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The Story of the University of Tampa: A Quarter Century of Progress from 1930-1955. By James W. Covington and C. Herbert Laub. (The University of Tampa Press, Tampa, 1955. Pp. 137. Illustrations index. \$5.00).

As the authors of this short history of the University of Tampa point out, colleges, like babies, are "often brought into the world on occasions that would appear untimely." The country in 1931 was in the throes of the worst depression in its history. Floridians had been experiencing hard times ever since the collapse of the real estate boom in 1926, and in 1929 the state's citrus industry was dealt a multi-million dollar blow by the Mediterranean fruit fly. Higher education did not escape the disastrous economic decline: university operating budgets declined as much as eighty-six percent between 1930 and 1934, research expenditures almost vanished, faculty salaries were slashed, and many college teachers found themselves unemployed. It was hardly a propitious time to begin a new college in Florida. Yet the need for an institution of higher learning on the Gulf coast was recognized, particularly at a time when declining income prohibited educational training away from home.

In 1930 a group of interested citizens secured a charter for a school to be known as the University of Tampa, won the backing of the local Chamber of Commerce and a group of business men, and made plans to operate a junior college until a four-year institution would be possible. Classes began October 5, 1931 in the Hillsborough High School building. Funds were completely lacking. The faculty, recruited largely from the High School, volunteered their services the first year. A mimeographed catalogue had been distributed, but the printing bill could not be paid at the time since the college did not have a single cent to its name. Students were

as poor as the school and often paid their tuition by installments with notes, insurance policies, and deeds on homes. There were many times when it seemed certain that the University would have to cease operations.

In January, 1933 the curriculum was enlarged and a four-year program of instruction was instituted. A critical problem at this time was that of finding a permanent site. The Tampa Bay Hotel, once one of the country's luxury hotels, was finally leased from the city for a rental of a dollar a year. Students provided the necessary janitorial services, and money was secured from Tampa business men to repair the leaky roof and to purchase basic laboratory equipment. Cornell University donated 650 books to start a library, and local civic and religious groups sponsored work scholarships and set up a student loan fund. The University was operating on a narrow margin; at one time the total financial resources of the institution were less than ten dollars. Despite this poverty, the University managed to stay alive.

Tampa and the surrounding Bay area have provided over the years the institution's major financial support, other than that received from student tuition. This support has not always been as generous as the University's administration might have desired, but it has been steady and dependable. During the administration of four presidents and two acting presidents the University has conferred almost 1,500 degrees. It offers work in the liberal arts, business administration and education. It operates an aviation technical school near Pinar del Rio, Cuba, and Radio Station WTUN in Tampa. Its graduates have gone out to occupy positions of importance in government, business, and the professions. The University of Tampa occupies an important position in collegiate education in Florida. In a time when there is much talk of "community colleges" in this state to meet the ever increasing demands

being made upon our institutions of higher learning, the University of Tampa represents a community college which is making a significant contribution to the state.

As Professors Laub and Covington have pointed out the achievements and merits of the University, so have they stated its great needs: classroom buildings, dormitories, added library and laboratory facilities, greater financial security, and particularly "faith, courage, vision, and the will to win," on the part of those who support the University of Tampa. The authors have obviously used the important sources in gathering the material for this history. Official and student records, presidential reports, yearbooks, and contemporary newspapers were all checked. In writing the history of any institution invaluable wellsprings of information are the remembrances and recollections of those who were "in at the beginning." The authors of this volume (Dr. Covington completed the study after Dr. Laub's death in 1952) were fortunate in having this source of information so readily available.

The value of the study is marred somewhat by its lack of interpretation. Facts are abundantly supplied on almost every phase of the University's growth, but all too often the "hows" and "whys" are missing, and the reader is left wondering what really did happen. For instance, the conflict between the board of trustees and the president and faculty during the war years was mentioned, but no adequate explanation of its cause is given. If the matter was serious enough to threaten the operation of the University it was important enough to be more fully explained. The chief shortcoming of this book is its brevity, a matter, I imagine, over which the authors probably had very little say-so. To ask for more is not to criticize. The information that has been made available adds significantly to our knowledge and appreciation of the history of

higher education in Florida.

University of Florida

SAMUEL PROCTOR

Indians of the Southern Colonial Frontier, the Edmond Atkin Report and Plan of 1755. Edited by Wilbur R. Jacobs. (University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, 1954. xxxviii, 108 pp., 7 illus. \$5.00.)

This is the first publication of the Edmond Atkin Report and Plan for the control of the Indians of the eastern part of North America. On it, very largely, rested Atkin's reputation as an Indian expert during the middle years of the 18th century. Jacobs' very adequate introduction outlines the inter-colonial position which the British colonies faced in respect to an aggressive attempt to expand the French sphere of influence southward to the Gulf of Mexico. To those whose knowledge of the French and Indian War consists of the part played by Braddock and Washington at Fort Necessity, the concern by the southern colonies for the safety of their borders will come as something of a surprise. Atkin saw this danger very clearly and his plan attempts, in great detail, to forestall it.

Edmond Atkin was a merchant and Indian trader of Charleston who had served on the South Carolina Council. He seems quite adequately informed on the character and disposition of the southern Indian tribes. He carried on a feud with James Adair so that the reading of the Atkin Report jointly with Adair's *History of the American Indians* gives an excellent picture of the southern Indians. It is especially concerned with the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw with greatest emphasis on the Cherokee. The Carolinians had most experience with these mountain dwellers and naturally saw them as the key to control of the southern territory. In the Report

Atkin was especially concerned with the control of the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers. He saw French possession or control of this river system as the key to their successful influence over the southern Indians. In French trade penetration of the Old South, and especially in their mending of guns for the Indians, Atkin saw the entering wedge of French control. In discussing the southern tribes he generally shares Adair's admiration for the Chickasaw, Creek and Cherokee and his disdain for the Choctaw. He does not treat of that part of the Creek nation resident in Spanish Florida who were becoming the Seminoles. In fact, even when advocating British settlement of the mouth of the Apalachicola, he ignores the Spanish and Florida. It would seem that in 1755 the British Colonials were almost solely concerned with the French threat to their territory and trade.

Part 2, *The Plan*, is elaborate and detailed. It is based on control of the Chattahoochee and Tennessee Rivers with forts in each nation, along with standardization of trade prices, weights, and measures. Again he returns to the value to be gained by free repair of Indian guns. Apparently he had a low opinion of the serviceability of colonial muskets. His plan advocates the division of authority over the tribes between northern and southern commissioners. Sir William Johnson became the northern commissioner; Edmond Atkin, the southern one. Of special interest is his advocacy of a pan-Indian union of all the southern Indians. He little foresaw the terror that the threat of such a union, under Indian leadership, a few decades later would arouse among Americans.

Jacobs' introduction indicates adequately Atkin's role in achieving a somewhat unified approach to the Indian problem. That he has not been as well known previously as Johnson in the North is, Jacobs believes, due to his extreme attention to detail. This love of detail is amply shown in his plan which even explored avenues of taxation to raise the

necessary funds. The Atkin Plan, along with other similar ones, formed the basis for British control of the eastern tribes in the closing years of the colonies. The new American government followed a very similar policy with such men as Benjamin Hawkins in Atkin's old role of Commissioner of Southern Indian Affairs.

A highly useable index and a series of maps complete the book. The maps are edited versions of the Mitchell, Adair, and Mouzon maps dating from 1755 to 1776. The Adair map used as a frontispiece is too small for any convenient study. In all, the "Indians of the Southern Colonial Frontier" is a workmanlike job of editing an important and interesting historical document.

Florida State University

CHARLES H. FAIRBANKS

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Florida Under Five Flags. (Revised edition.) By Rembert W. Patrick. (University of Florida Press, Gainesville, 1955. Pp. xii, 140. Illustrations, maps, index. \$3.00.)

Though many attempts have been made to record and interpret the history of Florida, most studies have resulted in multi-volume works too detailed to attract the average reader, or in briefer popular accounts which are often of little interest to the serious-minded. Furthermore, few of these have been brought up to date.

In 1945, Professor Rembert W. Patrick of the University of Florida published *Florida Under Five Flags*. This book was well received for there was now available an excellent brief account of the state's history from 1513 to 1945. The revised edition, recently off the press, has been redesigned, brought up to date and has an additional chapter entitled "Mid-Century Prosperity." Several chapters have been rewritten in part and new illustrations have been added. As Julien Yonge so aptly states in the foreword: "Here is a story of Florida's four hun-

dred years which can be read in a short evening." Obviously, only the barest thread of the narrative is possible in this undertaking, but the author is to be congratulated in his selection of materials and skillful interpretations.

Particularly well done are the chapters covering the period through the Civil War. Though brief by necessity, they give the reader an overview of three centuries of Florida history without wasting a word. The style is easy, the topics well chosen, and the illustrations attractive. As if through the lens of a camera, early settlement, wars of aggression, treaties of cession, power politics, frontier life, statehood and secession file by in orderly fashion. The focus is sharp and one has the feeling of being close to the events themselves.

The rapid development of Florida since 1900 has greatly complicated the task of writing the last four chapters. The magnitude of change, especially since 1940, brought about by the growth of population, agricultural and industrial developments, the greater influx of tourists and changes in the social and economic structure of the state poses the difficult problem of what to say or not to say. By comparison with the earlier period one has a sense of being hurried through the first half of the 20th Century, and is frequently overwhelmed by raw statistics.

The fact that there is no bibliographical information included in the volume is somewhat disappointing, but perhaps Professor Patrick can be persuaded to undertake a more detailed study of Florida with at least some brief documentation and a selected bibliography. However, his present work has filled a great need and exhibits real craftsmanship in popular writing. He has rendered a fine service to the people of this state and to his profession.

Florida State University

CHARLES S. DAVIS