

1-1-2011

From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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Recommended Citation

Tampa Bay History (2011) "From the Editors," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 25 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol25/iss1/2>

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to the Silver Anniversary edition of *Tampa Bay History*. Volume 25 has three interesting and informative articles on the history and development of the Tampa Bay area. As in year's past, this issue also has thought-provoking book reviews covering the latest in Florida history scholarship.

The winner of the 2011 Leland Hawes Prize for best graduate essay in Florida history leads off this year's journal. The winning paper, "A Caribbean Borderland: The Tampa Bay Area During the Sixteenth Century," was written by Gregory Jason Bell, a Ph. D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati. Bell theorizes that Florida, and the Tampa Bay area in particular, should not only be viewed as part of mainland North America but the peninsula is also part of the larger circum-Caribbean network that includes Cuba, Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America. Those ties connecting Florida to points further south include long-held traditions of trade among the original native inhabitants, the efforts of Spanish officials to explore and possess the continued movement of people between Florida and the Caribbean.

Tom Adamich returns for the second year in a row, contributing the second article in this year's journal. Adamich explores the history of Clearwater's Harbor Oaks subdivision and examines the history and legacy of its founder, Dean Alvord. Adamich delves into Alvord's early history, including outlines of his early work in New York. After establishing Alvord's track record for success, Adamich brings the story to Florida and the Harbor Oaks subdivision, which is still a fashionable address in Clearwater. The subdivision was home to a number of early automotive industry pioneers who were seeking an escape from the cold. They found that escape, and more, in Harbor Oaks.

The third article comes from the History Center's Collections Manager, Travis Puterbaugh. Puterbaugh examines the pivotal year of 1976, which featured the inaugural season of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the decline of Curtis Hixon Hall and the saving of the Tampa Theatre. The author has a particular affinity for this topic because he was born two weeks before the first-ever Tampa Bay Buccaneers home game in 1976.

Examining emerging scholarship is a hallmark of most good journals, and this year's *Tampa Bay History* features seven book reviews that accomplish that goal. Book topics include a search for the Real Florida, the travels of William Bartram and a look into Florida's tourist industry. These book reviews contribute mightily to the continued growth of Florida as an area of historic focus.

I hope you enjoy the 2011 edition of *Tampa Bay History*. Remember, the journal is only as good as its contributors, so if you have a paper you would like to submit, please feel free to contact me at the address listed on the inside front cover. I also encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the articles in this journal. A healthy debate about the causes and effects of historical events is one of the best ways to keep history alive.

RODNEY KITE-POWELL, EDITOR