

## EATING OUT

### **Pine Lake's Chinese restaurant a secret**

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**Pine Lake** is about as out-of-the-way as you can get in the metro Atlanta area and - you guessed it - there is **a Chinese restaurant** in this quaint little resort village off Rockbridge Road that offers excellent prices as well as delicious oriental dishes - Dragon Delight. In his best-seller "Noble House," author James Clavell's characters would, from time to time, go to the extreme to find out-of-the-way restaurants in Hong Kong, the book's setting, to sample excellent **Chinese** cuisine.

Hong Kong does not corner the market on these places. **Pine Lake** is about as out-of-the-way as you can get in the metro Atlanta area and -you guessed it - there is **a Chinese restaurant** in this quaint little resort village off Rockbridge Road that offers excellent prices as well as delicious oriental dishes.

Located as it is two miles off Memorial Drive, Dragon Delight is still **a** secret to many in the Stone Mountain area.

Thousands pass Dragon Delight as they make their way through **Pine Lake's** three traffic lights, but only **a** fraction of that traffic jam realizes what **a** jewel the neighborhood has had for the past year.

Those who have been there, keep coming back.

"I've been coming here pretty close to day one," said customer Buddy Rogers over lunch last week. "I like the family atmosphere. We bring the kids here after church. The prices are what I like best."

That family atmosphere, the friendliness of the place, is proprietor Helen Kitchen's speciality. The Hong Kong native, married to Atlantan Ronald Kitchen, makes her customers feel right at home and appreciated with her welcome smile and personal service, **a** rarity in this day of fast food.

This particular dinner was **a** sampling of her specialties: Alaskan King Crab Puffs (6 for \$3.95); Canton Chicken, sauteed boneless fried chicken with bamboo shoots, water chesnuts, mushrooms and **Chinese** vegetables in **a** delicious brown s auce (\$5.45); Spicy Hunan Beef, finely cut sirloin beef, with fresh watercress or celery, hot pepper with **a** peppy garlic sauce (\$5.95), and Sweet and Sour Delight, deep fried breaded pork, chicken and shrimp, onions, bell peppers and pineapple chunks topped with **a** sweet and sour sauce (\$6.95).

This feast was washed down with Wan Fu wine, **a** light, fruity French wine designed for **Chinese** cuisine.

Four people shared that menu and left Dragon Delight stuffed.

Lunch at Dragon Delight is varied, delicious . . . and inexpensive.

The diner can choose from 30 luncheon selections ranging from Chicken Chow Mein (\$2.95) to Mongolian Beef (\$3.65) to hot and spicy dishes such as Spicy Kung Pau Shrimp (\$3.95). All luncheon dishes come with soup, egg roll, fried rice and tea.

Although Dragon Delight has been open only a year, Mrs. Kitchen has been in the **restaurant** business for 15 years. She said picked **Pine** Lake when she decided to open a **restaurant** of her own, because "the lease was reasonable. This is the truth. And because there are a lot of residential areas surrounding the shopping center and it's a friendly neighborhood."

Kent Mitchell is the outdoors editor of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution.

DRAGON DELIGHT, 4599C Rockbridge Road, **Pine** Lake Plaza, **Pine** Lake. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, lunch 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, lunch 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday, no lunch, dinner 4:30 p.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, lunch noon-3 p.m., dinner 4:30-10 p.m. Major credit cards accepted. Information: 296-8629.

Photo: Helen Kitchen greets patrons at the entrance to the Dragon Delight, a **Chinese restaurant** nestled in **Pine** Lake./ Kent Mitchell