

# J&G Holdings Said \$25M By Jones

Tinian

The ruling power of Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., 56-year-old Kenneth Thomas Jones Jr., has told the New York Times in an interview that his \$25 million empire was begun with a \$2,500 junk jewelry investment and a sidestepping of U.S. laws when he returned to Guam after the end of World War II.

Jones, a World War II Seabee, was interviewed by the Times' Robert Trumbull on his Tinian ranch where cows graze along the runway used by the Enola Gay on its A-bomb flight to Hiroshima. Trumbull quotes Jones as saying he ran "a hatful of junk jewelry" into the multi-million dollar business. His former partner, Segundo Guerrero, a Guamanian, is now an employee.

Jones, a big hearty man originally from Willow Springs, North Carolina estimates the worth of his \$2 million investment in the ranch at about \$5 million today, which would make the venture the biggest private enterprise by far in the more than 2,000 tiny islands and atolls of Micronesia, an American-administered United Nations Trust Territory," the Times story says.

The story continues:

"The businessman, now 56, also owns supermarkets, department stores, general construction enterprises, automobile rental businesses and agencies for Ford, Mazda and Datsun cars on Guam. He also has extensive island hotel interests, including the luxurious Guam Hilton, a favorite of Japanese honeymooners, which the Hilton organization runs under a management contract with Jones and associates.

"Appraisers recently valued the various Jones holdings at \$25 million, he told a visitor to the Tinian ranch, where Jones likes to spend weekends. The cattle venture, started in 1966, is on land leased from the United States administration.

"It all began when Guamanian women, who had lost most of their possessions between the Japanese occupation of Guam in December, 1941, and the destructive battle in which American forces recovered the island in 1944, expressed a yearning for personal adornment, the unavailable, he said."

"I had about \$2,500 saved when I went back to the states after the war," Jones recalled. "I lost half of it playing poker on the ship, put the rest in the ship's safe, and used it to buy a hatful of junk jewelry to take back to Guam."

In order to return to Guam, then under military administration and closed to nonofficial visitors, Jones had to take a job with the U.S. government as a mechanic. Prevented by the rules from going into business on the island, he had a Guamanian friend, Segundo Guerrero, sell the jewelry from a shop on the veranda of the Guerrero home.

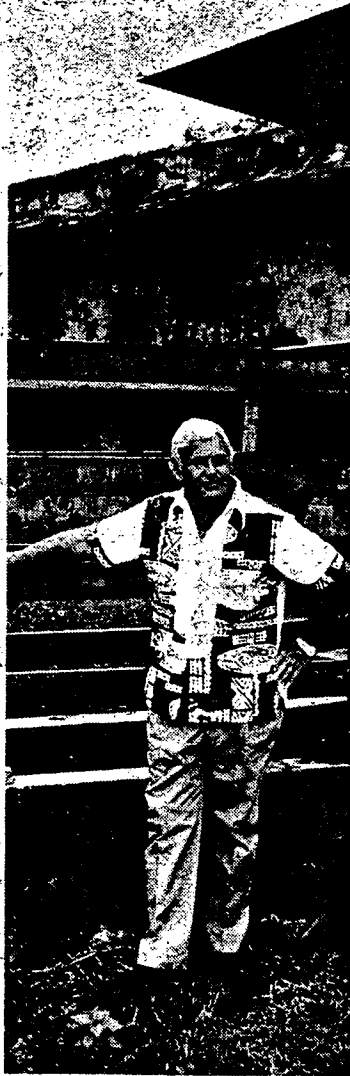
From this came the Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., parent concern of the widespread Jones interests in the Mariana islands of northwestern Micronesia. Guerrero later retired to live in California, but returned to Guam two years ago to become an employe of the company that still bears his name.

"We could supply meat for all Micronesia from here," said Jones, who plans to increase his present herd of 4,000 cattle, mostly Charolais from New Zealand stock, to 8,000. He also has 2,000 awine and plants 1,000 acres of grain and 300 acres of feed, the story said.

The U.S. Department of Defense has announced a program to reactivate the Tinian airfield complex, long abandoned to birds, lizards and Jones' wandering cattle. According to plans outlined by the Pentagon, this 40-square-mile island will eventually become the principal U.S. air base in the western Pacific.

"The military program would keep the cattle off the runways, where they like to sleep on the sun-warmed paving at night, but what other effects an air force presence might have on the ranch is unknown, Jones said.

"If left unfettered by the military, he added, he plans to build a frontier-style hotel on the ranch and stage rodeos, giving the thousands of Japanese tourists who come to Guam and the Marianas every year a chance to sample the atmosphere of the American wild west a three-hour jet flight from home."



KEN JONES

By the hatful

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