



HORSE & CHAISE GAZETTE

WINTER 2024



WELCOME

The Volunteers at Venice Heritage Inc. are pleased to introduce the re-named regularly presented Newsletter, the Horse & Chaise Gazette. Our goal is to provide articles, news and information about events and educational opportunities of interest to the historical and preservation community of the Venice, Florida region.



Venice Heritage Inc (VHI)

is a 501c3 organization based in Venice FL. The members are dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the greater Venice region.

Become a member, or renew [HERE](#).

HORSE AND CHAISE WHERE DOES THAT NAME COME FROM?

A chaise most commonly refers to a small, 2-wheel carriage that seats two persons and is pulled by a single horse. What does that have to do with Venice?

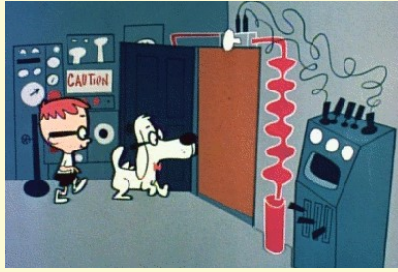
19th century fishing vessels plied the Gulf coast of Florida, commonly sailed by Cubans and Spaniards as well as Americans. Near the shore of what is now Venice there was a grouping of trees that appeared from the water as a silhouette of a horse and chaise. This region of shoreline began to be referred to as Horse and Chaise and the term came into common use. The story goes that it would have been the preferred name for our first post office but only one-word names were accepted by the Postal Service at that time. After Guava was considered and ruled out, thank goodness, Frank Higel's choice of Venice was chosen.



WHAT'S NEW AT VENICE HERITAGE INC.?

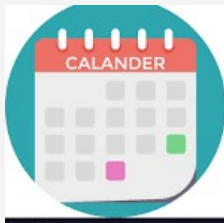
- New in 2024 is an expansion and name change for our monthly educational program at the William Jervy Library. The Movie Time series is now the History @ Venice Library series. We now have additional offerings of live lectures with speakers on topics of interest to our Heritage community. Join us every 3rd Friday at 3:00 PM in the Jervy Library auditorium on our Cultural Campus. However, please note there will be no program in March.
- On Friday, April 19 we look forward to the film *Victor Lundy, Sculptor of Space*. Victor Lundy, one of the leaders of the Sarasota School of Architecture, designed several iconic buildings in Venice.
- The Lundy film, along with the new photographic exhibit at the Venice Museum titled *Florida Modern, The Sarasota School of Architecture in Venice*, represents the growing interest in the Midcentury Modern style of architecture.
- 2024 brought two new members to our leadership Board. We are pleased to welcome Teri Ostroviak, who brings numerous and valuable skills to the organization. Another welcome to Irvin Lewin, who has added Board membership to his Committee and assorted other volunteer duties. Both Teri and Irvin have served as docents and volunteers at the Venice Museum and other regional non-profit historical organizations. Welcome to the team!

THE VENICE WAY BACK MACHINE: LOOKS AT EDGEWOOD



It was in this month of 1927 the City of Venice authorized its first annexation, the Edgewood District. Some interesting facts about its history and status among the Venice neighborhoods:

- Edgewood was not included within the original Venice city limits. The section residents needed to petition the City of Venice to become the first annexation.
- It was a neighborhood intended for modestly priced homes. Edgewood was located literally on the other side of the tracks, being one mile from downtown and past the rails and Seaboard industrial area.
- Section planning was very un-Nolen-like: streets were platted in a simple grid, there was no requirement for adherence to Mediterranean Revival styling, and there were no original parks or convenient commercial area.
- However, Edgewood today is a historically and architecturally interesting and often overlooked neighborhood. Stroll down Groveland St. to appreciate the variety of architecture and design such as Craftsman, Tudor, Vernacular homes of the era, as well as Mediterranean Revival.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HISTORY @ VENICE LIBRARY**

The film *Victor Lundy, Sculptor of Space*.

Friday April 19, 3PM - 4PM at the Jervey Library.

- **VHI ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, March 17, 3pm.
Details soon.

- **ANNUAL WRITER'S FESTIVAL AND BOOK FAIR**

The Writer's Festival on Friday, March 22.

The Book Fair on Saturday March 23.

See the flyer later in this newsletter for more info.

- **ANNUAL HERITAGE FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON**

Saturday, May 11 at 11AM.

Hotel Venezia

Look for further notices. Mark your calendar!

NEWS FROM HISTORICAL RESOURCES

from Harry Klinkhamer



Greetings All!

I'm happy to share with you all what is happening with Venice Historical Resources that VHI supports. If you are not familiar with us, it may be because you know us by a different name: Venice Museum, Venice Museum and Archives, or Triangle Inn. The Venice Museum is housed in the historic Triangle Inn and used to hold both the museum and the archives before the latter moved across the street. In all iterations, that is only part of what we do. The Venice Division of Historical Resources is a part of Venice city government housed within the Planning and Zoning Department. Along with the museum and the archives, the division also operates the city's historic preservation program and public art program. We work with caretaker Earl Midlam on taking care of Old Betsy and will be handling the interpretation at the Lord-Higel House once that is completed.

In each issue of the Horse & Chaise Gazette, I'll provide you with all the updates on what is going on with historical resources. We are happy to have this strong relationship with our partner, Venice Heritage. So let me give you a quick rundown of what is happening.

At the Venice Museum we have two seasonal exhibits up along with our permanent ones on Venice, the Triangle Inn, Dr. Fred Albee, and our paleontological collection. Running through the end of July is *Rediscover Floridaland*, about the tourist attraction that was once in Osprey. Just opened is our photo exhibit, *Florida Modern: The Sarasota School of Architecture in Venice*. The Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning

Archives and Research Center continues to collect the history of Venice and our neighboring communities.

In future columns I can share with you interesting activity around all our historical resources. Until next time,

Harry Klinkhamer

Historical Resources Manager

History Tsar for the City of
Venice, Florida



LET'S PAINT THE TOWN.... WITH HIBISCUS FLOWERS!



Hibiscus is the official flower of the City of Venice. Venice Heritage Inc. is the program sponsor of Hibiscus flowers painted directly on building surfaces or on panels which can be hung and moved to any area of your home or business.

A flower now adorns the tower of the historic Triangle Inn, home of the Venice Museum, and perhaps you have noticed some others around town. These stunning, colorful, hand-painted flower portraits are available in different colors and sizes. Click for more information about this VHI fund raising program here: [HIBISCUS](#).

MY VISIT WITH JON WATSON

AT THE VENICE ARCHIVES



The **Cousins Laning Archives and Research Center (CLARC)** is named for Julia Cousins Laning, who in 2007 donated one million dollars toward the effort to create this first-class facility.

Jon Watson, the City of Venice Collections Manager and Museum Curator, recently gave me a tour of the CLARC facility. The CLARC is the VHI supported home for our archival collections. Have a look inside:

The reception area and reading room is the first room upon entering. There are desks and computers available for visitors to research and access archival materials. Keep in mind that the CLARC is not a lending library and the materials never leave the building.

The newspaper collections were in the first room I visited within the main collections area. It had the scent of old newsprint coming from the huge stacks of binder-bound Venice Gondolier newspapers dating from 1946-2003. Since 2017 Jon has been busy outsourcing the papers to be digitized, microfilmed, and uploaded to this website: [GONDOLIER](#). The site is available free to use at the CLARC by appointment only, or for a yearly fee of \$29.99 for home access. Digitizing from 1946-82 is completed but adding more years is dependent on future fundraising.

Archival documents are mainly stored within a row of Space Savers, which are mobile shelving stacks. These impressively large shelving units effortlessly glide on tracks that are moved with only feather-weight pressure on a rotating crank. They can be bunched together when not in use and then spread out for access. Paper documents such as tax records, minutes, scrapbooks and manuscripts are stored here. There are separate large lateral file cabinets that store a wide variety of other Venice-related historical materials.

The artifacts room is in the rear of the building. Mostly three-dimensional ephemeral items and textiles are stored here. My favorite was a commercial sized laundry hamper original to the Hotel Venice, with the original hotel markings intact, and used by housekeeping staff for dirty linens and towels.

The HVAC system must be accurate. For the protection of artifacts, especially sensitive paper-based documents, the indoor environment must be maintained in the 70 degree temperature and the 50% humidity range.

Outside is an emergency generator hook-up needed for possible power outages. If necessary, the city would bring in a generator to power the HVAC system. The best thing about the rear yard is that it borders a John Nolen pocket park. What a great place to have your lunch!

Jon Watson is a Public Historian with 20 years of experience in interpretation, education, museum management, research, archives and historic preservation. He holds a masters degree in Public History with a concentration in Museum Studies. He is also a nice guy who was generous with his time when I came to visit, thank you! Jon is gratefully assisted by five volunteers who typically each take one day a week. It is another example of the importance of our volunteers.

Contact the CLARC for information on accessing materials from the archives: (941) 882-7229 or click here: [ARCHIVES](#). Appointments are available upon request. Take a glance at the online collection [HERE](#).

Irvin Lewin

Editor, Horse & Chaise Gazette
VHI Volunteer



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Venice Heritage Inc. is an all-volunteer organization. Our Board and Committee members strive to provide our membership with quality educational and social events while also working to achieve our mission within the historical and preservation community. We hope to do even more! Donate some of your time to VHI and together we will all benefit. Contact us by clicking here [VOLUNTEER](#) to let us know how you would like to help out.

2024 Venice Book Fair & Writers Festival

Writers Festival
Friday, March 22nd

William H. Jervey, Jr.
Venice Public Library

GCCF Community Room
300 Nokomis Avenue S
Venice, FL 34285

Friday Events 10:30 am to 4:30 pm.

For more information, visit venicebookfair.com/events/



Book Fair
Saturday, March 23rd
Blalock Park

300 Block Nassau Street South
Venice, FL

9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Food Trucks
on Nassau Street
Between Milan Ave. and Turin St.

For author/tent registration form
Visit VeniceBookFair.com

Amish farmer washing his classic Mustang.



THE NEXT HORSE & CHAISE ISSUE COMING IN SPRING 2024