

# New and expanded Dallas Peking Chef will be the flagship

By ERIC FOSTER  
Post Staff

Five years ago, Eric Lee asked himself a question: Why is the Japanese steak house so popular in America?

One reason seemed to be that at a Japanese steakhouse, food is prepared before the customers' eyes on a flat grill by chefs expert in fancy knife work.

Lee, the owner of Peking Chef restaurants, wondered if something similar could be done in a Chinese restaurant.

From the East coast to the West from Florida to Toronto - he couldn't find a Chinese restaurant where customers could see their food being cooked.

But soon, lovers of Chinese food will be able to watch while their dinner is prepared at their table.

The new Peking Chef in Dallas will be open by early December and the focal point of the new restaurant will be what Mr. Lee calls the mini Chinese kitchen, an open wok in the middle of a semi-circular table where customers can watch their food being prepared. Lee says that to his knowledge, it's the first of its kind in the nation.

Besides the display of the chef's talent, Lee says there will be educational benefits to the mini-kitchen. "Our friends and customers are more than welcome to ask any questions they have about Chinese cooking," says Lee.

The chef will prepare two dinners a night at the open wok, with a special menu he calls the Emperor's Feast, which will feature a six-course meal that can last an hour and a half.

Besides the unique open wok kitchen the rest of the new restaurant, more than twice as large as the present one, will be as sumptuously appointed. But while the restaurant will be expanding, Lee says the costs will not; prices will remain what they are now.

The present Dallas restaurant, opened in 1983 and seating about 40 people, is too small says Lee. The new one will seat over 100 people.

"The kitchen will be as big as our present restaurant," he says. Lee opened his first restaurant on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre in 1979. Now he's got six, in Dallas, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Bloomsburg.

The secret to his success? "Besides the good food, and good service, I make sure everything is fresh and clean," says Lee.

Almost all of the dining room furniture for the new restaurant has been imported from China and Hong Kong. The tables were hand-painted at the Shanghai Art School and took three months to arrive after they were ordered.

In addition to the dining room, a private party room will be available for six to 60 people.

By coincidence, Lee says that he chose the same pattern for the booths and upholstery as the Russian Tea Room in New York City.

In the waiting area, there will be a 7-foot-long fish tank, containing over 200 gallons of salt water and colorful fish from the South Pacific. The tank will also be visible from the dining area.

With the opening of the new restaurant, Lee will also formally introduce a new menu for health conscious eaters.

The menu will feature lean meat and vegetables steamed instead of cooked in oil, low cholesterol and fat, high protein and minerals.

"This is going to be the role model," Lee says in describing his latest venture. "So when you go to a Peking Chef, it'll be this Peking Chef."



THE NEW PEKING CHEF - The Peking Chef Restaurant in Dallas will move to a new location in the Dallas Shopping Center in early December. The restaurant will be more than double the size of the present one. Among its unique features will be an open wok where diners can watch their meal be prepared.

## Dallas Twp. supers asked about easement for sewers on Chestnut Hill Road

By GRACE R. DOVE  
Post Correspondent

At its monthly meeting Monday, November 4, the Dallas Township Supervisors received bids for new road equipment, discussed a sewer installation problem with a representative of Senate Construction Company and were updated by Attorney Frank Townend on the status of pending litigation.

Four bids on 3/4 ton snow plow trucks were received but no action was taken on them.

Edward P. Onzik, president of Senate Construction Company in Dallas, requested advice from the supervisors on a problem which he has encountered with installation of sewers on five undeveloped lots on Oval Drive, also called Chestnut Hill Road. Onzik cannot develop or sell these lots without sewers, since they are not suitable for on-site septic systems. In order to install sewers, Onzik requires an easement from owners of adjoining properties so that the proposed gravity line can cross the back of their lots. However one resident has refused to grant the easement. The supervisors discussed possible alternative routes for the sewer lines with Onzik. No official action was taken.

Attorney Townend reviewed the status of the legal cases in which the township is involved: the suit by three independent trash haulers against DAMA's member municipalities and the township zoning supervisors' appeal of the Dallas Township Zoning Board's decision allowing a boarding home for five mentally retarded individuals to be set up in a residential neighborhood.

The supervisors remind residents that a statewide open burning ban is still in effect. Therefore burning of leaves in Dallas Township is strictly forbidden. The supervisors cited an incident during the weekend in which a brush fire was extinguished, only to reignite several hours later because it had burned into the underground root system. Dallas Township Police Chief Carl Miers commented that residents cited by police for violation of the open burning ban can be prosecuted under the Emergency Management Act and face a possible fine of \$300.

Chief Miers also reminded residents of the township ordinance prohibiting parking on township roads between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. It is necessary to keep township roads clear so that snow plows can operate, Miers explained.

## A tale of Indian Summer

Mrs. Clarence Elston, who lives in Dallas and will celebrate her 95th birthday this month, sent in the following legend about the origin of Indian Summer. Mrs. Elston recalls hearing this tale from her parents.

### WHY GOD MADE INDIAN SUMMER

The Indians always prepared for winter, gathering nuts, other things and drying and smoking meats. The lazy Indian did not prepare. Squall (or Squaw) Winter came. The Great Spirit felt pity for the lazy Indian and sent the Indian Summer for the lazy Indian to prepare for winter.

(True Indian Summer comes between mid-October and mid-November.)

## Work to begin on Jackson rec park

After months of delay, work may finally begin on leveling the land for a multi-purpose field at Jackson Township's Recreation Park.

Frank Poplaski, chairman of the Jackson Township Recreation Board, said that the Marine Corps Engineers have notified him that they can start leveling the land in mid-November and expect to finish by the end of December, before the hard winter sets in.

Final grading and seeding of the area will be done in the spring. The field will be used for soccer, baseball and mini-football. A picnic area and parking lot are to be completed at the same time.

Poplaski also said that the board has contracted with EcoScience to analyze the pond at the park, to find out how to rid it of algae growing on top of it, and to determine what types of fish species could successfully be stocked in the pond.

"The ultimate goal is to have a fishing pond for kids," said Poplaski.

Other projects at the park may include the construction of walking/jogging trails.

Poplaski added that free firewood is available from trees that were cleared from the recreational park at the new municipal building.

The next meeting of the recreation board will be November 25 at 7 p.m. at the township fire hall.

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## Art auction for Gate of Heaven

The Gate of Heaven Art Exhibition and Auction will be held on November 9.

The preview begins at 7 p.m. Brochures will be available and an informed art manager will be present to answer questions. Refreshments will be donated by the Beaumont Inn. Admission is \$5.00 per person or \$7.50 per couple. The auction begins at 8 p.m.

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