

Is that a House Coming Down the Street? By Carol (Klenk) Heck

It was June 1962. The neighbor folks came out to watch a house get driven down Railroad Avenue, across Miami, and turn up Dawson Road to its final resting place on Southside Avenue. Originally, the house was at 7733 Laurel Avenue to the west of the current Post Office. The house had been the home of the late Homer and Susan Leever. Homer had worked at the train depot. Susan was a homemaker. This house and two others were slated for demolition to enable a larger Kroger store to be built on Laurel. (Since then, Kroger moved to the current Miami Avenue location and McCabe's Hardware is now using that building and parking lot.)



Look at this color photograph. You see the back porch and the back door of the house as it is being hauled off the Laurel Avenue property, through the backyard and onto Railroad Avenue. The telephone pole is still there on Railroad just past the back parking lot of McCabe's and right before the back property of the Post Office. The white structure on the left was Leever's backyard garage and the low concrete building on the right is the back dock of the Post Office. The brown house has already been loaded onto its trailer, angled, and hauled several yards.

This next view has the photographer standing by the train tracks and looking across Miami toward the old theatre (aka Madeira Manor or Bruegger's Bagels). The house is just about to enter Dawson Road. I don't know why but the truck has left the trailer for a while possibly to get a better angle for turning the corner, and the house is sitting here by itself. There are a few children out watching this enormous move. There are a few children out watching this enormous move. It was good for them that they stayed well out of the way.





Looking back the other direction, you can see in the background on the right the old B. & B. Mower shop that sat on Railroad Avenue. Today, this is where The Swingline Restaurant was built.

The next picture below is a view looking down Miami from the intersection at Laurel as the house is blocking the intersection of Miami and Dawson. You are seeing the front porch sticking out and the bay windows which are on the right-hand side of the house. You can see the Washette laundromat

on Miami Avenue which was next to Braun's Drug Store (now called Adrian's) and the vertical Kroger store sign of the soon-to-be closed store at 7011 Miami. Across the street is Roflow's Art Studio and Madeira Cleaners. Law enforcement has put up the barricades in order to stop traffic. I wonder how long it actually took and what time of day it could have been.



The last photo shows the front of the house as the truck, barely visible, has turned the corner and is heading up Dawson. There are men riding up on top of the roof, maybe to make sure the power lines were not going to be hit.

I liked this picture because it just shows the phone booth that was on the corner of Miami and Dawson. In 1962, it only cost a dime to make a phone call from a phone booth and there was no need for an area code! In fact, the first two digits would have been two letters that were abbreviations for vicinities; like LO for Locust, JA for Jackson, JE for Jefferson or KI for Kirby. The letters were on the rotary dial shared with the numbers. Lastly, came the five numerals to complete the phone number.



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The Leever house was built in 1932. The new owner in 1962 was Emanuel Cassinelli. Luckily, someone did not want to see this house destroyed because it still had some good years left. The house is now 93 years old and still on Southside. I believe some additions have been made. I have no knowledge of the other two homes from Laurel, but I would be excited to find that they had also been re-located. If anyone has more information on either of these other two houses, please contact me at 513-561-9069. As always, if you want to share your information with us, you can contact Madeira Historical Society at madeirahistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Photo credits: Cleo Hosbrook and unknown.

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Also see “Bird’s Eye View” under Maps & Homes, and both stories under Kroger Grocery Stores.