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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

The 1948 cover photograph captures much of the spirit of post-War Florida and suggests much about where the state was heading in the years to come. During World War II, women and blacks had entered new arenas - including sports as well as industry and the army - in unprecedented numbers. Wartime experiences and postwar optimism encouraged these groups to seek the social, political, economic, and educational changes that would assure them equal opportunity. The photographic essay, "Public Schools in Southwest Florida, Part II," by Milly St. Julien, illustrates both the tremendous progress made in public education from 1920 to 1950 and the continued obstacles to equal opportunity resulting from racial segregation. (On desegregation in local schools, see Volume 7:1, Spring/Summer 1985).

Several prize-winning articles in this issue focus on the struggle for change between 1920 and the present. The decade of the 1920s was a period of material progress and social tension throughout the United States. "Prohibition in Tampa" by Frank Alduino reveals the forces behind prohibition and the problems of its enforcement. This article won second place in the 1985 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest. The article by Nell C. Weidenbach, which received honorable mention in the 1985 contest, relates the impact of bridges on the development of Fort Myers between 1924 and 1964. The issue's lead essay by Josephine King Evans, winner of the 1986 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest, traces the history of the Florida Mental Health Institute. She views FMHI as a symbol of 1960's-era reforms, through which innovative and humanitarian mental health programs were introduced to Florida.

This issue also includes the memoirs of Kate Barnwell Williams, a pioneer woman who struggled to survive in frontier Florida and who left behind 122 direct descendants at her death in 1950. Book reviews, announcements, and information on the 1987 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest complete the volume.

This issue marks the beginning of *Tampa Bay History's* ninth year of publication. Survival of the journal depends largely on the continued support of subscribers, on the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Florida, and on our Board of Advisors. We especially want to thank all of our readers who have responded to our first price increase in nine years by renewing subscriptions and by encouraging friends to subscribe as well. We hope you will enjoy this issue, packed with Essay Contest winners, and that a few of you may be inspired to enter this year's contest.