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Activities for 1984

L. Glenn Westfall
Hillsborough Community College

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ACTIVITIES FOR 1984

T.H.S. members were treated to a private showing in the University of Tampa's Scarfone Gallery. "Images of Tampa Bay Hotel" was presented prior to our First Annual Membership Meeting.

The Honorable E. J. Salcines, guest speaker for our First Annual General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, January 25th.

T.H.S. revived the classic all talkie film, "Hell Harbor" in March, celebrating its 55th anniversary. (See article in this issue)

- photo courtesy of Robert Vande Weghe

1984 was another busy year for the Board of Officers and Directors of Tampa Historical Society. In our efforts to serve you, our members, we held several extremely successful events. By our charter, we are required to hold three annual general membership meetings. Our first meeting was held at the University of Tampa, January 25. This was a gala two part event: from 6:00 to 7:15, there was a special opening of the Scarfone Gallery exhibit, "Images of the Tampa Bay Hotel." Members and their guests were served wine while they strolled through the display of photographs and artifacts pertaining to the grand era of the magnificent Tampa Bay Hotel. The gallery presentation was followed by a lecture in the Grand Ballroom by the Honorable E. J. Salcines, an illustrated lecture presentation on the "History of West Tampa". Mr. Salcines, a native of West Tampa, thrilled
the audience with a rousing presentation which made the history of Tampa come alive. Several members of the audience shared some experiences of growing in West Tampa, and after the presentation, guests were treated with several historical documents. The first was an extremely rare 1908 lithographic poster-print of the "West Tampa Optimo Cigar Factory" discovered in a Connecticut Lithographic Collection by Dr. L. Glenn Westfall. A series of documents on display were newspaper articles from the "Tampa Times & Tribune". They included photographs of West Tampa boys who had served their country during World War II. Audience members identified friends and family members. These original newspaper
clippings were part of a collection of the Salcines family.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 7:30 p.m., Tampa Historical Society celebrated the 55th anniversary of Hell Harbor, a torrid love story filmed in Tampa during the advent of the Depression (see article in this issue on Hell Harbor). Members of T.H.S. and community guests enjoyed an evening of entertainment at the beautiful Tampa Theater, an historical landmark of Tampa.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1984, Tampa Historical Society cordially invited its members to attend our annual OPEN HOUSE, one of our most successful events. While wine and cheese were being served, guests strolled through the house and garden. T.H.S. volunteers assisted guests, served refreshments and registered members. In addition, charter T.H.S. member and former president Tony Pizzo was honored with the dedication of a sundial in his honor.

OUR SECOND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING was held at the Tampa Public Library auditorium. Thanks to

Members had the opportunity to stroll through the headquarters’ Victorian garden located in the rear of the office headquarters.

-photo courtesy of Robert Vande Weghe
the efforts of former Board member Joe Hipp, arrangements were made for an exciting evening of memories related to Tampa's aviation history. Vice President Wayne Bevis, retired from Eastern Airlines and an active T.H.S. member, shared with us his memories and experiences with Eastern while working here in Tampa. (See Wayne's article in this issue).

Wayne has served on the Board of T.H.S. for several years and is currently vice president. His presentation was attended by numerous persons who shared their memories of Tampa's fascinating connection to the airline industry, past to present. Our third General Membership meeting was held Wednesday, September 19th at the Ballroom, University of Tampa. Guest Speaker and past president of T.H.S. Hampton Dunn gave a rousing presentation entitled, "Florida, Huguenots to Astronauts" to an enthusiastic audience. Hampton, an expert on the local history of our area, has written numerous books not only on Tampa but other Florida communities. Members and their guests were delighted with Hampton’s fascinating illustrated lecture presentation.

OLD TIMERS REUNION CELEBRATES ITS 61ST YEAR AT T.H.S.

Continuing a tradition which T.H.S. began almost a decade ago. The Old Timers Reunion was held at our Headquarters, Sunday, October 20th. (See the December, 1983 issue for details of the organization in the 60th anniversary article). Members of the community who have resided in Tampa for 50 years or longer are awarded a ribbon entitled "FIFTY YEAR CITIZEN." Guests strolled through the house, met old friends and made new ones. This annual event is second only to the Open House in the number of participants which come.