



OBJECT ID	2012.7.5
OBJECT NAME	Menu, Restaurant
OBJECT COLLECTION	Gayety's Chocolates (is part of)
DATE CREATED	circa 1930
MATERIAL	Paper; Plastic
OBJECT ENTITIES	Papageorge; Flessor, James and Beth (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	Gayety's Chocolates & Ice Cream

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

A menu from Gayety's Restaurant/Candy Store. The entire menu is green and the cover displays the name of the restaurant, two torches and a bowl of fruit. The entire menu consists of only two pages and the paper is sealed with plastic and a black, faux-leather border. Several of the items listed on the menu are handwritten in ink, otherwise the rest has been printed. See images for a more detailed look at the contents of the menu.

#### ORIGIN

Gayety's is one of the oldest candy shops in the Chicagoland area and is one of the first Greek-owned shops. It has a long and rich tradition of hand-dipping chocolates and sweets that dates back to 1920.

Founder James Papageorge bought Gayety's Chocolates and Ice Cream Company in 1920, and established it next door to the Gayety movie theater in South Chicago (Lansing). The movie theater has since left, but the ice cream parlor continues to thrive as a third-generation family-owned gathering place for neighbors, friends, families and colleagues.

James Papageorge was nine years old when he arrived by himself in the United States, from Tripoli, Greece. He landed penniless. But he worked hard, earning money by scooping ice cream at the local ice cream parlor and selling fruit at the local fruit stand.

By 1920, he had saved enough to buy Gayety's Chocolates and Ice Cream Company. A perfectionist who wore a suit to work every day, James developed recipes still in use today. His portrait hangs in the entrance of Gayety's.

#### CITATION

Menu, Restaurant, circa 1930, Gayety's Chocolates, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://hellenic.whirlihost.com/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/30/24.