

MADEIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORNER

Scouting in Madeira by Carol (Klenk) Heck

Boy Scouts have been a part of the Madeira community for over 105 years. Evidence of that is seen here in this old photo of Oscar Meyer taking the Madeira Boy Scout troop on a field trip to Fort Ancient in his own white company truck in 1922. The smudge at the top is actually a banner with the



troop number on it which I cannot read. There are about seventeen boys in the photograph with Oscar behind the wheel.

I recently talked to Ken Wegenhart, former Dan Beard Council District Commissioner, who told me that the present Troop 209 is one of the oldest troops in the surrounding area. This Madeira troop started in 1918, and the Madeira Presbyterian Church recognized its charter in 1919. The original number of the troop was #1. It seems

other vicinities also had a troop named #1. So sometime in the late 40's to early 50's, the Dan Beard Council assigned new numbers and this original Madeira troop was assigned number 209. Usually, the Cub Pack and the Troop have the same number, but there would have been a duplication, so the Cub Pack was assigned #20.

I did my own "scouting" in the archives and rooms of the Elizabeth Miller Museum and found some other historic scouting artifacts. I found a flyer dated April 1931. It announces the events and instructions for the 10th Annual Boy Scouts Indoor Jamborodeo held at the St. Xavier Field House in Avondale. Some of the things the boys competed in were: Fire by Friction, Knot-tying, Signaling, First Aid, Wall Scaling, Pyramids, and Equipment Race. If any of you are interested, we will gladly share the piece with you. It even states that the opinions of the judges are final on all events and that everyone should use fine "Scout-like sportsmanship", for which troops have a high reputation.

Seen here is an award for completing a first aid course by Howard Garrison on March 1, 1935. This scout also received an award for Troop Camping a month earlier. Goals and attributes of the Boy Scouts were; character building, reverence, chivalry, brotherhood, and patriotism, along with others. The slogans we remember mostly are "Be Prepared" and "Do a Good Turn Daily". Today, the Scout Law is considered to be; "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

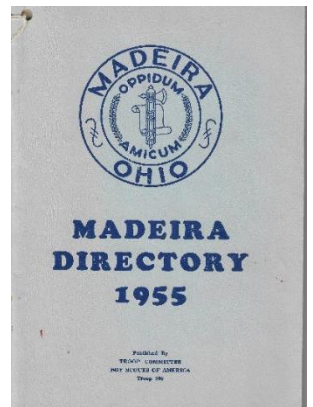
The Soap Box Derby was also a popular boy scout event. Seen



here, is the 1952 Cub Scouts' Soap Box Derby entry. Boys pictured are Don Scherer, Jack Akester, David Akester (6 years old) and Bill Williamson (toddler) and Larry Bobb. Leaders were Jim Perin and Martin Strifler. The soap box derby route ran downhill on Euclid from Hosbrook Road to Miami Avenue.



The Madeira Directory is an ongoing scout project that has come out every 2-3 years. The first edition was in 1955 led by a committee and Scout Troop 209. In 1957, Cub Pack 20 started helping on the



committee. Explorer Post 9 joined in helping on the third edition in 1959.

This directory started out as a fundraiser and Troop 209 contributed their profits, plus extra funds for a total of \$1,200.00, toward the new Presbyterian Church. James King handled the individual listings and drew up the map of Madeira. Here is a Beaver Award that James King received for leadership in February 1956.

Post 9 helped with the directory until about 1982. From approximately 1986-2004 The Madeira Athletic Boosters Association helped. From around 2006-2012 The American Heritage Girls Troop OH 1411 got credit on the project also.



The Madeira Historical Society has a collection of Madeira Directories, but we don't have all of them. If you are going through your old things and find directories from the late 60's, early and mid 80's, or late 90's, we would love to have them. If anyone is interested in viewing some of these old directories, please contact us for an appointment during these 2024 winter months, while we are closed.

In 1959, 5,200 boy scouts went to

the Peterloon Camporal in Winton Woods. *The Eastern Hamilton County Messenger* newspaper did an article with pictures showing my own brother, Richard Klenk, Dennis Horton, and Mike Girty from troop 209. "They are putting up their doorway". Another picture had Bob Poffinbarger, who was from troop 555,



crossing the handmade “monkey bridge”. It looks like a lot of fun while learning many valuable life experiences.

In 1964, Madeira had three organizations sponsored by the Presbyterian Church; Cub Pack 20, Boy Scout Troop 209, and Explorer Post 9. The St. Paul United Community Methodist Church had Cub Pack 616, and Boy Scout Troop 616. St. Gertrude Church still sponsors Cub Pack 555 and Boy Scout Troop 555. And, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church’s Boy Scout Troop was 279.



Madeira has a history of Girl Scouts, too. In 1922, the *Girl Scout Handbook* shows a typical two-piece uniform. (The Madeira Historical Society has a copy of this handbook in the library and a 1922 *Handbook for Boy Scout Masters* on display.) Pictured here are four of Madeira’s Girl Scouts posed in front of a camping tent in approximately 1925. They are Gladys Armstrong, Virginia Saik, Bertha Hendrickson, and Mildred Hendrickson.



I have been in contact with a few of the current and past leaders of Madeira’s Brownie and Girl Scout troops. The troops are doing very well and are active at every grade level. Madeira troops are part of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. They are not sponsored by area churches, like the boy scouts, but there is a belief in God as a whole with the organization. Their four pillars are Outdoors, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship, and STEAM, (science, technology, engineering, art and math). The Girl Scout Promise and Law remind them to be honest, to help people at all times, and to make the world a better place. As I write this story, I understand the Girl Scout Cookie sales are about to take place. Please support the girls and troops as they stand out in the cold to bring you your favorite flavors. Maybe you didn’t know, but you can make a donation to the troop without making a cookie purchase.

Scouting creates a very good pathway to a well-rounded child as they grow toward adulthood. Good leaders make it even better. Some of the old family names, parents and kids, that I mentioned above have also been involved with our Madeira Historical Society over the years. It takes a lot of effort to be a leader, but the rewards are what is most valuable. It’s a very good cause when you invest in young minds and community.

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Photos courtesy of *The Eastern Hamilton County Messenger*, 1959, *Girl Scout Handbook*, 1922, and Madeira Historical Society
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