What's in a Name? by Carol (Klenk) Heck

So, you are driving along and you are using your phone or GPS and it states, "turn left on the section line road, then right on Montgomery-Plainville Road. Drive for one minute. You will have arrived at the Madeira train depot." And you say, "That doesn't sound right!"

Well, did you know that the streets of Madeira were not always named as they are now? In 1874, Richard Nelson wrote a book entitled, *Suburban Homes*. In it he writes, "Though there are as yet no macadamized (paved) roads near Madeira, there are several delightful drives, east, west, north, and south. The principals of these are the Montgomery Road, Moores Avenue, Madison Pike, Milford Road and the road to Plainville; besides numerous roads that intersect and open up the country in all directions." *[1]

Have you ever heard of a road called Stoney Run? Construction of this road was in 1817 and it came across the valley on the west side of Madeira. In 1839, when the old stone school house was built, also known as McCullum School, the road changed its name to McCullum Road. Today, you know it as **Shawnee Run Road**. Legend has it that this road was originally an old Shawnee Indian trail.

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Another road built in 1817 was a road called the Madison-Lebanon Road. Today, these are two separate streets called **Whetsel** and **Kenwood Road**.

In 1832, our main north-south thoroughfare through Madeira was constructed. "The portion that lies south of the present Euclid was originally called Plainville Road and the portion north of Euclid was called Montgomery Road; (or just Montgomery-Plainville Road). A latter portion, to the north, was called Todd Road in the 1880's." *[2] It is all Miami Avenue today.
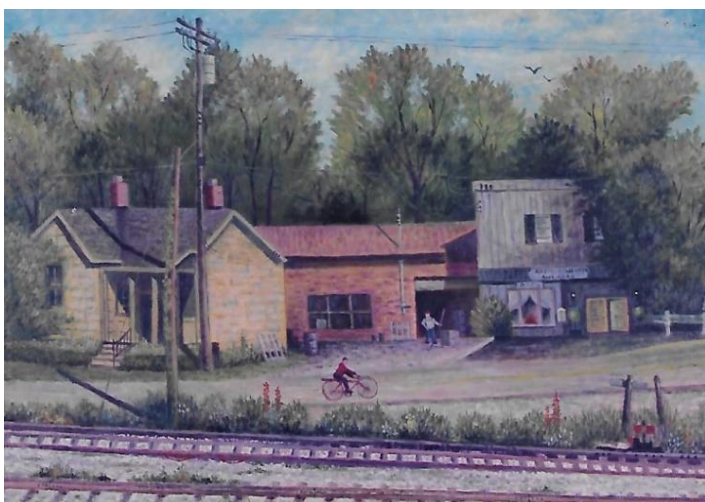
When J. L. Hosbrook and J. D. Moore created the first subdivision in 1871, they created Laurel Avenue, Center Street, Railroad Avenue and called the street in front of the railroad depot, Moores Avenue. (See photo above of the circa 1900's dirt road in front of the Madeira depot.) Below that is a full-color

artist's rendition by William R. Jones showing a part of Railroad Avenue as it was a long time ago. The gray building on the right is still standing. It is next to the creek and is Woellner Enterprises today. The red garage is gone and so is the yellow residential home of Alma Slagle.

Then, in 1886, Leonard Fowler created an addition to Madeira including lots on Maple Avenue and a westward extension of Laurel. It looked like **Dawson Road** was originally going to be an extension of Railroad Avenue and our main thoroughfare was renamed *again*, to Linden Avenue. I am so glad that finally today it's all one name: **Miami Avenue**, named for the Miami Indians who once lived in the area.

"Miami Avenue was improved by the county under a special act of legislature in 1890 and completed as a concrete road in 1928." *[3] I find it exciting to read old maps and blueprints to see so many names for one road.

Before 1847, a road was constructed that no longer exists. It ran northeast from the present Kenwood Road starting near the present Apache Circle and then cutting across the countryside, avoiding deep gullies, and up to the section line road which divided Sycamore Township and Columbia Township, and then headed eastward along the township line. Sometime around 1869, it was extended straight westward to Kenwood Road. We don't know the name of this first road, but the section line road was named Bond Road around 1872. "Bond was an impassible mud road. The space was allotted to a commons and used as pasture lands previous to the change of name in 1884 to **Euclid Avenue,** pictured here.

In 1890, there were only three houses along the entire 2-mile stretch. In 1907, a 40-foot roadway was constructed, and in 1931, the property owners donated a strip of ten feet and the present concrete road was built and widened." *[4] Since Euclid Avenue is a straight and true surveyor's section line, it may have been named in honor of the notorious mathematician, Euclid.

What I have gathered from my research is that "**Camargo Road** was *also* originally an Indian trail. This trail was made into the Madisonville, O'Bannion and Camargo Turnpike in 1857." *[5] "Joseph B. Mann is credited for the development of this toll road." *[6] "Later, it was taken under the supervision of the county commissioners. In 1880, it was improved by the county under the Two-mile Assessment Act, and in 1927, the upgraded boulevard was built." *[7] The common belief is that it was named for the village of Camargo in Clermont County. The road was supposed to connect to Clermont County, but never made it that far.

Osler was a name I found on a hand-drawn map that is now the short, east-west part of **Juler Avenue**. North of that was a short street called Wesley, and it is still there. However, there was a

third street north of Wesley that doesn't match up to anything I can see on the map today. There is an extra wide lot there, however. That was going to be called Meyer.

The section of **Galbraith Road** that runs along Madeira's upper boundary was once obviously called **Kugler Mill Road**.

Sometime between 1847 and 1869, **Hosbrook Road** was constructed. In the photo on the right, a horse and buggy on Hosbrook Road are going south away from the present Montgomery Road. It has always been called Hosbrook Road due to the founding Hosbrook family farms that were there.

A little later on **Dawson Road** was built. This snowy picture below shows Dawson going from left to right and the railroad tracks are what is most prominent in the picture. Maple Avenue is angling off to the right at an upward slant. The picture was taken from Camargo Road.

Many streets in Madeira took on the last names of its early settlers, builders, and land owners. Along with Hosbrook Road, those would be: **Maxfield Lane** (Eugene). **Dones Avenue** (James), and **Fowler Avenue** (Leonard). **Southside** was named for the south side of the Fowler development and **Summit** was named for the high point of Fowler's land.

James Dones liked to use his family's names for streets developed in the James Dones estate. **Dones Avenue** was the original entrance to the Dones farm. **Ester Lane, Naomi Avenue** and **Marvin Avenue** were all family members. Ester and Naomi were his great-granddaughters. Marvin was his wife's maiden name; Sarah Marvin.

Mar Del Drive was an abbreviation of Margarethe Delatron. She was the wife of George Delatron who owned property on the street.

Longfield Drive was named after James Long, a developer in the 1950's.

Thomas G. Bergen was a developer before that in the 1940's. He named **Thomas Drive** for himself, **Rita Lane** for his wife, and **Berwood Drive** was a combination of Bergen and Wood. Woods was another farm family who lived in the area. Then, here's where Bergen got really creative; **Jethve Lane** was the combination of the first two letters of his daughter's names;

Jean, Thelma and Vera. You can see a picture of these sisters in Regina Villiers' article on our Society's website at madeirahistoricalsociety.org under Regina's stories, entitled, "How Do You Get a Name like Jethve"? I found it to be an interesting read. The last of Thomas Bergen's concoctions is **Rathon** which was formed from taking VeRA and THOMas. The M was changed to an N to make it easier to say.

And, of course, **Stiegler Lane** was named after Pauline Stiegler. She was the RN from Poland who founded Stiegler's Nursing Home.

There are about 134 streets in Madeira. I am hoping all of them are paved by now. Some may be a little quaint, but that's the charm of Madeira. I will be looking for more name changes from the past as I learn more about Madeira's history. Be sure to come out to our programs at the Madeira Branch Public Library and at Traditions so that together we can learn about the area we live in. Visit our website at madeirahistoricalsociety.org or check out our newsletter for event times and dates. You can also reach us via email at madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

1. *Suburban Homes*, by Richard Nelson, 1874.
2. *Madeira Milestones*, prepared on the occasion of Madeira's 75th Anniversary of Incorporation, forward by Frank M. Bostwick.
3. *The Madeira News*, by Earl J. Winter, publisher "Madeira-Past-Present-Future", May 25, 1932.
4. *The Madeira News*, by Earl J. Winter, publisher "Madeira-Past-Present-Future", May 25, 1932.
5. *The Madeira News,* by Earl J. Winter, publisher "Madeira-Past-Present-Future", May 25, 1932.
6. *Methodism in Madeira*, by Bill Hugo, 2000
7. *The Madeira News,* by Earl J. Winter, publisher "Madeira-Past-Present-Future", May 25, 1932.

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society.
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Also see, "Corner of Miami and Camargo; & the Dones Family" under Maps and Roads, and "She was Such a Good Nurse" under Pauline Stiegler's Nursing Home.