

## Looking back and moving forward

Good banks make good neighbors.

Often, as we look ahead to what we think our city could be, we pause to reflect on how far it has come. An April 1908 publication's headline reads "Plant City, Florida, speeding toward a goal of a brilliant destiny, spurred on by past victories and the invincible enterprise of her citizens. Plant City placed great value on family life and was proud of the splendid educational and business opportunities it afforded its community.

As Plant City's downtown began to take shape, two strong financial institutions emerged.



The Hillsboro State Bank, of which Colonel J. L. Young was President and M. E. Moody was Cashier, reported a working capital of \$30,000.00. The Bank of Plant City, headed up by President Albert Schneider and Cashier Harry Root, also reported a working capital of \$30,000.00

In 1908, Plant City boasted that it had all the accessories of a modern city, including electric lights, an ice factory, a local telephone line, a modern water plant and sewage system owned by the city, a steam laundry, and an up-to-date fire department.

Fast-forward, take time to reflect on where our community is today, and find value in its growth and continued progress.

Sources: East Hillsborough Historical Society – Quintilla Geer Bruton Archives Center – printed books, newspapers, vertical files, photographs, and plat maps. For further information, email [info@ehhsoc.org](mailto:info@ehhsoc.org).