

Madeira Christmas Story.....

As we approach Christmas 2016, it would be sensible to look forward, and look ahead, but what if we took a trip back, back in time, when Madeira was a quaint little village, a small town. Madeira has always had the feel of a small town, and today many migrate to our community, to experience that small town feeling. Many of our children come back to Madeira, with their family, our Grandchildren. Family generations growing up in Madeira, attending our churches, attending our schools, playing in our parks, making our community the small town that we look forward to. Christmas especially has been an important time in our community, prior traditions included Santa's arrival at the Railroad Depot, children delighted by the huge model train layout, and the thrill of two B&O trains passing by the Depot, one traveling east, and another going south, rushing toward Cincinnati. Hot Chocolate, Candy Canes, Christmas Carolers, and the Christmas Tree in Front of the Depot, all lit up, what fun times!

Madeira has also been a diverse community, people of all faiths, color and political opinions, all working together for the betterment of Madeira. This brings us to the "Madeira Christmas Story". For as long as anyone could remember, there was a Nativity Display in Madeira, before pressured, like so many other communities, to discontinue the tradition. Our story changes here, maybe some divine intervention, some said later it was the work of Angels. Our Nativity Scene was displayed on the Corner of Miami and Euclid Avenue, in front of the Fire Station. It was a beautiful sight, all lit up, attracting visitors from all over. The display was owned by our city, so the pressure to discontinue the display was applied to the city. Madeira sold the Nativity display to the Madeira Presbyterian Church for \$1.00. This is where the story could have ended, but for the intervention of God, and his Angels, as later described by local Radio and television news announcers, or is there some legend to the story?

The Nativity display was relocated from in front of the Madeira Firehouse, a half mile north and reconstructed on the front lawn of the Madeira Presbyterian Church. I say reconstructed because the display was massive, constructed in heavy sections, each section held together with large lag bolts. There were many hours required by talented Madeira professionals, constructing the display. Electricity had to be provided for lighting, straw was required on the inside of the display, and as many of us remember, the weather was very cold, howling wind, and occasional snow flurries. The Nativity display was well anchored, in place, not to be dismantled before well after that Christmas, and would require an army of professionals for the dismantling.

It was only a few days before Christmas Eve, the weather was still terrible, and the display sat tightly attached to the ground, in front of the Presbyterian Church. Then the impossible happened, just two nights before Christmas. The massive Nativity display, the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, Joseph the carpenter and husband of Mary, the Wise Men, the various animals, and baby Jesus, all reappeared at the intersection of Miami and Euclid Avenue, in front of the Firehouse. The event was not witnessed, there was no explanation, and the police investigation was inconclusive. Most said that it must have been the work of God and his Angels, but the miracle came with a Christmas message. **"There has never been on earth, a more important event than the birth of Christ". The Madeira Christmas Story, a miracle in small town Madeira.**

Merry Christmas.....
