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Florida's Pinellas Peninsula by June Hurley Young

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More recent events like the opening of Interstate 75, the Buccaneers first win after 26 consecutive losses, and the record snowfall on January 19, 1977, illustrate that today's news truly is tomorrow's history.

Dunn's appealing book provides a visual record of Tampa's colorful past that will be satisfying to native, newcomer and even non-residents. Like a family photograph album, it is a book to be thumbed through again and again.

Jean Peters

Florida's Pinellas Peninsula. By June Hurley Young. St. Petersburg. 1984. Byron F. Kennedy. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. Maps. Pp. 208. Cloth \$29.95.

Florida's Pinellas Peninsula is a "coffee table" pictorial narrative about Pinellas County from its prehistoric beginnings to the present day. The author has a background in elementary school teaching and in television. She previously wrote a short pamphlet on the Don CeSar Hotel and short bicentennial biographies of famous Floridians.

Based mostly on photographs found in the Tampa Bay region, the book is heavily weighted toward the years since photography came into its own. Although the organization is generally chronological, subtopics within chapters range back and forth in years. This is especially true for the chapters devoted to creation of the many municipalities in the county. The book is approximately one-third text and two-thirds pictorial. The bibliography does not reveal the author's sources; instead, it lists books available in the libraries of Pinellas County.

The text deserves criticism for its lack of balance, organization, accuracy and editing. Most of the deserved criticism can be illustrated by reviewing one chapter, "Pioneers, Fishermen, and Seminoles." The heading page (p. 17) contains a picture of Zachary Taylor (unidentified) hunting Indians in Florida in the 1840s, and a picture of Osceola, the famous Seminole Indian chief. Osceola is also mentioned on pages 18 and 20, but not in the inadequate index. Taylor was in Florida in the 1830s, not 1840s, and neither picture is credited with an origin on the incomplete "Credits" page (p. 206).

In the same chapter, the territorial period is represented by a vignette of Senator David Levy Yulee. Although Yulee had nothing to do with Pinellas County, he was selected to exemplify the period because of his railroad project, which might have reached to St. Petersburg. Because the author does not separate the territorial and early statehood periods, Yulee is the only representative of both. The very first sentence misleadingly depicts Yulee as a leader in the 1820s, the start of the territorial period, even though he was hardly known before 1843.

The Yulee narrative reflects a problem of emphasis which can be seen in other chapters. The author's reliance on her previous work on famous Floridians creates much of the imbalance in the book. For example, in the period of exploration, she nicely depicts Juan Ortiz, but does not do so well with Hernando de Soto. In one boxed commentary (p. 13), Soto is named "deSoto," "DeSoto," and "De Soto." In the same chapter, the author provides a circumspect narrative on the Tocobaga Indians, but then mislabels the pictures. She uses colored photos of murals in



The Don CeSar Hotel, built in the 1920s on St. Petersburg Beach.

Seminole Mall painted from Jacques Le Moyne's sketches of Indians around St. Augustine and calls them Tocobaga.

June Hurley Young was faced with the problem of writing a Pinellas County history before the area became a separate entity in 1912. How much of Hillsborough County's history to include would pose a dilemma for anyone. However, the author isolates Pinellas too much from the rest of Tampa Bay. For example, the famous Odet Philippe is depicted without regard to his business interests in Tampa. The "good living" he made might just as well have been from his pool parlors in Tampa as his citrus in Safety Harbor. For another example, the Spanish American War, so conspicuous in Tampa history, is completely omitted except for a small, boxed comment (p. 50).

The text is too imbalanced in favor of St. Petersburg and contains too many false or exaggerated statements. Examples include, "Florida was the supply depot of the Confederacy" (p. 7) and Pearl Harbor involved "sinking much of the nation's fleet" (p. 150). The manuscript should have been better critiqued and edited before publication.

This book does not surpass earlier volumes on Pinellas County except as a pictorial. As such, its value lies in its visuals. Many fascinating photos are brought together for the coffee table

viewer. However, some pages are so crowded with unexplained photos that they look like they should be in a high school or college yearbook.

The picture "Credits" page is a small disaster. No credit is given for over 20 photos. Credit was usually given to a local library or society instead of the real origin of a photo. Some page numbers are listed up to four times, with no way of knowing which picture gets which credit. On occasion, a photo receives more than one credit.

Some picture choices are unfortunate. Why does the author use a photo of a present-day man and his wife dressed in Civil War garb to begin a chapter when a picture of a genuine Pinellas confederate, John Bethell, is readily available? Another photo, of a 1980's Civil War reenactment group, has a false and misleading caption as though it were an 1860's picture. Besides such inadequate picture choices, the book also suffers from lack of appropriate maps to coincide with the many "then and now" geographical descriptions.

No pictorial history can be devoid of interest and fascination, even if Clio, the Goddess of History, should withhold her sponsorship.

Ernest F. Dibble.

Catholicism in South Florida, 1868-1968. By Michael J. McNally. Gainesville. 1984. University Presses of Florida. Tables. Bibliography. Pp. xx, 316. Paper. \$13.95.

According to McNally, the story of south Florida Catholicism begins in 1868, when the first group of religious women came to the region, when Cuban exiles arrived in Key West in significant numbers, and when parish life became somewhat stabilized. The crude, even rough frontier Catholicism, however, lacked a centralized diocesan structure and sufficient priests to serve the small, but growing Catholic population, giving laity unusual latitude in organizing and directing local religious activities. In many ways, the ethnically diverse pioneer Key West Catholic community (composed of blacks, Cubans, and whites) set the direction and tone for much of south Florida Catholicism for two generations thereafter. The opening of Florida to development in the early twentieth century, due in part to transportation improvements, altered the scale and range of Catholic concerns, but even through the 1930s the church retained its missionary character. It was a church poor in human and material resources, with a widely-scattered population and a defensive posture in facing the dominant Protestant culture of the region.

In McNally's eyes, the episcopacy of Joseph P. Hurley, from 1940 to 1958, affected profound changes in the church's structure and social stance. Although uncomfortable in human relations (even children made him nervous), Hurley brought pragmatic organization, assiduous acquisition of real estate, vigorous fundraising, and close management of staff and property to the church, and thereby imparted to south Florida Catholicism a sense of destiny and self-confidence it had previously lacked. The creation of the diocese of Miami in 1958 marked a new era in south Florida Catholicism. The longitudinal division (which, among other changes, separated the Tampa area away from its Atlantic south Florida connections) led to a bitter dispute between Hurley, now bishop of the diocese of St. Augustine, and Coleman Carroll, bishop (later