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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

War and reform have dominated American life for much of the twentieth century. Although the focus for decision-making about war and reform was increasingly on public officials in Washington, D.C., local communities and private individuals continued to play a role in dramatic national and international events. This issue of *Tampa Bay History* examines local involvement in Progressive reform, school desegregation, and World War II. "The Tampa Children's Home During the Depression Years" by Janet M. Hall looks at the evolution of an important local institution that provided private assistance to needy youngsters at a time when public welfare was almost unknown. James A. Schnur's article, "Desegregation of Public Schools in Pinellas County, Florida," won the 1990 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest. His study clearly demonstrates the importance of local individuals in the successful fight to implement the federal promise of integrated, equal education. The photographic essay by Arsenio M. Sanchez, entitled "West Tampa and the Cigar Industry," traces the history of the once separate city from its origins in the 1890s to its incorporation into Tampa in 1925. The oral history by Dena Montero recounts the experiences of her grandfather, Bailey Lee, who describes his memories of "Training at Tampa's Drew Field During World War II." Finally, two documents present conflicting views of "A Civil War Incident on Tampa Bay." As historian Robert A. Taylor points out, the two reports by Confederate and Union sources leave one wondering what in fact happened in the deadly encounter between Confederate and Unions forces near Tampa on March 27, 1863.

As *Tampa Bay History* begins its thirteenth year of publication, the editors read with some concern reports about the demise of a number of small magazines due to falling subscriptions. Reflecting this turn of events, one long-time subscriber to *Tampa Bay History* recently wrote: "Due to financial reasons I can no longer subscribe to your publication. I will however continue to read your excellent '*Tampa Bay History*' at the public library." Unfortunately libraries are also faced with reduced funds to purchase books and subscriptions.

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