

6-1-1986

## ***Tampa: A Pictorial History* by Hampton Dunn**

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### **Recommended Citation**

Peters, Jean (1986) "*Tampa: A Pictorial History* by Hampton Dunn," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 8 : Iss. 1 , Article 8.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol8/iss1/8>

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Tampa: A Pictorial History*. By Hampton Dunn. Norfolk. 1985. The Donning Company. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 224. Cloth. \$20.95. Paper. \$14.95.

This latest pictorial essay from Hampton Dunn is a fun-filled tribute to the city of Tampa from the days of the Spanish explorers to the present. Unlike Dunn's earlier work, *Yesterday's Tampa*, where the focus was primarily on the city's buildings, the author has shifted his attention in this volume to the people and events which make up the social and economic fiber of Tampa's past and present.

In the book's seven chronologically-arranged chapters, Dunn has assembled a richly detailed selection of Burgert Brothers and Robertson-Fresh materials along with other photographs from his extensive personal collection. Many of these photos are being published for the first time in this volume. The prints are accompanied by brief narrative paragraphs filled with bits of Tampa's history, fact and lore.

The author makes no attempt to present a comprehensive history of the city, but he does give a warmly nostalgic look back to the days when Hollywood stars Colleen Moore and Rondo Hatton were Tampa school students, when couples went "spooning" on the Hillsborough River and when O. Falk's sold women's shoes at "\$1.00 per foot." His selection of photographs reveals where Tampans ate and played, how they worshipped and worked, and how they fought their wars and ran their government.

The first chapter, "Tampa Before 1900," provides views of such long-vanished structures as the officers' barracks at Fort Brooke and a rickety wooden footbridge at Jackson Street crossing the Hillsborough River. It also includes a copy of sheet music of the "Tampa Bay Hotel Gallop," composed especially for the opening of that grand hotel. Clara Barton is glimpsed picnicking on the hotel grounds during a break from her nursing duties at the front during the Spanish American War.

Over the years visiting celebrities like Tyrone Power, Sally Rand, Jack Dempsey and Esther Williams made appearances in Tampa. Others such as Frances Langford and Billy Graham began their careers in the city. Dunn chronicles their presence in Tampa along with such well-known local personalities as broadcaster Sol Fleischman, *Tribune* cartoonist George White and Tampa's own Miss America, Margaret Ekdahl.

Everyday life on the homefront during World War II is clearly illustrated by the photographs included in the chapter covering the 1940s. Off-duty servicemen gathered at the Hi-Hat Club in the DeSoto Hotel; the Red Cross trained classes of volunteer nurses aides; F. W. Woolworth's downtown store promoted the war bond effort in its window display; and soldiers and citizens danced to Frank Sinatra records at a U.S.O. Club to unwind.



**Railroad workers on the Plant System in the 1890s.**

Photograph from *Tampa: A Pictorial History*.

More recent events like the opening of Interstate 75, the Buccaneers first win after 26 consecutive losses, and the record snowfall on January 19, 1977, illustrate that today's news truly is tomorrow's history.

Dunn's appealing book provides a visual record of Tampa's colorful past that will be satisfying to native, newcomer and even non-residents. Like a family photograph album, it is a book to be thumbed through again and again.

*Jean Peters*

*Florida's Pinellas Peninsula.* By June Hurley Young. St. Petersburg. 1984. Byron F. Kennedy. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. Maps. Pp. 208. Cloth \$29.95.

*Florida's Pinellas Peninsula* is a "coffee table" pictorial narrative about Pinellas County from its prehistoric beginnings to the present day. The author has a background in elementary school teaching and in television. She previously wrote a short pamphlet on the Don CeSar Hotel and short bicentennial biographies of famous Floridians.

Based mostly on photographs found in the Tampa Bay region, the book is heavily weighted toward the years since photography came into its own. Although the organization is generally chronological, subtopics within chapters range back and forth in years. This is especially true for the chapters devoted to creation of the many municipalities in the county. The book is approximately one-third text and two-thirds pictorial. The bibliography does not reveal the author's sources; instead, it lists books available in the libraries of Pinellas County.

The text deserves criticism for its lack of balance, organization, accuracy and editing. Most of the deserved criticism can be illustrated by reviewing one chapter, "Pioneers, Fishermen, and Seminoles." The heading page (p. 17) contains a picture of Zachary Taylor (unidentified) hunting Indians in Florida in the 1840s, and a picture of Osceola, the famous Seminole Indian chief. Osceola is also mentioned on pages 18 and 20, but not in the inadequate index. Taylor was in Florida in the 1830s, not 1840s, and neither picture is credited with an origin on the incomplete "Credits" page (p. 206).

In the same chapter, the territorial period is represented by a vignette of Senator David Levy Yulee. Although Yulee had nothing to do with Pinellas County, he was selected to exemplify the period because of his railroad project, which might have reached to St. Petersburg. Because the author does not separate the territorial and early statehood periods, Yulee is the only representative of both. The very first sentence misleadingly depicts Yulee as a leader in the 1820s, the start of the territorial period, even though he was hardly known before 1843.

The Yulee narrative reflects a problem of emphasis which can be seen in other chapters. The author's reliance on her previous work on famous Floridians creates much of the imbalance in the book. For example, in the period of exploration, she nicely depicts Juan Ortiz, but does not do so well with Hernando de Soto. In one boxed commentary (p. 13), Soto is named "deSoto," "DeSoto," and "De Soto." In the same chapter, the author provides a circumspect narrative on the Tocobaga Indians, but then mislabels the pictures. She uses colored photos of murals in