From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory

Recommended Citation
Tampa Bay History (1992) "From the Editors," Tampa Bay History: Vol. 14 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol14/iss1/2

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tampa Bay History by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.
Communities are the building blocks of any society. The United States emerged as a collection of isolated communities that only gradually became a unified country. As late as the 1870s, in the words of historian Robert Wiebe, "American institutions were still oriented toward a community life." Revolutions in industry and transportation changed all this, but even today appeals to community exert a powerful influence among Americans who identify-or seek to identify-with local groups of people sharing certain characteristics, including a particular history.

This issue of Tampa Bay History covers the history of several communities, portraying their distinctive character and giving some insight into how they changed over time. In the opening article, "Henry Plant, J. Lott Brown, and the South Florida State Fair," James W. Covington documents efforts in the early 1900s to develop Tampa as the site for a statewide fair. Barbara Stephenson's essay, "Palmetto, Florida, during the 1920s and 1930s," shows how one small community coped with the boom and bust of the interwar years. The photo essay by Janet M. Hall depicts "The Building of Temple Terrace in the 1920s." A quite different approach to city building is revealed in David McCally's study of "Sun City Center," the retirement community in southern Hillsborough County that dates from the 1960s. Finally, a memoir by William Harrison Snow records the history of Palm View, a small, rural community in northern Manatee County that has effectively disappeared with the passage of time.

With this issue Tampa Bay History begins its fourteenth year of publication. Its survival is a testament to the unflagging support of a community of devoted subscribers. Those listed in the acknowledgements (on page 3) have made special contributions to sustain this nonprofit journal. The editors hope all readers enjoy this issue.
COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Editors:

The farm on the cover of the last issue of Tampa Bay History (Fall/Winter 1991) is the old Sun City farm of C. L. Council and Sons, located on the south Hillsborough County line. It was section 28, west of U.S. 41 and bordering Cockroach Bay and Cockroach Creek. It is now owned by Tampa Electric Company.

In 1934 the Council family left Terra Ceia island in Manatee County because salty high tides ruined their acreage. They found land around Ruskin was cheap ($40 an acre) and plentiful, and they began the nucleus of their operation, which later included cattle, citrus, tomatoes and sod. C. L. Council and Sons included the father C. L. ("Whit") and his sons Emmett ("Bub"), Robert and Buford. Robert is shown in the cover photo [reproduced below] standing on the right, and Emmitt (bending over) to his right. When this picture was taken early in World War II, Buford was flying with the Air Transport Command in Africa. After the war their sister, Hilda Jorgenson, became the farm’s bookkeeper. The third generation, including Pat, Emmett Jr., and Mike, later joined the operation, which became Council Farms.

In the background the photograph also shows a John Deere cultivator and multi-purpose tractor which pulled four-wheel-wagon loads of cucumbers to trucks at the ends of the rows. Picking hampers were lined with burlap bags. The dikes in the background were used to keep salt water out of the low-lying fields which were bordered by mangroves. Flood gates were installed to release rain water and prevent salt water from coming back into the ditches. However, the system proved unsuccessful and cultivation so close to the bay was abandoned.

As a subscriber to Tampa Bay History, I was pleasantly surprised to find members of my family featured on your cover.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Buford W. Council