

# Bill of Fare

NOW SERVING FOOD WHERE PRICES APPEAR

## FRUITS AND JUICES

Orange .....	15¢	Baked Apple .....	_____
Tomato .....	15¢	Fruit Salad .....	_____
Grapefruit .....	_____	Half Grapefruit .....	_____
Pineapple .....	_____	Cantaloupe .....	_____
Prune .....	_____		_____

## TOASTS AND CEREALS

French Toast .....	40¢	Grape-Nuts .....	_____	Puffed Wheat .....	_____
Toast & Jelly .....	10¢	Wheaties .....	30¢		_____
Oat Meal .....	35¢	All Bran .....	_____		_____
Corn Flakes .....	30¢		_____		_____

All Cereals Served With Cream

## SOUPS TO ORDER

Chicken .....	25¢	Beef Noodle .....	_____
Tomato .....	25¢	Chili Con Carne .....	45¢
Vegetable .....	25¢	BEAN SOUP .....	25¢

## FISH—SEAFOODS

Walleyed Pike .....	_____	Scallops .....	_____
Salmon .....	_____	Fried Oysters (6) .....	\$1.50
Shrimp .....	\$1.80	Oyster Stew .....	75¢

## EGGS AND OMELETTES

Two Eggs Fried or Boiled .....	40¢	Tomato Omelette .....	50¢
Three Eggs Fried or Boiled .....	60¢	Onion Omelette .....	60¢
Two Poached Eggs on Toast .....	40¢	Bacon or Ham Omelette .....	75¢
Three Poached Eggs on Toast .....	60¢	Cheese Omelette .....	50¢
Ham and Eggs .....	75¢	Spanish Omelette .....	50¢
Bacon and Eggs .....	60¢	Mushroom Omelette .....	60¢
Minced Ham & Scrambled Eggs .....	75¢	Jelly Omelette .....	50¢
Plain Omelette .....	50¢	HOT CAKES .....	35¢

Courtesy of Jame A. Cain III,  
Part of a collection of menus at the Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library  
Norton's menu, circa 1958.

# Everett E. Norton of Norton's Café

A Narrative excerpted from an Oral History Interview  
With Virginia Lillis Smith, April, 1975

*VIRGINIA LILLIS SMITH*

I moved to Arlington when I was 2 years old, in 1917, onto Petty Street. Maybe 10 years later they renamed it South 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Columbia Pike was two lanes and all shaded by trees the whole way.

There were only three stores on Columbia Pike then: Sher's grocery store and Johansen's candy store and Sam Eller's grocery store. And I remember the Coatses; they were the first Postmaster and Postmistress around Arlington. They had a large brick store right across from the Pentagon building. The mail was delivered to the post office, and each person had a box; our tag number was 174.

I went to old Columbia Pike School, at Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Drive and then at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade we went to Patrick Henry.

There were two policemen, one of them was an officer by the name of Duncan; and the other was Babe Burke. The only time they ever had much trouble was when the Gypsies used to come down to the Pentagon, and they would stay in there for two or three months during the hot summer months. One year, I remember, the princess of one tribe was going to marry the prince of another tribe, and somehow or another, the night before the wedding, well she got killed or something. And there was a terrible commotion over that. Thereafter, you very seldom saw the Gypsies back there. And then a couple of years later, they came along and leveled off all that ground and then they started building the Pentagon.

We used to play baseball in Munson's field, right behind our house. Later we used to go to Fort Myer to movies for a dime in the day time. We could go at the one o'clock show, (I think it was) or the twelve o'clock noon

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This interview was done as part of an ongoing Oral History program at the Center for Local History. Transcripts and audio recordings are housed at CLH, Arlington Public Library.

show and we could stay until eight or nine o'clock at night if we wanted to, and see the movie over and over. And then a lot of times we'd go swimming. Fort Myer was the first place that ever had a pool; then we would play basketball.

Daddy worked for the Coca Cola Company starting 1918, He was the first Coca Cola salesman in Washington. And he was the first Coca Cola driver. In those days they had a contract, and for every case of Coca Cola that came into Virginia my father would get four or five cents commission on it. And our house was about the only house (I think) on 13<sup>th</sup> Street that had a sidewalk, for years and years. And a colored family by the name of Bullocks, down in Green Valley—my father got to know them real well, and Mr. Bullock asked Daddy if he'd deliver (I don't know) 25 or 50 cases of Coca Cola at an ungodly hour. He says, "I'll do you a favor." And Daddy took the Coca Cola way down by Four Mile Run so they could have it to sell where they used to play another colored team. And the following week Mr. Bullocks sent a group of men up there and put a sidewalk in front of our house for my father, for the favor.

In 1924, Daddy opened a restaurant called Columbia Quick Lunch. When he first bought it, it was a candy store. [Columbia Quick Lunch, which became Norton's Café, was located on the southeast corner of Columbia Pike at S. Edgewood Street, 2704 Columbia Pike.] Well, they just had row after row of candies at the counter; they used to sell five or six pieces for a penny in those days. And the kids just walked my mother and father up and down all day long, back and forth. "Give me four of these and five of that." And then Daddy turned it into a Norton's Cafe the following year. I can tell you that Daddy opened Norton's Cafe in 1924; and he had a colored fellow, Tom Jackson who was deaf and dumb. He was 19 or 20 years old when he came there; and he stayed there with Daddy and myself and Eddie for 45 years and never left that place. And Mrs. Thurston, a waitress worked for my father and Eddie and myself for something like 34 years. Norton's closed in 1974. In another six months; it would have been there for 50 years, but the Ski Chalet came along.

We received cards from the fellows, I mean, from all over the world, during the War. I used to laugh because Sergeant Kelly in the Marine Corps—he was on one island—and some guy, a big Marine jumped into a foxhole next to Kelly. And they got to talking and palling around; and he said, "Where did you come from?" And he says, "Pentagon." Then he said, "Did you go to Norton's?" And he says, "Who didn't?" And right away they got talking, and the minute they got discharged Thompson came in and he said he was reporting for himself and Kelly—that Kelly was on his way back to Norton's.

A Navy officer, a regular at Norton's, went over to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth. When they arrived at the Coronation, they received an envelope with the picture of the Queen and King in it, in a great big manila

envelope, and he just wrote on it “Gall Bladder, USA, South Arlington”. And we got it at the restaurant. He used to call my brother in law his name was Goldblatt and he used to call him Gall Bladder. And all that he put on there was “Gall Bladder, South Arlington, USA,” and doggone, if we didn’t get it.

My daddy took us to Atlantic City one time; and he was there about four hours, and Elizabeth and I wanted to go swimming. And he said, “I’m sorry, children, but I’ve seen enough.” He says, “Get your clothes on; we’re going back home.” And back in the car we got and had to come back. I never will forget it. He said, “I just can’t leave Arlington County.”

About 1925 Doc Snoots went to Baltimore and brought back the first Model T fire truck. And I remember when he drove that up Columbia Pike. That was the prettiest thing that you ever laid eyes on; I guess I was about 10 or 12 years old. I just thought it was wonderful to see an old truck like that, that could pump water and put out a fire. And, of course, they had the fire station right up there on his land, where Dr. Nicholson’s office is now [3200 block, Columbia Pike]. B.M. Smith gave the land for the later firehouse on Edgewood St.

Dr. Charles Munson owned all of Arlington here. And well, he didn’t own all of south Arlington; but what he didn’t own, B.M. Smith did. B.M. Smith owned quite a bit of that woods going back into Army Navy Country Club, [that became Arlington Village] and, I think you see, Dr. Munson owned from where Walter Reed Drive is now, all the way down to Glebe Road, going south. And then B.M. Smith owned all the land on the other side [east of Walter Reed.] In those days Dr. Munson and B.M. Smith owned most all of Southside Arlington. I guess Dr. Munson and B.M. Smith owned half of this area here together.

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### **About the Author**

Virginia Lillis Smith conducts oral history interviews about Arlington businesses for the Center for Local History, Arlington Public Library. She is a retired art dealer and a lifelong Arlington resident.

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