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From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

Political life in Florida has been highly individualistic. "Every man for himself" accurately captures the spirit of Sunshine State politics throughout most of its history. The factions, cliques, and machines which have jostled for power often arose from the economic and social diversity found among the state's population. With the lure of land and a salubrious climate, Florida has attracted a variety of adventurers looking for a new and successful life (or retiring from an old and successful life). Some of the most able of these pioneers entered the political arena and competed with varying degrees of success. In 1882, John W. Trammell migrated to Polk County and later became an influential state legislator and father of a United States senator. In 1894, Cyrus R. Teed trekked to the south Florida frontier around Fort Myers to establish a religious settlement. In contrast with Trammell, Teed saw a brief political career end in failure. Both of their colorful stories are recaptured in the pages below.

This issue also contains articles on two other "pioneers." Margaret Daniel Lee describes her life in northern Pinellas County at the turn of the century, and Al Lopez tells how he became the first, successful major league baseball player of Latin descent to come out of Tampa. Whereas Lee and Lopez relate the kind of account that makes up the American Dream, a foreign observer portrays a very different sentiment. In a sketch written in the mid-1970s, a Soviet journalist records his gloomy impressions of the impoverished lives of elderly residents of St. Petersburg, a city originally named after its Russian counterpart. His unfavorable description is provocative and will upset some, but it reminds us that nearly fifty years earlier, a large number of Americans had joined the aged in swelling the ranks of the poor. The photo essay depicts the Depression Decade of the 1930s when the American Dream turned into a nightmare for Suncoast inhabitants as well as people in all walks of life throughout the nation.

On a personal note, we pay tribute to Dick Bothwell. On January 30, the popular columnist for the St. Petersburg *Times* died after suffering a heart attack. Dick was a caring journalist who wrote several complimentary columns about *Tampa Bay History*, and helped us whenever we called upon him. He was a true friend of history who will be fondly remembered by those striving to keep the past alive. All of us associated with *TBH* extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

For the next issue, we are planning to run a photo essay on the 1940s. We invite our readers to contribute by sending photographs depicting life in central and southwest Florida during the war years and the reconversion to peacetime. Please describe the pictures, all of which will be returned upon publication. All photos appearing in the essay will be appropriately credited to the donor. To ensure consideration, kindly submit your photos by September 15.

COMMUNICATIONS

Any correspondence pertaining to the articles, reviews and other material contained in the journal may be sent to the Managing Editor.

Dear Editors:

WUSF Radio Reading Service broadcasts to blind and physically handicapped persons via the subcarrier of WUSF-FM. This service is broadcasting 142 hours per week. We provide daily indepth readings of newspapers, magazines and innovative programming.

A valuable facet of our radio Reading Service is our informational programming. Programs provided are heard by persons unable to read the printed page. This service is provided with the assistance of volunteers who donate time for program production.

We thank you for your contribution to this service. *Tampa Bay History* was read by volunteer Martha Rolfsen. The magazine was aired as a special Christmas holiday program.

Elizabeth Young
WUSF Radio

Dear Editors:

I am writing in regard to your cover of the *Tampa Bay History*, fall/winter 1980, Volume 2, Number 2 displaying the Tin Can Tourists in DeSoto Park.

This DeSoto Park is in the north east end of McKay Bay in Tampa and NOT the DeSoto Park founded on Mullet Key about 1955, in the St. Petersburg area.

.It was quite a sight to go out and visit the Tin Can Tourists who brought all their food in tin cans and spent no money in Tampa. That is the reason they were called the Tin Can Tourists.

Brown Farrior, M.D.

Dear Editors:

When I saw the story, "The Legend of Gasparilla," I thought, "Not another rehash of Gasparilla!" But Andre-Marcel d'Ans did a fascinating job. I wish we could xerox this and send it around to different newspapers.

I would like to clarify a point he made. On page 14, he states the author of the advertising brochure of the old Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railway (not Railroad apparently) was anonymous. According to a copy of a clip that I am sending you, G. P. "Pat" LeMoyne, Sr. wrote the pamphlet. In the February 1, 1950 edition of the Fort Myers *News-Press*, he tells how he hap pened to have written it.

Marian B. Godown