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Early Medical History of Pinellas Peninsula: A Quadricentennial Epoch by Frederick Eberson

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of that system have yet to be eradicated, and that it is the economic, political, and social superstructure of the system that cloaks both an Angel City and a camp of modern mobile units in the same shroud.

Smith unfortunately lets the buck fall at the feet of the greedy Creedy. He completely ignores the social and political realities that circumvent the laws regulating health conditions in fields and camps, child labor, minimum wage guarantees, and labor contractor practices. (One is reminded of the case of Florida contractor Wardell Williams who, within this decade, was convicted of murder, was allowed by the court upon the favorable testimony of his agricultural employer to serve his sentence in the off-seasons, and who is now facing peonage charges.) But the greatest fault, and perhaps danger, of *Angel City* is Smith's characterization of the farm labor force. The fact that he chose to rely upon the enslavement of a white whose salient characteristic was his "mountain-pride" implies that the non-white workers who have endured the conditions which Angel City seeks to exemplify must have no pride left. Such a view smacks of being a liberal rationalization for a racial and class stereotype. All farm workers are not dehumanized by virtue of the fact they are farm workers; indeed, the dignity of their struggle and perseverance speaks to their strength. Not all labor camps are *slave* labor camps; the real tragedy lies in the fact that the men and women who end up in peonage camps were most usually "killed" before they ever got there and seek the safety of a barbed wire fence as refuge from the cruelties, the constant insecurities and crises of the system outside the gate.

Becky Acuna

Early Medical History of Pinellas Peninsula: A Quadricentennial Epoch. by Frederick Ebersson, (St. Petersburg: Valkyrie Press, 1978, \$10)

The subtitle of Dr. Ebersson's delightful monograph reflects the breadth of his work. In 190 rather small pages, he meticulously and lovingly examines the medical history of the Pinellas Peninsula from the Precolumbian Timucuan Indians (300 B C) until the present day.

Although written in a sprightly personal style, this narrative has been researched exhaustively, and the numerous references are placed conveniently on each page along with the subject matter. The illustrations alone are more than worth the modest cost of the book.

Even the most avid students of medical Floridana will discover many well-documented gems gathered by Dr. Ebersson. Just to name a few:

*There was no physician on the Pinellas Peninsula until 1883, and only nine by 1912.

*Between 1874 and 1885, the lower tip of the peninsula was touted in medical literature by reputable American and English physicians as the ideal site for a "Health City," in spite of the fact that the development of that area, as well as all of Florida, was paralyzed by the deadly triad of yellow fever, typhoid, and malaria.

*In 1905-1910, Tarpon Springs dominated the peninsula in population.

*Cedar was once one of the most common trees of the west coast from Cedar Keys to Venice.

*As late as 1914, before the passage of the first Medical Practice Act, at least half of the practicing physicians of Florida were “fakes and quacks” with purchased diplomas and licenses.

*The disease which most often brought the hopefully convalescent patient, such as the nature poet, Sidney Lanier, to Florida was tuberculosis.

These and many more medical-historical pearls are here for the reading.

The final chapters, biographies of sixteen pioneer Pinellas physicians, are replete with personal and medical details, and bring the writing into modern focus.

The innovative and efficient arrangement of the index in this excellent book makes merely looking things up very pleasant.

James M. Ingram

Daniel Ladd: Merchant Prince of Frontier Florida. by Jerrell H. Shofner (Gainesville: The University Presses of Florida, 1978, 180 pp. \$8.50)

Having lived in the Panhandle region of north Florida for several years, I have traveled through St. Marks and Newport several times. This book, *Daniel Ladd: Merchant Prince of Frontier Florida*, is mainly a historical account of the economic growth of these communities. Because of my familiarity with north Florida I enjoyed this work immensely.

The author, Jerrell H. Shofner, has utilized ledgers and store accounts of Daniel Ladd to weave an interesting story of economic growth in one area prior to the American Civil War. Daniel Ladd moved from Maine to Florida in 1833 at the age of sixteen. After serving an apprenticeship at Hamlin's commission house in Magnolia, he opened his own store in Newport. From his base at Newport, Daniel Ladd became involved in many business operations. He also became one of the largest factoring agents in the South. Along with his store and many other businesses Daniel Ladd was indeed a merchant prince!

Although this work concentrates on the north Florida Panhandle region there are several connections with the Tampa Bay area. Planters in the Tampa Bay region bought supplies from Ladd (p. 43). Ladd's ship, the *Spray*, took mail, passengers, and freight from St. Marks to Cedar Key and Tampa (p. 61). For readers interested in local Florida history the book is excellent. It paints a picture of antebellum Florida and its agricultural importance. Daniel Ladd, like many other Floridians, never recovered financially from the changes brought by the Civil War.

Nancy L. Rachels