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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

Anniversaries usually provide an occasion for much celebration and some reflection. This year the United States has observed the bicentennial of the Constitution with both festivities and debate over the meaning of the document. Several groups, notably blacks and women, have reminded us their predecessors were long excluded from the Constitution. Blacks, of course, only recently won the rights of full citizenship. Robert and Helen Saunders of Florida both participated in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and they recently donated their personal papers to the University of South Florida Library. In this issue of *Tampa Bay History*, David L. Chapman describes the Saunders' activities and provides a list of their papers, "Documenting the Struggle for Civil Rights," that are now available to researchers.

Another recent acquisition of the Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida Library provides a glimpse of "Army Life in Tampa during the Spanish-American War." This view is revealed in a collection of candid photographs taken by one of the soldiers stationed in Tampa. As explained by Paul Eugen Camp, these pictures had long been in private hands and are now published for the first time, beginning with the cover of this issue and continuing in the photographic essay.

Tampa is observing a centennial this year, as a result of the adoption of a new city charter in 1887. Although Tampa had been first incorporated as a municipality thirty years earlier, the 1880s marked Tampa's arrival as a real city in name and fact. In an effort to recapture the spirit of the times, the editors have selected some excerpts from 1887 newspapers that describe events "From Strikes to Scourge."

The lead article in this issue relates the story of "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Creation of the Myakka River State Park." John L. Sullivan's depiction of the successful effort to preserve this wilderness area in Sarasota and Manatee counties will interest readers who are unfamiliar with this park or are curious about its history.

As *Tampa Bay History* prepares to celebrate its tenth anniversary, we remind readers that they can help assure continuation of the journal by renewing subscriptions, encouraging others to subscribe and offering gift subscriptions. We depend on subscribers to sustain this nonprofit effort to preserve and illuminate the history of southwest Florida.