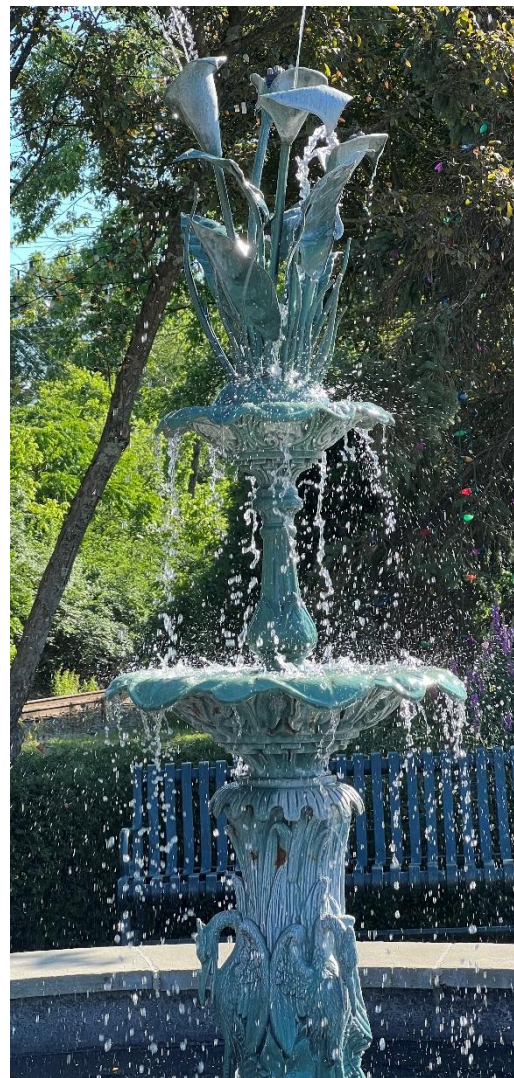


Summer Days at the Fountain by Carol (Klenk) Heck



Who doesn't feel some sort of relaxation sitting by, and listening to, the calming sounds of water? Whether it be a fountain, a waterfall, or a brook. Madeira has a beautiful fountain in the heart of downtown. On the left, these three historic pictures of the fountain were taken sometime before the 1930's. The second one with the dog was around 1915, and the last one showing the Madeira Depot, was around 1900-1903. I don't know when the fountain was originally placed in this area across from the depot, but the bottom picture may



have been one of the earliest that we have. "This picture used to hang on the wall of the depot for many years. It was taken by W. G. Hera whose office was at 128 East 3rd street in Cincinnati." *1

Sometime in the 1930's, the fountain was demolished when a train and an automobile collided and destroyed the fountain. In this last old black and white

picture, you can see how close the second railroad track was in relationship to the fountain. Also note as a point of interest, you can see the old water tower on the right behind the trees.

I was unaware of this, but Madeira didn't have a fountain there from the day of that wreck until Dan McDonald, the longest serving Mayor of Madeira (1960-1977), donated a new fountain. He also provided an annuity to pay for the upkeep. The new fountain was unveiled in the beginning of the year of 2000. That means that there was a span of sixty-some years without a fountain.

Stewart Ironworks, in Covington Kentucky, was the company that made this first fountain for Madeira. In an article from *The Post*, October 7, 1999, the city manager, Tom Moeller, is quoted as saying, "We believe the original fountain was (first) installed by the railroad."

Conceivably, Madeira was interested in doing something nice for their upcoming Centennial. After all, in 2010, Madeira was going to be 100 years old! Replacing the fountain was a brilliant idea. And restoring something historic was what they had in mind. Once again, a call was made, or a letter was written, to Stewart Ironworks. They recognized the description of the fountain; about six feet tall, peace or trumpet lilies at the top, a bowl with forged leaf designs, and cranes or birds around the base. It was discovered that the original sculpture blueprints were still on file after all those years. Using the original plans, they made another fountain very similar to our old one for us to enjoy even today.

The sign at the Millennium Plaza, where the fountain stands, says, "This fountain is a gift to the Citizens of Madeira from Daniel D. & Marilyn McDonald and Family, November 29, 1999, in memory of my son, Michael and his mother Betty Jane".

During the Centennial year, the iconic fountain was the main symbol on pamphlets, programs, posters and in the book project entitled, *Madeira, Ohio "The Friendly Town"*



1910-2010, by Kathy Winters and photographer Dominick Ciolino.



The Madeira City School students were given the challenge to come up with an inspirational design for the Centennial that focused on the fountain. The Centennial Committee picked seven contest winners from a 3rd grader up to, and including, several 12th graders. The art the students created was used

for several things including, official letterhead of the Centennial Committee, thank-you cards, storefront posters, t-shirt art, utility pole banners, and the most memorable design, seen here, was used throughout the year as The Centennial Gala's giant birthday card art. (The original pen and ink artwork was enhanced by a volunteer graphic designer.)

I am so glad we have such an attractive plaza and refreshing fountain. Across the street at the depot, we have another plaza to pull the theme all together. Summertime is the best time to “stop and smell the roses”. It's a time to slow down and enjoy life during these long days of sunshine and warmth. Dogs are mostly on leashes these days, but even they like to get out for a walk and then a shady rest. Even if you are jogging around town, I invite you to stop by the fountain, and take it all in. It's a great place to meet and just catch up with friends and neighbors.



1. *Madeira...A City in '60*, J. Graydon DeCamp and Marion S. Kjellenberg

Also, thank you to several past members of the Centennial Committee for providing information.

Reference: *Madeira, Ohio "The Friendly Town" 1910-2010*

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society and Carol (Klenk) Heck
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Note; Since the time of publishing, the fountain has been painted black.