

A Walk to Remember...

Block 3, Lot 24 & 25

The House of Wong

Mr. Cochrane built a small house at the rear of this site in the 1890s while running the store just a couple of lots to the north of this location. He sold the house in 1896 to George Fairbairn and his new bride, Martha. The Fairbairns built a large brick home on the corner of Connell (1st Street East) and Pacific Avenue as their businesses prospered and the small house was sold to Mr. Arthur James (A.J.) Langford, who moved it to Carman Street (2nd Street East). There he and his wife, Gertie (a sister of Mr. Fairbairn) lived the remainder of their lives.



Gib Horn's & Green Lantern circa 1953

The lot remained vacant for a number of years after the house was moved until Andy Carr built a garage on the property. He sold it to Gilbert (Gib) Horn in 1921. Successful until the depression, the garage was also home to the B/A gas pumps in town. In the 1930s business downturned and Mr. Horn used his former experience working in a wool mill to advantage. He bought fleece from farmers, washing, spinning and knitting the wool into hundreds of pairs of men's socks. They sold well and this kept the family solvent through the worst 10 years in Saskatchewan's history. In about 1946, Gib retired and sold the garage business to Cecil Lownsbrough who was running West End Motors.

Immediately north of Gib Horn's garage was the Green Lantern Tea Room. The Green Lantern had several owners through the years including Helena Bishop, a trained stenographer, who after working in Brandon for a time, returned to Carnduff in the early 30s. She operated the café with her sister, Ethel, prior to it being taken over by Harold (Windy) Corbett.

In September, 1945 Dwight Anderson returned to Canada after serving overseas in World War II. Borrowing \$3,000 from his brother Burrell, Mr. Anderson bought the Green Lantern Café from Mr. Corbett. Assisted by his sister, Clara White, as his first cook, Dwight became a restaurateur. In 1950, Dwight sold to Fred Yee from Estevan.



Fred operated the Green Lantern Café for many years. In 1951 he was joined by his son Tom who was just arriving in Canada. Not speaking, reading or writing English well, Tom was tutored by Mrs. Margaret Pearson. To gain further experience in the restaurant business, Tom left Carnduff to work in other communities with other business owners, returning in 1965 to purchase the Green Lantern after his father passed away.

By this time, Horn's garage property had been home to a Chinese laundry run by Kong Wing and been used by the Tollifson's as an electric shop. After being vacant for several years, it

was converted into a pool room and was modified with a common door between it and the Green Lantern. The updated 'Green Lantern Café' and Tom's Billiards were operated by Tom and wife, Bonnie for nearly 13 years with the help Bonnie's mother who came from Hong Kong to help care for their young family.

In the early days of the pool room, kids relate being instructed to walk on the west side of the street, rather than pass by a place as 'shady' as a pool hall. It wasn't long, however, before The Green Lantern became the place where teens spent their time sipping Cokes and puffing on Rothmans. Later, it was sneaking to Tom's after school, for fries and to throw a nickel or dime in the jukebox or just hanging out playing pool and the pinball machines.

In July of 1978, Tom and Bonnie sold the Green Lantern and moved to Burnaby, BC. It is believed to have been after this that The Green Lantern was run by the Chow family who then moved on to east Vancouver. It was also owned by a family by the name of Wong who rebranded the Green Lantern as House of Wong. Howard Chiu and his family became the next owners and who continue to operate the café today.



House of Wong circa 2013