

Journal and Newsletter of the
Triangle Inn Association

Venice Area Journal

January 2011

Association News
Archives News and Features
Activities and Announcements
(Local Historical Organizations)
Venice Area History Articles

Association Update

2010-11 Board of Directors



TIA Board Member from left: Rebecca Rabinowitz, Rhonda Rogers, Debbie Stewart, Dorothy Korwek, Jean Trammell, Clarke Pressly, Marie Rust, and Judie Bauer. Not in photo: Susan Hanks, Julia Laning, Bob Briner, Jim Hanks, and Erin Mahaney.

Annual Meeting

At the Annual meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2010 three new Board members were elected: Clarke Pressly, Rebecca Curry Rabinowitz, and Jean Trammell. Current Board members Judie Bauer, Susan Hanks, Julia Laning, Rhonda Rogers, and Debbie Stewart were elected to another two-year term. Continuing on the Board through November 2011 are Directors Bob Briner, Jim Hanks, Dorothy Korwek, Erin Mahaney, and Marie Rust.

Gamble Plantation Trip

On Saturday, November 6, 2010 TIA members and friends toured the Gamble Plantation, had lunch at the Bradenton Yacht Club, and toured the Palmetto Historic Village.



Tour group on the front steps of the Gamble Plantation

Holiday Parade

Once again the TIA partnered with the Venice Area Historical Society and the Friends of the Lord-Higel House to rent a trolley to participate in the annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 27, 2010. The historic groups' trolley followed the Grand Marshall, the great granddaughter of Bertha Honoré Palmer.



Holiday Parade Trolley and Riders

Association Announcements

Trolley Tours of Historic Venice

The 2011 Historic Venice Trolley Tours are scheduled for the following Saturdays: **January 8, January 22, February 12, February 26, March 12, and March 26.** Two tours, one at **9:30 a.m.** and one at **11:00 a.m.**, will be available each Saturday. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and can be purchased at the Triangle Inn/Venice Archives, located at 351 South Nassau Street beginning Monday, January 3, 2011. The Archives is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday throughout the year.

Archives Update

On Saturday, December 11, 2010 the Archives held an open house and lit the "tree" in front of the Triangle Inn building. About 170 people came inside the building to view the Venice Area Christmas Trivia and Traditions Exhibit designed by Archives volunteer Barbara Dein.



Triangle Inn tree of lights



Fireplace with holiday decorations

Archives Announcements

John Nolen Plan of Venice Historic District



John Nolen 1869-1937

On November 8, 2010 the John Nolen Plan of Venice Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places after an eight year effort by the City of Venice and the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources

The John Nolen Plan of Venice Historic District comprises major portions of the City of Venice that were platted between 1926 and 1929. The

completion of the major elements of the plan was not realized during the Florida real estate boom of the 1920s, but was undertaken only in the Post-World War II era and completed in

accordance with John Nolen's plan in 1960. The original 1926 plan drawn up by city planner John Nolen was distributed for marketing purposes only and was never intended to be completed exactly as shown.

While other Florida cities designed by Nolen may exhibit some of the planning features he envisioned in his original plans for them, only Venice almost fully exhibits the principles established by Nolen in his original 1926 plan. You know when you are in Venice, due primarily to the faithful adherence by the city government to the principles of the plan provided by John Nolen.

Venice is not primarily defined by its historic architecture, as is the case with some other Florida cities that began development in the 1920s. Although there are three small National Register listed districts in Venice that are notable for their architectural significance, similar areas are found in other Florida communities where the city plan does not play a major role in the significance of their historic resources.

Nolen's comprehensive plan of the city attempted to codify through zoning the use of every parcel of property, both public and private, and these divisions into residential, commercial, industrial, and civic uses still continue to determine land use in the city. In his Venice plan, Nolen sought to achieve a balance between two transcendental ideals—the promotion of civic virtue through the harmonizing effect of effective urban planning and the humanizing influence of the beauty of nature.

Archive Seminars

In January, the Archives will host the followings seminars:

- *Oral Histories Basics* by University of South Florida staff
- *Ancient Fossils of Venice* by a local fossil collector.

Both seminars are free and open to the public and will be held at the historic Triangle Inn building. Watch for announcement of time and date in the local paper.

Venice Area Historical Society Announcements

The 2011 Lecture Series of the Society will examine the 1930s. Funding for the programs provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. All programs are free and open to the public.

Date: Tuesday, **January 25, 2011**, at 7:00 p.m.
Program: **Shadows Across the Sunshine State: Florida, the new Deal and the 1930s.**
Presenter: Dr. Gary Mormino, Professor of Florida History, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida.
Where: Village on the Isle, Mark Manor building, Renaissance Room #1. Village on the Isle is located at 920 South Tamiami Trail in Venice.

Date: Tuesday, **February 22, 2011** at 7:00 p.m.
Program: **Writer, Feminist and Mystic: Zora Neale Hurston, as a Cultural Anthropologist in Florida.**
Presenter: Dara Vance, M.A., Teacher at Pinellas County Center for the Arts, Gibbs High School.
Where: Village on the Isle, Mark Manor building, Renaissance Room #1. Village on the Isle is located at 920 South Tamiami Trail in Venice.

Date: Tuesday, **March 22, 2011**, at 7:00 p.m.
Program: **Florida's W.P.A. Writers.**
Presenter: Dr. Maurice O'Sullivan, Professor of English, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida.
Where: Village on the Isle, Mark Manor building, Renaissance Room #1. Village on the Isle is located at 920 South Tamiami Trail in Venice.

Date: Tuesday, **April 26, 2011**, at 7:00 p.m.
Program: **Artists on the Dole: How the Federal Arts Projects Supported and Encouraged the Arts in Florida and Saved Key West.**
Presenter: Diane Craig, B.S. History, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida; Graduate Student in Florida Studies, University of South Florida.
Where: Village on the Isle, Mark Manor building, Renaissance Room #1. Village on the Isle is located at 920 South Tamiami Trail in Venice.

Friends of the Lord-Higel House Announcements

Dinner Show at Bird Bay Village Clubhouse

On Friday, January 28, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., the Friends will sponsor a dinner show featuring "Honest Deceptions," the magic of ILAN. This event is BYOB with buffet dinner provided by Affordable Custom Catering. The Bird Bay Clubhouse is located at 606 Bird Bay Drive S., Venice, Florida. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available until January 18, 2011 at the Collectors Gallery & Framery, Paper Pad, and Venice Stationers.

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., the Friends will hold their annual meeting and open house in Community Hall at Venice City Hall, 401 West Venice Avenue. Guest speaker will be County Commissioner Jon Thaxton recalling "Tales of Growing Up in Sarasota County."

Local History Articles

This issue of the Journal re-prints a column written by George Higel under the penname Nemo in 1921 for the *Sarasota Times*. Several years ago the Venice Archives printed a collection of Nemo columns written between 1889 and 1923 in a three-volume set of books which are available for purchase at the Venice Archives. Recent research has found this and several other columns that were not included in these books. Most interesting is the mention of the shell mound at the end of this column.

Following the Nemo column is a description by Ron Higel, grandson of George Higel, of the location of the mound.

Venice 1921 December 1

Our section was blessed with a much needed and appreciated rain.

Weather conditions keep us guessing, although indications at present are for cooler weather.

Messrs. Ralph Higel and J. Y. Harn spent Sunday with the home folks, reporting a good time in Sarasota.

Andrew Glover, civil engineer and surveyor, has lately been resurveying and locating definitely the Schutt property at Casey's Pass.

W. K. Higel is now employed manipulating the hammer and saw, having the contract for erecting the Francis Roe cottage at Schutt's Point.

Mr. F. A. Cogswell and wife, of Bolston, Va., are recent arrivals in our section and will spend the winter at Nokomis, occupying the old home of F. A. Curry.

The Standard Growers Exchange, of Bartow, moved a car of grapefruit from the R. R. Bales grove last week, which was packed by the Citrus Exchange of Sarasota.

Roy M. Williams has lately fallen heir to the vocation of trapping and from present catches of coons and possums, it looks like he will do a skinning business.

Lamar Rankin, a prominent real estate magnate, of Tampa, has been recently in this section. Mr. Rankin represented the Palmer interest in Sarasota for a number of years.

J. D. Courtoy and son, Edward, were visitors on this side of the creek Sunday, via the Ford route. Major Courtoy is entertaining a number of friends from Georgia, who report themselves pleased with this section.

Our truckers, who have overcome the obstacles of unfavorable weather, unheard of storms, etc., are now further handicapped by exorbitant freight rates and are scarcely realizing more than expenses on extra good truck.

The writer has just purchased a trio of Jersey Grant chickens from a specialist in New Jersey. These chickens are said to outlay, out grow and outweigh any other variety of the poultry farming, and from the reading of their pedigrees it is hard for even Nemo to be pessimistic.

The Palmer interests ... [text illegible] ... from their Bee Ridge camp clearing the right of way for the road south of the Venice store to the street; also the county road crew has been

clearing the road from the mound to connect with it. It begins now to look like we can't see the town for the streets.

The county committee, in appointing Col. A. B. Edwards to fill the position of county tax assessor, made vacant by the resigning of Mr. Chas. Strohmeyer, is to be congratulated. No office that we know of is more important to the tax payers. Mr. Edwards fully knows the values of property and is qualified to give all a fair deal; and, speaking poetically, is "robed in the mantle of justice." While we heartily congratulate him, we do not envy him his new position.

Interesting indeed is the tearing down of the Higel shell mound. The excavation in the side of the mound, now clearly showing the different views and stratas, proves beyond all doubt that this mound was built at some period by man, as can be clearly traced strata of sand, charcoal, ashes, fish bones, pottery, etc., showing that at various periods these mounds were covered with earth. Some day we may expose our ignorance by expressing our views on this interesting subject, but for the present we will only add that even our ancient ancestors, judging from the tons of very small oyster shells uncovered, were similar to the present generation – got it all.

Nemo

Location of Higel Shell Mound

by Ron Higel via email November 20, 2010

The shell mound (midden) was located where the present harbor is that is bounded by Tarpon Center Road on the west and Laguna Drive on the east. According to my Dad and Uncle Clyde it was the largest and tallest in the area and topped with Gumbo Limbo trees. When Sarasota County became independent in 1921 the shell mound, which was essentially a garbage dump, was the source of the first county roads base material rather than crushed

limestone. It was removed using Model T trucks and eventually draglines to excavate to its base which created a very shallow bayou.

When I grew up what is now water would be mostly an exposed flat at low tide and the road to the jetties was where the present El Dorado Drive is located with a narrow bridge over a narrow entry to the bayou from the bay. The bridge was at the end of what is now Higel Park.

About 1951-52 a man named Joe Hurt from Morganton, N.C. bought the submerged land which was existing bayou and still platted as land. He constructed a dike with a dragline outlining the area to be filled and created the properties lining El Dorado Drive. He used a small 3 inch dredge which took months to fill the area. The same technique was used at about the same time to create the land that became Fisherman's Wharf and the adjacent mobile home park (Harbor Lights), and still later the land west of the original Tamiami Trail in Eagle Point in 1967.





2nd Annual Dinner Social

Hosted by
Venice Area Historical Society
Sunday, January 30, 2011 4:30pm

Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club 499 Derbyshire Dr. off Center Rd. in Venice
{Tell the guard at gate you are having dinner at the clubhouse with Venice Area Historical Society}

Please RSVP by January 15th to 941-484-0769!
\$20.00 per person {includes gratuities}

Schedule

4:30-5:00pm~ Social Time/Cash Bar
5:00-6:15pm~ Light Buffet Dinner & Dessert
6:15-7:15pm~ Program:

Showing of video made by Venice Middle School students under teacher Barbara Woody with collaboration of Venice Area Historical Society. Oral histories of eight retired Ringling Bros. circus performers living in Venice/Sarasota area. One of the interviewees....Jackie LeClaire... was a Ringling clown for 28 years. He will be present to speak to the group.

Make checks payable to *Venice Area Historical Society*
and mail to: Betty Intagliata, 1675 Valley Drive, Venice 34292