From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

After a brief (and successful) attempt to reach a wider audience with a special double issue devoted to the centennial of Ybor City, *Tampa Bay History* returns to its usual format. This issue includes a variety of topics related to the history of the fifteen-county area served by the University of South Florida. The periods covered range from the 1820s to 1920, and the setting varies from fragile frontier outposts of the first white settlers to the fun-filled baseball diamonds of the boys of summer.

The lead article by Ellen Babb and Milly St. Julien won first prize in the 1984 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest. Drawing on newspaper accounts and census reports, their study examines the private and public lives of women in St. Petersburg at the turn of the century. As the authors demonstrate, the story of these particular women reflected the situation of American women generally at the time.

Two other articles portray conditions in south Florida during the nineteenth century. J. Allison DeFoor's study of Odet Philippe separates fact from fiction in the life of this French immigrant who became legendary. A feature article from an 1897 newspaper is reprinted as a document providing a glimpse of Fort Myers and Lee County in that year.

Twenty years later south Florida had developed to the point where the only pioneers were tourists. In an effort to attract them and their money to Tampa, the city sponsored spring training for professional baseball teams. In "The Chicago Cubs Come to Tampa," James W. Covington describes the 1913 experiences of the first team to train in Tampa. A scant four years later, war preoccupied America, and Robert A. Taylor's photographic essay shows the impact of World War I on the people of south Florida.

The winners of the 1985 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest were Eirlys Barker, whose article "'A Sneaky, Cowardly Enemy': Tampa's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1887-88," won first prize, and Frank Alduino, who earned second prize for his article, "Prohibition in Tampa." Both articles will appear in forthcoming issues. Information on the 1986 Essay Contest can be found on page 88.