

# HEART THIS PLACE: HASH BROWNS & HISTORY

*As a native Southerner, the intersection of history, food, and culture has always captivated me. After 76 days at home and counting, it's no surprise I'm finding that what I miss most are the special spots in Seattle where those elements intersect.*

*I miss my simple ritual of sliding into a diner booth after a long weekend run. For years, I've fueled the miles under my feet with visions of the hash browns awaiting me at the end. In my five years here, I've found those dreams fulfilled at these cute, charming, quaint, and quirky places. When it's safe again, you'll find me skipping the run to dive straight into breakfast at one of these local loves.*

## TODAY'S SPECIALS

### Luna Park Café

The best milkshakes can be found in West Seattle in a post-World War II building that was originally constructed as a tavern. Luna Park Café opened in March 1989, thanks to the vision of John Bennett. A visit to Luna Park is a delight for the senses – take in all the unique, antique décor as you take down a delicious brunch!

\$ PRICELESS

I'd like the:  
Three Little Pigs Pile  
& a strawberry shake!

## TODAY'S SPECIALS (CONTINUED)

### Geraldine's Counter

My first visit to Geraldine's was guided by none other than Eugenia Woo, our Director of Preservation Services, during a personal tour of Columbia City after I started my job at Historic Seattle (talk about a work perk!). It's now my favorite stop after a few loops around Seward Park. Geraldine's is a relatively young business (2005) but is located in the Columbia City Historic District in a building that housed the Columbia Drug Store from the 1910s – 1940s.

\$ WORTH IT

I'd like the:  
Geraldine's Casserole &  
Geraldine's Ginger!

### Hattie's Hat

This classic calls itself "Ballard's last stand since 1904." Walking down Ballard Ave, you'll certainly pass by this former home to The Old Home Saloon & Malmen's Fine Foods. The building's look is credited to a design by Victor Voorhees. The business became Hattie's Hat, named for the favorite aunt of the new owner George West's wife, in 1967.

\$ 1904 Prices No More

I'd like the: Chicken  
Fried Chicken Breakfast  
& a peach mimosa!

## MORE ABOUT TODAY'S SPECIALS



Inside Luna Park Café, circa 2018



Rainier Ave & Ferdinand St, with Columbia Drug Store, circa 1948; Washington State Archives



Hattie's Hat, 1976; Seattle Public Library Special Collections



Offshore Café (now Voula's), 1975; Seattle Municipal Archives

### Cheap-Eats

**Beth's Cafe**  
7111 Aurora North, Seattle  
Phone: 752-5584  
Open 24 hours except from 9:30p.m. Sunday-4 a.m. Monday  
No credit cards  
No wheelchair access (booths, counter)No alcohol

Long ago, when our parents were having folks over who didn't like children, or were throwing a cocktail party, where no one like children, we kids were packed off with 50¢ dished in each getting paid to the lunch counter on the next corner plus one. Far from feeling banished to Siberia, this was (for us) nirvana. We devoured our thick milkshakes, delivered to our booth in our silver messes, enough to refill the tall glasses once, maybe twice. We devoured the skinny hamburgers and french fries with strong whose bottle we fetched from the counter, blew straw-wrappers at each other with devastating aim, gapped appreciatively, fed the in-booth juke box selector with nickels and pooled pennies to see if somehow were in the cards – if not, a candy bar would do.

Beth's review, *Gourmet's Notebook*, January 1978; SPL Special Collections

## TODAY'S SPECIALS (THE END)

### Beth's

How could I cover this topic without a nod to the all-you-can-eat hash brown heaven? Take a bet on whether you can finish a 12-egg omelette (hint: no) at this 1954 spot, originally a nickel slots gambling parlor. The property was listed for sale for development last year, which could have meant the end of this beloved institution. Thankfully, no deal was finalized and Beth's lives on for my post-Green Lake loop hash brown binge!

\$0.05

I'd like the:  
Biscuits n' Gravy &  
diner coffee (with  
unlimited hash browns,  
of course!)

### Voula's Offshore Café

"If you're not served in 10 minutes...Relax! You'll be served in 20 or maybe 30 minutes..." Called the "Offshore Café" until 1984 when Voula took over, this spot has served up delicious breakfasts for more than 50 years. My favorite thing after a run on Cheshiahud Loop (besides the hash browns which are just \*chef's kiss\*): taking in the Lake Union mural while waiting those 10, 20, maybe 30 minutes. Relax!

\$ Put It On My Tab

I'd like the: Hobo!  
Guy Fieri endorses this order. Normally I wouldn't care, but it turns out he's a good Guy! He started the [Restaurant Employees Relief Fund](#), raising more than \$20M so far to help service industry workers impacted by COVID-19.