

## So Lucky! By Carol (Klenk) Heck

Even though Kroger Food Store has been a great addition to Madeira which started so long ago, it wasn't the first grocery store in Madeira. Family history supplied to The Madeira Historical Society states that the first grocery store in Madeira was LUCKEY'S Grocery on Camargo Pike, seen here when Camargo was just a dirt road. The tall house-like structure on the left is where the Flach (or Flack) family lived in 1900. Charles & Suzanne with their 7 children might not have owned this house, but I am looking for more information on that.



Luckey's store is attached on the right side by the horse and buggy. If you could read the sign that is hanging off of the building above the wagon, you would see that they were advertising Grimm & Jefferson Flour.

Store owner, Wilson Luckey & his wife, Edna, lived 4 blocks away at 7712 Laurel Ave. in this big white house, around 1910. They had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Wilson died in 1927 and Edna moved out sometime in the 1930's. The house was torn down around 1986. It is now the parking lot for the Laurel Apartments and part of the Stock Yards Bank's parking.



The Luckey's 10-yr. old son, George Hilton Luckey, delivered groceries for his father via horse and wagon at 10 years of age. It was not uncommon for the children of the family to work and help out with the family business. Because there was so much manual work around the house, every child had chores to do and even the household's animals required a lot of time and care.



George knew the two Flach boys, as they were relatively close in age, and George spent a lot of time at his father's store. Seen in the circa 1910 picture are, Carl Flach on the left, George Luckey in the middle, and Arthur Flach on the right. They are sitting on the Flach's front porch steps right in front of the door.

George grew up, and in 1923, he married Eleanor Surran, and around 1930, they moved into a house at 7343 Juler. From there, in 1940, George and Eleanor moved to 7129 Maple, raising 5 children in all. George was a former Madeira councilman from 1940 until 1942. He pushed hard for sidewalks in Madeira.

So, what happened to LUCKEY'S Grocery Store? I know that later, around 1957 or so, the building became Ben's Pony Keg and after that it was The Wine Cellar from 1971 to 1998. The street address was 7670 Camargo. In this 1993 picture from the Hamilton County Auditor's webpage, it looks like the new owner kept the original house that the Flach's lived in and put up a large front

façade over the dwelling and the old store. Today, this spot is the entrance off of Camargo Rd. to the parking lot of Walgreens.

This has been a small tidbit of Madeira history and I hope if you want more information, you call or go to our website at [madeirahistoricalsociety.org](http://madeirahistoricalsociety.org). If you would like to become a member, our website also has a sign-up form for you to fill out. Come see our museum during OPEN HOUSE on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM, April through December.



Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society, Cleo Hosbrook, the Flach family, and Hamilton County Auditors website.

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Also see, "Let's Go Kroger-ing" and "As Madeira Kroger Celebrates Nearly 100 Years" under Kroger Grocery Stores.