

The Vintage

Publication of the Madeira Historical Society
October, 2023 madeirahistoricalsociety.org 513-561-9069



Miller House Museum

Who would have thought...

When Mary Anne Christie helped fund our chicken coop project, who knew the joy that our chickens would bring this year when 120 Madeira first graders made their annual visit to the Miller House Museum. Our Museum Director Liz Frederick in past years has brought in her chickens from home, but this year we have resident chickens; chickens that have been adopted by a local Madeira family. To make it more interesting for the Madeira first graders, Liz borrowed a Rooster, named Bob.



In addition to our chickens, the students also learned how their ancestors did the family laundry, using a large tub, a wash board and a bar of soap. The hand-wrung laundry was then put on the clothesline to dry. The children were excited to learn about how it was “back then”.

Our display at the library...

Several times each year the society is invited to create a display in one of the glass cases located at the Madeira Public Branch Library at the back entrance. This month we wanted to spotlight a new collection that we just acquired. The collection consists of dolls in traditional costumes purchased while traveling in the 1920's through the 1940's. Frank Helmers



bought these for his granddaughter as he traveled the world. Next month we will do another story on Frank Helmers' shoe manufacturing business. Thank you, Molly and Nancy Hendricks, for your contribution.

The Picture that Came to Life...

I was volunteering at the Miller House Museum one day when I had a visitor; a long-standing member whom I had never met before. I knew she has donated many pieces of her grandmother's vintage furniture which has shaped the museum and has given us a good base to our displays.

As my visitor turned the corner into the dining room, she remarked how well the dining room furniture looked in the room and said, "You've even got my picture on the buffet." I was so

surprised; I have looked at this picture for 4 years and never knew who the family was. The little girl in the picture (my visitor) is Kathy Edgemon Bechtold! Her mother, Sue Stewart Edgemon, is behind her and her grandmother, Jane Louise, is on her left. Uncle Don Edgemon, who donated our secretary piece in our museum living room (all the way from Boston) is the young man on the far left. Next to him is Uncle Stanley Burlage and next is Aunt Carol Burlage. Grandpa, Charles L. Edgemon, is standing at the head of the Thanksgiving table. The year is 1956. Slightly obscured from view is Aunt Bobbi. The table, chairs,



china cabinet, buffet, and chandelier were all in Kathy's grandparents' home. They had remodeled and lived in the old Odd Fellows Home on Kugler Mill and what is now New England Court. This is one of my "finds" that makes my "job" fun. I am so tickled to unlock the mystery of this lovely family. Written by Carol Heck

Madeira Neighbors Publication...

This monthly magazine has been a popular subject at the Madeira Historical Society and the community. For some time now, there has been a short story written about historical information on Madeira by our archivist, Carol (Klenk) Heck. We just want to mention these stories and ask you to share your



information with us. There may be more to what she writes, but without your memories, we won't know what you know.

Kroger Store Celebrates Nearly 100 Years in Madeira...

On Thursday, November 9th, our Kroger store will be having an all-day celebration of nearly 100 years of doing business in Madeira. Starting with a very small store on Camargo Pike, then moving to the corner of Camargo and Miami Avenue almost 100 years ago, Kroger has been a mainstay.

The opening of the ceremony will be at 10:00 A.M. with speeches from the Kroger Division President, Ann Reed, who presides over 104 stores, our Mayor, Chris Hilberg, current and past elected officials, past and present employees, and performances by the award-winning Madeira High School Band.

Madeira Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Dave Peterson, has commented of the important role Kroger has played in serving as an anchor store for numerous small businesses and a hub of employment opportunities for our residents. Kroger has been an integral part of our community growth by providing convenience and accessibility for all who call Madeira home. Its significance goes beyond the shelves and aisles; Kroger has shown unwavering commitment through community outreach and charitable endeavors, making our town a better place.

This has all been the brainchild of Mary Anne Christie, former Mayor of Madeira, Doug Oppenheimer, former Madeira Historical Society President, along with help from Carol Heck, Madeira Historical Society archivist. Former Mayor Christie was responsible for keeping Kroger's in Madeira in the early 1980's. We owe her our gratitude and appreciation. Kroger's was going to close its Laurel Avenue store and focus on the store in Kenwood. Her foresight and determination created a solution for the Laurel Avenue store and the George Meyer Hardware Company to switch real-estate locations.

Come join us and share the nearly 100 years of building connections. Kroger is inviting you to attend this celebration with a short program, with special promotions, and handouts. Happy Anniversary; Kroger and Madeira residents!

Friendly Reminder...

Please send in your membership dues if you have been receiving our reminders. If you are not sure about your status, you may call us at 513-561-9069, or send us a message to our email at maderiahistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Our mailing address is Madeira Historical Society, 7226 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243. Payments go to Treasurer/ Donna Lienhart, 7229 Longfield, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Christmas Dinner and Business Meeting...

Included with this mailing is your invitation to attend the Christmas Dinner and December Business Meeting and at Kenwood Country Club on Dec. 6th, 2023. Save the date!



Send in your R.S.V.P. as soon as possible. We will have door prizes and raffle baskets and Madeira Elementary School Choir as the night's entertainment. This year we will be presenting The Florence V. Hoffmann award. Don't forget to include your ballot when you send in your dinner reservations.

Letter From Our President....

October 2023 – A message from your Madeira Historical Society President

Thanks to all of our Madeira Historical Society Members for your continued support. It has been an honor to serve as your President the past 2 years and I look forward to serving on the Board as Treasurer.

Please plan on visiting the Miller house at one of our remaining open house dates in 2023 on 11/4, 11/19, 12/2 and on 12/17 from 1-4 PM on all dates.

In December the Miller House will be decorated for the Holidays. Please plan to visit during our last 2023 Open House events on either Saturday December 2nd from 1-4 PM or on Sunday December 17th from 1-4 PM. We plan to have Punch & Cookies for our guests!

Please plan to attend our next Open Membership Meeting & Program at the Madeira Branch Library on Saturday 11/18. At Noon we will have an Open Meeting from 12-1 PM for Members and Guests to hear about what is happening with your Historical Society and an opportunity to ask questions. Following the Open meeting at 1 PM we have another wonderful program Presented by our Board Member, Les LeFevre and our Vice President, Doug Oppenheimer. This program will center on Oscar Meyer and his life in Madeira including the origination of the George Meyer Company. There will be first hand comments from Les as an employee and family friend and Doug's friendship with Oscar through his involvement with the Historical Society. There will be many pictures in a PowerPoint presentation.

Finally, As mentioned in the Newsletter, your invitation to our Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner is enclosed with this mailing that be held on Wednesday December 6th at the Kenwood Country Club. This is definitely a GALA Event at a beautiful Madeira location with wonderful entertainment by the Madeira Elementary School Choir, great food prepared by the County Club, a Basket Raffle with some great prizes and, finally our annual (Brief) business meeting and the election of Madeira Historical Society Board Members & also a vote for a change to our Constitution & Bylaws. We hope you can attend!

If you are unable to attend, we have enclosed the Ballot and proposed change to our Constitution & Bylaws for current members with this mailing so that you can still participate in the election of your organization by mail or Email.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Bob Bartlett

President, Madeira Historical Society