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Charles H. Jones, Journalist and Politician of the Gilded Age by
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were painted with stripes like a barber pole. Most were constructed of brick or cement block, but several were made of metal framework and slender cylindrical tube.

The book is informative and enjoyable from cover to cover and provides interesting reading for people of all ages, especially those with an interest in the history and geography of Florida.

John W. Stafford

Charles H. Jones, Journalist and Politician of the Gilded Age. By Thomas Graham. Tallahassee, Florida. 1990. Florida A & M University Press. Pp. x, 207. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$24.95.

Charles H. Jones wrote about nineteenth-century American politics, democratic ideals, and injustice in the American South. He overcame a fundamentalist upbringing in a rural Georgia family to become a progressive journalist and politician of national stature. He thrived in both pursuits before it became unfashionable to endeavor in the two fields simultaneously. An example of the personal journalism of the late nineteenth century, Jones used the editorial page of his newspapers to promote his own agendas for the communities where he lived and worked. Biographer Thomas Graham, professor of history at Flagler College, does an excellent job of chronicling Jones's complex career. Like most good historians, Graham is as perceptive as an interpreter as he is competent as a story-teller.

The author begins by eliciting our empathy for the young Charles Jones by describing his parents: a tightly wound, humorless father and a frail, religious mother. The self-educated Jones left his home in Talbotton, Georgia, to join the Confederate Army shortly before the end of the Civil War. It was not the last time Jones would pick a losing side; he later wrote the platforms for three losing Democratic presidential candidates.

Before expanding into politics, Jones excelled in journalism. Working in a New York dry goods store during the day, he wrote at night for local magazines and by the age of twenty-one became an editor. He then moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he founded the *Florida Daily Times*, which competed with and later merged with the *Florida Union* to become one of the largest newspapers in the South. In 1893, he was hired by Joseph Pulitzer as editor-in-chief of the *New York Herald*. Later, Pulitzer sent Jones to St. Louis to run the *Post-Dispatch*. While in St. Louis, Jones aligned himself and the newspaper with the 1896 and 1900 presidential campaigns of William Jennings Bryan.

This book represents the best of two literary worlds. It includes enough formal documentation to please scholars and historians, but it is written in an informal style to appeal to the lay reader. The latter was probably a difficult task, considering the book was derived from Graham's University of Florida doctoral dissertation. The book is extremely anecdotal, and the author paints a vivid portrait of Jones' childhood, including an early account of his witnessing a slave auction. The author implies that it was that incident that planted the seed of liberal thought in Jones's mind.



Charles H. Jones as pictured in the *St. Louis Mirror*, March 7, 1895.

Photograph from *Charles H. Jones* by Thomas Graham.

The book also features samples of Jones's writing style, including excerpts from his newspaper editorials and personal correspondence. If this work has a shortcoming, it is that most of the journalistic writing samples appear late in the book, in chapters dealing with Jones's years in New York and St. Louis. Early chapters include samples from his personal correspondence, but there are few examples of editorials from his Florida newspaper.

Like most good biographies, this book is more than just a collection of anecdotes wrapped around a central theme. It is a detailed essay on the interconnections of journalism and politics nearly a century ago, with hints of how that coupling laid the groundwork for the interdependence of the media and politics that exists today.

The true strength of the book is its colorful, anecdotal style. Graham does not just tell you; he shows you.

Randy Bobbitt

Pearl City Florida: A Black Community Remembers. By Arthur S. Evans, Jr., and David Lee. Boca Raton. Florida Atlantic University Press. 1990. Pp. xii, 162. Introduction. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Cloth. \$19.95.

Well conceived as an oral history and social scientific analysis, *Pearl City, Florida* deserves attention. Covering the period from World War I until the immediate post-World War II years, the book is an "autobiography" of a small black community, proximate to Boca Raton. The accounts of elderly people provide a useful history of everyday life and small-town black experience in Florida. Also, the book contains two useful maps of the Boca Raton area and some excellent illustrative photographs, including black workers in the fields, Pearl City houses, and a man capturing a sea turtle. However, both the historical context provided and the sociological discussion are sterile and add little to the core of the book.

The first person accounts open by relating how many blacks immigrated to Florida and to Boca Raton in the twenties and thirties. In Boca Raton opportunities were in agriculture for squatters, sharecroppers, or as laborers on truck farms. The descriptions of life on the large farms cover "shotgun houses," a "box cart" shower, the organization of work, the effects of weather and the seasons, and the conditions of field work, such as in the following:

When those beans are picked and the hamper's full, which is a bushel, there are men that come around to check it....Checking the hamper means that they press down on those beans and see if you have a solid hamper.... And when they mash the beans down to the correct amount they make you fill the hamper back up (21-22).

This passage reveals both the cleaned-up vernacular and the specifics revealed in the text.

Work in the off-season might be obtained at the Boca Raton Hotel and Club where blacks could be dishwashers or busboys, but not waiters or waitresses. New opportunities opened when the Army Air Corps built a base in the area in the early forties. Whatever form it took, whether