



Golden Moon

A Weatherford eatery exemplifies Asian style

BY MICHAEL H. PRICE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GAILA OSBORN

“Flat-out amazing,” raves a Weblog reviewer of Weatherford’s Golden Moon restaurant. The appraisal, based upon long-term patronage and a vegetarian appetite, goes on to hail the establishment for affordability and generous portions — a good starting point, anyhow.

Our party’s recent visit to the 15-year-old restaurant included both regulars and newcomers. The repeat customers ordered a variety of familiar menu items. The rookie took the route less traveled — curious to see how catfish, a deep-Southern American favorite, might fare when stir-fried with celery, Thai-style.

The results proved “flat-out amazing,” indeed. The catfish (also

offered in more conventional deep-fried forms) proved ideally matched with celery, mingling crispness with a chewier texture.

A teamwork review calls for sharing among the dining party. Such immediate comparisons of one dish with another proved the menu to be both traditional and innovative, by turns.

Our orders ranged from the Thai catfish to the chow har kew (chicken or shrimp, slow-cooked for tenderness, with vegetables) and the broccoli (with chicken or beef). Moreover, the Thai curry dishes are uniformly robust, and the rice-based selections boast a variety of pleasing textures. (The luncheon menu carries a \$7.95 across-the-board price. Dinner selections fall within a general range of \$7-\$10.)

Authenticity is where one finds it — and it bears keeping in mind that authentic Asian cooking has been a part of the American frontier since the earliest waves of immigration from China.

One automatically thinks of such authenticity in terms of the more cosmopolitan North American cities, particularly the various Chinatown districts of the West Coast. And yet, my longtime favorites among Asian restaurants lie primarily in such Texas towns as Vernon, at the southeastern edge of the Panhandle region, and Tyler, much farther south and eastward. Initially discovered on family road trips as a seemingly exotic alternative to the prevailing beef-and-beans fare, such establishments have proved over the long term to offer consistently rewarding dishes and welcoming havens from the highway. Down-home cooking, like authenticity, is where one finds it — and the down-home American South has been fortunate to secure such a wealth of cookery from the other side of the planet.

Add to that roster of favorites, now, the Golden Moon — a landmark restaurant in an unprepossessing Main Street storefront location. Service is efficient, cordial and informative. The dining-room décor bolsters the illusion of stepping into a world far removed from Western realities, and so much for Mr. Kipling’s outmoded but persistent notion that “never the twain shall meet.” East and West have merged to lasting effect in the Golden Moon, and all the better for that. 🍜

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Lunch: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues.-Sun.
Dinner: 4:30-9 p.m. Tues.-Thurs.;
4:30-9:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat.
1410 S. Main St., Weatherford
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