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From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

Historians like to emphasize turning points, and this issue of *Tampa Bay History* marks several worth noting. First, this edition contains a cumulative five-year index of all ten numbers previously published, and we hope readers and future researchers will find it useful. Lest we become inundated with requests for specific back issues, we should point out that, thanks to the unanticipated demand for *TBH*, the only past numbers still available are: volume 1, number 1; volume 2, number 1; volume 4, number 2; volume 5, number 2.

The other milestone is more significant and should not pass unnoticed. After five years of giving generously of his time and talent, Steven F. Lawson is stepping aside as Managing Editor. We appreciate his enormous contribution to the success of *Tampa Bay History* and are pleased that he will continue to assist us as an Associate Editor.

The 1983 Tampa Bay History Essay Contest attracted a number of entries, and we are pleased to announce the winners. The first-place award and a prize of \$100.00 go to Walter Howard for his article entitled, "'A Blot on Tampa's History': The 1934 Lynching of Robert Johnson," which records one of the last vigilante murders in this area. The prize-winning essay will appear in the next issue of *TBH*. The second-place award and \$50.00 go to Darryl Paulson and Milly St. Julien, co-authors of an essay on "Desegregating Public Schools in Manatee and Pinellas Counties, 1954-1971." This article will be published in the Spring/Summer, 1985, issue. Given the success of the annual essay contest, we are renewing it with the next round of submissions due by September 1, 1984. We invite manuscripts, not previously published, on any aspect of history in the fifteen-county area.

This issue of *TBH* contains information on a variety of topics, including cigar-label art, right-wing extremism, early hospital care, railroad stations and smuggling. Although these various phenomena are examined in particular locales along the Gulf Coast, they should be of interest to all our readers because they form part of the "modern" experience. We hope you enjoy reliving them, and we welcome any comments you may have.

COMMUNICATIONS

Editors:

I was sorry to learn that Steve Lawson is giving up his duties as managing editor of *Tampa Bay History*. He has done a marvelous job in getting *TBH* started and in following through its first difficult years. He deserves a lot of credit. Before *Tampa Bay History* came into being, there was no voice for the history of Southwest Florida. Now, thanks to this interesting magazine, people who have lived, and in some cases, have made history, have been able to tell their intriguing stories.

Sincerely,

Marian B. Godown
Tallahassee

Editors:

I would bring your attention to the photograph on Page 74 in your Fall/Winter, 1983, issue showing what is reputed to be the Gasparilla Inn at Boca Grande. Apparently the Tampa Hillsborough Public Library has this photograph mislabeled. The photograph you reproduced actually depicts the *Boca Grande Hotel* which was built by Joseph Spadero in the 1930s. The Boca Grande Hotel building was demolished several years ago.

The Gasparilla Inn which was built by the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad in 1911 was expanded in 1913. This fine Inn still stands and is open for business from December 15 into the early summer of each year.

I discussed the history of each of these hotels in my book *Boca Grande, A Series of Historical Essays*, (ISBN 0-9608996-0-X, \$12.95) which was published in 1982. Your readership may be interested to know that my book contains many pictures of early Boca Grande life and includes photographs of both the Gasparilla Inn and the Boca Grande Hotel.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Gibson
Boca Grande