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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

Urban Vigilantes in the New South: Tampa, 1882-1936. By Robert P. Ingalls. Gainesville, 1993. University Press of Florida. xx, 286 pp. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Paper—\$16.95.

The original cloth edition of this book was reviewed in *Tampa Bay History* in 1989 by Gail W. O'Brien, who wrote in part:

“*Urban Vigilantes* is anchored at one end by the 1882 lynching of an English immigrant, and, at the other, by the 1934 mob murder of a black prisoner and the flogging death in 1935 of a white radical. Between these mob actions, the author carefully documents a series of Citizens’ Committees created by Tampa’s business and professional elite and designed to thwart union efforts by cigar employees who were preeminent among the city’s work force. Frightened by the ease with which manufacturers of luxury, handrolled cigars could relocate, and worried about the devastating economic effects of relocation on their own fortunes, the elite kidnapped and exported labor leaders, smashed the labor press, destroyed equipment in the soup kitchens feeding striking workers, shot an AFL leader in 1903, and took the lives of two Italian immigrants in 1910 and of a northern-born Socialist in 1935. Throughout the book, the author argues that all of the vigilante actions, including the lynchings of black men in 1903 and 1934, were part and parcel of establishment violence, emerging from the traditions of community justice and republicanism in the Old South and continuing into the New

“Although [the author] does not analyze conflict among Tampa whites, he documents impressively the unlimited ends to which American businessmen would go to defeat labor, the support throughout the nation which such actions could generate, and the persistence of radical proclivities among Tampa’s cigarworkers, despite, or perhaps in part because of, their lack of success [T]his book reveals a great deal about the American establishment and the lengths to which it will go, when given tacit approval.”

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Pioneer Commercial Photography: The Burgert Brothers, Tampa, Florida. By Robert E. Snyder and Jack B. Moore. Gainesville, 1992. University Press of Florida. 316 pp. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth—\$39.95.

As steamboats and railroads brought increasing numbers of tourists and residents to coastal cities in Florida, photography studios burgeoned. One of the best, most profitable, and longest lasting was S.P. Burgert and Son, which opened its doors in 1899 in Ybor City and continued as a family enterprise until the mid-1950s. This book chronicles the business and presents more than 200 photographs that record and help define the history of the Tampa Bay area.

Set in the context of ethnic migration, world wars, economic upheaval, and the natural disasters of the first half of the 20th century, the photographs in this book include weddings, family portraits, Western Union delivery boys, tobacco fields and citrus farms, the building of



Burgert Brothers' new International truck in 1936.

Photograph from *Pioneer Commercial Photography*.

wartime ships in Tampa dockyards, Latin women in satin gowns in short, any local activity that someone would pay to record. Burgert Brothers photographs appeared in newspapers, magazines, and advertisements and as decorations in stores and businesses. Their aesthetic quality was respected well beyond Florida: both *Life* and *National Geographic* retained the Burgerts for assignments. *Pioneer Commercial Photography* shows and explains their lasting impact on the Tampa Bay area.