

PLANET EARTH DAILY NEWS

EXTRA, EXTRA! VENICE CELEBRATES RAY BRADBURY'S 100TH



Ray Bradbury and one of his many cats

Biography

Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012) was the author of more than three dozen books, including *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Martian Chronicles*, *The Illustrated Man*, *Dandelion Wine*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes* alongside hundreds of short stories—65 of which he adapted for *The Ray Bradbury Theater*. A prolific writer for film and television, he wrote the screenplay for John Huston's *Moby Dick* and the Emmy Award-winning teleplay *The Halloween Tree*. Two of his numerous honors are: the 2000 National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters and the 2007 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation.

Courtesy of: Don Congdon Associates, Inc.

Sci-Fi starts with Ray

BY STEPHEN POULIOT
VENICE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Venice and the world prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ray Bradbury's birth on August 22, 2020. Times were tough when Ray moved to Venice at age twenty-two. Because of WW II, his father needed work. A job as an electric lineman came with a small house at 670 Venice Blvd., where Ray began his life as a writer. Setting up a table in the family's one-car garage he studied his craft and wrote a story every week. "The Lake" was his first published short story, followed by "The Wind." Twelve others were published in magazines such as *Weird Tales* and *Dime Detective*. Ray was a pulp fiction star. But to earn a living and respect he wanted to write something better, more lasting.

In spring 1947, Ray married Maggie McClure, a bookstore worker. They moved to an apartment at 33 S. Venice Blvd., so poor they used the phone from the gas station next door. Ray would jump out his living room window to answer it. He began *The Martian Chronicles*, a novel about life on Mars after humanity left Earth. It was an immediate success. Shortly afterwards, Ray and Maggie had their first child and moved from Venice to their final home in Brentwood. Bradbury's other works about Venice include "The Fog Horn", inspired by the broken remains of a Venice pier roller coaster and *Death Is A Lonely Business*, set in the decaying Venice Beach canals. Ray Bradbury was one of the 20th century's most talented writers and a true humanitarian, believing in the power of optimism and curiosity: "Never forget the magic of childhood." "And libraries," he said, "are my goldmine. They hold adventure and beauty in the most unexpected places. Just take a look."