Meet the Genial Manager of the Tampa Bay Hotel

Sunland Tribune
WILLIAM FRED ADAMS

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OF THE TAMPA BAY HOTEL

(Editor’s Note: A personality who loomed large over Tampa’s business and social scene in the decade of the 1920s was William Fred Adams, the affable manager of the swank Tampa Bay Hotel. Here’s a sketch on him published in 1922.)

As the manager of the Tampa Bay Hotel, William Fred Adams is known far and wide. Every winter season the big tourist resort built by the late Henry Bradley Plant is filled with delighted guests, and much of the favorable impression which these guests take away with them is due to the personal attention given the service and the comfort of patrons by Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams was born at Plymouth, New Hampshire, in 1864, obtaining his education in the public schools.

His entire life has been devoted to the hotel business. The greater part of his activity in this business has been in his native State, where he has been connected with the leading hotels, in various capacities.

RAN SENATE RESTAURANT

Senator Gallinger became interested in the energetic hotel man and secured for him the responsible concession of operating the United States Senate restaurant in the Capitol at Washington. This famous eating place was conducted by Mr. Adams for seven years, during which period he became personally acquainted with the leading statesmen of the country.

His first connection in Florida was as manager of the Manavista Hotel, at Bradentown, which he made a very popular resort with winter tourists. He managed the Manavista for three years. In 1913 the Manavista Hotel Company leased from the City of Tampa the Tampa Bay Hotel, and
Mr. Adams succeeded H. H. Stanford. For eight seasons, Mr. Adams has conducted this big hotel in the winter months and he has had the satisfaction of seeing the house filled to capacity each year.

In the summer, Mr. Adams manages the Lake Tarleton Club, a popular resort at Pike, N. H. Numbers of his guests in the summer follow him to Florida in the winter.

"MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK IN COUNTRY"

The Tampa Bay Hotel accommodates 500 guests and represents an outlay of more than $3,000,000. It was built by H. B. Plant, the railroad and steamship magnate, and operated under his personal supervision until his death, when the property was sold to the city of Tampa for a merely nominal price. Various propositions for using the hotel property were considered by the people of Tampa, but the great majority were in favor of maintaining it as a tourist hotel. The city derives a comparatively small annual rental, but finds the hotel a great asset, inasmuch as it offers a high-class resort for tourist visitors. Under Mr. Adams’ management the social life of the hotel has been featured and both the Tampa society people and the visitors enjoy the dances, concerts and other entertainments offered. The hotel is surrounded by the most beautiful park in the country, and is convenient to golf courses, steamers, drives and other opportunities for tourist recreation.

Mr. Adams is a Shriner and member of the golf clubs. He was married in 1893 to Miss Glennie A. Bartlett. Tampans in general hope that Mr. Adams will continue as manager of the big hotel for the rest of his life.