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From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

Does the world need another history journal? We asked ourselves this question and answered with a qualified "yes." If a new journal fills a vacuum in the field, it can be justified.

We hope *Tampa Bay History* fills one such void. In terms of the area covered, *Tampa Bay History* is designed to fit between local journals, such as the *Sunland Tribune* published by the Tampa Historical Society, and the major statewide publication, *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Our purview is the region encompassed by the Tampa Bay area and its environs, including the fifteen counties (Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hardee, De Soto, Highlands, Hendry and Glades), served by the University of South Florida.

Some of you in the far reaches of this region may not think of yourselves as part of the Tampa Bay area, but if you can identify with a Tampa Bay football team, why not with a history journal? In short, we plan to cover the region of west central and southwest Florida that encompasses a number of bays, ports and harbors, as well as landlocked communities. But, like the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, we have our headquarters near Tampa Bay, and we intend to draw our support from, and dedicate our efforts to, a much larger area.

The first issue of *Tampa Bay History* contains material on at least seven different counties in addition to information of a more regional nature. Only the limits of space prevented us from covering more communities. So please do not judge the journal's balance on the basis of any single issue. With sufficient time, space and publishable material, we will give every locality its due, although we also want articles that examine larger themes (exploration, transportation, economic developments) in the region as a whole.

Another gap we hope to fill is the one that often separates academic and community historians. The first issue of *Tampa Bay History* draws on the talents of both groups. Our primary instruction to contributors was that academics write so that nonprofessionals could read and enjoy their work and that nonacademic historians meet scholarly standards of documentation. Although *Tampa Bay History* is directed primarily at interested lay readers, it needs to maintain professional standards so that it will win the recognition and acceptance of a broader national audience outside the immediate area. Indeed, we want the journal to become a permanent addition to major libraries across the country.

As this inaugural issue shows, we plan to publish many types of historical material. In addition to the usual articles and book reviews, *Tampa Bay History* will include oral history interviews, photographic essays, original documents and genealogy. The genealogy section will publish articles dealing with original documents and records, family and personal records, research techniques, and holdings of libraries and associations. The announcements section of the journal will publish news about upcoming events related to local history, but these items must reach the editors at least two months before the publication date of June 1st or December 1st to appear in the next issue. In future issues, we will also add a section of "letters to the editors," which will give readers the opportunity to respond to the journal.

The success of *Tampa Bay History* will depend largely on two groups - subscribers and contributors. The USF College of Social and Behavioral Sciences agreed to sponsor establishment of the journal with the understanding that it would become self-sufficient in the near future. We have been gratified by the initial response of historical societies, institutions and members of the larger Tampa Bay area, and we hope the journal will continue to expand its support in the community.

All the subscribers in the world could not keep afloat a magazine with nothing to publish. We, therefore, invite the submission of original articles, documents, interviews, photographs or any other material related to the history of the region. As editors, we are prepared to help potential contributors put their material in publishable form. Needless to say, the opinions expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the editors or anyone associated with publication of *Tampa Bay History*.

A number of people have made *Tampa Bay History* possible. Although we could not begin to mention all of them by name, we feel obligated to thank some of the people, in addition to the contributors, most responsible for helping launch the journal.

First and foremost, Travis J. Northcutt, Jr., a friend of history and Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at USF, has supported *Tampa Bay History* from its inception. Without him, there would be no *Tampa Bay History*.

Louis A. Perez, Jr., chairman of the Department of History at USF, should be singled out for helping develop the concept of the journal and for providing the editors with counsel, moral support, and anything else we asked of him.

Peggy Cornett's title of "Administrative Coordinator" scarcely does justice to her painstaking efforts at keeping track of the many details involved in publishing a new journal.

The following people at the University of South Florida came to our rescue in a variety of ways in preparation of this inaugural issue: Kathy Allen, Joyce Bland, Paul Camp, Irma Campbell, Vic Cuyar, J. B. Dobkin, Pam Eubank, Robin Kester, Doris Martin, Frank Spear and Susan Stoudinger.