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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of *Tampa Bay History* is dedicated to Tony Pizzo, who died earlier this year. Tony as he was known to everyone was a friend of history in general and *Tampa Bay History* in particular. Born and raised in Ybor City, this successful businessman became convinced of the importance of documenting the rich heritage of his home town "The Cracker Village with a Latin Accent" as he called Tampa in the title of his book focusing on the nineteenth century. Tony was an amateur historian, in the best sense of the word -a word derived from the French *amour*, love. Beginning in the late 1940s, he devoted increasing amounts of time to collecting everything imaginable-from pamphlets and letters to photographs and artifacts that somehow related to Tampa's past, especially the contributions of Latin immigrants like his grandparents. Tony's infectious enthusiasm and salesmanship enlisted the support of a legion of politicians, businessmen, academics, and citizens, all of whom contributed in a variety of ways to his crusade to preserve Tampa's past. A founder and first president of the Tampa Historical Society, Tony was also a permanent fixture on the Board of Advisors of *Tampa Bay History*, which he generously provided with countless documents and photographs and unflinching morale support.

The passing of Tony Pizzo causes us to pause and reflect on his life and his many contributions to the history of the Tampa Bay area. All but one of the articles in this issue focus on Tony and his accomplishments. The exception is the opening article by Wes Singletary who examines "The Early Baseball Career of Al Lopez" another product of Ybor City. All other articles deal with Tony Pizzo as chronicler and collector of local history. "Tony Pizzo's Ybor City" is an interview of Tony that was conducted in 1979. "Tampa's Cuban Heritage" is a largely autobiographical piece by Tony that looks at his involvement in reviving linkages with Cuba and promoting Tampa's Latin heritage. Finally, Thomas Kemp and Paul Camp use a photo essay to reveal the scope of the "Tony Pizzo Collection," which is now housed in the Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida Library. This collection constitutes Tony's permanent legacy to students of local history.

In addition to articles and book reviews, this issue includes an index of *Tampa Bay History* for the past five years. The completion of fifteen years of publication also brings with it a necessary increase in the cost of subscriptions, which are rising to \$18 annually. Only the second increase since publication began, the new price would be higher if not for the generosity of numerous subscribers listed in the Acknowledgments on the pages 2 and 3 who contribute significant additional funds to support *Tampa Bay History*.

We hope you enjoy this special issue, and we look forward to your continued support.