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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

Historians often ask themselves whether particular developments marked a significant change or reflected underlying continuity. In this issue of *Tampa Bay History*, which begins our seventh year of publishing, the articles focus on subjects that highlight changes in south Florida. The opening article about Fort Brooke details the establishment of the first permanent American settlement at Tampa Bay, and it reveals what life was like for the troops and civilians who staked out the area that became Tampa. The article on the desegregation of public schools in Manatee and Pinellas counties won second prize in the 1983 *TBH* Essay Contest, and it, too, chronicles a period of slow but dramatic change. A sharp contrast to recent crises in public education is offered in a document dating from the 1890s which describes the problems encountered by the principal of St. Petersburg's first public school.

The other articles featured in this issue also relate to the theme of historical change. The photo essay, depicting the "Dawn of the Automobile Age," shows graphically the impact of technological innovation on life in Florida after the turn of the century. The memoir relates the life of Walter D. Bell who lived in several south Florida cities, including Fort Myers and Tampa, and who rose to a position of prominence in Arcadia. Spanning almost 150 years of Florida history, the articles in this issue focus on some turning points, but readers can decide for themselves how much change actually occurred and to what extent basic patterns of life continued unbroken.

We are proud to announce that the 1984 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest was won by two students at the St. Petersburg Campus of the University of South Florida, Ellen Babb and Milly St. Julien, for their article, "Public and Private Lives: Women in St. Petersburg at the Turn of the Century," which will appear in a forthcoming issue. Other upcoming articles will cover south Florida cowmen, Odet Phillippe, a yellow fever epidemic and the centennial of Ybor City. We invite readers to submit previously unpublished articles on any topic related to the history of southwest Florida. For details of this year's Essay Contest, see page 4.