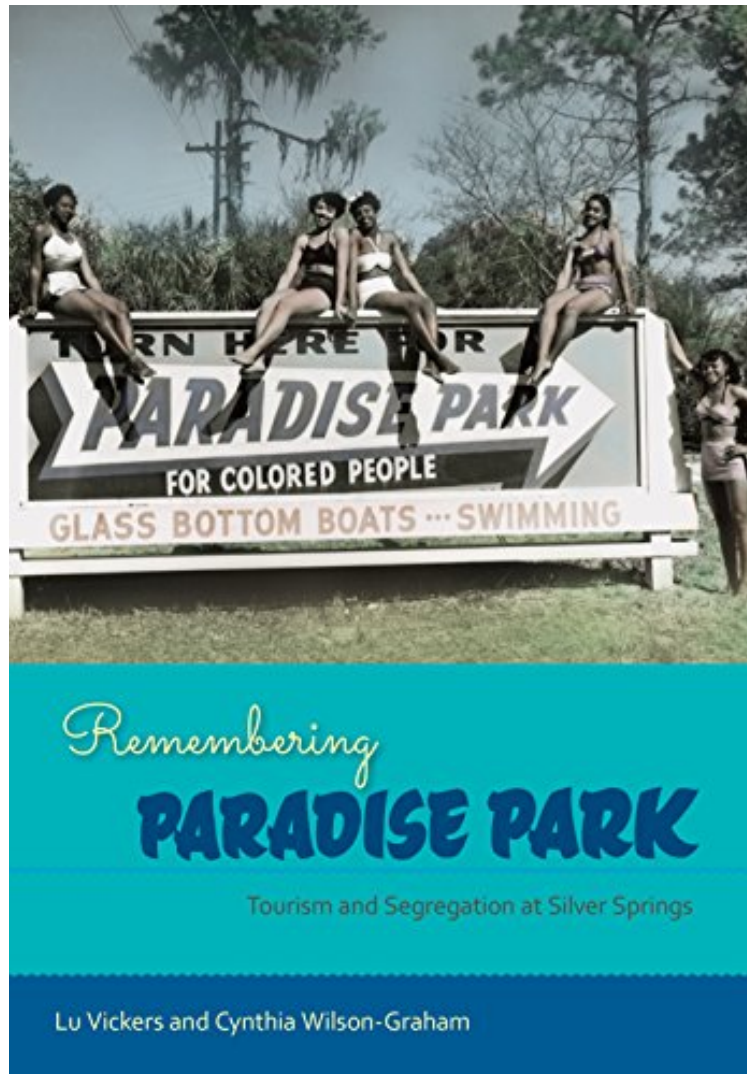


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Remembering Paradise Park: Tourism and Segregation at Silver Springs

Lu Vickers, Cynthia Wilson-Graham
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Lu Vickers, Cynthia Wilson-Graham : Remembering Paradise Park: Tourism and Segregation at Silver Springs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Remembering Paradise Park: Tourism and Segregation at Silver Springs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Paradise Park-Gone But Not ForgottenBy CustomerExcellent story and thankful for Lu and her co-author Cynthia Graham for taking on this wonderful endeavor of Paradise Park.

Though many in the book has passed on... their lives and legacy came to life in this book. I'm especially thankful and grateful for the thumb nail sketch of one of my early role models...James "Uncle Son" Glover who taught me to respect all snakes as having a place in this world.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great hometown memoriesBy S. BELLThis book was about my hometown and experiences as a child. I recognized many of the names and families in the book and i read it in one sitting0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book !By Pat BurnsVery interesting history book about paradise park in Ocala, FL.

“A strange and unsettling glimpse of the land of sun and surf in the waning moments of segregation in the South.”—Gilbert King, author of *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America* “A testament to the efforts of a black community determined to provide wholesome recreation for their families in a segregated society. This masterpiece of local history changes the way we think about the history of tourism and civil rights.”—Susan Sessions Rugh, author of *Are We There Yet?: The Golden Age of American Family Vacations* “The story of Florida tourism has been told in many ways, but this book gives a perspective that has been missing from most of them. Vickers and Wilson-Graham finally open the gates to Paradise Park so that all are welcome to sample its wonders.”—Tim Hollis, author of *Selling the Sunshine State: A Celebration of Florida Tourism Advertising* “An invaluable time capsule. This bittersweet book vividly describes the joys of Paradise Park, while acceptance and endurance of racist practices are also remembered and voiced.”—Marsha Dean Phelts, author of *An American Beach for African Americans* Paradise Park was the “colored only” counterpart to Silver Springs, a central Florida tourist attraction famous for its crystal-clear water and glass bottom boats. Together the two parks comprised one of the biggest recreational facilities in the country before Disney World. From 1949 to 1969, boats passed each other on the Silver River—blacks on one side, whites on the other. Though the patrons of both parks shared the same river, they seldom crossed the invisible line in the water. Full of vivid photographs, vintage advertisements, and interviews with employees and patrons, *Remembering Paradise Park* portrays a place of delight and leisure during the painful era of Jim Crow. Racial violence was at its height in Florida—the famous Groveland rape case happened right as Paradise Park opened—and many African Americans saw the park as a safe place for families. It was a popular vacation spot for the area’s black community, one of the most cohesive and prosperous in the South. Tracing the color line through Florida’s most famous spring, this book compares the park to other tourist destinations set aside for African Americans in the state and across the country. Though Silver Springs was Florida’s only attraction to operate a parallel facility for African Americans, Paradise Park has been just a whisper in the story of Florida tourism until now.

"Authors Lu Vickers and Cynthia Wilson Graham have put together a comprehensive history on this long forgotten vacation destination."—Orlando Weekly