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The President’s Report

AS OUR CITY GROWS
SO GROWS OUR ORGANIZATION

By NANCY N. SKEMP

Once again we come to the close of another eventful year for Tampa Historical Society. What a busy year it has been. Fascinating programs and lectures, field trips, exhibits, tours and reunions. Your board has worked hard to bring to you the membership new and different events to spark interest and participation by all.

As our city grows so grows our organization. This year we have taken a giant step forward by turning our headquarters into a museum. This phase in our development will do so much to draw us closer to the community. When we are finally ready to open our doors to the public and make more people aware of our existence I feel that we will see a great deal of growth and support from the community.

The replacement of the garage with a new building will also be a great new asset for our organization. We will have a place to hold meetings and lectures, store acquisitions and increase the museum space. These projects are very exciting and so important to the future of Tampa Historical Society.

Funding is a never ending problem with an organization like ours. All of the monies from Continental Heritage have now been collected. We have had several generous donations this year from various individuals as well as corporations. A new fund raising committee has been formed to develop a program to bring in sizable donations in order for us to build our addition, to hire and pay a qualified director and to maintain that which we already have. A membership drive is also underway with the use of our
beautiful new brochures designed and written by our own Leland Hawes.

A debt of gratitude is owed by the members to those who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to operate Tampa Historical Society: Glenn Westfall who has spent untold hours organizing and arranging the layout for the museum. Evelyn Cole has spent hours putting T.H.S. memorabilia in scrapbooks and helping to design displays for the museum. Lois Latimer’s incredible efficiency and energy keeps our office and me running smoothly. Kaky Parrish, Margaret O’Donohue and Jean Marsicano spend hours preparing the bulk mail outs. Our competent directors for their dedication, service and attendance, your Vice President Sam Latimer for his counsel and Ray Miller for his efforts to oversee and balance our finances.

Our future is looking bright and hopeful. Our growth and expansion is going to be exciting and rewarding. Please continue to give our society your support so that we can all work together to achieve our goals. It has been a challenge and a privilege to serve you this year as president.