

## Thoughts on Tequesta

*Dr. Charlton Tebeau edited Tequesta for 40 years and continues to serve as Editor Emeritus. His strong editorial philosophy, which continues to guide us today, is reprinted below. We hope this article will further encourage our readers to become writers and add to the permanent record of our area.*

In my forty years (1946-1986) as editor of Tequesta, I developed some rather definite notions as to what it could and should be with no intent to dictate what my successors should do, I suggest them for continuing consideration.

Above all perhaps, I thought of Tequesta as a publication in which all members of the Association might find at least one article they might enjoy reading.

An equally important concern was to provide basic source material for anyone who might be studying the history of the area. Many of the items we published were by the participants in the events they described.

Another feature with the same intent was the reprinting of source materials, many first hand accounts; others public documents, which are no longer easily available elsewhere.

We always sought research based articles of graduate students, faculty members of educational institutions, and any interested persons. They need not be history students or teachers - simply interested in some aspect of local history.

We used Tequesta to encourage persons who had never before written anything for publication to tell their stories. Sometimes we invited those known to have a story to tell.

The editor stood ready to make suggestions but never to rewrite the article. He told each person to write the story in his or her own words exactly as he or she would tell it. Then the editor could suggest unanswered questions and possibilities for expanding the article. People do enjoy seeing themselves in print, and having the feeling they actually wrote it. Laurence Will was hardly a typical case, but he

## 6 TEQUESTA

accepted the invitation to write an article for Tequesta. He later came back to it and made a book of the first article.

Pioneers who would write accounts of their early days in Miami have largely gone to their reward, but the number of professional people here has grown vastly. To the University of Miami has been added two state universities, two private colleges, and the community college system. And there is no disposition to exclude persons without academic connection. Nor do we exclude persons from other academic institutions.

The first function of the editor is to beat the bushes for articles, to be on the lookout for anyone who is interested in the history of the area. The editor should be highly visible as the editor of Tequesta and known to be seeking articles. A part of the editor's function is to work with people to develop articles and be known to be helpful to those who feel they have a story to tell.

I'm as proud of those forty years as anything I did. It grew entirely from my personal interest in the history of the region and in people who shared that interest. Don't go back to the "Good Old Days," but remember, you wouldn't be here except for them.

Charlton W. Tebeau