

Fifth Annual Lakewood History Walk

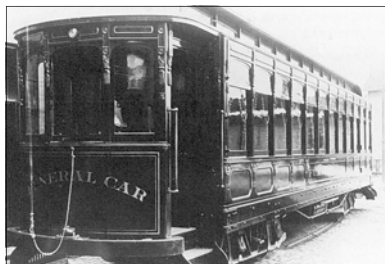
∞ Gold Coast - 10k ∞

1. Leaving the Madison Branch of Lakewood Public Library, go east on Madison Avenue to the traffic light at Cohasset Avenue on the north side (Halsted Ave. is on the south side).

Madison Branch, Lakewood Public Library, 13299 Madison Ave. This branch originally opened in 1921 in a rented second-floor dance hall space at Madison and Newman Avenues, with Miss Florence Cottrell in charge. In 1928, Lakewood City Council sold a piece of land in Madison Park for \$1 for a permanent branch of the library. The building opened in 1929—shelving 10,000 books in an adult room, children's room and a reading room. In April 1932, a fire damaged 2,000 books, but the library reopened in May. In 1956 it was remodeled with new furnishings and air conditioning. In 1992, the library received a grant to expand the back for a handicapped-accessible entrance, elevator, restrooms, and the Dennis G. Fedor Computer Center.



Madison Park and Pool - The city of Lakewood purchased these 15 acres in 1917 from businessmen Frederick Zimmerman and John Hahn for \$40,222, establishing Madison Park. The baseball fields and playground equipment were set up amidst bordering trees. In 1924, the city added "comfort stations" and wading pools. The pools were built in 1955-56, costing \$260,000.



Madison Avenue - Streetcar service began on Madison Ave. in 1893, from downtown Cleveland but did not come into Lakewood until 1917. First to Belle Ave., then extended to Riverside Dr. on the western end of Lakewood. The car barns were at the eastern end of Madison Ave., just before West 117th.

Starting in late 1899, funeral streetcars were introduced (pictured), providing a way to transport the casket and funeral attendees from the church to the cemetery (often in Cleveland).

The Madison Ave. streetcar route greatly helped develop the southern end of Lakewood, particularly in the Birdtown area - which evolved on a small allotment just inside the city limits, next to the National Carbon Co. factory, at West 117th and Madison Ave.

Birdtown, so dubbed for the bird-named streets, became home to primarily Slovakian, Hungarian, Polish and Russian immigrants working at National Carbon. Birdtown became very much like an Eastern European village, supporting all its own needs on this tiny spot of land. Pictured, right, is Mike Foltin in his milk delivery wagon around 1910.

Birdtown had three dairies; Mike's was on Dowd St. Many wagon vendors roamed Lakewood's streets in the early years - delivering ice for iceboxes, coal for furnaces, and assorted vegetables, fruits, fish and other goods. (For more on Birdtown, see Lakewood History Walk II: Birdtown Trail.)



2. At the traffic light, turn left, heading north on Cohasset Avenue.

Cohasset Avenue - This street was named by Nelson C. Cotabish, who had visited Cohasset, Mass., and admired its quaint cobblestone houses. He owned property at the northern end of Cohasset, at Detroit Ave., and was mayor from 1909-12, when Lakewood was incorporated as a city.

In 1907, Nelson advertised in the Cleveland Leader: "The character of Cohasset Avenue is firmly established - its homes are the finest in Lakewood."

Stephen Slimak was born in 1902 and grew up on Cohasset Ave. He recalled:

"As kids, we were great at improvising. In the winter, we would pour buckets of water along the curbside of Cohasset. When the water froze, we'd coast down the street ... to Franklin on a bobsled we made by laying a plank across two sleds. We ice-skated in Madison Park, which was then all swamp and pasture. We would crank up a Victrola in a second-floor room of a house on Halstead. Then we'd open a window and dance below to the music while skating.

"Sometimes we would put on our skates at the mouth of Rocky River, hold kite-like hand sails we'd made, and get blown out in the lake.... Winter fishing in the river was a cinch. When we spotted fish swimming under the ice, we'd hit the spot with a club. That would stun them. Then we'd chip a hole and scoop out the fish."

Steve was sure he was one of the first guys to play softball on ice skates, even belonging to a league that practiced on a pond in Westlake.

"We kids used to roam the neighborhoods collecting used nails, and get two cents a basket for them from the paper-rags man who came regularly with his horse and wagon. He also bought bones, bottles, newspapers and all kinds of metal." Steve also picked crops for pocket change. Local farmers would go by Madison Park every morning during growing season to hire youngsters, paying them three cents a quart basket for strawberries and the like. He later went to work at the Theodor Kundtz cabinet-making factory for 7-1/2 cents an hour. After he was put on piece-work, he earned a then-generous \$35 his first week - paid in gold coins, as was the custom then.

1472 Cohasset Avenue - Built in 1898, this house was advertised for sale by F.W. Glass in the Plain Dealer in 1919, among seven other homes on this street, priced from \$9,000 to \$20,000. He added: "A home secured on Cohasset Avenue will furnish contentment and provide you with cultured neighbors and correct influences for your growing children."

1453 Cohasset Avenue - In 1907, Burton Lang advertised "Make Me An Offer" on his home, which was built two years earlier: "On account of the removal of the White automobile works from West Cleveland to Glenville I am obliged to dispose of my new home..."



1450 Cohasset Avenue - Built in 1903, this home (pictured, left) was designed by Kauffman Architectural Co. for Charles Simmons, Esquire. Three years later, the same architects designed 1446 Cohasset Ave. for Elmer E. Creswell, a teller at Union National Bank.

1436 Cohasset Avenue - Also built in 1903 and designed by Kauffman architects, this house was first owned by George F. Sladden, president of The City Pure Water Delivery Co.

1435 Cohasset Avenue - John Kirby had this house built in 1904. Designed by architect George Kauffman, who had a reputation for very atypical designs, this house features one of Lakewood's most distinctive facades - with Gothic-arched windows and Flemish-influenced dormers.

1423 Cohasset Avenue - Built in 1903, architect Frank Skeel designed this home for J.S. Crider, secretary of the National Carbon Co.

1417 Cohassett Avenue - Frank Skeel also designed this house, for Dr. James Stotter.



-----???, southwest corner of Detroit and Cohassett –
Around 1900, Nelson Cotabish built a modified Dutch colonial here. It had 23 rooms and a ballroom on the third floor. His property stretched east to Grace Ave. and included a bounteous garden of fruits and vegetables.

Although born quite poor, Nelson worked his way up to becoming the general sales manager of National Carbon Co. in 1892. After being elected mayor in 1909, he approved acquisition of the first motorized fire truck in this part of Ohio.

In 1943, after Nelson and his wife Nellie had died, their daughter Vida and her husband Walter Logan offered the house to the city as a youth center. It was never accepted. Walter, music and program director of radio WTAM, and Vida used the third-floor ballroom as a dance school. At some point, the house was razed.

3. Cross Detroit Avenue at the light and jog right to Thoreau Avenue.

Detroit at Cohassett Avenue - In 1898, Professor Elliott had a home here on the south side of Detroit, which was removed to make way for Cohassett Ave. Lakewood was still very much a sleepy little community at the time, when this sketch was printed in the Plain Dealer, under "Scenes in the Hamlet of Lakewood." The newspaper's Sunday edition had only 28 pages then, and proclaimed its "fifty-seventh year."

4. Turn left, heading north, onto Thoreau Avenue.

CHECKPOINT: What is the sculpture at 1258 Thoreau Avenue?

Railroad Tracks - Originally, two sets of train tracks ran through Lakewood for the Norfolk & Western Pennsylvania Railroad. In the 1940s, NKP locomotive 733 had finally come to a stop after striking a 1937 Ford, pushing it down the tracks after the automobile driver failed to heed the railroad crossing warning signal. In the 1990s, the railroad company removed one set of the tracks to reduce risk of such accidents.

5. Turn right, heading east, onto Clifton Boulevard.

Clifton Boulevard - Streetcar service began on Clifton Blvd. in 1902, running to/from Cleveland's Public Square. The tracks here differed from the earlier service lines on Detroit and Madison Ave., in that they were laid over tree lawns alongside the street, rather than in the road itself. In the winter, the streetcars had snow-scoopers attached; a grated metal "apron" that cleared snow off the tracks for smooth running. The Detroit line was the first established in 1893.

In 1903, the Lake Shore Electric Railway switched its operations from the Detroit Ave. streetcar tracks to the Clifton Blvd. tracks. This interurban electric trolley, or "street train," began in 1901, running between Cleveland, Lorain, Huron, Sandusky, Fremont and Toledo. At top speeds of 50-60 mph, the electric railway was a popular way to travel between cities, and unlike the streetcars, the interurban only made one stop in each city. Service ended on May 14, 1938, largely due to increasing use of automobiles and passenger buses.

In 1911, the Mathews & Gilbert realty company advertised home allotments on Lake Ave. and Clifton Blvd. as "Oakwood on the Lake" (pictured). The ad boasted: "The Ideal Home site allotment for Summer and Winter Homes ... Three thousand feet of lake frontage ... Easy of access ... over the mammoth new concrete bridge - larges of its kind in the world ... All the privileges and advantages of the Sea Shore ... especially adapted to yachting ... The improvements are all in ... like a veritable forest ..."

12598 Clifton Blvd. - Built around 1905, this home was designed by architect Frederick Baird for

August Loew. August was manager of the Columbia Brewing Co. in Cleveland. The original cornice pediment and two dormers have been removed, and the porch columns were replaced with iron ones.

12567 (NO LONGER THERE; CITY OWNS SITE) Clifton Blvd. - In 1903, Charles ("Carl") Anderson had a home built here (pictured). While Carl was a supervisor at the V.D. Anderson Co., he lived on Clarence Ave. He had this house built after he became president of the company, which manufactured steam traps, dryers and expellers for steam trains.

12556 Clifton Blvd. - Also in 1903, Christian H. Krauss had his house built here. He was vice president of The Cleveland Stamping & Tool Co.

12552 Clifton Blvd. - This home was built in 1901 for William J.F. Rapprich, assistant treasurer of the Forest City Savings & Trust Co.

12543 Clifton Blvd. - Henry W. Weideman had this house built in 1917. He was the son of John Christian "J.C." Weideman, who founded the Weideman Co. in 1861, a wine and liquor distributor. Around 1867, J.C. partnered with Hannes Tiedemann, forming the Weideman & Tiedemann Co., wholesale grocery, wine and liquor distributors.

In 1883, he founded the Savings & Trust Co., then the Union National Bank, followed by the Forest City Savings Bank (in 1890) and the Ohio Abstract Co., serving as president of the last two. In 1876, he was elected Cleveland's first police commissioner, but declined offers to run again, or for mayor.

J.C. had Henry through his first marriage to Laura Muntz, who died in 1877. They built a grey frame house on Franklin Ave. in Cleveland, next door to Hannes' now-famous Franklin Castle. J.C. later married Louise Diebolt, having a daughter Elsa. Henry married Dorothy ("Dora") Burke and had a son, Carl J., and three daughters, Myrtle, Laura and Pearl.

Haddon Hall Apartments, southeast corner of Cove Avenue and Clifton Blvd. - Built in 1924, this 21-suite apartment house was designed by architect Lyman R. Walker. Originally called Haddon Hall, it featured brick walls with stone trim, with stone for the entire first story, a tile roof, iron balconies, incinerators and "marble and tile lobby." All this at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

11864 Clifton Boulevard - Around 1905, a prominent actor at the time, Charles T. Aldrich, had a house built here. He owned 300 feet of land fronting Clifton Blvd., running north to Lake Ave., with "one of the finest groves of trees in this section of the country." His home was said to be "a fine example of English bowlder and shingle residence."

11848-50 Clifton Boulevard - In 1912, Charles Aldrich was said in The Plain Dealer to have a "novel idea" to lay out his land like an English park. Just before "sailing to England to appear with a company which gave a 'command performance' before the King and Queen of England in the Palaco Theater of Varieties," the actor commissioned architect Ralph M. Hulett Co. with his plans - a four-family apartment building with the appearance of a large family residence, along with two duplexes, plus five single houses on Lake Ave. Charles intended to retain "as much of the natural beauty as possible." The four families would have separate entrances, each suite containing six rooms and a bath, plus "sleeping porches overlooking the grove in the rear."

6. Turn left, heading north, onto West 117th Street.

West 117th Street - For over a century, this street was called Highland Avenue, at least by Lakewood residents. That name lapsed from common use around the mid-20th century. In 1926, M.J. Sauer realty company ran an ad in the Lakewood Post, touting investment opportunities: "Keep your eyes on W. 117th Street between Clifton Blvd., and Madison Ave., where land is now valued at \$200 to \$300 a foot and which will be considered cheap at \$1000 a foot within 5 years..." Pelton Terrace, 1431-45 West 117th Street - This was built in 1903 for Dr. Russell P. Pelton. The Cleveland Leader printed that the "pretty flat" had eight suites, containing "all the modern improvements," and was located on Highland avenue. Dr. Pelton had an office in The Arcade, downtown Cleveland, and resided here in one of these apartments.

RESTAURANT, northwest corner of Clifton Blvd. and West 117th Street - This was Clark's Yorktown Restaurant for many years. Clark's was a family-style chain restaurant throughout the greater Cleveland area. A second Lakewood branch opened later at Detroit Ave. and Warren Rd. The Clark's here closed in the late 1960s, becoming the Yorktown, then the Blue Fox, the Dock and Slam Jams restaurants.

Former Christian Scientist Church, 11623 Lake Avenue, southeast corner of West 117th Street - The Christian Science religion first came to Cleveland through General Erastus N. Bates in 1877, about 10 years after Mary Baker Eddy first established the religion in Boston. The first congregation in Cleveland received its charter from the state in 1891, with services held in various locations until they built their first church building at Cedar and Kennard St. in 1901. In 1917, they moved to a theater, then purchased the Euclid Ave. Methodist Church at E. 93rd St. In 1931, they built a \$1 million church on Overlook Rd. near University Circle. Two other Christian Scientist churches opened in Cleveland in 1901 and 1903. (Lakewood's congregation began meeting in 1910, with their church built in 1922, across from the main Lakewood Public Library.)

This Christian Scientist congregation, being the fifth in Cleveland, formed around 1915, meeting in the former Franklin Ave. Congregational Church at West 58th and Franklin. In 1924, they began meeting in the Homestead Theater building at 11806 Detroit (built in 1916, now the Phantasy Nightclub building, with the theater still intact). In 1926, this beautiful church was built, at a cost of \$250,000, becoming the Fifth Christian Scientist Church of Cleveland (architectural drawing pictured). It was designed by architect Frank W. Bail, who also designed the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court building and the Lake Shore Hotel on Edgewater Drive in Lakewood (description below).

By 1990, the congregation disbanded and the building has been vacant ever since. It was scheduled for demolition some years later, but the Cleveland Landmarks Commission had it declared a historic landmark to preserve it. All the other Christian Scientist churches in Cleveland have been abandoned as well over the years, as has the Lakewood church. Only the one in Cleveland Heights remains, on Fairmount Blvd., built in 1924.

----- Apartments, southwest corner of West 117th and Lake Avenue - These twin apartment buildings were built in 1916 for the Cleveland-Lake Avenue Co., headed by J.P. Stotter, a businessman involved in real estate, insurance, loans and investments. The Cleveland Enterprise said the design by architect S.H. Weis was "among the most modern in the city, containing every convenience, including door beds and garbage incinerators ... [and] built along the most approved apartment lines followed by Chicago and New York builders." Each three-story building had 12 suites of four, five and six rooms.

Edgewater Park and Beach - This is to the right, looking east along Edgewater Drive. Around 1885, at about 30 years old, Jacob Bishop Perkins built his estate here, which he named Twin Oaks, on the bluff above Lake Erie. His land ran from north of the railroad tracks to the lake, and from what are now West 105th to West 76th St. Jacob was president of the Hill Clutch Co., which he founded with Harry Hill around the same time, near Jacob's estate. In 1920, they began producing transmissions and various machine tools. In 1931, they purchased Cleveland Knife & Forge Co., then four years later bought the Canton Foundry & Machine Co., making shears and cranes. In 1940, the company merged with Acme Machinery Co., becoming the Hill Acme Co., producing machinery and shears for the automotive, aviation and steel industries. This company is still in business. Around 1913, Jacob and his wife Sallie decided to make their country home in Mentor so they moved the carriage house with them. He died in 1936. She died in 1931. They had no children.

In 1894, the City of Cleveland's second Park Board purchased 89 acres, including the Perkins' 50-acre meadow on the upper end and a beach on the lower end, which became known as Perkins Beach and Edgewater Park. The city built bath houses a pavilion (still there), baseball diamonds, and picnic and playground areas. The lower beach end came to house the Edgewater Yacht Club, Lagoon and Marina.

In the early 1900s, Cleveland City Councilman Frederic Howe was concerned about public health. He found in a district of 4,500 people, only eight buildings had bathing facilities. And many residents who had tubs used them for storage as they couldn't afford extra coal to heat bath water. The city constructed a three-story bath house first in 1904 at a former Hiram (settlement) House property on Orange Ave. People could bathe or shower, with soap and a towel, for two cents. The bath house had

private and open bathing areas, a gymnasium and laundry. Clubs and sports groups also met there, and later dances were held there. The bath house at Edgewater Park came shortly afterward. Prices climbed to five and then ten cents. Many bath houses added swimming pools. By the 1940s, in-home baths made public houses unnecessary, so many were razed or converted to other uses.

Right from the beginning, Edgewater became a popular swimming, bathing and picnicking site. A dance pavilion overlooked the bath house and beach from the upper level. In 1898, Conrad Mizer organized and promoted summer band concerts at city parks, despite resistance from ministers who wanted to keep Sundays free from nonreligious activities. Band members were paid \$3 per concert. The afternoon programs continued successfully for ten years, giving local composers an outlet. A monument in Conrad's honor stands at Edgewater Park.

In the 1950s, the Memorial Shoreway was completed, destroying much of the area. Public buildings fell into disrepair. In 1978, the park became part of Lakefront State Park and many facilities were restored, including the fishing platforms, a picnicking pavilion and the marina.

----- Lake/Edgewater - Just east of here, near West 115th St., Ralph W. Hickox built an elaborate 22-room Victorian frame house around 1888. He named his estate Westwood and had it set near the lake, surrounded by park-like landscaping. Ralph was vice president of the Cleveland Milling Co., which originally began as Hickox & Co. probably by his father. They milled flour and sold it to residents throughout the Cleveland area. From the 1870s, the family lived in houses on Euclid Ave., with Ralph starting out as a bookkeeper for the family business. He next became a clerk, then was listed in the city directory as proprietor of the company. He moved around between different houses on Euclid Ave. In 1882, Ralph was listed as secretary and treasurer of the Britton Iron & Steel Co., still living on Euclid Ave., but his wife living in a different house on Euclid Ave. In 1887, his residence was listed as the Union Club House, then he moved into Westwood. In 1894, he resided in New York.

Around 1905, Ralph sold the house to Mathew Bramley, president of the Cleveland Trinidad Paving Co. He started out a paving contractor of asphalt, stone and brick. Three years later, an over-heated furnace set Westwood on fire, destroying it completely. Mathew rebuilt here a Georgian sandstone palace, calling his new home Harborview. Over the years, parts of the property were subdivided and sold, and Edgewater and Harborview Dr. were cut through, but the original Bramley mansion still stands at 11320 Harborview Dr., north of here. Around 1925, the city directory shows he moved to 11420 Harborview Dr.

Mathew was also the owner of Luna Park, a former amusement park on Woodland Ave. in Cleveland, and was president of the Templar Motor Co., Lakewood's early automobile plant that was at the southern end of Madison Park.

7. Turn left, heading west, onto Edgewater Drive - Welcome to the Gold Coast!

The Gold Coast - Cleveland had its legendary Millionaire's Row on Euclid Avenue, while the Westside had its own lesser-known equivalent - *The Gold Coast*. Many of the original owners made their fortunes in manufacturing, shipping, construction and retailing, building their mansions during the Gilded Age when servants, gardeners and chauffeurs were indispensable in maintaining these magnificent estates. The more modest homes served as summer "cottages" for the wealthy Cleveland families.

The idea for Lakewood's Gold Coast emerged in the 1950s when the city had developed all available land, leaving only one way to build - up. "Operation Lakewood" gave the city its next building boom, demolishing the baronial estates and replacing them with luxury apartment complexes covering 35 acres, extending 2,000 feet along the coast. Eight natural gas wells still operated in this area, making it even more valuable and appealing. When construction began, the building permits drew in revenues of \$1.9 million. In 1961, the permits' revenue topped \$19 million.

Edgewater Drive - This street was cut through in 1918. By and large, the gorgeous mansions and summer homes that were already built were located up by the lake, with long winding drives off Lake Ave., so many of the addresses changed from Lake Ave. to Edgewater Dr.

Edgewater Square Condominiums, southwest corner of Edgewater and West 117th Street - This complex was built around 1980.

????????????, ----- Edgewater Drive - Around 1903, Louise Weideman had a mansion here that

she named "Waldmere." She was the widow of John C. Weideman, a wealthy businessman who started in wholesale grocery, wine and liquor distribution, then founded three banks and another company. She was J.C.'s second wife, and bore him a daughter, Elsa. J.C. died in 1900. This house could have been built prior to his death, as a summer house. In the grocery business, J.C. had partnered with Hannes Tiedemann, and they lived next door to each other on Franklin Ave. Hannes built a summer house down the street (originally only Lake Ave.) in 1880 (description below). Louise still owned this house in 1914. She died in 1931 at her residence on Euclid Heights Blvd.

Shoreham Apartments, 11800 Edgewater Drive - This luxury complex took the place of the magnificent home of artist M. Louise Obermiller, which was built around 1900-05. The 25 rooms were finished in fine woods: solid mahogany, birdseye maple and curly birch. All the rooms had hardwood floors, ceilings were frescoed, the drawing room had an onyx mantel, and the house had gas and electricity throughout - quite modern in 1900.

Although Louise was described as a "celebrated artist," not much information is available on her or her artwork. She lived alone, apparently never married while here, yet had the funds to have this beautiful mansion built. She first appeared in the city directory in 1895.

In 1908, Mrs. Ella Pecoy advertised this gorgeous house for sale in the *Plain Dealer*:

"This ideal modern home ... large room, 16x24, on second floor facing the lake, finished in birdseye maple, suitable for studio or billiard room ... servants' dining room, sleeping rooms, etc.; butler's pantry, containing dish warming shelves ... vegetable cellar, wine cellar and coal bins ... reception and drawing rooms offer unobstructed view of both lake and boulevard ... It was built with a care and consideration to details seldom exercised in building. Many foreign and original ideas were used in its construction."

This beautiful home was again for sale in 1911, through the *Anglesey Park Co.*:

"The owner is a celebrated artist who built and decorated it, but being compelled to live in Europe this beautiful estate has been placed on the market. The house contains 22 rooms, including a magnificent living room, ball room and picture gallery. Will take income producing property in exchange."

The Berkshire, 11820 Edgewater Drive - In 1907, William Greif built his second home here on three acres of land. The house, which he named "Rosewood," was featured in *Art Work of Cleveland* in 1911. It included many luxuries - including a third-floor ballroom, an elevator and hand-painted scenes of the grounds in the dining room. The first floor included a library, breakfast room, a double staircase with a stained glass window, and a large lakefront screened porch. The second floor had five bedrooms; the maids had two bedrooms and a bathroom on the third floor, plus a den. The estate included the main house, a cottage, a tool house, a greenhouse and a barn.

In 1917, James A. Paisley bought the house. He was a wealthy coal magnate, having founded the *Valley Camp Coal Co.* among other business interests. In the picture, taken in 1923, the Paisley children are enjoying some snow play.

In 1930, The Lakewood Press ran an article about James' idea to construct a tunnel in front of his house so children "won't have to endanger their lives every day by dodging their way across the street among lines of whirring autos." In presenting it to city council, he said he'd had the idea for a long time, but then his six-year-old grandson was struck by a car. He explained that he had "nine or so" grandsons running around his house, but that the tunnel would be "open to the public." Apparently it never was built.

In 1946 James sold the estate. The house was demolished in 1952 for the Berkshire, a 10-floor, 220-suite apartment building that became condominiums in the 1960s.

11833-35 Edgewater Drive - All of the Paisley estate buildings were razed for the Berkshire except the barn, which James had converted into a duplex for two of his married children. The round tower feature was the silo, remodeled into a spiral staircase. Still, it gives some idea of the grandeur of the Paisley estate when contemplating that this was simply the barn.

11834 Lake/Edgewater - In 1902, William Greif built his first home here. He was president of *Greif Bros. Co.*, which they advertised as "the largest cooperage plant in the world". The company had 22 factories, with a daily capacity of 10,000 barrels and 20,000 kegs. Barrels were used at the time for flour, fruit and beer.

-----?? Edgewater Drive - Around 1902, Ralph L. Cobb built his home, which he called "Westover," near the Paisley house. He was part-owner of Strong, Cobb & Co., wholesale druggists.

Edgewater Towers, 118--- Edgewater Drive - This was the complex that started the Gold Coast building boom, opening in 1951.

Lake House Apartments, 11852 Lake/Edgewater - Around the turn of the century, George Hoffman built his house, "Oakhurst" (pictured, 1902). He was vice president of the United Banking & Savings Co. About ten years later, Guy E. Conkey bought the house. He was vice president and secretary of the Hunkin-Conkey Construction Co., contractors for buildings, breakwaters, docks and piers.

?????? **Lake Avenue** - Eunice Terrel had an estate built here around ---- on over three acres, which she named "Red Gables."

Lake Cove Apartments, 12016 Lake Avenue - This was originally the site of a summer home designed by Coburn & Barnum for Hannes Tiedemann around 1880. Hannes also had another home built at the same time on Franklin Ave. in Cleveland - known now as Franklin Castle. He called the home here "Steinburg," meaning Stone Castle, although the four-story English Tudor-revival house wasn't built of stone.

Hannes came to Cleveland from Prussia with his widowed mother, two brothers and three sisters in 1848, at 16 years of age. (Tiedeman Road in Brooklyn is named for Hannes' brother Claus.) Hannes began an apprenticeship in Royalton as a cooper (barrel maker), then returned to Cleveland, working as a clerk with a wholesale grocery firm, and boarding at the Bennett Forest City House (now the Renaissance Hotel on Public Square).

He traveled to Prussia, marrying his first wife Louise in 1862. The following year, Hannes partnered with John Christian Weideman, who had established the Weideman Co., a wine and liquor distributor in 1861 - forming Weideman & Tiedemann Co., on Merwin St. It became one of Cleveland's largest companies, and one of the largest wholesale grocery firms in the U.S. They were known for carrying the finest goods on the market - staples and fancy groceries, teas, coffees, spices, canned goods, tobacco, cigars and liquors. "Weideman Boy" brand foods were distributed throughout the Midwest.

Around 1873, Hannes sold his interests in the company. His wife had borne their sixth child, who died in infancy, along with two others previously. Hannes and Louise lived in a house on Franklin Ave., building the well-known Castle in 1880. In 1881, their 15-year-old daughter died of complications from diabetes, leaving them with two surviving children, August Johannes and Dora Louise. In 1883, Hannes co-founded the United Banking & Savings Co. His wife Louise died in 1895; they were living in the Franklin Ave. house. Their daughter Dora and her husband lived next door, in the grey frame house built by J.C. Weideman (which still exists). Hannes traveled to Prussia again, marrying Henriette, then sold the Franklin Castle in 1897, moving into this house in Lakewood.

In his will, Hannes specified that Steinburg was to always be called such and to always remain in the family (through his grandchildren). He died in 1908 at this home. Unfortunately, both August and Dora had died in 1906, and Dora's husband died in 1910. Around 1914, August's widow Ella Rauch Tiedeman (daughter of Marie and Charles Rauch, owner of the Rauch and Lang Carriage Co., early automobile makers) sold Steinburg to William and Mabelle Hunkin. They renamed it "Ledgewood," then tore it down a few years later.

----- **Apartments, 12047 Lake Avenue** - this apartment building was advertised in the Cleveland Press "for immediate cash sale, the price is exceedingly low." The C.F. Laughlin Co. boasted it was located in "one of the most desirable highly restricted residence sections of the city." It had six suites of eight rooms and two baths each, also a "janitor's suite." "The building is exceptionally well constructed and the suites are beautifully finished." In back was a brick garage "for five machines."

----- **Apartments, 12053 Lake Avenue** - Architect George E. Rudolph designed this structure, built in 1924 as the West Shore Manor. His accomplishment was to "build actual homes in the form of apartment suites," wrote the Lakewood Post. And these suites were said to "vie with the finest homes of Lakewood for the atmosphere of living—not simply dwelling. Every convenience is foreseen and the apartment is equipped with services not unlike hotels of the highest class." The

Plain Dealer wrote that the building had 29 suites of three, four and five rooms, and an "ornamental lobby of marble and antique plaster and a fine lounge." It cost "in excess of" \$250,000.

Lake Shore Towers, 12506 Edgewater Drive - Built in 1929, this was the first high-rise building on the coast, on property formerly owned by Gertrude Bramley, wife of Mathew Bramley (description above). It opened as a 450-suite luxury hotel, quickly attracting wealthy Clevelanders, suburbanites and national celebrities. A large electric red sign once blazed the name high above the roof, and was the largest sign of its kind between New York and Chicago. In the 1890s, just west of this building was a popular bathing area called Cove Beach.

8. Turn left, heading south, onto Cove Avenue. Follow this to Lake Avenue.

Former Cove Beach - William and Mary Smith came to East Rockport from New York around 1840, buying 50 acres in this area from Detroit to the lake. They lived in a log cabin where their four children were born. On a part of his farm was a natural harbor known as "Shady Cove." Previously, it had been known as "Taylor's Cove," and was the only landing place between the Cuyahoga and Rocky rivers for small boats, as the lake was often unpredictable and turbulent. Hope Hird Browning, granddaughter of early pioneer Thomas Hird (of whom Hird Ave. was named), recalled her happiest memories in the 1890s to early 1900s:

"Some of our gayest times were with the Elliotts, who had a rambling home and a beautiful garden with a huge pond in front nearby on Detroit Road. Perhaps our bathing parties at the foot of Cove Avenue were the gayest of all.

"When Racer, their horse, came up our driveway pulling the old spring wagon, we rushed to gather our bathing togs. Mine had full black bloomers several inches below the knee and of course long black stockings. We also carried a clothes bar, which we erected on the beach and from which were suspended curtains so we could dress in privacy.

"I remember how shocked our parents were when we were bold enough to have our pictures taken in our bathing outfits. I don't remember any good swimmers, perhaps our clothes were too cumbersome, but we did have such fun, paddling and splashing."

William sold 25 acres in the 1860s to Ira Canfield, first mayor of Lakewood hamlet (1889-1893), who later sold the acreage to Dwight Scott. In 1873, William and Dwight cut through Cove Ave., one of the earliest crosstown streets in East Rockport. Interestingly, Cove Ave. was the last street in Lakewood to be paved - in 1946.

Cove United Methodist Church - This congregation began with prayer meetings at the Barton home on Grace Ave. in 1898, using Mrs. Barton's high-top sewing machine as a pulpit. In September, the Methodist Conference sent in Rev. Howard K. Hilberry. The parish rented a home on Winchester Ave. for \$16 a month, and the pastor began holding services there. He received \$360 salary in his first year as pastor. They called themselves the West End M.E. Society, but then formally organized as the Detroit Avenue Methodist Church. They purchased a lot near the reverend's house, and were loaned a large room above a grocery store for services. In September 1899, they held their first service in the still unfinished church. It was dedicated in June 1900.

By 1905, the congregation was already growing too big so the church was enlarged to double its seating. They purchased a sign for \$2, large enough for people on passing streetcars to read, erecting it on the front of the church. They had 152 members in 1906; by 1908, they had 500. In 1919, they constructed a new brick church at the same site, at a cost of \$110,000 (the new organ cost \$6,800). This building, too, was remodeled in 1957, and a parsonage was built on Grace Ave. in 1948. In 1969, the congregation purchased this land at Cove and Lake Ave. and began building this third church. At its dedication, the congregation changed its name to Cove United Methodist.

9. Turn right, heading west, onto Lake Avenue. Follow this to Nicholson Avenue.

*12501 Lake Avenue (southwest corner) - Carl J. Weideman had a house built here around 1911 that was featured in *Art Work of Cleveland*. He was a grandson of J.C. Weideman, son of Henry W. Weideman. Carl began his career as a salesman for the Weideman Co. around 1903. By 1910, he was secretary-treasurer of Weideman Milling Co., plus was president of W.A. Kurz Co., his brother-in-law's building contractor business.*

12520 Lake Avenue - In 1902, this house was built for George G. Mulhern, general superintendent of the Cleveland City Railway Co. He married William and Mary Smith's daughter, Mattie.

12534 Lake Avenue - This house was built for Edgar A. Meckes around 1915, which he named Shady Cove. Edgar was president of John A. Meckes & Sons Co., retailers of dry goods and rugs. The house has only moderately been changed, with the side porch being entirely enclosed.

12547 Lake Avenue - Designed by architects Badgley & Nicklas, this home was featured prominently in The Ohio Architect, Engineer and Builder in July, 1912. The profile included pictures of the library, living room and dining room. It was owned by Fred Becker, president of the Pfaffman Egg Noodles Co.

12574 Lake Avenue - This home was built around 1902 for Charles L.F. Weiber and designed by architects Hubbell & Benes. Charles named it "Elmhurst." It also was pictured in The Ohio Architect & Builder, in 1908. Charles was an executive of the Baker-Raulang Co., manufacturer of electric cars and trucks (owned and started by Charles Baker). This larger brick mansion later replaced the original modest home.

12595 Lake Avenue - Built in 1911, Thomas Holmden lived here for about six years before it first went on the market. It included a sun room, four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor, vapor heat, a combination gas and coal furnace, and a garage for two cars. Also on the property was a natural gas well. Thomas was treasurer of the State Banking & Trust Co.

Winton Place, 12700 Lake Avenue - In 1903, Alexander Winton built one of the most spectacular homes on Lake Ave., a 25-room mansion he named "Roseneath." Its gardens were magnificent, stretching from the estate to the lake. The low stone entry walls to the Winton Place still bear the mansion's name, etched in the stones. He built this estate during his heyday as founder and inventor of the Winton Motor Carriage Co.

While running a bicycle shop with his brother-in-law, Alexander experimented with hydrocarbon engines at night, building a one-cylinder, eight horsepower machine that could go 35 mph in 1896. He formed the company the next year, becoming the first in America to attain any sizeable production - making up to 25 cars a week, that sold between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

As a master salesman, Alexander relied on promotions to make people want his new contraption. It was so new, the general public still didn't know what to call it - names ranged among horseless carriage, motorcycle, motoring, quadricycle, automatic carriage and automaton. It wasn't until May 1899, when Alexander drove a Plain Dealer reporter, Charles Shanks, from Cleveland to New York that a name stuck. Charles published daily news accounts of the trip, calling the new-fangled machine an "automobile."

Winton sales rose, plus Alexander expanded his line to include mail trucks, delivery wagons and two race cars, named Bullet, that he used in promotions. By 1916, the factory on Berea Rd. encompassed 350,000 square feet and employed 1,300 workers. But the Great War slashed production to just five cars a day, and afterwards people wanted medium-priced cars. Henry Ford's Model T sold for only \$390. The company stopped making cars in 1924, and Alexander's personal fortune plummeted from an estimated \$4-5 million to about \$750,000.

Sadly, too, he lost his first wife, Jeanie, mother of their six children, right after the mansion here was completed. She was found dead, floating in Lake Erie near the home. Three years later, he married a relative of Jeanie, LaBelle, and had two children with her. The same year his company stopped production, he sold this mansion and bought a smaller home in Clifton Park. LaBelle also died that year. Three years later, he married Marion Campell, a local theatrical star, 40 years his junior. They divorced, with her receiving \$200,000 in the settlement, and two weeks later Alexander married Mary Avery, only 20 years his junior. He died in 1932 at 72 years old, leaving an estate of about \$48,868.

Otto Leopold next bought the mansion. He was president of the Pompeian Manufacturing Co., which made creams and lotions for men and women. Otto marketed the company to worldwide success - particularly with their Pompeian Massage Cream, Pompeian Powder, Pompeian Bloom, and Pompeian Night Cream.

He had the grand idea of starting a Pompeian Beauty Contest, with Mary Pickford as the first win-

ner, thus establishing a tradition of beauties in their ads. They would offer sample jars of Pompeian Massage Cream for free, plus a beauty pamphlet and a (now highly collectible) art panel with a calendar on the back for 20 cents. In 1927, Otto sold the company to Colgate-Palmolive.

The Leopold family occupied the estate here until the early 1960s. After that, it became a rooming house, but a fire destroyed it in 1962. The remnants were razed for the Winton Place, which opened in 1963. It cost \$20 million and was the most expensive luxury apartment building in Lakewood, plus, at 27 stories, it was the tallest high-rise between New York and Chicago.

The Carlyle, 12900 Lake Avenue - Before this high-rise emerged, this area housed two Stecher estates. Around 1909, Frederick W. Stecher built his mansion here, naming his estate "Adar." It was featured in *Art Work of Cleveland* in 1911. The actual Carlyle building sits on this former estate.

Frederick was president of the Pompeian Manufacturing Co. In the late 1890s, Fred ran a drug-store with his brother Henry, living above the store on Pearl Rd. A trained pharmacist, Fred spent most of his time in the back room, creating a soothing after-shave massage cream for use in barber-shops. Otto Leopold (mentioned above) filled the prescriptions while Fred invented. His Pompeian Massage Cream became wildly popular nationwide with both men and women.

Around 1906, the growing business moved downtown to East Fourth St. and Fred created a dandruff hair cream, plus women's products - night and day vanishing creams, a face powder and a rouge called Pompeian Bloom. Otto became a salesman, canvassing barbers throughout the state. Fred died in 1916, and Otto became president of the company. Fred's wife Lulu served as vice president both before and after Fred died. She lived here until she died in 1940.

In 1926, Frederick and Lulu's son Dr. Robert Stecher moved next door - into a house built in 1908 for Roland T. Meacham, who most likely used it as his summer home. Roland was listed in the 1904 city directory as retired, but the next year had formed the Boudinot & Meacham Co., specializing in stocks and bonds. Roland continued in that profession for years, residing primarily on West 14th St., until moving to Lakewood, later living on Edwards Ave., Clifton Blvd., and then Lake Ave.

Dr. Robert Stecher's family lived in the house for 40 years, moving around 1966 to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he died in 1972. When the Carlyle developers marked the home for destruction, they offered it free to anyone willing to pay about \$25,000 to have it moved. Nobody offered, so it was demolished for the Carlyle's underground parking garage. The Carlyle cost \$11.5 million to build the 20-story condominium complex.

12924 Lake Avenue - In 1901, Charles T. Reed built his mansion, "Waterside," next door to the Wintons. He made millions through his Reed Bros. & Co. millinery and straw goods business. The home later was bought by Edwin A. Mastick, Jr., manager of the Asbestos Roofing Co.

----- *Lake Avenue* - Around 1889, Lewis A. Murfey had a summer house built here that he called "Briarhurst". Lewis was a receiving teller, then an assistant cashier at the Mercantile National Bank, along with his brother Charles. They resided primarily on Euclid Ave.

12984 Lake Avenue, northeast corner of Nicholson and Lake Avenue - Around 1888, Brougham E. Harris built this home he named "Lake Cliff". It was featured in the *Plain Dealer* in 1907, the same year Brougham died. He was a partner in the Hogan & Harris undertaking firm in Cleveland.

His father was Josiah Harris, mayor of Cleveland in 1847, and owner of the *Cleveland Herald & Gazette*. He had come from Massachusetts in 1818 with his family, first settling in Elyria. There, he was elected sheriff and revived Elyria's first newspaper, the weekly *Ohio Atlas & Elyria Advertiser*. He sold that in 1837, came to Cleveland and purchased the *Cleveland Herald & Gazette*, which had recently dropped the 'a' from 'Cleaveland' in its title and become the city's first daily paper.

Josiah became popular for printing marriage, death and meeting notices, and for providing free papers to clergymen. He also refused to publish ads for infamous snake-oil medicines, or reward notices for runaway slaves. The *Herald* installed the city's first steam-power printing press in 1845, began receiving news by telegraph two years later, and contracted with the *Plain Dealer* to receive Associated Press reports from New York in 1854. They also moved into a four-story building at Bank St. (now West 6th) and Superior Ave. in 1851.

After serving as mayor, elected through the Whig party, Josiah loosened his connection with the *Herald*, taking over as editor of the *Cleveland Leader* from 1857-60. He briefly returned to the Her-

ald, but retired from journalism after the Civil War, settling on Lake Ave. in Rocky River and growing grapes. He and his wife Esther had four children; Bryon, Brougham, Zacharia and Helen. Josiah died in 1876.

After Brougham died, John McMyler bought the house here. He and A.N. Simmerly invented derricks for loading and unloading ships, and founded Cleveland companies to manufacture them. The gatehouse to the estate was later converted to a private residence that now faces Nicholson Ave. The barn was also converted into a residence and stands on the extension of Edgewater Dr., east of Nicholson.

1298--- Lake Avenue, northwest corner of Nicholson and Lake Avenue - Brougham's brother Bryon C. Harris built a house on this site around 1879, three years after their father died. Bryon was a ticketing agent with the Valley Railway, then with the Union Depot. He later moved to a house on Lake Ave., then Clifton Blvd., dying at the age of 91 years in 1923.

10. Turn right, heading north, onto Nicholson Avenue. Walk to the end of the street; you will have a beautiful view of Lake Erie.

----- Edgewater/Nicholson, southwest corner of Nicholson and Lake Avenue -Designed by architect Gustav Boehm, this house was built in 1911 for George D. Faerber, vice president of the Forest City Bank. The walls were of hollow tile, covered with stucco. The first floor held a large reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen and pantries, and featured a double circular staircase off the hallway. The second floor had five bedrooms and two baths. The third floor had a billiard room and servants' quarters. Woodwork throughout is Philippine mahogany.

After his death, Agnes Morse bought the house in 1916 for \$49,000. She was the widow of George W. Morse, president of Parish & Bingham Co. Agnes took over the business and was vice president when it merged with Midland Steel Products Co. in 1923. She spent over \$100,000 on improvements to the house, including \$17,000 for an iron fence on a cut-stone foundation, \$25,000 for a conservatory, an addition to the house and two more garages. It was said she spent \$15,000 a year to maintain the gardens - \$3,000 a year just on tulip bulbs.

After her death, Willson Hunter bought the house for \$28,000. In 1979, the house was opened to the public as the Designers' Hope House, a project of the American Cancer Society.

11. Turn left, heading west, onto Cliff Drive.

12. Turn left, heading south, on Wilbert Drive.

13. Turn right, heading west, on Edgewater Drive.

----- Edgewater Drive - This house was formerly the Brougham Harris estate barn.

13514 Edgewater Drive - In 1913, Frederick Zimmerman had this house built. It was one of the first large buildings to be made of stucco over brick, and included a library and billiard room on the first floor, plus a ballroom on the third floor. The servants' wing included the kitchen and pantries on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor for the maid, cook, gardener and handyman. The grounds featured a spectacular garden, as did many of the former estates along the shoreline, plus an orchard, a vineyard and a large vegetable garden. A skilled woodworker, Frederick came to the U.S. from Switzerland at the age of 16 and later founded the Zimmerman Co., which made picture frames.

----- Edgewater Drive - Capt. Charles L. Hutchinson, of the Hutchinson Steamship Co., had a house built here as a summer home. Four generations of his family lived here, extending it into a permanent residence over the years. It had a 50' x 30' living room, a 35' x 20' entrance hall, a first floor master bedroom, a morning room, huge kitchen, breakfast room, dining room, three bedrooms and two baths - all on the first floor. The servants resided above the four-car garage. Around 1925, the house was torn down and the property subdivided - two homes built on the land were designed by Clarence Mack: 12825 and 13823 Edgewater Dr.; the latter being built for Captain Hutchinson's son, John.

1038 Homewood Avenue - Built in 1924, Clarence Mack also designed this house.

1050 Homewood Avenue - Built in 1927, this home won fourth place in the second competition by the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association. Larger than the first contest, with 138 entries from across the country, architects Bohnard & Parsson distinguished themselves with this brick and tudor style house, built for Jas. E. Plant, vice president of the Richardson-Briggs Co.

1096 Homewood Avenue - This house was built in 1922 for George M. Steinbrenner, secretary of the Kinsman Transit Co. Sophia Steinbrenner was president of the company, whose offices were in the Rockefeller Building.

----- Edgewater near Homewood - Around 1912-15, Wilfred C. Sly built this home on a two-acre site, taking pride in the three-story brick manor. He hand-selected the Philippine mahogany for the staircase, woodwork and beams of the first-floor rooms. He had recently taken over as president of the W. W. Sly Manufacturing Co., founded by his father in 1874 as a foundry equipment supplier. The plant was on Train Ave. at W. 47th St.

In those days, workers were paid in cash weekly. On Dec. 31, 1920, Wilfred and his plant superintendent George K. Fanner, 33, were driving their usual route south from Lorain Ave. on W. 44th after withdrawing \$4,200 from the bank for the payroll. A Stearns automobile veered up and around, pushing their car to the temporary bridge railing crossing the railroad tracks, just blocks from the factory.

Wilfred got out and tried to get names of witnesses to what he thought was an accident. But soon the two men in the Stearns were joined by four more who all opened fire, seizing the money satchel and fleeing in another getaway car. Both Wilfred and George fell dead on the bridge.

A witness got five numbers off the speeding car. Police quickly apprehended four of the thugs, but witnesses didn't identify them, so they were released. Two years later, one suspect, a teenager, was arrested in Los Angeles, who confessed and implicated the others. Three more were arrested (one in Detroit, another in Mexico), but two still remained. One was found in 1928 living under a new identity in San Francisco, but extradition was denied after former witnesses retracted their statements. He was the only killer to go free. The remaining suspect eluded arrest for 14 years - fleeing to Italy. After his wife died in 1934, he turned himself in to the Palermo police. Cleveland officers and a Asst. County Prosecutor Frank Celebreeze attended the trial in Italy, where the accused was sentenced to 30 years of hard labor. The previous four killers were all executed.

The leader of the gang was Frank Motto, who was tried before Judge Florence Allen - the first time in the U.S. a woman presided over a murder trial with women on the jury, and also was the first female judge to impose the death sentence. After that, she received death threats from the Black Hand, a predecessor of the Mafia, and had police protection. When Dominic Benigno was tried, for the third time, rumors flew that his Mayfield Road Mob pals were planning an armed rescue. After he was found guilty, his wife attacked the prosecutor, threatening to kill him, and Dominic's friends and relatives crowded around also, trying to grab the prosecutor, before deputies broke it up.

In the late teens and early 1920s, payroll robberies had become so commonplace in Cleveland, the newspapers regularly printed them on the front pages. The Italian Mayfield Road Mob led these payroll robberies, growing during the latter years of Prohibition. Businesses had no safeguards like bank wire transfers or armored cars. Some hired armed escorts. Wilfred carried a gun, but his mistake was in taking the same route at the same time every week.

Frank Motto got the idea from Louis Komer, "The Toledo Kid," who supposedly had worked at the W.W. Sly plant. They met in a poolroom and hatched the plan. Louis was later a primary testifier against the others, along with the teenager, Ignatius "Sam" Purpera.

*In the later 1920s, as opposition to Prohibition became stronger, the Murray Hill neighborhood in Little Italy gained a reputation as a major source of bootleg liquor. But connection of various crimes in Cleveland to an organized group was considered nonsense. The Italian newspaper, *The Latin World*, wrote:*

"Recently the city has been more or less startled by a series of crimes correctly or not attributed to "a mythical organization" labeled the "Black Hand." We say mythical because it is such ... we can not help but sound a note of satisfaction in our positive knowledge that extermination from its own festering hands is foreshadowed for those who are the outragers of the decent and law abiding."

By the 1930s, though, "Italian racketeers" appeared to be becoming an epidemic. The city's former Director of Public Safety, Frank Merrick, wrote an exclusive in the Plain Dealer's Sunday edition, singling Italians, in "Giving the Low Down on Cleveland's Racketeers." He claimed Dominic Benigno, who was already executed, was the mastermind behind the city's crime problem: "from his mob sprang almost every known gangster existing in Cleveland today." In actuality, Joe Lonardo, the oldest brother of one of Wilfred's murderers, Dominic Lonardo, became Cleveland's first bootleg baron and leader of the underworld. Another suspect in the case, Charles Coletti, who was never identified as being on the bridge that day but was hiding out in Mexico with Dominic Benigno, went on to become Joe's bodyguard and a top gun of the Mayfield Road Mob.

Within a year of Wilfred's murder, his widow Marie sold this home. Harry and Dora Morgan bought it in 1924, living here 56 years and adding a conservatory, among other changes. Harry owned and rented apartment and office buildings.

Kirtland Lane - This lane and all the surrounding land was formerly the enormous estate and largest mansion of all of Lakewood's glorious homes in the early days - known as the Kundtz Castle. It stood on five acres of land

Born in 1852 in Unter-Metzenziefen, Hungary, Theodor Kundtz came to Cleveland around the age of 21, in 1873. He'd lost his right eye after falling from a tree as a child, and had a glass eye. Poor with little education, yet the son of a cabinetmaker, he too began that work in his new country, at the Whitworth Co., a cabinet-making shop. In 1875, he and several co-workers bought the business after a serious fire, re-naming it the Cleveland Cabinet Co.

Three years later, Theodor established his own company. His work was exceptional and he started producing sewing machine cabinets for White Sewing Machine Co., which was located on Berea Rd. He eventually held 44 patents, mostly for mechanisms to fold the sewing machines into the fine cabinetry.

The company went on to produce school desks, church furniture, bicycle wheels, and auto and truck bodies for many local Cleveland makers - specializing in laminating and bending wood. They also created the exquisite woodwork in the Cuyahoga County Courthouse on Lakeside Ave. and Trinity Cathedral. Even now, over 5,000 churches across the country have Kundtz cabinetry and furniture.

By 1900, the Theodor Kundtz Co. employed over 2,500 workers, many Hungarian immigrants from his hometown. He helped many of them immigrate here, buy homes and even start their own businesses. In 1890, he founded the Hungarian Savings & Loan Co. and built Hungaria Hall on Clark Ave. He later served as an officer with three other banks. In 1902, Theodor was knighted by Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary.

Long before required, Theodor created health and safety measures in his company, and even provided worker's compensation. By 1915, he owned five huge factories in the Flats in Cleveland - making 10,000 sewing cabinets a month - and a lumber yard in Lakewood, running from Clifton Blvd. to the railroad tracks, between Manor Park and Giel Ave. In May, 1920, the lumber yard blazed in an inferno for two days, lighting the sky for miles. Audrey Rebscher was nine years old at the time, awakened by the flames in her home on Giel. She later recalled:

"I stayed up all night watching. My mother packed three new dresses and other belongings and put them on the back seat of our Chalmers touring car in case we had to flee. My family was afraid a change in the wind might cause the flames to leap over the street and engulf our house. ... During the long night, exhausted firemen were invited to rest from time to time in our home and have breakfast. We were on pins and needles until sometime after sunrise when they told us the fire was contained. Even so, it continued to burn for two days."

Audrey's father had been brought from New York City to work for Theodor's company. Five years later, White Sewing Machine bought the company, and Audrey's father became executive vice president of White in 1949.

Theodor designed his three-story mansion as a copy of a real castle from his childhood in Hungary. It had about 15 rooms, eight fireplaces and featured a five-story tower, a vast third-floor ballroom and a private bowling alley in the basement. The cedar closets were large enough to be an ordinary living room!

He employed many of his workers to craft the extensive woodwork and beautiful furniture inside his home, including elaborate carvings of leaves and flowers, and painted murals of angels and cherubs. The music room had 12 panes of stained glass above the windows. Enormous connecting porches

surrounded three-quarters of the house.

The elaborate coach house - larger than many Lake Ave. homes - stood on the west end of the property. Theodor, his wife Maria, and their ten children moved into it in 1898, living there for five years while the mansion was completed. Theodor died in this home in 1937, followed by Maria in 1947.

After Maria died, Robert Morrow bought the estate for \$60,000. Around 1960, the Eggleston Development Co. bought it all for \$110,000 and converted it into this 16-home subdivision. Before they demolished this signature landmark, the company held several "open houses" so people could take a last look at the mansion.

Kirtland Lane pays homage to early resident, physician and naturalist Dr. Jared Kirtland - "The Sage of Rockport." He and his daughter Mary came here in 1839 and, shortly afterward, he encouraged farmers to switch from agricultural to fruit farming, making them very wealthy. On his own 200 acres, he had exotic plants, trees, shrubs and flowers, plus he created fruit hybrids. He also discovered 222 bird species during the state's first geological survey. In addition, he helped found what is now Case Western Reserve University's medical school, where he taught until 1864. (For more information on him, see *History Walks I and II.*)

13920 Edgewater - In 1910, John Crider had this two-and-a-half story house built, designed by Charles Hopkinson. The brick-frame residence with slate roof and hot water heat cost \$15,000.

14. Turn right, heading north, onto Parkside. Follow around the cul-de-sac and return to Lake Avenue.

15. Turn left, heading east, on Lake Avenue. Follow this to the traffic light at Whip-poorwill (the street sign is on the right, south, side of Lake Avenue).

13995 Lake Avenue - Harvey E. Hackenberg had this house built around 1921. Its doorway was said at the time to possess remarkable design. Harvey was vice president of the National Carbon Co., at the southwest corner of Madison Ave. and West 117th St. His first house is well-known in Lakewood - on Grace Ave. This was his fourth home; he lived in the meantime on Detroit Ave., then in an estate he named "Oakcrest" on West Shore Dr. He died in 1923, at his fifth house on 12116 Edgewater Dr.

13881 and 13883 Lake Avenue - Built in 1922, Clarence Mack designed these two Georgian style houses, the first of almost 20 homes he built in Lakewood on land purchased from Theodor Kundtz. 13881 was purchased by Harlan Newell, vice president of the Society for Savings. He later had Clarence design a home for him in Shaker Heights. 13883 was bought by Bernard Pearse, secretary-treasurer of the Atlas Foundry Co.

13867 Lake Avenue - Clarence built this home the following year for Edward H. Fishman. Although he could not afford college or formal training, Clarence studied architecture in the U.S. and Europe for ten years before the first World War. He had also listened intently as his father, grandfather and uncles discussed their building trades over dinner. But he didn't start designing and building homes until around this time, 1922.

Clarence was unique in providing a complete package - house, furnished interiors and landscaping. Every year he'd go on a buying trip to Europe for furnishings, including desk and table lamps, side tables, crystal sconces, four-poster beds, Chippendale-style mirrors, chairs, couches and even libraries complete with matching book bindings. Because the rooms were often large, Clarence positioned furniture (often able to seat 20 people) into conversation groups.

13851 Lake Avenue - That same year, Clarence built this French Eclectic style home for William D. Becker, vice president of the Valley Steamship Co. The asymmetrical brick house surrounds a courtyard, partly to conceal the garage opening from the street. The living room, morning room and dining room all feature floor-to-ceiling windows.

13843 Lake Avenue - Built in 1923, Clarence sold this home to Francis Richley. Many of Clarence's

clients were newly wealthy, without family heirlooms, so his furnishings gave the impression that they did. His interior details also included imported marble mantels and crystal chandeliers - offering a stage set for living, while still providing opportunity to personalize further.

Although his house design styles were traditional, Clarence employed modern conveniences - a powder room and coat closet near the front doors, and specialized storage like kitchen pantries, walk-in closets and dressing rooms with built-in drawers. He flooded rooms with natural light through floor-to-ceiling windows, and used mirrors to reflect this light, and the outdoors, inside. And although the automobile industry was still in its infancy, he provided attached two- and three-bay garages.

13835 Lake Avenue - Also in 1923, Clarence designed this French Eclectic home, furnishing it with French furniture. He also landscaped the entire grounds. The first owner was Charles Richman, of the successful Richman Brothers men's clothing company. Most recently, it was owned by Tom Wilson, creator of the Ziggy cartoons.

13857 Lake Avenue - This was the final home Clarence built in 1923, another French Eclectic. Its first owner was James W. Wilson, treasurer of the Insurance Center Building.

13875 Lake Avenue - One of only two homes Clarence built in 1924, this house is smaller in its footprint than his other Lake Ave. homes. It was purchased by Charles E. Doty, who had offices in the Hippodrome Building in Cleveland. The other house built this year was on Homewood Ave.

13842 Lake Avenue - One of five homes built in 1925, Clarence planned these with their close relationship to each other. The three on Lake Ave. are in the Georgian style, with two more on Edgewater Dr. in the French style. The front entrance on this house was inspired by an 18th century London doorway and is Clarence's most beautiful doorway in the Cleveland area. Eugene E. Ledogar first purchased this house.

13840 Lake Avenue - This Adams-style house features different window styles on each of the three stories. Charles E. Myer first bought this home.

13834 Lake Avenue - This final home built in 1925 on Lake Ave. features window treatments that further accentuate each of the three stories. James W. Fraser, who worked at Bituminous Construction, first owned this home.

13810 Lake Avenue - Clarence designed and built this house in 1926, along with only one other house that year, on West Forest Ave. in Clifton Park. This Georgian style became home to Addie Hackenburg, second wife and widow of Harvey Hackenburg, of the beautiful home on Grace Ave.

13845 Lake Avenue - This is the last house Clarence built in Lakewood, in 1927. Although Georgian style on the outside, it has some French style inside, as Clarence later said - particularly a white and gold-paneled library with a French marble mantle with a Trumeau over it that he bought in France. A Trumeau is a mirror with a painting above it in the same frame. The house was first owned by Robert Hascall, who inherited several companies from his father, and served as president of Hascall Paint Co., Tropical Paint and Oil Co., and Union Products.

16. Turn right, heading south, on Whippoorwill Ave.

CHECKPOINT: What elementary school is located on Whippoorwill?

Whippoorwill - This street was named in honor of Jared Kirtland's former home, which he called "Whippoorwill."

Taft Elementary School, 13701 Lake Avenue - Built in 1927, Taft was the last elementary school designed by architect Charles W. Hopkinson, who was also on the Lakewood Board of Education. It came about due to the city's population boom, which began around 1913. The two-story structure

held 13 classrooms, a library, gymnasium and an auditorium.

Emerson Middle School, 13439 Clifton Blvd. - Charles Hopkinson also designed this school, the first junior high school in Lakewood, which was built in 1922. It had 28 classrooms, a library, auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria. The junior high held elementary classes until Taft was built, which is similar to what happened before Emerson was built. Its opening ended the junior high classes held at Lakewood High School, at Franklin Blvd. and Bunts Ave. The high school opened in 1919 (also designed by Hopkinson) with a main building, men's building, women's building and a heating plant. For three years, it included six grades - three years of junior high and three years of high school.

17. At Clifton Boulevard, cross to the south side of the street at the traffic light. Turn left, heading east, on Clifton Boulevard.

Giel Avenue - In 1907, Theodor Kundtz was advertising homes for sale on this street, just "25 minutes from Public Square," in the *Cleveland News*. He boasted: "The character of Giel avenue is firmly established. Its homes are the finest in Lakewood. Modern in every way. Some ready to occupy. Will build to order on easy terms. Giel avenue, Detroit street or Clifton boulevard. All improvements in and paid for. This is an opportunity you should not miss. Take a Detroit street car, get off at Giel avenue."

13960-62 Clifton Blvd. - This double was built in 1911 with 50 feet of oak grove in the back originally. An ad listed its conveniences as: "hot air, ... stationary tubs, hot water heater, hot plate, gas range, refrigerator and electric lights throughout." Its price: \$9,000 (which could be financed at about \$20 a month) or \$5,000 cash.

13932 Clifton Blvd. - In 1911, this home was built for Milo H. Evans, an insurance broker working in the Citizens Building, downtown Cleveland. It cost about \$5,000 to build this stucco house with hollow tile walls covered with cement plaster. The shingles were originally stained green.

St. Luke's Catholic Church, corner of Bunts and Clifton Boulevard - Just a block west, this parish first gathered in 1922, with services conducted in a tent on the grounds of St. Augustine Academy until a frame church was built on Bunts Road in 1923. In 1950, this church building was constructed to meet the needs of the growing parish.

Former St. Luke's School, 13889 Clifton Boulevard - St. Luke School, designed by architect William Koehl, was constructed in 1927. Over the years it was enlarged; with six classrooms and a library added in 1954, and a new gym, social hall, and more classrooms in 1960.

13407 Clifton Blvd. - Mrs. Anna B. Gehring had this house built in 1903. She was the widow of Charles E. Gehring, of the C.E. Gehring Brewing Co., who died in 1893. It was designed by Charles W. Hopkinson, who also designed most of Lakewood's schools later on. Of the English Gothic style, Anna's home had green shingles originally and was mostly finished in mahogany inside. In 1907, the house was listed for sale in the *Plain Dealer*, by the C.H. McIntyre Co. Anna moved to a house on Forest Rd. in Clifton Park, and died in 1937.

Gas Wells - In 1885, the *Cleveland Leader* ran an article that Henry Mastick and J.M. Gasser, a greenhouse florist, had struck natural gas in what is now Rocky River. Also, W.H. Lawrence in Dover Bay had succeeded, at a depth of 600 feet. "The time is not far distant when natural gas will be used for all purposes thereabouts, and when the streets of this desirable suburb will be lighted by it," the paper wrote.

It wasn't until January 1913, that five Lakewood men decided to give it a try here. They incorporated the Lakewood Gas Co., leased 75 acres on the Ezra Nicholson farm, in this 'corner' near what are now Clifton Blvd. and Nicholson Ave., and struck gas, estimating it could supply 150-200 residents with heat and light.

Later that year, gas wells were drilled on Theodor Kundtz's property on Giel Ave. The East Ohio Gas Co. hurried out to purchase this new gas source, installing a main pipeline. The gas wells provided between 10-15 million feet of gas daily. Soon 18 gas wells had sprouted across Lakewood. East

Ohio Gas warned they were being drilled too closely together. By January 1914, about 34 gas wells dotted the city, but only about 23 produced the 10-12 million feet a day. The National Carbon Co., on the southeast corner of Lakewood, had the largest number of wells on its property, producing the most gas.

By June 1914, residents near Clifton and Thoreau Ave. organized to formally complain to city council about the wells. They said the brine was ruining trees and shrubbery, the machinery prevented sleep, and that the wells were depreciating the surrounding properties. Drilling stopped until September, when four new wells went in - two near Highland Ave. (W. 117th) and two on Gold Coast properties.

In February 1915, Lakewood City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting well operations within 100 feet of residences and at night, plus requiring permits before any new drilling. It was the first ordinance of its kind. Drillers had to pay \$100 deposit to the city, in case of damage to trees, sidewalks and pavements. A few unfavorable wells were attempted; then came a few fair wells. Charles Weiber, who owned property on the Gold Coast (house mentioned previously) struck a profitable well on Thoreau Ave., just north of the railroad tracks - followed by a second rig just 120 yards away, then a third only 100 feet away.

Lakewood was fast deteriorating from a verdant pastoral beauty to muddy oil graves of unrealized expectations. The excitement of impending wealth gave way to deflated dreams as gas pressure began diminishing, some wells became dry. By then, about 114 gas wells covered the few square miles of Lakewood. Some of the later drillers didn't even get back when it cost to drill the well. Smaller investors lost everything they had.

As of 1965, fifty years later, eight gas wells were still in operation in this Gold Coast area. One in Lakewood Park, on the former Robert Rhodes estate, which the city owned and received checks from East Ohio Gas. Dr. Robert Stecher still had his father's well operating on his estate, next to the Winton Place. Two others were on the former Nicholson and Kundtz properties. All of the wells were tied to East Ohio Gas Co. lines, with some used also to heat the owners' homes. Dr. Stecher earned about \$5,700 a year off his well.

By 1975, the Lakewood Park well had dried up, but the others still flowed. Residents of a Clarence Ave. apartment, at Detroit, had their heat and hot water supplied, despite the energy crisis. So did Kroger's Supermarket, at Detroit and Bunts Rd. (which became Giant Eagle - now is vacant), saving the store \$2300 a year in heating costs.

12994 Clifton Blvd. (near Nicholson) - Built around 1907, this home was designed by architect Ralph M. Hulett for Adolph G. Klippel, vice president of the Albright Coal Co., who formerly lived on Franklin Ave. in Cleveland. It was advertised in the Plain Dealer as having 9 rooms, "with all modern improvements: steam heat, cozy fireplace, buffet built in dining room, ... basement and attic plastered; stationary tubs; in fact, everything to make a home complete..."

12989 Clifton Blvd. - In 1911, this beautiful double home was advertised in the Plain Dealer as "the finest" in Lakewood, through the Anglesey Park Co. "Beautiful grounds and surroundings. Everything up to the minute. Price right."

18. Turn right, heading south on Nicholson Avenue.

Nicholson Avenue - In 1912, Reginald Guy Cowan founded the Cleveland Pottery and Tile Co., partly funded by the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, on this street, using a natural gas well on the property. His father had worked for the Onandaga Pottery Co. in Syracuse, New York, as a china painter. Guy was born in East Liverpool, Ohio, in 1888, and attended the School of Ceramic Engineering at Alfred University in New York. He started the Ceramic Engineering departments at both East and West Technical High Schools in Cleveland, and taught china painting in adult education courses at the Cleveland School of Art (later the Cleveland Institute of Art).

At the studio here, Guy and his employed artisans used red brick clay to create "Lakewood Ware" - everyday items like cups, saucers, sugar bowls, creamers, garden pots and smoking accessories. They also crafted graceful statues, bookends, vases, compotes, candle holders, lamps, desk accessories and delicate pieces. Their innovative, remarkable glazes - in bright flowers colors or vibrant blues, greens, blacks and browns - achieved a new depth in the ceramic pottery field.

In 1917, Guy closed this studio to join the Army for The Great War, serving in the chemical warfare service in Willoughby, Ohio. Upon returning, he realized the natural gas well was running out,

so he moved his studio to Lake Road in Rocky River. By 1925-26, he had about 50 employees working around the clock creating spectacular pottery, which he chiefly designed - elevating ceramic pottery from a craft to fine art. Viktor Schrekengost, who designed the ceramic sculpture on the front of the Lakewood Civic Auditorium at the high school, was a student of Guy Cowan at the Cleveland School of Art.

When the Great Depression hit, the Cowan Pottery Studio went into receivership, ultimately closing in 1932. Barrett Creamery took over the space and Guy moved his family to Syracuse, New York, and worked for the same company as his father: the Onandaga Pottery Co.

19. Turn right, heading west, on Detroit Avenue, to the first traffic light.

13307 Detroit - In 1902, J.V. Chapek, a dry goods retailer, had a large house built here, designed by Charles Hopkinson, the architect who later designed many of Lakewood's schools.

13315 Detroit - In 1894, William C. Langenau had this house built by architects Cramer & Fugman. He dealt in casket fastenings and "hardware specialties," having founded the Langenau Manufacturing Co. in 1884 - and it's still in business, producing metal stampings for cabinets, travel trunks and luggage. In 1943, in a Lakewood Press article, the house was listed as a "fire trap."

13404 Detroit (DEMOLISHED) - Around 1911, Frank F. Stranahan had a home built here on the northwest corner of Nicholson and Detroit. Frank ran a confectionary shop in The Arcade, downtown Cleveland, with his brother Fred, who lived on Cove Ave. For years the house remained, nestled behind Bobson's Hardware. But eventually the hardware store went out of business and, in 2004, this beautiful house was demolished.

13330 Detroit Avenue - Residence of real estate broker Henry G. Oppmann on the northeast corner of Detroit and Nicholson Avenue. The house later became part of the Crestmont North Nursing Home until it was razed to make room for a larger facility

13335 Detroit Avenue - Oldest Frame House - Earliest pioneer James Nicholson built this house for his wife Betsey and their family in 1835, the third home he built by hand. His youngest son Ezra, born the same year the house was built, lived here with his wife Samantha. They had six children, three of whom survived - E. Louis, Clarence and Grace. E. Louis took over the house after his father died in 1915, as well as taking over presidency of the Nicholson Realty Co. and the Nicholson Ship Log Co., both founded by his forward-thinking, inventor father. Ezra invented the Nicholson Log, used widely in the Navy, as it could determine the speed and position of ships in all weather.

Ezra had the foresight to know the emerging hamlet of Lakewood would be attractive to Clevelanders. He bought the Clifton Park land, and offered it, free, to Cleveland as a park. Many newspaper writers laughed at the thought of a park so far out in the country, calling it "Nicholson's Folly." Little did they know.

Ezra put down the first natural gas well in the city, in the area just south of Scenic Park (now the marina off Detroit Rd.), then bored wells on his homestead and on Cove Ave., telling neighbors to hook up, free of cost. He organized the first railroad through the area with Dan Rhodes and Elias Sims, serving as the first president. He was the first clerk of Lakewood Hamlet, and was on the committee that selected the name. While a clerk on the Board of Education, the first high school and grade schools were established. He also was the first in the area to change his farm from agriculture to fruit, in 1850, upon the advice of Jared Kirtland. His grapevines covered 55 acres, over land that is now Grace and Clarence Aves.

13414 Detroit Avenue, opposite Waterbury - In June 1922, this building pictured became the latest "branch" of Herrman-McLean Co., a feed, seed and wholesale grain and flour retailer founded in 1871. The main store was on Lorain Ave., with other "branches" on West 25th St., Broadview Rd. and Market St.

Brinkman-Dress Funeral Home, 13443 Detroit Avenue - Built in ----, this beautiful home was first owned by John N. Hahn, president and treasurer of the J.N. Hahn Co., manufacturers of corrugated paper and paper cases.

13526 Detroit Avenue - In 1902, James C. Wallace had a large yet modest house built here, with very deep and roomy porches surrounding the front and sides. He was general manager of the American Shipbuilding Co. A Plain Dealer article said:

"[S]ome friends, thinking to play a joke on Mr. Wallace, printed placards, advertising suites for rent, and posted them conspicuously in the windows.... Mr. Wallace was considerably surprised and annoyed when a number of people called him ... [asking] the terms for rent in the Lakewood mansion. The climax was reached when a telegram was received from New York parties requesting the owner to reserve for them a choice set of rooms at any cost whatever."

20. At the traffic light, cross Detroit Avenue to Waterbury-Lewis-Chesterland Avenues, heading south. Stay to the left as the streets fork. Follow Waterbury Avenue.

Waterbury and Lewis Avenues - These streets were originally part of the Nicholson family property. In 1894, Ezra and his sons first began to allot the old homestead, opening up Grace Ave. - the first paved street west of what is now West 38th St. A little later, as Lakewood's real estate and population boom really peaked, these streets were created, lots divided and homes built within a few years.

Waterbury Ave. was named for the town in Connecticut in which Betsey Nicholson was born. Lewis was named for Ezra's older brother Lewis (who had no children). Nearby Clarence Ave. was named for Ezra's younger son.

These rare curvy streets in this city follow the old Nicholson creek, which started south of Madison Ave., meandering north under Detroit in a culvert, onward to the lake. In 1922, the creek was enclosed in an underground sewer pipe.

Jeannette Stranahan was a senior at Lakewood High School at the time, and wrote in her diary: "Our beautiful ravine and the creek are to be filled. It is breaking my heart as well as Mama's." She wrote of wiener roasts with friends on the banks of the babbling brook, and watching pollywogs in a deep pool, midway between Detroit and the train tracks.

In 1919, she wrote: "Three girls were expelled from school for smoking cigarettes," and, on Dec. 15, wrote: "Some people in the newspaper made the prophesy that the world will end Wednesday [Dec. 17]." On that day, she wrote: "The world didn't end today."

In 1921, she wrote about attending a dance at the Kundtz mansion. The next year in February, the city of Cleveland demolished her father's six-story business building (Stranahan Bros. Co., bakers, caterers and confectioners) on Superior Ave. "to make space for the new tracks and buildings for the new depot. Papa says he is too old to rebuild." That June, the family headed to California in their Willys Knight automobile, with a folding, rough-hewn early-model camping trailer - a much-needed cross-country accessory in the pre-motel 1920s.

1455 Waterbury Avenue - Built in 1889, long before these streets were created, this house's address was 48 Grace Ave. in 1902, presumably with a long driveway off that street. Clarence P. Nicholson was its owner. By 1916, the address was on Waterbury. Clarence was secretary-treasurer of the Nicholson Realty Co. and the Nicholson Ship Log Co., working with his older brother, E. Louis.

----- Waterbury Avenue - This house was built in 1919 for Matthew M.P. Platten and his wife Julia. He was a concrete contractor, leaving his brass horseshoe with MP Platten brand on sidewalks around the city. They had nine children and wanted to get out of crowded Cleveland to the fresh air of this new suburb.

Their house has six bedrooms, a good-sized kitchen, dining room and living room, plus first and second floor sunrooms. As a contractor himself, Matthew probably hired top-notch contractors for his house. The oak floors have thick planking underneath, and the large fireplace was designed and built by the same contractor who did the one in what is now the Winking Lizard. The house shared a five-garage courtyard with the neighbors; Matthew had a Model T Ford. The only thing that's changed is the front porch was enclosed into a family room by a later resident.

1460 Waterbury Avenue - Built in 1914, this is the first home Clarence Mack built in Lakewood, for his family. They had previously lived on Clarence Ave., where he and his family had moved ten years previously. Born in Cleveland in 1888, Clarence's grandfather and uncles were house builders. One of his uncles had worked on Theodor Kundtz's mansion, and Clarence visited while it was being

constructed, learning "every beam and joist and mortise in it."

His father, Louis, was a clerk for the New York Central and the Erie Railroads for 67 years. His older brother Roland became an accountant, his younger brother Vincent a clerk, and Clarence worked as a trimmer in 1910. Five years after building this house, in 1919, Clarence built another home behind it, at 1467 Lewis Dr. This began his home-building career - jumping into the 17 homes he built in Lakewood, mostly on Lake Ave.

Clarence went on to build eight homes in Shaker Heights, through the request of the Van Sweringen brothers, and, with his brother Vincent, four modest-sized homes in Rocky River. His largest commission in Ohio was the 27-room French renaissance "Kingwood" mansion in Mansfield, for Charles K. King, head of Ohio Brass Co.

After the stock market crash in 1929, Clarence traveled around the world for five years, then settled in Palm Beach, Florida. He soon began designing and building homes in that area in 1938. When he retired in 1960, he'd completed two major housing developments there. Clarence died in Palm Beach in January 1982, at the age of 93.

James Nicholson was a peaceable farmer, who didn't even have a gun in this wilderness until he came home with his government-issued old musket after being drafted for the War of 1812. He had left Betsey home alone with their small children. No incidents happened, however, except that a bear once stole the family's pig. F.C. Lowing wrote in his *History of the City of Lakewood*:

"When in a reminiscent mood, Mr. Nicholson would often tell of one of his early experiences while traversing this rough road [now Detroit Ave]. This road was the only way to town, as the little settlement at Cleveland was then called; and in going and coming it was necessary to cross this corduroy bridge, as the water and mud was deep on either side. As there were no street lamps to light up this way, and as the deep wood in itself added much to the dense character of the darkness, one who attempted to traverse this road at night was forced to make his way more by feeling than seeing. ... Mr. Nicholson, being detained in town until after dark, was literally feeling his way through the woods on his return home. ... [He reached the "bridge."] Feeling along carefully, with a stick he carried, so that he might not step off the end of the logs into the water and mud, he ran into a huge bear that gave a big "UGF!" ...

Mr. Nicholson had no gun with him, and could not have seen to shoot had he possessed one. But realizing the danger he had just escaped, and still having in remembrance the hot breath forced into his face by the bear as it emitted its startled cry, he pushed on home as fast as he could, well pleased that the bear had not attacked him in the dark before he knew of its presence."

21. Turn left, heading east, onto Madison Avenue back to the Madison Branch of the library.

Compiled by Michelle Todd, Lakewood Public Library, 2007

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