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Annual Report

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I am pleased to submit this my final report to you for 1983. It has been a busy, yes even hectic, year!

Our overriding concern has been to publish Tampa -The Treasure City a goal I believe that will be reached by the time you read this report. We have to be successful in this endeavor not only to produce a history book we can be proud of for years to come, but it is our way to retire almost $10,000 of Society debt, aside from the Knight House mortgage, my administration inherited in 1982. Some of the obligation has only recently surfaced as tax receipts turned up indicating ad valorem bills had not been paid on the Peter 0. Knight house for several years. This situation must be and is being corrected at considerable expense. Revenues from the sale of the history book should net close to $15,000 to THS, so please help us sell the book to Tampa and retire our debt in the process!

Financial matters aside, we have had a busy, exciting year meeting in tallships, short trains, museums, and historic buildings. Programs on olde-car races, researching your "roots" and the placement of several historic markers have kept us busy on land, rails and sea.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to provide the program and socials, kept the office humming and all the other necessary housekeeping details. A special thanks to Glenn Westfall
for his many gifts including Program Director, Editor of the Newsletter, Yardman and "Field Marshall" of daily activity. We could not have gotten along without him. Thanks, too, to Howell McKay and the Sunland Tribune Editorial Committee for many hours, and

of course to Bettie Nelson who chaired the Book Committee and to Gary Mormino and Tony Pizzo for writing our book.

And now for the future. I believe the time has come to expand beyond the round of socials and programs we have enjoyed so much. In addition, we need to focus some energy in the direction of youth - particularly kids, young families, and young singles. Many are interested in history, but so much more can be done such as school programs, outings, workshops, and other specialized activities! The Knight House should be renovated, remodeled, and modified into a museum, and an active one. Some money has been given for this. More is needed to complete the job. Much more thought needs to be given to the future role of THS in Tampa - Who are we and what do we wish to accomplish? Perhaps it is time for a part or full time Director with an office open daily for tours and research. There are great challenges ahead!

Thank you all for the privilege to serve as President these two years. It has been fun, tiring, rewarding and educational. Best wishes to you individually and collectively as Tampa Historical Society.

Cordially,

Randy Stevens
President 1982 & 1983