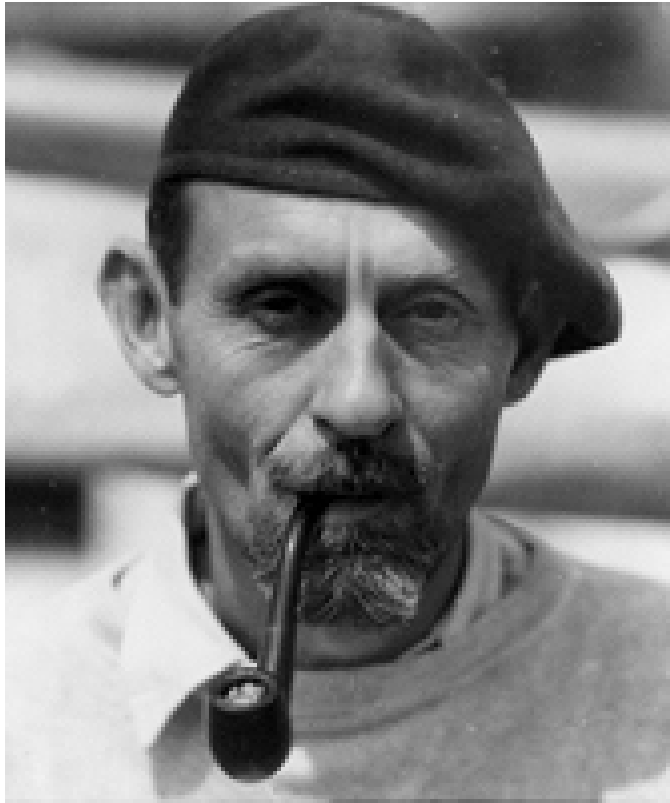


# Gidge Gandy and The Florida One-Design Class

Irwin Schuster 12/2020



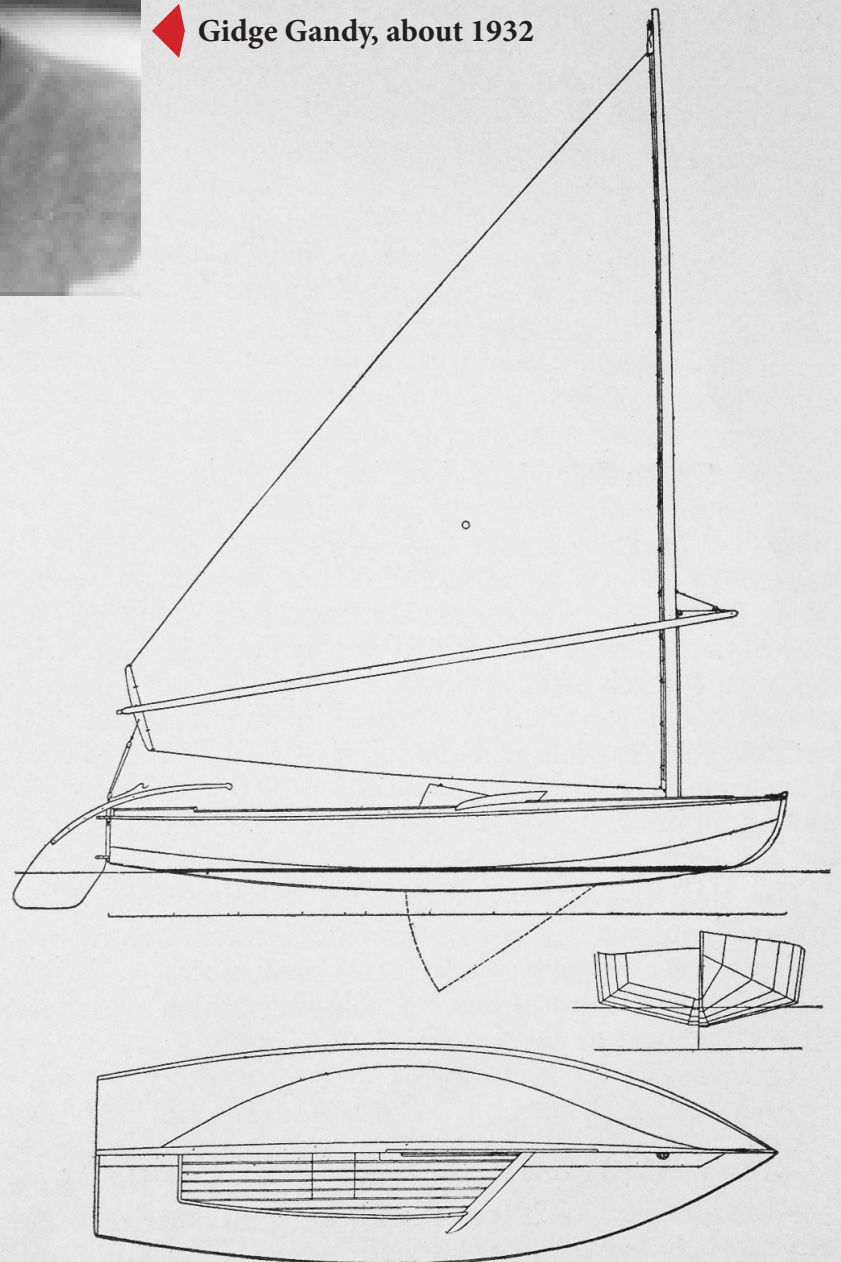
◀ Gidge Gandy, about 1932

**George S. (Gidge) Gandy, Jr.** (1890 – 1973), who founded the famous St. Petersburg - Habana Sailboat Race (1930), was the son of George Sheppard (Dad) Gandy, who was the force behind the original Gandy Bridge crossing Tampa Bay. Gidge worked in the bridge company.

He was a yachtsman, sail-or and, about a century back, designed the 16-foot Florida One-Design Class.

The class appears to have had no identifying sail symbol, and I describe it as a “Cricket Type, Sprit-Boom, Club-Clew, Centerboard, Deadrise, Cat-Rigged Knockabout.”

It had its “day in the sun” for about 25 years.



Plans of a 16-Foot Over All One-Design Class, Which Have Raced Successfully at St. Petersburg, Fla.



**Moths and wishbone-rigged Crickets sail at Pass-a-Grille, circa 1940. GULF BEACHES HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**Florida One-Design Class** (*As published in The Rudder, 12/1919*)

*Yachtsmen acquainted with small one-designers will take interest in the accompanying plans of the Mosquito Fleet of the St. Petersburg (Florida) Yacht Club.*

*Six of these small craft were launched last March and have proven so successful that it is likely another half dozen will be built during the coming winter. Designed by Geo. S. Gandy Jr., a local yachtsman, and built in St. Petersburg by Captain Edgar Young of Atlantic City, the six boats were delivered to their owners complete, including sails, spars and fittings, for the low price of \$150 per boat.*

*Interesting racing has been staged on Tampa Bay since the class was launched. Ability of the boats to carry sail and weather the choppy seas of the large bay have proven them exceptional for their size. They have been tested under all weather conditions and, although the sails cannot be reefed, have performed creditably. Two of the boats have cruised to the extent of a 300-mile trip, nearly 100 miles of which were on the open waters of the Gulf.*

*A feature of their performance is hydroplaning in heavy quartering winds, when the bows lift high out of the water, with a wave action similar to that of a power hydroplane. Spectators claim to have seen the little boats with 50% of their hulls running clear.*

*Their rig is copied from that used on the Cricket Class of Atlantic City. The draught of the sail is adjusted while sailing. The center of effort is low. In the minds of those who have used this type, it is considered better in windward work than the usual cat rig. Another point to be considered is that the sails are instantly removable and can, therefore, be stored in a dry place when not in use, rather than be left on the boat.*

*The hulls of these boats were constructed almost entirely of cypress. The keels are pine and the stem oak. Masts of northern spruce were used and the sails are of 6-ounce twill.*

<i>The general dimensions are:</i>	<i>Length o.a. 16' - 0"</i>	<i>Length l.w.l. 13' - 6"</i>
	<i>Breadth 5' - 0"</i>	<i>Draught, hull 0' - 6"</i>
	<i>Draught, rudder 0' - 10"</i>	<i>Sail area 123 square feet</i>