

## MADEIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORNER

### Fill 'er Up, Please! By Carol (Klenk) Heck

I remember my dad driving the '53 Chevrolet into the filling stations in Madeira when he needed to get gasoline in the car's tank. When he drove over the skinny black air hose lying on the ground, the bell would ring with two quick dings. The attendant would hear the alert and would swiftly come out to our driver's side window. "What'll it be?" he would ask. Sometimes my dad only wanted \$1.00-\$2.00 worth of gas. Other times he would say, "Fill 'er up, please". As the gas was filling, the attendant would clean the front windshield. Cash was exchanged for the gas and when the attendant came back with the change, he would ask if my dad wanted the oil level looked at or air pressure in the tires checked. If the weather was really cold or rainy, the extras were compassionately dismissed since the workers were out in the elements while we stayed warm and dry in our automobile.



I remember in the late 50's, there were four filling stations on Miami Avenue: Blankenship's Sinclair, Kostner's Shell, Paul and Dave's Shell, and Madeira Texaco. The service station I remember the most as a child was Blankenship's Sinclair. The logo was a green brontosaurus. It



was located on the northeast corner of Miami Avenue and Shawnee Run Road. At Christmastime, there were small toys given out to the customer's children. There were also advertising and promotional items handed out to customers to boost business throughout the year. Here is a picture of a bottle opener from the late 50's. Online records indicate the station was built in 1940. It was a Marathon station in 2003. In 2011 it was Center Bank and Widmer Cleaners. Today, only Widmer Cleaners have their business on this beautifully remodeled site. But I can see there is room for some leased offices upstairs.



This Sunoco picture is of Koster's Auto Service. It was a Shell station in 1957 but it was mostly a Sunoco service station after that. The building is still there today at 6929 Miami Avenue. It was built in 1947 and operated until 1977 when it became Kellogg Cleaners. Koster's Sunoco had a 24-hour wrecker service and offered pickup and delivery

services. Today, the building can hold three businesses. Mei Chi Creations and The Pink Box are occupants now.

Two blocks away was Paul and Dave's Shell station on the corner of Miami and Laurel. I can remember seeing it there in 1959.



It was later owned by Walt Gray and in 1971 was called Madeira Shell. This picture is from 1993. People's Bank now has their building on that corner.

Across Miami Avenue and up a few doors from the Shell we had A. & J. Texaco Service. It was located at 7137 Miami and is now the location of U. S. Bank. If it wasn't for these historical pictures of parades, I don't think the old landmarks would have been captured. You can see the old municipal building was next to it. I think this station was here from 1957-1977.



Along with these four full-service filling stations on Miami Avenue, there were three on Camargo Road. Farmer's Sohio, or maybe it was named Jim's Sohio, then Earl's or Madeira Sohio was located on the corner of Camargo and Shawnee Run Roads. Another close address for when it was called Earl's Sohio and Madeira Sohio, from 1967-1971, was listed as 7343 Camargo. I tend to think this is all the same station doing business until 1978, with times of dormancy.

Cox's service station was at 7669 Camargo Road in 1957. Later, this was called Barry's Madeira Sinclair-Arco. Barry's service station was there until about 1982. Then, the Madeira directory shows that Barry's moved to 8185 Camargo and was a repair shop featuring repairs on the school buses. The original address is now where Hospice of Southwest Ohio sits.

And lastly, Wendt's Service Station, later Recklin's, then Henderson's Gulf, a Clark, and currently, a Marathon station, is the only one of the seven Madeira gas stations left today. It was listed in the 50's as being on the corner of Camargo and Euclid, which is still the general location. It has been around for a long time!



Let me end with the best 1930's historic picture of the oldest known filling Station in Madeira. The caption on this reads "Custer Brown standing outside Brown Brother's Garage with Slim the barber on the left in the doorway". This station was on Camargo Road at the west end of the Fleishman Building. Now it is approximately the west end of Walgreens. For these and other educational pictures and stories, email or come visit us at The Madeira

Historical Society. Consider sharing your own memories, pictures and history.

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The Miller House Museum is open twice a month on the first Saturday and third Sunday 1:00-4:00 PM from April through December. Madeira resident Elizabeth Miller donated her home and grounds to The Madeira Historical Society. Come step back into time to view this 1922 Sears and Roebuck kit home.

Information was gathered from Madeira Directories and other historical references.

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society and Carol (Klenk) Heck.

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