

Journal and Newsletter of the
Triangle Inn Association

Venice Area Journal

October 2009

Association News

Archives News and Features

Activities and Announcements

(Local Historical Organizations)

Venice Area History Articles

Annual Meeting – Mark Your Calendars

The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2009 at the historic Triangle Inn building, 351 South Nassau Street, Venice, FL 34285 from 2 – 4 p.m. Members will vote on nominees to the Board and receive an update on activities at the Archives.

For the program, Board Member Dot Fuhrmeister will portray Bertha Honoré Palmer. 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of Mrs. Palmer coming to Sarasota County. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this remarkable woman who had a tremendous impact on the Venice Area. Those attending the meeting will receive a complimentary copy of a booklet published by Historic Spanish Point about Mrs. Palmer.

Refreshments will be served.

Association Website

During the summer a website was created for the Association. It contains information about the “Inn” and the Archives, as well as “Links” to other historic preservation group’s websites.

Visit our site at www.TriangleInn.org

Holiday Open House

On Sunday, December 20, 2009 from 2-4 p.m., the Archives and the Association will sponsor an Open House for the public to view the “Holiday Display” prepared by the Archives volunteers.

Refreshments will be served.

Trolley Tours of Historic Venice

Back by popular demand, the Association will sponsor trolley tours of historic Venice on the following Saturdays: January 16, February 6, February 20, March 13 and March 20, 2010. As in previous years, there will be tours at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on each Saturday that tours are scheduled. Tickets are \$15 per person and will go on sale at the Archives on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Any Association member wishing to train as a docent for the tours should contact Board Member Judie Bauer at jbauerx2@verizon.net or at 941-488-1937.

NEW Membership Benefit

At their September 18, 2009 meeting, the Board voted to grant members a 10% discount on all purchases at the Archives Book/Gift Store, as well as a 10% discount on Archives photo reproductions.

In addition to more books about Florida life, Director James Hagler plans to purchase mugs, magnets, key chains, and other gift items for the Store. See following article for books currently available at the Store. This is a great place to do your Holiday shopping.

Archives Announcements

Closing Reception for Current Exhibit: Opening Day At Venice

On Sunday, October 25, 2009 from 2 - 4 p.m. the Archives will host a reception at the historic Triangle Inn to mark the closing of the current exhibit. George Youngberg, Jr. will be the featured guest and speaker.

Refer to the history articles about George Youngberg, Sr. that follow the organization announcements in this newsletter/journal for background information on the Youngberg family.

December Holiday Display

In November the Archives' volunteers will be decorating the "Inn" for the Holidays. The display will be taken down on January 4, 2010. If you would like to help put up or take down the display or if you have decorations you would be willing to loan the Archives for the display, contact James Hagler or Barbara Dein, display chair, at 941-486-2487.

New Books Available at Archives Book/Gift Store

- * *Florida Shadows* by Clarissa Thomasson, \$15
- * *Mrs. Potter Palmer: Legendary Lady of Sarasota* by Janet Snyder Matthews and Linda W. Mansperger, \$3.95

Additional Books available at the Archives Book/Gift Store

- *Venice Before 1925: 1889-1913 Nemo Columns* by George Higel
- *Venice Before 1925: 1914-1918 Nemo Columns* by George Higel
- *Venice Before 1925: 1919-1923 Nemo Columns* by George Higel
Price \$10 each or all three for \$25
- *From Barefoot Boy to Doc . . . My Journey* by Douglas R. Murphy, M.D., F.A.C.S., \$29
- *Ghost Stories of Venice Old & New* by Kim Cool, \$13
- *Circus Days in Sarasota & Venice* by Kim Cool, \$10
- *Venice History Illustrated* by Kim Cool, Featuring the paintings of Ilse Kern, \$20
- *The Mediterranean Architecture of Venice and Sarasota, Florida* by Sebastiano Liseo, \$15
- *Venice in the 1920s* by Gregg M. Turner, \$15

Venice Area Historical Society Announcements

Fashion Show

The annual VAHS Fashion Show fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, **December 2, 2009** from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Venice Yacht Club. The theme is “Strolling the Avenue with Bertha Palmer.”

There will be a 50/50 raffle, Chinese Auction, and fashions by Sun Bug at Venice.

Tickets are \$30 and available at:

Collectors’ Gallery and Framery at 114 South Nokomis Avenue,
Venice Stationers at 211 West Venice Avenue, and
Paper Pad at 327 West Venice Avenue.

Programs

This season’s (October – May) programs will focus on the Venice Army Air Base and World War II after Pearl Harbor.

Ted Koszarski is the speaker for the October and November meetings. Ted has established the “Veterans Memorial Archive” and is videotaping the memories of World War II veterans, as well as other veterans.

Where: Village on the Isle, Mark Manor

Turn west onto Plaza Mayor from Tamiami Trail; then left into the Lutheran Church parking lot; and then follow the signs to the building entrance.

Date: Tuesday, **October 27, 2009** at 7 p.m.

Subject: Western European War: Normandy, Battle for the Rhine, and Battle of the Bulge.

Date: Tuesday, **November 17, 2009** at 7 p.m.

Subject: Pacific Navel War: Pearl Harbor to Midway

Friends of the Lord-Higel House Announcements

Organization News

In May the Friends received its 501(c)(3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service exempting the organization from federal income tax. During July the Friends obtained its State Sales Tax Exemption Certificate and celebrated the first anniversary of its incorporation.

Dining Out for a Good Cause

The following restaurants have agreed to donate a percentage of their proceeds to the restoration of the Lord-Higel House. Any one can participate; you do not have to be a member of the Friends.

Thanks and happy eating!

Applebee's 4329 South Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL
Mention that you "Support the Friends of the Lord-Higel House."

From 11 am to 9 pm
Any day during October

Venice Dairy Queen East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL
From 5 pm to 8 pm on
Thursday, October 29, 2009
Thursday, November 12, 2009

Chili's South Venice 4289 South Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL
Flyer required!
Enjoy lunch or dinner from 11 am – close on
Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Sweet Tomatoes 4994 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
Flyer required!
Purchase meal and beverage from 5 pm – 8 pm on
Thursday, October 15, 2009

Flyers available at City Hall, Gondolier Sun, and Chamber of Commerce.

Fleas, Crafts, Treats Yard Sale

Where: Historic Venice Train Depot
When: Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 10 am to 4 pm

Local History Articles

This issue of the Association newsletter includes articles written about George Youngberg, Sr. The first article is reprint of information that appeared in the booklet “Profiles from Venice” compiled by Rena Billingham. These profiles of Venice residents originally appeared in the Sunday Editions of the Sarasota herald Tribune from 1955-1956.

The second article is a reprint of the Legacy Award proclamation issued by the City of Venice and the COV Historic Preservation Board recognizing Mr. Youngberg’s contributions to the city. The proclamation was researched and written by Association Board Member Judie Bauer.

Members wishing to submit articles can e-mail the editor at suntracker@msn.con. Please use “TIA Newsletter” in subject line. Articles can also be mailed to: Triangle Inn Association, 351 South Nassau Street, Venice, FL 34285, attention: Newsletter Editor.



George E. Youngberg, Sr. 1891-1980

GEORGE E. YOUNGBERG SR.

“PROFILES FROM VENICE,” 1957 by Rena Billingham

When George E. Youngberg Sr., speaks of Venice he speaks from his heart and from a knowledge gathered over a period of thirty years.

For the present State Representative first came to this city in 1925 as a chief construction engineer for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, who had planned to make Venice their retirement home.

Born in La Crosse, Wis. of Swedish-American parents, Youngberg went to High School in La Crosse and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BS in Civil Engineering. He married the former Helen Gordon, who was of English-Scottish stock and has four children, one of whom, Paul, was born in Nokomis. All his children attended school in the area and Paul married a local girl, the former Martha Adams.

Only one of the Youngberg children is living in Venice at present. That is George Jr. who has a home on Park Boulevard. George attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and has followed his father's footsteps as an engineer. Paul is at present at Georgia Tech, studying an engineering course. His eldest daughter, Doris, who is Mrs. R. H. Baxter, lives in Ithaca, N. Y. Her husband is a commercial artist and is now engaged in research work at Cornell University and Betty, Mrs. A. M. Otterson Jr., lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where her husband is a CPA. He also is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The senior Youngbergs have seven grandchildren the youngest of whom, Kevin Dwight, was born to Mr. & Mrs. George E. Youngberg Jr., on October 14.

But long before 1925, George Youngberg had had a distinguished career in his chosen field. His first heavy assignment was a Public Utility evaluation. He was then appointed Resident Engineer for the South Dakota Highway Department and as such, he supervised the construction of bridges and highways in that state. He is a pioneer in the laying of concrete highways.

The excellent work of the young construction engineer came to the notice of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers who had decided on Venice as their permanent retirement home. This group had purchased the small town of Venice from the late Dr. Fred H. Albee and in selecting their staff of architects and technicians, decided upon George Youngberg as the man to “lay out” their city according to the plans designed by the world renowned city planner, John Nolen.

In 1925, therefore, the senior Youngbergs came south and George was put in charge of all engineering, including surveys, roads, streets, electrical distribution, water works, sewers, drainage and harbor work. The architects gave him a plan for a “dream city” on a drawing board. His task was to make this practical on almost undeveloped land.

For four years, Youngberg lived and worked here and he admits that Venice got into his blood. But unlike many more fortunate early settlers, he did not acquire any land, and when his task was done, he went north again with nothing to remind him of the city he had “fathered” but memories of sunshine, a beautiful climate and the friends he and his wife had made.

After his venture in the south, George Youngberg joined the staff of a cement corporation for 18 years. His work took him through many states.

In these years of travel the thoughts of the Youngbergs often turned to the little city of Venice and he vowed that if he could find anything to do and anyway to make a comfortable living, he would return.

Shortly after the Youngbergs managed to find time to have a holiday and came to Venice to spend a short winter. Their many friends from the old days suggested that, at last, Venice was recovering from the depression and the loss of the BLE, and that there were many possibilities here for a construction engineer. George investigated the situation and decided to return to stay.

He went north again and resigned his position as District Sales Manager for his company, in Rochester, N. Y. and on returning bought some property in a small way and settled in business.

This was in 1948, and from then on George Youngberg has worked hard and prospered in business and in civic and political affairs in the city which he helped to construct so many years before.

Three years later, Youngberg was elected mayor of the city and served for two years. Last year he was elected State Representative and has many activities in the legislature. He is a member of the Interim Committee on Red Tide for the State Legislature and in the last session of the Legislature was successful in getting many local bills for Sarasota County past that body.

During World War II, Youngberg supervised the construction of some 2,000 housing units under the Federal Public Housing Authority at Norfolk, Va. Both his sons, George E. Jr., and Paul served with the armed forces. George Jr. was with the Engineers in the European Theatre and Paul served with the Infantry in the Pacific Theater.

Youngberg Legacy Award Proclamation - 2008

*The Venice Historic Preservation Board and the City of Venice take pleasure
In presenting the*

VENICE LEGACY AWARD

To

GEORGE EDWARD YOUNGBERG, SR.

1891 - 1980

in recognition of his dedication, expertise, and professionalism to the City of Venice

George Edward Youngberg, Sr. was born to Adolph and Hulda Dahlsom Youngberg on August 11, 1891, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He died in Venice, Florida on December 20, 1980.

George graduated from University of Wisconsin in 1914 with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering. He married his college sweetheart, Helen Mae Gordon in 1916. George and Helen were the proud parents of 2 sons and 2 daughters; grandparents to 12 and great grandparents to 10.

George was one of Venice's pioneer residents, serving from 1925-29, as Chief Engineer in charge of developing the city of Venice for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers from Cleveland, Ohio, which was accomplished by his supervision of 125 Engineers and 5,000 construction workers, within two and one-half years. The city of Venice was incorporated on May 4, 1927.

George served as Mayor of Venice from 1952-53 and was the Republican State Representative for Sarasota County from 1953-58, helping to establish the first two-party system in Florida.

George was appointed Chairman of the Sarasota County Planning Commission 1961-1962.

George was one of the organizers and first Chairman of the Board and President of The First National Bank of Venice.

George was a past President of Venice Rotary Club; served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board for South Sarasota County; a former Director and President of Venice Area Friends of the Library; a former Director and Treasurer of the Venice Art League; a member of the Board of Directors of Venice Yacht Club; a Vice President of the Sarasota County Board of Industrial Development Council; past Treasurer of South Sarasota County Committee of 100; and an active member of Venice's First Church of Christ Scientist.

George authored forty-three articles for the Venice Gondolier newspaper known as 'Venice Yesterday' from 1954-55. In 1969 he co-authored a book on the 'History of Venice'.

George was named 'Man of the Year' in 1968.

It had been quoted: "If anyone is qualified to be called 'Father' of the city of Venice, it is probably George Edward Youngberg.

Did You Know . . .

There are 22 history and preservation organizations in Sarasota County.

To coordinate the activities of all these groups the “History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County” was formed. The Coalition is composed of public not-for-profit organizations and government agencies that actively preserve the county’s archaeology, architectural, social, and cultural heritage.

Information about each organization can be obtained on the Coalition’s website at www.historicpreservationsarasota.org, as well as links to each organization’s website.

On **Sunday, January 24, 2010**, the Coalition is sponsoring a luncheon from 1-3 p.m. at the Sahib Shrine Auditorium, 600 North Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 for members of all Coalition organizations. The cost is \$25 per person. If you wish to attend, please contact the Association’s representative to the Coalition, Dorothy Korwek, at suntracker@msn.com (title your message, Coalition Luncheon) or 941-484-0302.

The luncheon will feature a social time, lunch buffet, and a presentation about Mrs. Potter Palmer by a representative of Historic Spanish Point in celebration of the county wide Palmer Centennial. During the social time and luncheon there will be a PowerPoint style slide show on a continuous loop highlighting all the member organizations of the Coalition.

The luncheon is a great opportunity to meet other like minded preservationists and historians from throughout the county.

A Last Minute Announcement

Members of the Association, the Venice Area Historical Society, and the Friends of the Lord-Higel House are planning to rent a trolley and be part of this year’s **Holiday Parade** scheduled for Saturday, November 28, 2009. Let the editor know if you would like to “ride” the trolley.