

# Lucky's voted 'best Chinese' food in Valley

By JENNIFER RALTON-SMITH  
Staff Writer

Understandably we tend to lean toward Mexican food here in Imperial Valley, but when our readers were asked to vote for the "Best Chinese" in the Valley, it was a resounding two chopsticks up for the Lucky Chinese Restaurant at 500 S. 4th St. in El Centro.



Owner Ramon Zhou was thrilled Wednesday to learn that the restaurant he has worked hard to make a success over the last 12 years is so popular with locals.

"This is an honor for me ... I want to thank all the customers for taking the time to vote for our restaurant. This is a very exciting thing for me," 2nd, China Palace, he said.

El Centro  
3rd, Chano's  
Restaurant,  
El Centro

With some 100 dishes on the menu plus a host of daily specials, Lucky's does a thriving lunch and dinner trade and Zhou says the chop suey dishes are some of his best sellers, as well as some really sizzling shrimp offerings.

And for those devotees of Chinese food who might be curious as to how much rice Lucky's diners consume in a week, Zhou estimates he goes through a whopping 120-150 pounds of rice each week.



Roman Zhou, owner and head cook at Lucky Chinese Restaurant in El Centro, stirs chow mein before the lunch hour rush.

CUAUHTEMOC BELTRAN PHOTO

PIONEERS

Thank You

# I.V. Press readers love Lucky's Chinese restaurant

By MICHAEL A. SALORIO  
Staff Writer

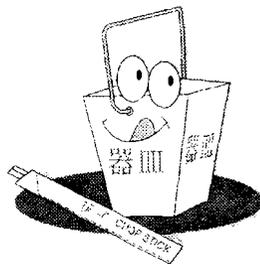
Roman Zhou, owner of Lucky Chinese Restaurant in El Centro, was elated that his business was voted best Chinese restaurant in the 2003 Imperial Valley Press' Best of the Valley readers' poll.

Zhou's restaurant has been in operation for 13 years. He credits building strong customer loyalty over the years with his restaurant's good service and great food for winning first place in the readers' poll.

"I'm excited and very happy. We have the best food and quality service. We've been here so long and our customers are good

to us," said Zhou.

According to Zhou, some customers dine at the restaurant up to three times a week and some even twice a day.



2nd, Mah's Kitchen  
3rd, China Palace

Zhou said the dishes favored by customers include salt and pepper shrimp, salt and pepper fish, kung pao chicken, broccoli with beef, Lucky fried rice and Lucky chow mein.

"I would like to thank our customers for supporting us for so long," said Zhou.

Lucky Chinese Restaurant is at 500 S. 4th St. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 11 a.m. through 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Take-out orders are accepted. The restaurant's phone number is 352-7680.



Luis Perez of Lucky's Chinese Restaurant in El Centro carries a platter of Chinese food to hungry customers.

PAUL NILSON  
PHOTO

I've tried to change it (the menu, things, decor, etc.), but nothing so that they're out at the bar. And that's not me, it's you.

# CHINESE RESTAURANT

# Two years in a row for Lucky

STAFF REPORT

It's all about providing quality food backed by quality service.



2nd, China Palace  
3rd, Fong

That is the ingredient for success, according to Roman Zhou, whose restaurant, Lucky Chinese

Restaurant, has been chosen the best Chinese eatery in the Valley, according to a survey of Imperial Valley Press readers.

Lucky, at 500 S. 4th St. in El Centro, also was last year's winner for best Chinese restaurant.

"I want to give a million thanks to the people of the Imperial Valley for their support,"

said Zhou, taking a few moments from his busy nighttime dinner rush to speak to a reporter.

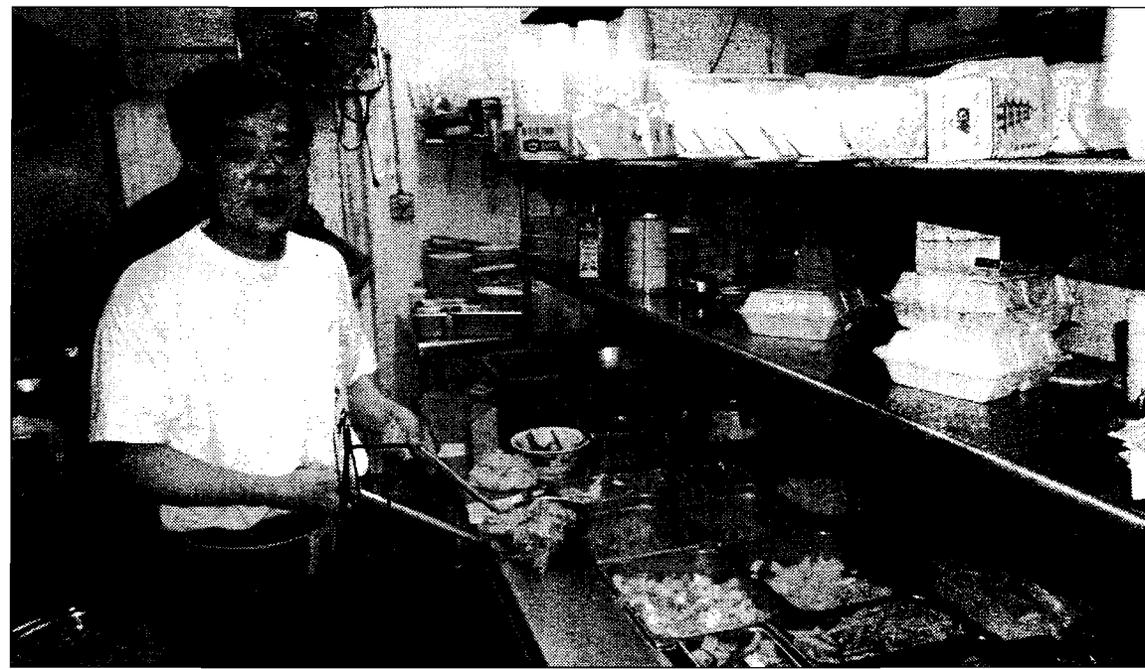
Zhou opened his restaurant 14 years ago and said even then he knew he would succeed — just check out the parking lot on any given day or night.

With more than 100 items on the menu, Zhou said he has focused on providing his customers the best-quality food and that is what keeps them coming back, he said.

Still, he said quality food is not enough for a restaurant. He said the service is just as important and he has focused on providing a friendly atmosphere and prompt service.

Zhou plans to be in business for years and he said his recipe for success is not about to change.

>> Lucky Chinese Restaurant is at 500 S. 4th St. in El Centro.



Arturo Ma prepares a culinary feast at Lucky Chinese Restaurant in El Centro.

FRANCISCO MARTINEZ PHOTO