; pages 5 and 6.
- Historic Brentwood, by T. Vance Little, photographs by Doug Brachey, © 1985; pages 128, 135 and 134.
- Lawrence, Lucretia (unknown). Noble witnesses changes through the years. *The Tennessean, Brentwood Journal.*
- Copy of Deed, July 22, 1932.
- Linda (unknown). Small businesses signaled town's character. *The Tennessean*, *Williamson A.M.*, Letter to the editor.
- Lethgo, Janet H. (March 22, 2000). Walgreens to replace Brentwood Motel. *The Tennessean, Williamson A.M.*

Noble's Corner

For over 70 years Nobles was a Brentwood landmark. In 2001, it fell victim to the bulldozer and was razed to make way for a Walgreens Drug Store.

Ironically enough, Nobles began as a drug store. In 1929, Dr. Albert H. Noble came to Brentwood and bought five acres on the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Franklin Road. There he built Brentwood's first drug store. He was a registered pharmacist.

A newspaper article announcing the opening of the pharmacy described it as being just south of the Interurban property. The Interurban refers to the commuter train that ran between Franklin and Nashville for over 40 years. The transfer station was on the corner of Franklin Road and Old Hickory Boulevard. The name of the pharmacy was Brentwood Heights Pharmacy.

The newspaper article went on to describe the building as simulating an English cottage with flowers and shrubs being planted round it.

A couple of months later the same newspaper ran an article announcing the opening of the pharmacy. By this time the name had been changed to just Nobles. The interior was described as being finished in apple green with refreshment tables and their accompanying chairs in the same color. There was also a filling station run in connection with the drug store.

Nobles remained a drug store until 1947 when Glenn Noble, the son of DR. Albert H. Noble, opened a restaurant there. It remained a restaurant for many years, sometimes elegant and sometimes not so elegant. It was owned by several owners during the years, being in and out of Noble hands a few times too.

A motel called Travelers Rest was added next door to the restaurant in 1954. It was operated by Eugenia Noble Delboy and her brother Alex Noble, children of Glenn Noble.

Nobles was altered and expanded through the years to accommodate its various uses. Its last use before demolition was as home to an ERA Realty Company office.

The property next to Nobles and Travelers Rest was owned by Glenn Noble's sister, Jean Noble Frank. She built there a building that served as the Brentwood Post Office for many years. Adjacent to the Post Office was a strip shopping center that housed Brentwood's first branch bank.

Brentwood

Review Appeal December 12, 1929

Mr. J. W. Ferrall who for a number of years conducted a blacksmith shop on the corner of Granny White Pike and Brentwood Lane has recently rented the Formosa blacksmith shop at Brentwood. Mr. Ferrall and his family have moved into Mr. Willis Thaxton's house.

Review Appeal May 9, 1929

Brentwood is to have a drug store. It will be located at the junction of the Jackson Highway and Brentwood Lane, just south of the Interurban property and will be styled The Brentwood Heights Pharmacy. Mr. A. H. Noble is the owner, and Mr. Marion Oden will associate with him in the business. Mr. Noble has had many years experience as a proprietor of a drug store and as a prescribing pharmacist. Mr. Oden who comes from a family of doctors and druggists has been in the drug business for 10 years.

The drug store building will simulate an English cottage and flowers and shrubs will be planted around it.

America is learning that beauty and business are not antagonistic.

Review Appeal July 25, 1929

Brentwood's drug store opened for business this week. Mr. A. H. Noble and Mr. Marion Oden will be associated in the enterprise, which will be known simply as Noble's. The store is very attractive both inside and out. The interior is finished in apple green and there are refreshment tables and their accompanying chairs of the same color. Mr. Noble has had a long experience as a pharmacist and Mr. Oden has been in the drug business for a number of years. A fine radio is one of the attractions of the place. A filling station will be run in connection with the store.

Review Appeal Aug. 15, 1929

Mrs. Susie Guthrie Robinson died August 6, at 12 o'clock p. m. at the home of her son Daniel G. Robinson at Shreveport, Louisiana in her 70th year. Mrs. Robinson was the youngest of a large family of Mr. and Mrs. John Guthrie. She was born at the old Guthrie home on the Wilson Pike now occupied by her sister Mrs. Quinn and her sweet and gentle life has been lived with slight exception almost in sight of her birthplace. In childhood she joined Brentwood Methodist Church and has ever been a faithful loving member of that church. She was the organist for Sunday School and Church in her girlhood and for years afterwards. As an older

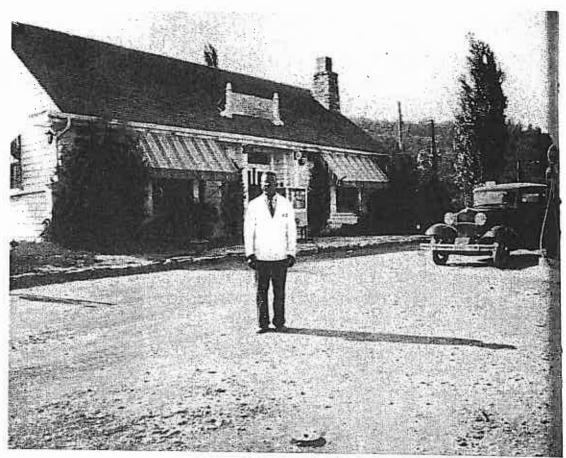
Brentwood

Brentwood Was a Fort Called Mayfield Station

Population in Brentwood, since the mid-1960s, has literally exploded. One of the fastest growing areas in the county, Brentwood is right on the county line between Williamson and Davidson Counties. For years a community of magnificent homes and illustrious names, it now includes modern shopping centers, top-flight restaurants, speciality shops, expanding office complexes, and a forward-thinking city government. Brentwood has grown by leaps and bounds, but some businesses which have been a part of Brentwood for several generations continue to serve the community. One such business is Huff's Grocery, which started in 1949 on Hardscuffle Road, and today is housed in a modern structure just across the street. Noble's started in 1929 as a drugstore on Franklin Road and became a restaurant in 1947. Even though the ownership changed, the Nobles retained ownership until 1985, when it became Boston's. However the Noble family still owns Travelers Rest Motel, next door to the restaurant.

The community probably took its name from the home of an early settler Horace McNish who lived in the area from 1827 until 1850. McNish had ancestral homes in Virginia called Woodstock and Brenton, and his mother was a descendent of a Virginia family named Brent.

The first white settlers in Brentwood were the Mayfields, coming to the area around 1780, and settling on what is now Old Smyrna Road and Wilson Pike. They built a fort for their family and neighbors. Other early settlers include the Sneed, Edmondson, Moore, Hunt, Crockett, Holt, Herbert, Frost, Hadley, and McGavock families. The Frost family came to



Noble's Corner, a famous Brentwood restaurant

Noble's Corner

This 5 acres on the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Franklin Road was bought by A. H. Noble in 1929. A registered pharmacist, he operated a drug store here for nearly 20 years when the pharmacy was converted to a restaurant by Albert's son Glenn Noble and his wife Iva Lee. The restaurant continued under various managements until 1989. The motel, also built and operated by the Noble family, opened in 1954. Jean Noble Frank built a building on the property that was used for 26 years as Brentwood's post office.

BRENTWOOD HERITAGE AWARD Location: Corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and U.S. Highway 31, Brentwood 3

Brentwood's Noble Family Have Been Noble Citizens

The Noble family has indeed been a "noble" family of Brentwood. Patriarch Glenn was into preservation before Franklin made it fashionable. Years ago, he wrested two of Brentwood's most historic structures from decay and made them handsomely habitable — the Paul Harmon House and Crockett Springs.

In 1929, Glenn's father, Albert Noble, bought five acres on the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard (then Brentwood Lane) and Franklin Pike (then Jackson Highway) and opened a drug store there. in May of that year, the following article appeared in a local newspaper:

"Brentwood is to have a drug store. It will be located at the junction of Jackson Highway and Brentwood Lane, just south of the Interurban property and will be called the Brentwood Heights Pharmacy. Mr. A. H. Noble is the owner, and Mr. Marion Oden will associate with him in the business. Mr. Noble has had many years experience as a proprietor of a drug store and as a prescribing pharmacist. Mr. Oden, who comes from a family of doctors and druggists, has been in the drug business for 10 years.

"The drug store building will simulate an English cottage and flowers and shrubs will be planted around it.

"America is learning that beauty and business are not antagonistic."

A couple of months later this follow-up appeared:

"Brentwood's drug store opened for business this week. Mr. A. H. Noble and Mr. Marion Oden will be associated in the enterprise, which will be known simply as Noble's. The store is very attractive both inside and out. The interior is finished in apple green, and there are refreshment tables and their accompanying chairs of the same color. Mr. Noble has had a long experience as a pharmacist and Mr. Oden has been in the drug business for a number of years. A fine radio is one of the attractions of the place. A filling station will be run in connection with the store."

Noble's remained a drug store until 1947 when Glenn opened a restaurant there. It was a restaurant (and some time very elegant) for many years and was in and out of Noble hands. A motel was added next door in 1954 and is still in the Noble family, under the management of Eugenia Noble Delboy.

Noble's was the long-time scene of a daily breakfast round table frequented by everyone who was anyone in Brentwood. Gossip was that most political decisions were made there and later rubber stamped by City Hall.

Noble's has been altered and expanded through the years to accommodate its various uses, but it remains a Brentwood landmark and institution and today is home to ERA Realty Company.

Maybe Alex should re-convene the Breakfast Club to deal with local partisan politics.

Historic Businesses Still in Existence

Twenty-five years ago, businesses in Brentwood were few in number. Those among them still surviving number only seven: Noble's Restaurant, Traveler's Rest Motel, Pewitt's Service Station, Huff's Market, Barbara's House of Beauty (now known as The Hair Studio), Brentwood Barber Shop, and Star Market.

Noble's Restaurant. — The oldest Brentwood business still in existence is Noble's. In 1929, A. H. (Albert) Noble purchased approximately five acres on the corner of Franklin Road and Old Hickory Boulevard for the "enormous" sum of \$5,000.00. A registered pharmacist, Noble opened a drug store on the site. Marion Oden, also a registered pharmacist, assisted him in the business.

Noble's remained a drug store until 1947, when Glenn Noble and his wife opened a restaurant in the building. In 1949, the Nobles sold the restaurant but retained ownership of the building. For many years, Noble's was the only restaurant in Brentwood. The restaurant has subsequently been owned and operated by several persons.

Traveler's Rest. — Traveler's Rest Motel was built adjacent to Noble's Restaurant by Glenn Noble in 1953. For over 30 years, the Noble family has managed the motel as a lodging place for families and business people. No other landmarks in Brentwood are as identifiable to newcomers as are these two time-honored businesses.

Pewitt's Exxon. — In 1938, Emery Pewitt and his brother Luther opened a garage and service station on Franklin Road where The Odyssey Salon is now located.

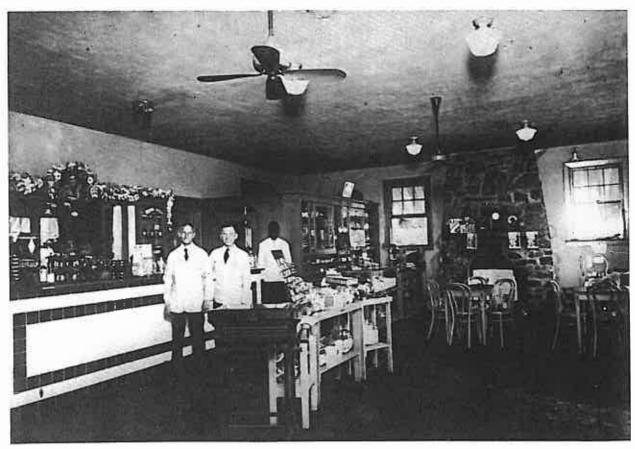
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Noble's in 1941.



Traveler's Rest Motel has been in operation continuously since 1953.







The interior of Noble's Pharmacy (upper). Noble's began operation as a restaurant in 1948 (lower left). A. H. Noble, founder of Noble's Pharmacy (lower right).

Noble witnesses changes through the year

By Lucretia Lawrence BRENTWOOD JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Glenn Noble may be retired, but he still makes it over to his Travelers Rest Inn and Nobles Restaurant almost everuday.

everyday,
Noble "officially" retired
about 10 years ago, but he
still comes in to help take
care of day-to-day tax work,

The restaurant, started by his father, Albert Noble, in 1947, is the oldest business in Brentwood.

"My father built a drug store where the restaurant is now in 1929," Noble said. "He added the restaurant about 20 years later.

When daddy finished up the drug store, they were just finishing up Franklin Road it was gravel before then.

Nobel worked at the soda fountain in his father's store when he was 17 years old and married in 1934 at age

"I built the motel in 1953, and my wife and I ran it until about 10 years ago and lived at the motel for 17 years," he said. "My daughter Gena and her husband, Jan Delboy, manage it for me now.

Nobel said in the early days of the restaurant, Brentwood wasn't much

There was a nightchib across the street where the Ecoon station is now called Palm's," he said. 'A Standard filling station was down the road and a couple of grocery stores.

The methodist church

"The methodist church was where First Tennessee Bank is now."

Noble not only built his motel, but also built Brent-woods first post office.

"The post office was here then, too," he said. "It was where the carport is now between the motel and the restaurant."

Noble said he's never cared much for the restaurant business,

"My wife and I ran that restaurant for about a year and a half and decided that there must be something better for us to do with our time," he said laughing. "Tve sold that place at least a dozen times I know.

"It just always seems to have this way of coming back to us, "On two occasions, I've had people come over here to the motel, hand me the key and say that they just can't handle it any more."

Noble said you really have to love the restaurant business to make one a success.

We're just not restaurant people," he said. "And you have to love it to put the time in that you need to.

"Now, I've always enjoyed the motel. It's a nice clean business.

'Back in the 1930s, Mason Houghland made the Spur Oil deal right over one of those restaurant tables.'

GlennNoble

"You get to meet people from all over the world. We've had folks in here from Japan, Germany, England, Australia and Canada."

Noble said he named the motel after the historic home on Franklin Road.

"Back then it wasn't an historic home," he said. I just thought it would be a nice name for a motel.

The restaurant has always been sort of a meeting place for businessmen.

"Back in the 1930s, Mason Houghland made the Spur Oil deal right over one of those restaurant tables. I guess breakdast has always been our busiest time."

Noble said his motel customers have changed a lot through the years.

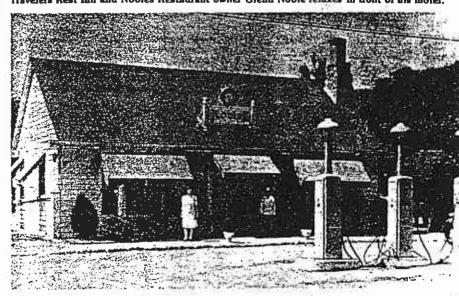
Our business now is mostly commercial since Brentwood became a place for office parks, he said. For a long time, we were the only motel in this area.

"But then came Hampton Inn, Steeplechase and the Marriott, and there's talk of the Holiday Inn and the Hilton coming, too.

"But we're very accessible, and our rates are cheaper. We hope we'll be able to our heads above water."



Travelers Rest Inn and Nobles Restaurant owner Glenn Noble relaxes in front of his motel.



Pictured above to Nobles Restaurant in its early days, and at right is Nobles today.



DEED

FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of (\$5,000.00) Five Thousand

hereinalter described, and hereby conveyed, until the whole (principal and interest) is paid,

Dollara.

paid and to be paid by $\stackrel{\circ}{\sim}$ A. H. Noble $J_{\mathbf{r}}$.

, as follows: \$ 1500.00

in cash, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and \$

3500.00 three

note B made by as follows:

^. H. Noble Jr.

which note 8 are

each for \$1166.67, of even date herewith payable to the order of Krs. Caroline Thompson Caldwell, due respectively in 1, 2, and 3 years from date, with interest, from date at 6% per annum, payable annually. A lien is nereby retained on the within described property until all notes and interest is paid in full.

and to secure and make certain the payment of which, or deferred payment 8 , a lien is hereby expressly reserved and retained on the land

I, Mrs. Caroline Thompson Caldwell. have bargained and sold, and do hereby transfer and convey unto

A. H. Noble, Jr. the following-described land in Civil District No. ' 15

Williamson County, State of Tennessee:

Bounded generally on the west by the Franklin Interurban right of way, on the north by the lane leading from the Franklin road to the Granny White Pike, on the east by the Franklin Road, and on the South by the Charlie Howell property, and containing five and one-quarter (5 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres more or less, and being part of the property conveyed to me by deed of H. H. Hughes and wife, of record in Dead Book 58, page 205, R. O. W.C. Will Dake Caldwell, husband of Caroline Thompson Caldwell, signs this deed for the purpose of releasing and relinquishing any rights he may have by virtue of his marital relation.

And I, H. H. Rughes being the lawful owner and holder of certain notes, being lien retained in deed from H. H. Hughes to Caroline Thompson Caldwell, as of record in Book 58, page 205, R. O. W. C. Tennessee, do hereby join in this conveyance for the purposes of releasing said lien on the property herein conveyed, but no further or otherwise. >

The entire debt accured herein having been paid in full to 22. Abe tawful owner. a holder, thereof, hereby release the lien on the within described property, held to see the payment of mid debt.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands, with the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said

A. H. Noble, Jr. his

helrs and assigns, forever.

covenant with the said I am

A. H. Noble Jr.

lawfully seized of said land, have a good right to convey it, and that it is unencumbered. Except for taxes for the year 1929, which the grantor hereof agrees to pay.

that

WILLIAMSON: FOR THE RECORD

CommunityForum

Opinions and views of our readers

Small businesses signaled town's character

To the Editor.

Upon opening the front page of the Williamson A.M. this morning and reading the headlines "Walgreens to replace Brentwood motel," I cried. I surprised myself at my reaction, and after reading the article that said a Walgreens will replace not only the motel, but the ERA Realtors office, the old gas station and the B&C Hardware Store, I started to get angry. How can this happen! This is a major cornerstone of our wonderful city.

I'll never forget the first time my family made that turn off Old Hickory onto Franklin Road 15 years ago. My husband had applied for a position with Vanderbilt Hospital and we were on vacation and thought we would take a look at the Greater Nashville residential areas. All it took was a drive south on Franklin Road and I knew our family would be happy here if we were to be so lucky to come to Nashville.

It wasn't just the beautiful and awe-inspiring hills and trees that enticed me. (And they certainly did, and still do.) It was the street scene, the friendly little businesses, obviously-built by families and local people over the decades, the signage. It all pulled together to create the feel of a cozy, restful little village, full of townspeople who had character, high standards of living, and pride in their community.

And we weren't disappointed. Fifteen years have flown by and our family has been blessed to have resided in a city so full of good businesses, neighborhoods, schools and churches. But I know in my heart it was largely due to those beautiful people (as my minister so lovingly calls us all) who gave their everything to build these businesses, schools and churches.

I wonder how I would have felt that day 15 years ago if we had made that turn and seen a big Walgreens sitting there.

People, what can we do?

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WILLIAMSONA.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2000

Walgreens to replace Brentwood motel

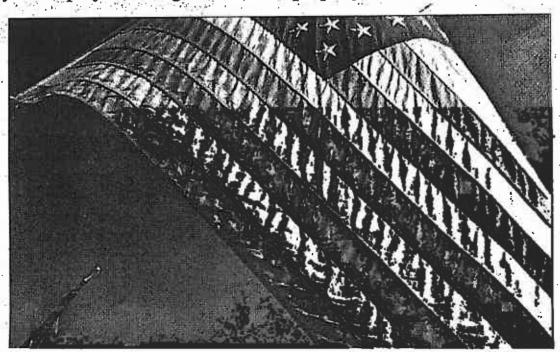
City plans to have a say in the project, though most of the property is in Davidson County

By LANET H. LETHGO Staff Writer

BRENTWOOD — Travelers
Rest Motor Inn will be torn down
so a Walgreens can be built at the
city's most prominent northern
entrance.

Walgreens officials have approached city staff and indicated that they will build a retail operation on Franklin Road at Old Hickory Boulevard. To do that, the Motor Inn — built in 1954 — the ERA Pacesetter office at the corner, the old gas station and hardware store will all have to go.

Since Travelers Rest and its surrounding businesses are the first buildings people see when they enter Brentwood off Old Hickory, making sure the development looks good is important to city officials. Much of the land that fronts Franklin Road is actually in Davidson County



Maryland Manor factorion

Brentwood property still is listed for sale, but will be razed if buyer isn't found

By JANET H. LETHGO Staff Writer

BRENTWOOD— Maryland Manor will be demolished within the next few months, unless someone else comes up with the money to buy and move the building or restore it to a new use.

On Monday, Sunrise Contracting Inc. of La Vergne filed for a permit to demolish the empty manor, an 8,624-square-foot home that is next door to city hall.

Maryland Manor is a significant piece of Brentwood's past because it was the house and surrounding horse farm that eventually became the

Chris Harris, w yesterday, but : law office said banker and in Inman is broke erty. Inman al town. The aski house and 3 known.

Inquiries last ing down Maprompted city to hold a meet moratorium or buildings in the can review the tighten up lang

City official 90-day grace I dinance was tary. They as change the v period to a m period.

Maryland i Maryland Li hodgepodge (with rotted, i