

Remembering Territory families

Feeding Darwin...

Ray Foskey arrived in Darwin in 1939. He recalled.

I must also tell you that we had pretty good Chinese restaurants that we – they weren't restaurants, they were actually boarding houses to a point. Some had – they were two stores some of them, there was a oh, the Eastern Café, the one where I used to eat. That only cost 30 bob. I am now gone back to the time before moving out to Joe Ruddick's place. We'd come from Mindil Beach up to the Eastern Café and it was run by a bloke by the name of Danny Chuk. Harry was his brother, and another – there were three brothers actually ran it, and they only used to charge – with your lunch all thrown in, 30 bob a day – 30 bob a week – and I can remember their menu still very well, which was roast beef, corned beef, ham and brawn, and curry rice, plus two other dishes...

No, no, it was English, it was all English. We had sweets, and you had soup, tea and coffee, it was generally ice cream and jelly and some fruit salad or something like this – always a very, very special meal. Had two Christmases – Christmas dinner the traditional way of ours, and we would have the Chinese one with them...

[Northern Territory Archives Service NTRS 226, TS 212 and NTRS 219, TP 119, Ray Foskey]