

## You've Got Mail!

by Carol (Klenk) Heck

Electronically, you hear the alert on your phone and you punch a few things and “mail” appears in your inbox. We have come quite a long way from the old times (ca. 1867) when Madeira had a postmaster in a large, brick 3-story building that also served as other functions, including an early Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad freight stop.



The second post office, circa 1926, was in Mr. George Bauer’s store on the northeast corner of Miami and Laurel Avenues. The picture shows the back end of Bauer’s store on Laurel and the doorway that one would use to enter the post office. Today, People’s Bank occupies that corner of Miami and Laurel.

The circa 1929 picture you on the right is where the third post office was located. The building was built by George C. Bauer on property he owned right behind his store. It was used as a post office until 1937. Below is a slide of the interior of this post office.



In true Madeira fashion, after the post office moved out, this building was used as a multi-purpose one. It housed the police department, the library and the Village of Madeira Council chambers, mayor’s court, and building inspector all at the same time. It is still in use today as a shoe repair shop and has an address of 7710 Laurel Avenue.

Charles Jordan built the fourth post office around 1937 across the street and farther east



on Laurel. That building is still there, also. Does anyone recognize it as the Madeira Inn; home of great food and cold beer with that German flair?

Home mail delivery started around 1948. Before that, Madeira's 400 or so residents had to go pick up their mail from the post office. Residents could rent one of the few unlocked boxes or get their mail from "general delivery". Either way, the mail was handed to them through the clerk's window.

"Mail arrived and departed Madeira only by train until about 1953. The postmaster would lock up the post office each morning at 9:15 and pull a cart down to the B. & O. train station where mailbags would be tossed out as he handed-in the out-going mail bags. He then would return to the post office to sort the mail. At 3:30 in the afternoon, he would sack the out-going mail into a "catcher" pouch, lock up the office again, and take the pouch down to the B. & O. station. He would fasten the bag to a tall pole where an arm from a speeding railway mail car would catch the bag as a new bag of incoming mail was thrown out". \*<sup>1</sup>



In 1961, the current post office was built on the corner of Laurel Avenue and Center Street. By 1965, with over more than 15,000 Madeira residents, it had become a branch of the Cincinnati Post Office. Today, pictured at left, it's renovated and beautified, and is complete with outside drive-up mail boxes, a retail sales area, and friendly employees.

1. *Moving Right Along*, by Russell DeMar, 1996

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society and Carol (Klenk) Heck  
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After writing this story, I discovered another earlier post office.

Also see "Corner of Camargo and Miami; & the Dones Family" under Maps and Homes.