

From Pennies & Pups - to Pills & Phosphates

by Carol (Klenk) Heck

Pennies & Pups:

Around 1900, Camargo Bank had what *Ripley's Believe It or Not* called the "smallest bank in the world". It was right downtown in Madeira! It sat on the corner of Miami and Laurel where we find Adrien's Pharmacy today. The frame building was very narrow in front, but went back quite a ways alongside Laurel Avenue. (See both pictures.)



Former Mayor, Russ Brown, wrote that the Camargo Bank moved to a "new building" on Camargo Road which probably was the Fleishman Building (built circa. mid 1920's), or approximately 7692 Camargo Road where today we find Walgreens. Later in 1949, Camargo Bank became 5/3rd bank.



Then, around 1959 when the old Presbyterian church moved from the NW corner of Miami and Laurel, 5/3rd bought that land and moved there. This is where the bank is today at 7105 Miami. An extensive remodel of the 5/3rd bank took place around 1994. You may note that the original bank started out on the SW corner of Miami and Laurel, but moved back to occupy the NW corner.

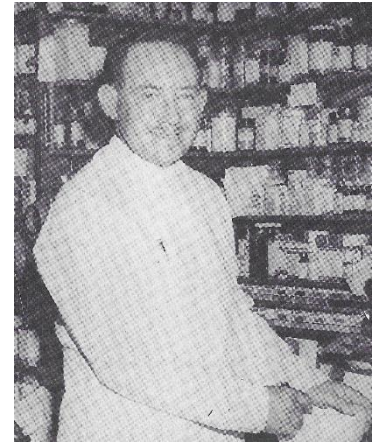


Going back to about 1937, and after the Camargo bank moved out of the tiny building, Dr. Anson Glenwood (A. G.) Madden Jr., D.V.M. used the old narrow bank building for his dog hospital. These first two pictures above are from that time and location. Dr. A. G. Madden, seen here to the left, also treated horses and other large animals. At one time, his assistant was Ray Jacobs. The man photographed in the doorway wearing the white coat, above, was identified as Pete Berger.

Dr. Madden lived a few blocks north at 7242 Miami in a big Victorian house that is still there. It had an empty lot on its lefthand side by Juler Avenue. There was even once a barn behind his house. After a while, Dr. Madden had the small vet office building removed from its foundation and relocated from Miami and Laurel to the empty lot next to his home for his veterinary clinic. It's still there, but over the years, additions and construction all around the original structure took place until the small bank/vet building can no longer be seen from the outside. However, I am told that there is a center hallway approximately the size of the circa 1900 structure within the confines of the VCA Animal Hospital at 7250 Miami Avenue.

Pills & Phosphates:

In 1926, when the Mar-Jean building at 7015-7019 Miami Avenue was brand new, pharmacist Robert Braun, see picture at right, had a drugstore in the building. The Mar-Jean was to the left of the original tiny bank. (Maybe you can see a bit of the Mar-Jean building on the left-hand side of the bank in the top two pictures on page 1.)



In this picture of the Mar-Jean building with the cars in front, Braun's Pharmacy is the one with the awning. Along with Braun's Drugs, there was possibly a newspaper office and another store in-between them in 1926. I think I see a barber pole in this undated picture. The Mar-Jean building is the one with three storefronts and is still there on Miami today.

After Dr. Madden moved the vet office onto his own property, the corner lot on Miami and Laurel was vacant. I don't know how long it stayed that way. However, the land was transferred to Mr. Braun in 1945 and the current drugstore building was built in 1955. That's when Braun's Drugs moved from the Mar-Jean into the new larger location next-door on the corner. The delightful picture above of Robert Braun is from a 1959 ad in the Madeira *Mnemonic* H.S. yearbook. I love the neon sign that has been used for the store ever since.



This parade picture is circa 1960, the second one below is 1984 and the color picture is from 2023. They show both Braun's and the present Adrien's names.

In the late 50's, early 60's, when I was in grade school, Braun's had a soda fountain as you entered the front door and to the right running along the side wall, if I remember correctly. In the hot summertime, my friends and I would sit on the stools at the counter. As I sat there. I remember staring at the curved handles that were used make soda phosphates. So, what is a soda phosphate? Wikipedia says, "phosphates were carbonated beverages made-from-scratch by the 'soda jerk' using carbonated soda water, flavored syrups



and phosphoric acid, an ingredient still used today in many brands of



soda pop including Coke. Popular phosphate flavors included cherry, lime (usually called a green river), chocolate and vanilla.

My friends and I would only order free ice water. They probably had air conditioning, too! Whew, what a relief after playing outside for an hour or two in the heat. After a few times of getting this refreshing treat, we were told that we needed to actually buy something if we were going to come into the drugstore.

Mr. Braun made his own homemade ice cream as early as 1926. He started this tradition in his first drugstore in the Mar-Jean building at 7019 Miami. He attracted customers all the way from Western Hills. Back in the 1940's, ice creams were around 15 cents. And it might be hard to imagine, but some folks didn't have enough spare money for extras like ice cream, even at that low price.

Evan Adrien joined Robert Braun as a pharmacist back in 1957 and took over the business in 1968 when Braun retired. Around 1971, Kunkel Apothecary on Shawnee Run, close to where REMAX is today, was another pharmacy according to the Madeira Directory. I suppose that was competition for Adrien's.

Another event that hit the papers in 1971 was a petition started by a 14-year-old girl and her two friends. Mr. Adrien wanted to remove the soda fountain from his store and put in more medical and surgical supplies in that space. He thought this was the way to increase his business. Also, a recent decrease of close parking spaces outside his business hindered his fountain customers from easy access. The petition, signed by more than 150 neighborhood people asked nicely that the soda fountain remain. It was a peaceful demonstration in the years of young people standing up for their beliefs. The teens said, "It provided a meeting place for young and old and had been a mainstay for 45 years". Adrien said he would miss hearing the conversations as people sat at his counter, but needed to upgrade to accommodate the area doctor's and hospital's needs.

Historically speaking, this *southwest* corner location of Miami and Laurel has been an asset to Madeira for around 120 years or more. On the *northwest* corner, the old Presbyterian Church and their gymnasium was also a gathering place for many events starting as early as 1886. If anyone has any more information that I might have missed, please contact me at the Madeira Historical Society. Our phone number is 513-561-9069 or email madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Enjoy your summer!

References:

"*Growing up in Madeira*", by Mary Lou DeMar.

Cincinnati Post & Times Star, 1971,

Hamilton County Auditors website.

Correspondence letter and map between Warren Joy and Harry Hoes.

Speech by Russ Brown "Do You Remember When" 1975.

Madeira Directories, 1955-1971.

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Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society, Ancestry.com, Madeira *Mnemonic*, and Carol (Klenk) Heck

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Also see, “Madeira’s Second Historic Area” under Maps and Homes.