

South Norfolk (Images of America: Virginia)

Raymond L. Harper



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Small town America is vanishing from our country's landscapes as larger cities expand and extend their city limits under the protection of eminent domain. Though progress is necessary for economic survival and commercial development, some aspects of life and culture are lost as towns move from regional traditions to a growing, uniform national identity. Incorporated into the metropolis of Chesapeake in the Hampton Roads region in 1963, South Norfolk is one such community that possessed this small-town atmosphere, which has drastically changed over the past four decades. In this volume of over 200 photographs, from the late nineteenth century through the middle twentieth century, you will take a visual journey through a historic area of Chesapeake where life was considerably slower and simpler, and will experience the small-town charm and character of South Norfolk offered its residents and visitors during that time. Stepping back in time, you will meet the prominent Portlock family; explore beautiful, coal- and wood-heated homes, which were without electricity and indoor plumbing; travel down dusty streets lined with horse-drawn wagons and a variety of colorful street vendors; watch athletic events and the city's proud football, basketball, and baseball teams; visit many of the early businesses, such as the Grand Theartre, Jus Maid Ice Cream Store, and Gornto's Bakery; and stroll along the quiet paths of picturesque Lakeside Park.

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