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From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue marks the tenth anniversary of *Tampa Bay History*. After twenty issues it is hard to believe that this enterprise began with a mimeographed letter of inquiry promising a magazine of local history if enough potential readers expressed interest in subscribing. The positive response of several hundred people launched *TBH* in 1979. Since then the dedication of readers - old and new - has been the mainstay in sustaining this nonprofit journal. In addition, we have relied heavily on support provided by the Department of History and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Florida. Members of the Board of Advisors have also generously extended assistance in a variety of ways. Last, and certainly not least, *TBH* is a product of the many authors who have written articles, edited documents, compiled photographic essays and reviewed books over the past ten years. A glance at the index for the last five years, which appears at the end of this issue, gives some indication of the enormous number of writers who have contributed to the successful run of *TBH*.

The generosity of several people helped make this anniversary issue possible and thereby assure the continued success of *Tampa Bay History*. Robert Alicea, a long-time friend of history and the Department of History at the University of South Florida, encouraged us to shift to computerized "desktop publishing" to prepare *TBH* for printing. His expertise has given us vastly improved control over production while simultaneously reducing publication costs. In addition, Consolidated Press of Tampa, which has printed *TBH* for the past two years, helped underwrite the printing of this anniversary issue. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

The articles in this issue focus on the impact of the Great Depression and World War II on central and southwest Florida. "Stitching and Striking," the article by James Francis Tidd, Jr., explores the background of a 1937 sitdown strike by women on a WPA project in Tampa. This extraordinary event, involving a strike by women on relief, revealed a number of conflicting attitudes toward government assistance under Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Within five years, however, Americans were overwhelmed by a new set of problems created by the war. Thomas Cox's article shows how one community - Fort Myers - met the challenges that arose on the homefront during World War II. In "One a Day in Tampa Bay," John J. Sullivan describes a different challenge that confronted pilots learning to fly B-26 bombers at MacDill Army Air Base in Tampa. The death of dozens of pilots during training exercises in 1942 brought home to civilians the reality of the war.

To mark the tenth anniversary of *Tampa Bay History*, the editors have compiled a special photo essay that is a retrospective of photographs used in the previous twenty issues. This selection shows both the range of topics and the number of communities covered by articles during the past ten years.

We rely on your support to keep *Tampa Bay History* going for another ten years, and we hope you enjoy this issue.