

# Taking pride in family tradition

By CHRISTINA KOH

**F**OOD lovers longing for delicious *chee cheong fun* know Teluk Intan is the place to go to.

Among the many *chee cheong fun* makers in the town, one of the most renowned is Sow Chi Ken, 48.

He runs the family business with his older brother Ah Lek, 52. The family makes and sells this popular dish from their Jalan Hill home.

"There are many *chee cheong fun* makers here but I suppose what makes us stand out is that most of our customers have been with us since they were youngsters.

"They like our recipe and we also take pride in making sure each portion is firm and does not break up when you hold them," he said when interviewed at the house.

His late grandfather Sow Liew, from China, started the business in Teluk Intan 70 years ago.

Sow said he was seven when he started helping out at the family stall on the riverbank in Teluk Intan.

They moved their business to Jalan Woo Saik Hong when floods and erosion affected them in the 1970s.

Sow said rice flour and water were the main ingredients for *chee cheong fun* but a bit of salt is also added.

The watery mixture is then fed into a huge custom-made machine that automatically steams and makes unending layers of *chee cheong fun*.

"With the machine, it takes only three to four hours to make one batch of *chee cheong fun*," he said.

He would spread a bit of cooking oil on the thin skin of *chee cheong fun*.

Shredded turnip, shrimp, shallots, garlic and *char siew* or barbecued pork are added onto the skin before it is rolled up.

Sow insisted that *chee cheong fun* is best eaten with sliced pickled green chillies, which he said would enhance its flavour.

He is however puzzled by customers who asked for red chilli sauce when he operated a stall in Kuala Lumpur for about seven years.

"I feel that the chilli sauce overwhelms the delicate flavour of the *chee cheong fun*," he said.

The family have since closed



Sow holding the *chee cheong fun* skin rolled out by the machine.



down their Kuala Lumpur business due to fierce competition, but ironically, they now get customers from all over Malaysia.

Sow said they are used to people dropping by the house and ordering up to 200 portions at a time and they would call in advance.

"It doesn't matter if some customers end up going to other *chee cheong fun* makers.

"We will still be here to continue our family tradition," he said.



Sow gets customers from all over Malaysia for his *chee cheong fun* dish.

Cut and stick on your refrigerator

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Useful Contacts

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