"Peace River’s Chinese restaurants have always been leading edge cuisine, and the proprietors, staff and their locations helped build strong and lasting memories and stories for our history. Every one of our senses have been impacted and every one of us has stories."

~Mayor Lorne Mann

Der Lock made copies of the café menu by first making a flat pan of gelatin and once set, a typed copy of the day’s menu was laid on top of the gelatin and slowly lifted back off. Then a clean sheet of paper was laid on the gelatin where the ink from the template remained. The menu was reproduced on the sheet once it was removed from the gelatin, ready for the next fresh sheet.

~Neill Murphy

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~Neill Murphy

"My mother spoke fondly of Joe Hong [Battle River Café]. He engendered in her a lifelong love of all things Chinese. She told me once how disgusted he used to be when he saw the community ladies making sandwiches for large groups - buttering one piece of bread at a time. He would lay out a whole loaf of bread in rows close together, lay butter pats all along the blade of his big knife and butter a whole loaf of bread with one pass. The last time she saw him he was working in a hotel café (in Beaverlodge I think). She took my older brother, then a baby, with her. She said Mr. Hong cried and cried when he saw her son”.

~Gwen L'Hirondelle

I caught ling for Der Lock. I used a little of my mother’s bread dough on a hook and let the line stay in the water over night then collected the ling that had taken the bait.

~Don Weaver

Pictured on the left is the “Chas. Wong Laundry”, which was around the corner from the original Sun Café, but owned by Der Lock.

Right: Chinese characters extracted from a local Canadian Bank of Commerce calendar

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~Don Weaver

"Mr. Chong of the Chong Café is preparing to do his own part in the celebration of July 1st and 2nd. He has received, direct from China, an immense box of firecrackers and fireworks, including one giant cracker of such proportion that it was necessary to secure permission from Town Council to explode it in Town. At 11 pm, July 2, he will set off his display on Main Street…”

Peace River Record, June 25, 1937

Malcolm Cambridge washed dishes at Chong’s Café during the Second World War. Members of the U.S. Army, here for the CANOL project, frequently visited the restaurant, where they were tempted to dance. Chong was not about to let that happen, so he strategically placed 1x4s on the floor. Not only did it discourage dancing, but also the playing of marbles.

~Malcolm Cambridge

Ramona (nee Jones) Bourque worked at the Sun Café and remembers Grandma Lock making all the pastries for the café. They would sit together outside at the back of the building to peel the vegetables.

~ Ramona (nee Jones) Bourque

Malcolm Cambridge washed dishes at Chong’s Café during the Second World War. Members of the U.S. Army, here for the CANOL project, frequently visited the restaurant, where they were tempted to dance. Chong was not about to let that happen, so he strategically placed 1x4s on the floor. Not only did it discourage dancing, but also the playing of marbles.

~Malcolm Cambridge

"I could go in the back door [of Chong’s Café], through the kitchen, into the front to buy an ice cream cone. On my trips through the kitchen, I remember seeing three men doing their accounts with the aid of an abacus. In the summer, some of the men would ask if a particular plant could be picked as they considered it a delicacy. Permission granted, as my mother pulled it as a weed.”

~ Betty (nee Mitchell) McMillan