

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Mrs. Stiegler's Nursing Home in Indian Hill , Part 2



Pauline Stiegler

Continuing on from last month's article about Stiegler's Nursing home at the southeast corner of Kugler Mill and Camargo Roads from 1922-1960:

There was no dietician. Pauline Stiegler purchased groceries from Kroger in Madeira, and the cook, Ora Lawson, a Kentuckian, prepared meals. Patients' meals were put on trays that had to be transported individually to the various domiciles on the property. After all the patients were fed, and the dishes were done, the staff ate family style in the dining room of the big house at 8540 Kugler Mill Road. Leftover food scraps were taken daily to the Grob farm on Given Road for hogs there. There were not many variations to the routine, though Sunday was visiting day for families. Occasionally Brigitte would put on some radio music and dance with a patient. Sometimes on a summer day, she would take several individuals outside and let them bask in the fresh air. Once a woman named Hannah escaped by climbing over the chain link fence, but the Rangers found her and brought her back. The laundress, Susan, was a non-paying patient who worked to secure her place at the home. Dr. W.S. Terwillegger from Madeira was the attending physician. There were never any empty beds. The Rest Home was always full and entrance depended on space at the facility.

The cook had relatives from southeastern Kentucky who also became employed at the nursing home. In 1955 Harding Ward and his second wife Aslee were hired and moved to the complex with his daughters Ann (12) and Stella (10). He was the caretaker. The girls attended Indian Hill Schools and helped with chores: carrying trays and doing dishes. Pauline Stiegler corresponded with other relatives from Germany and Poland and offered them positions at the rest home. Thirteen sponsored family members moved to the U.S., and Pauline provided each family with a house and a car. Some of her relatives stayed in the area, some went back to Europe, and some went to Chicago.

For decades Pauline Stiegler was the owner, administrator and head nurse at the rest home. She slept in the office and always wore a uniform. She was on call 24/7 and always was working. In a time period when state certification was not required, she trained the new staff members. She also provided them with room and board. Described as "selfless", "compassionate", and "generous", Pauline purchased clothes, shoes, and bicycles for employees' children. She arranged driving lessons and English lessons for her great niece. Certainly she was a purposeful and stalwart woman.

In 1960 construction began on a new larger home in Madeira at the corner of Camargo Road and newly named (by her grandniece) Stiegler Lane. Built to accommodate 72 beds, it had a chapel, recreation area, 5 lounges, a beauty salon, and hydrotherapy facility. Stiegler's Nursing Home moved in 1961. Indian Hill purchased the old nursing home in June that year. It was the last business property in the Village, as the 1941 Charter prohibited commercial establishments. The Kugler Mill parcel was originally a residence but Pauline renovated it and added outbuildings to create her business. The Rest Home had been established before the Village was incorporated, thus was grandfathered for about 20 years.

Pauline continued her life's work at Stiegler's Nursing Home in Madeira, tending for as many as 94 residents there. The place was advertised as "the home with a heart for its patients". In the mid-1960s she retired and sold it to brothers James and Donald Glass, who changed its name to Madeira Nursing Center. In 1976 the brothers were convicted of a kickback scheme involving Medicare and defrauding the government. The nursing home was then sold to Premier Health Care Management, whose president is Harold Sosna. It is now called the Madeira Health Care Center and has recently added 44 private beds in an expansion.

Mrs. Stiegler's Nursing Home was the abode for numerous afflicted patients for almost forty years in Indian Hill. Adults from all around Cincinnati lived there. One former Indian Hill resident who spent periods of time there was Lola Bonnell, the owner/donor of Buckingham Lodge and Bonnell Park. That the nursing home prospered in the Village and is now thriving in nearby Madeira is a tribute to its founder, Pauline Stiegler.



Stiegler's Nursing Home in Madeira

Brigitte Vielhauer, Ann Ward McFarland, and Stella Ward Schafer assisted with this article.