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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

One advantage of local history is that it constantly reminds us that history is the story of real people. Although big forces - capitalism, war, reform - certainly operate locally, they affect, and are affected by, people acting both individually and collectively. Looking at these actors in their local settings makes the past visible.

This issue of *Tampa Bay History* highlights several individuals who played important roles in the development of South Florida. John Darling, an Indian trader and politician, campaigned in the pre-Civil War years for removal of the Seminoles from the South Florida frontier. In "John Darling, Indian Removal, and Internal Improvements, 1848-56," historian Joe Knetsch examines the reasoning behind Darling's crusade and its connection to state politics and economic development. Another Florida pioneer of a very different sort was Father Philippe de Carriere, a Jesuit priest who ministered to South Florida Catholics. His many activities are chronicled in the article "Father Philippe de Carriere: A Jesuit Pioneer on Florida's West Coast, 1888-1902," written by Michael J. McNally, who brings to this study his knowledge as both a Jesuit and a historian. The article entitled "'The Waves Traveled through Everything': Radio's Impact on Tampa in the 1920s," written by Heather C.R. McClenahan, explores the individuals like Sol Fleischman who brought radio to Tampa, and just as important, the author shows how this communication revolution affected Tampans.

Finally, this issue has two photographic essays. The first, "Child Labor in Florida," portrays young people at work. These largely nameless figures serve as examples of an issue that Americans have generally viewed with very mixed feelings, and the essay poses a series of questions that remain unanswered - should work by children be encouraged or outlawed and at what age and under what conditions should children be allowed to work? "The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, 1912-1915," surveys the people in charge of voting and comes from an exhibit prepared by Alicia Addeo.

While telling the stories of various individuals, these articles make the important point that local people were linked to larger state and national - and even international - events and movements.

CORRECTIONS: Dr. Richard T. Farior has pointed out that the last issue (Spring/Summer 1995) contains two errors in the article entitled "The Homefront on Florida's West Coast: A Photographic Essay." On pages 56 and 62, photographs from a Tampa high school yearbook were misidentified as coming from the arch rival of the actual school. As Dr. Farior, a member of the Plant High School Class of 1942, correctly points out, the photographs appeared in his yearbook, *The Panther*, for 1941-42. We extend our apologies to Dr. Farior and all other Plant Panthers for confusing them with Hillsborough Terriers.

COMMUNICATIONS

July 19, 1995

To the Editors:

Regarding your issue on World War II, I am a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and I am working with the Sarasota Historical Society and Sarasota Airport Authority to place a County Historical Marker at the airport commemorating the training that occurred there during World War II.

The 97th bomb group moved from Tampa's MacDill Field to Sarasota Army Air Field in late March 1942. The C.O. was Colonel C.W. Cousland who had officially accepted the first B-17 delivered by Boeing. After six weeks of flight training, they returned to Tampa fairgrounds and then on to England, being the first heavy bomber group to arrive. They also flew the first all-American high altitude raid from England on August 17, 1942.

One other heavy bomb group – the 92nd – followed from MacDill to Sarasota. After that Sarasota Field was used for fighter training.

We have compiled a great deal of local news reports and photos regarding this training in Sarasota.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Drake



The 97th bomb group posed before leaving Sarasota after six weeks of training in 1942.

Photograph courtesy of Francis Patten.