

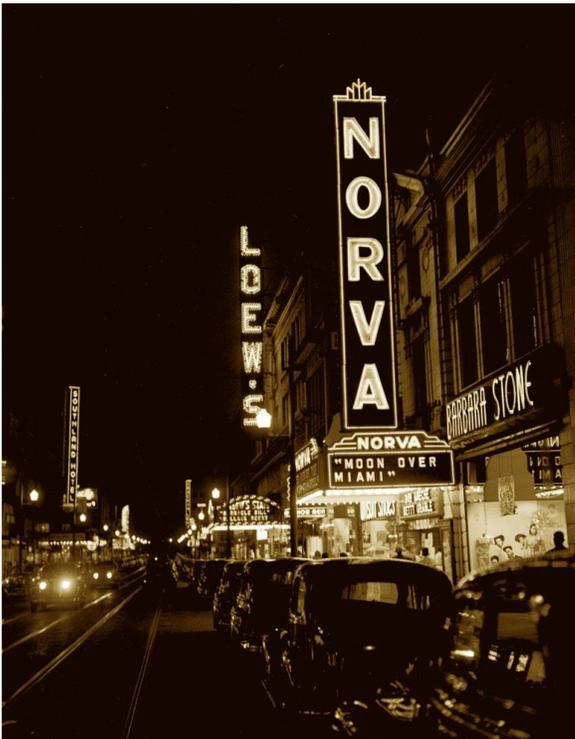
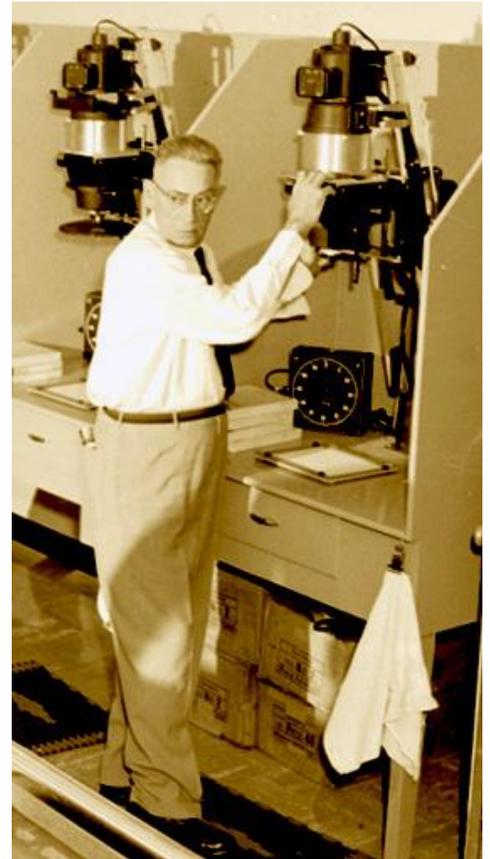
Biography: Norfolk Photographers

Charles "Charlie" Simpson Borjes (1891 - 1959)

Charles Borjes, whose career spanned 41 years with our local newspaper *The Virginian-Pilot*, was one of the most prolific photographers in Norfolk's history. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on 25 November 1891 to Charles Borjes and Gertrude Russell Borjes. His father was a classical musician and a symphony director and his mother was a homemaker. Borjes attended public schools in Norfolk and loved to play baseball, basketball, and football. He attempted to become a professional baseball player, trying out for the professional baseball team in Bristol, Virginia, but was unfortunately sidelined by a broken ankle during one of Bristol's practice sessions and had to return home to Norfolk for recuperation. Later, he had to give up his dreams of playing professional sports when his foot was crushed in an elevator accident in Norfolk. After service with the Norfolk

Blues Artillery regiment of the Virginia National Guard, Borjes returned to Norfolk and began to hone his skills as a photographer. His favorite subject was capturing images of the outdoors—especially the area near Seashore State Park. His work quickly caught the attention of Keville Glennan with *The Virginian-Pilot*, and was hired in 1913.

During the course of 41 years with *The Virginian-Pilot*, he gained international recognition for his photographs of events such as the crash of the dirigible "Roma" and his coverage of sports. Borjes remained with the newspaper until he retired in 1956. He died three years later in Portsmouth on 23 May 1959 and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Norfolk. His legacy lives on in the thousands of images of Norfolk and the surrounding region that remain for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.





Photograph: Charles Borjes with the *Virginian-Pilot's* first staff car in early 1920s. From the Sargeant Memorial Room Photographic Collection, Norfolk Public Library.

Source:

Staff Writer. "Life's Film Ends for Charlie Borjes, Good Photographer, Good Citizen." *The Virginian-Pilot*. 24 May 1959. C1 & C2.

Tucker, George H. "Tidewater Landfalls: The Cemetery Flashed On." *The Virginian-Pilot*. 18 March 1974.

Yarsinske, Amy Waters, *Norfolk, Virginia: the Sunrise City by the Sea: a Tribute to Photographer Carroll H.*

Walker, Sr. Virginia Beach, Virginia: Donning Company, 1994.

