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## From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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## FROM THE EDITORS

Everybody has a history. This seemingly obvious statement has provoked endless debate among historians about the nature of their craft. What does "everybody" mean? Everybody important? Everybody who leaves written records? Some historians have had the audacity to suggest that "everybody" should mean everybody, including unknown women, fire fighters, and even children. In defense of this proposition, historians have begun documenting the experiences and attitudes of individuals and groups traditionally missing from the pages of history. Discovering new sources and reinterpreting existing documents, historians have met the challenge of bringing to light the lives of common people. This issue of Tampa Bay History highlights both subjects and techniques that have made local history one of the most innovative areas for new research into the past of ordinary people.

In the opening article, "A Diarist's Tale: Roby McFarlan's Tampa, 1887-1888," Heather C.R. McClenahan adopts a methodology popularized by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich in her heralded book, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*. Ulrich's study, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, brings to life the experiences of a New England midwife through an imaginative, yet subtle reading of her cryptic diary. In a similar fashion, Heather McClenahan shows how much can be gleaned from the Tampa diary of a little known woman.

Employing somewhat more traditional sources, such as newspapers and public records, Mark Wilkens recreates the struggles of Tampa fire fighters for improved working conditions, wages, and benefits during the period 1943-1979. His article, "'With Pride and Valor': The Tampa Fire Fighters Union, 1943-1979," uses this local example to tell part of a larger national story about the rise of public employee unions after World War II.

In the photographic essay, "Children at Play in Florida," the editors of Tampa Bay History present a selection of pictures from the Florida State Archives that focus on a group largely overlooked in history books. These photographs document the diversity of children's experiences and their forms of play from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Finally, the article by Heath Nailos, entitled "Tarpon Springs and the Great Depression," looks at the efforts of ordinary people to cope with the economic crisis of the 1930s.

Once again, the acknowledgements on page 2 list the subscribers who have been especially generous in helping make this issue possible. The editors thank them and the many others who continue to support the publication of Tampa Bay History.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Editors:

In the photographic essay, "The Birth of Temple Terrace in the 1920s" which appeared in volume 14, number 1 (Spring/Summer 1992), there was a little misinformation about the old garage building (page 52). Here is the correction: The garage had been torn down when Florida College bought the property in 1944. The foundation remained until 1961, when Florida College removed it and built a concrete-block building to house Florida Academy. The former Academy building is now used as a classroom building.

I have been on the faculty of Florida College since its beginning in 1946

Sincerely Yours,  
L. Griffin Copeland  
Reference Librarian  
Florida College

Several readers contacted the editors about the photograph below which appeared in "Jack Dempsey in Tampa: Sports and Boosterism in the 1920s," volume 14, number 2 (Fall/Winter 1992), page 25. Although the caption implied that the photograph showed "Jack Dempsey departing Tampa" in 1926, the airplane and station wagon clearly date from the period after World War II.

