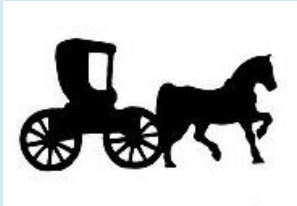


Venice Heritage

Florida

SUPPORTING HISTORICAL RESOURCES SINCE 1994



HORSE & CHAISE GAZETTE

SPRING 2024

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](#).



2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



In April VHI held its Annual Business Meeting. The Board of Directors elected new officers and members coming off their terms were thanked for their much appreciated volunteerism. Membership received updates about our current projects and were encouraged to stay tuned as our new board and committees take shape.

MEET THE BOARD [CLICK HERE](#) TO SEE THEIR BIO'S.



PRESIDENT
KAREN MIDLAM



VICE-PRESIDENT
IRVIN LEWIN



TREASURER
DOROTHY KORWEK



DIRECTOR
TERI OSTROVIAK



DIRECTOR
JEAN TRAMMEL



EX OFFICIO DIRECTOR
HARRY KLINKHAMER



EX OFFICIO DIRECTOR
RONNIE FERNANDEZ



Ronnie Fernandez, long time VHI volunteer and past President, is volunteering in an Ex Officio Director position. Ronnie will be the VHI representative for the City of Venice's Centennial celebration projects. His role is much appreciated!



**VENICE HERITAGE INC HAS RECEIVED TWO 2024
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS,
GIVEN BY THE SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION & THE HISTORY AND PRESERVATION
COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY.**



Venice Heritage Inc. has been honored to receive the Organizational Achievement Award, accepted by board member Jean Trammell.



Dorothy Korwek accepting the Individual Achievement Award.

**Dorothy, everyone at VHI and the Venice historical community, along with the entire community of Venice, is most proud of you.
*Thank you for all that you do!***



Heartfelt thanks to the *Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation* and the *History and Preservation*



ASK A DOCENT

OR

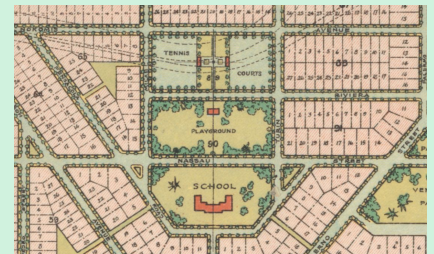
TALES OF MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE AT THE VENICE MUSEUM

Today's focus: Museum visitors looking at the 1926 John Nolen Plan.



Q: Where are we (the Venice Museum) on this map?
• Submitted by Bert A. Palmer.

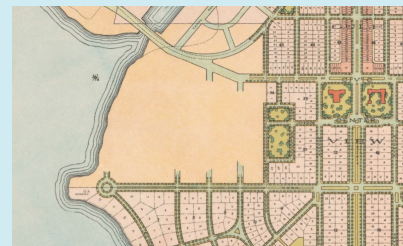
A: It's right where John Nolen had planned for a school playground, in East Blalock Park, where the Cultural Campus is now located. The school itself was to be located across the street in now West Blalock Park, the current location of the Monty Andrews Arboretum. Being unfamiliar with pickleball, John Nolen proposed that the remainder of the Cultural Campus land be a green space with tennis courts.



Q: What's with that large blank spot, empty of streets, where the Bayshore neighborhood is now?

- Submitted by Fred L. Bee

A: That blank area was 90 acres of citrus groves until the 1950's. Originally owned by Robert Roberts (as in Roberts Bay), by 1896 it was owned by Joseph Lord who built his home near the bay. The land was never owned by Fred Albee or the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) and therefore wasn't available to be developed within the John Nolen Plan. Lord's house was later occupied by George Higel, his groves manager. After 1919 the land was known as the Stone Grove Property and the home was the Stone Grove House. Today, at its new location by City Hall, it is known as the Lord-Higel House. The ongoing renovation of the house has been a project of Venice Heritage Inc. and the City of Venice. We are pleased to say that the final phase of restoration is underway.



VHI BOOK FAIR 2024

A success by any measure. Threatening weather cleared by early morning and became lovely for the visitors buying and browsing. The Friday Writers Festival workshops were well attended and the Saturday Book Fair authors were pleased. Importantly, it was a successful fundraiser for VHI.



Blalock Park is a beautiful Venice outdoor event venue. John Nolen would be so pleased!



The Book Fair attracts authors both local and national.



Book readings and face painting for the kids



NEWS FROM HISTORICAL RESOURCES

BY HARRY KLINKHAMER

In the last issue I shared with all of you a little bit about who we are and what we do. In this issue I will share with you some amazing numbers that reflect all the work that we did in 2023.

- We had a total of 4,065 visitors to the Venice Museum. That is equivalent to 14% of the entire population of the City of Venice. That means there are clearly quite a few people who need to learn more about Venice history.
- Volunteers served 1,822 hours with us. That is like a full time person working for us up to Thanksgiving.
- Our gift shop grossed \$14,073. That is 0.0000008795625% of the State of Florida's economy.
- There are enough items in our collection to provide one for almost every single resident in Venice.
- We added two properties in the Local Register of Historical Resources. At that pace, barring any new construction in the city, we could have every property designated by the year 12451. Interestingly, that comes out to star date 12451.32 for you Star Trek fans out there.

Though it may not look it from these fun numbers, it was a busy year serving residents, visitors, and researchers to Historical Resources in 2023. It will be interesting to see what the 2024 numbers show us. **Until next time....**

....live long and prosper.



HARRY KLINKHAMER, EX OFFICIO DIRECTOR

At the April board meeting Harry was welcomed by unanimous vote to join the VHI Board of Directors in an Ex Officio status. As the Historical Resources Manager for the City of Venice, Harry is a vital member of our organization. Harry's participation as a non-voting board member reinforces our

connection as an organization supporting the Venice Division of Historic resources.

Celebrate Historic Preservation Month

Heritage Luncheon

at
Venezia Hotel

425 US 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34285

Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 11 a.m.

Cost: \$50 per person

Venice History: People Behind the Landmarks

Presented by VHI Board Member Irvin Lewin



Pay by *May 5, 2024* via

Check payable to Venice Heritage, P.O. Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284

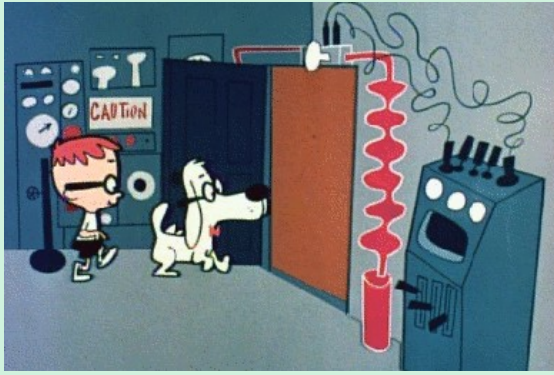
OR

Online at Veniceheritage.org

Sponsored by

Venice Heritage
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ALL ARE WELCOME! NOT FOR MEMBERS ONLY.
CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER.



THE VENICE WAY BACK MACHINE

THIS MONTH IN 1928: THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE COMPLETED TAMIAMI TRAIL...and other musings.

Sherman, Mr. Peabody and their Way Back Machine.

- The Way Back Machine takes us to the April 25, 1928 official opening of the completed Tamiami Trail through Venice. Just as the arrival of the Seaboard Airline Railroad in 1911 opened our region for commerce, the completion of this road represented another great commercial opportunity for Venice. Unfortunately, the 1928 collapse of the Florida real estate market accelerated only days later and ultimately there was little remaining city commerce to benefit from the road.
- The word Tamiami is a contraction for Tampa to Miami, which describes the route a 300 car caravan was travelling to ceremoniously open the finished road. Having come from Tampa, the caravan waited for Ned Worthington, Venice's first mayor, to cut the ribbon opening the road going south. Included in that road trip to Miami was Joseph Lord, who built the 1896 bayfront house we now know as the Lord-Higel House. Seemingly choosing to avoid that traffic jam, Louella and Dr, Fred Albee had separately completed the same route a few days previous.
- The Tamiami Trail being ceremoniously opened that day did not follow the same path as the original road ten years earlier. In 1918, coming from the north it cut through Eagle Point and crossed two bridge spans over Robert's Bay to reach the now Bayshore neighborhood. It then followed the current path of St. Augustine St. to join the Tamiami Trail where it is currently located. Look closely at the John Nolen Plan and find the double dashed lines where Nolen traced the original path of the road crossing Robert's Bay into town. The original Tamiami Trail was only nine feet wide but the luxury of pavement allowed the nickname of *The Velvet Highway*.



Above: The only remaining, intact section of the original 9' wide Tamiami Trail in Sarasota County is located in Eagle Point.

Property of Venice Museum and Archives



Above: The Velvet Highway passes Albee's Polyanna Inn in Nokomis, on its way to Eagle Point.

Below, center right: In 1945 the old Tamiami Trail bridge crossing Robert's Bay still existed. Notice the Venice historic district is mostly unchanged from the 1920's.

Property of Venice Museum and Archives



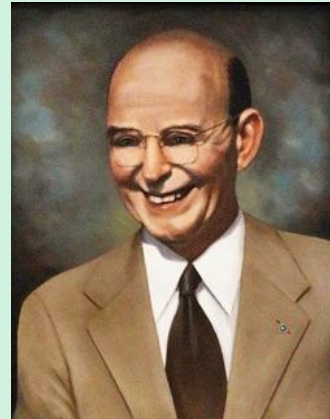
- **SIDE NOTE:** Ned Worthington, our first mayor, was a man who became wealthy from a Cleveland investments business. He was a buddy of George T. Webb of the Cleveland based Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Webb was the Executive Vice-President of the BLE Investments Co. and President of the Venice Company. The BLE seemingly had enough

influence in Tallahassee to have Worthington and three other BLE executives appointed for mayor and city council. In 1928 the BLE abandoned Venice and Worthington was not far behind, leaving well before the end of his term. He had invested heavily in the Venice venture and lost everything. His path then goes from shoe store clerk to regaining his wealth years later. His story is interesting, read more about him [HERE](#).

- ANOTHER SIDE NOTE: The common belief that Ned Worthington only served as an appointed mayor with James T. Blalock being the first one elected is technically inaccurate. Worthington served his first year as an appointee but he did win an election in 1927, receiving 160 votes from 168 eligible voters. However, consider that he ran unopposed as a BLE company man in a then company town. It's probably okay to cut Mayor Blalock some slack about that first elected claim.



EDWARD "NED" WORTHINGTON



JAMES T. BLALOCK



BE A HELPING HAND FOR VENICE HERITAGE

We are an all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting Venice's historical resources. Volunteer some time at one of our events, or consider a committee position. If you have a passion for embracing and preserving Venice's unique historical heritage, and would enjoy volunteering to help us champion vintage Venice, then let us know.

The HORSE & CHAISE GAZETTE will be back for a summer issue.
See you at the Annual Luncheon May 11!

Irvin Lewin, Editor

