

1920'S Hoover-Manchoover Chow family album found in Florida photography hoarder home



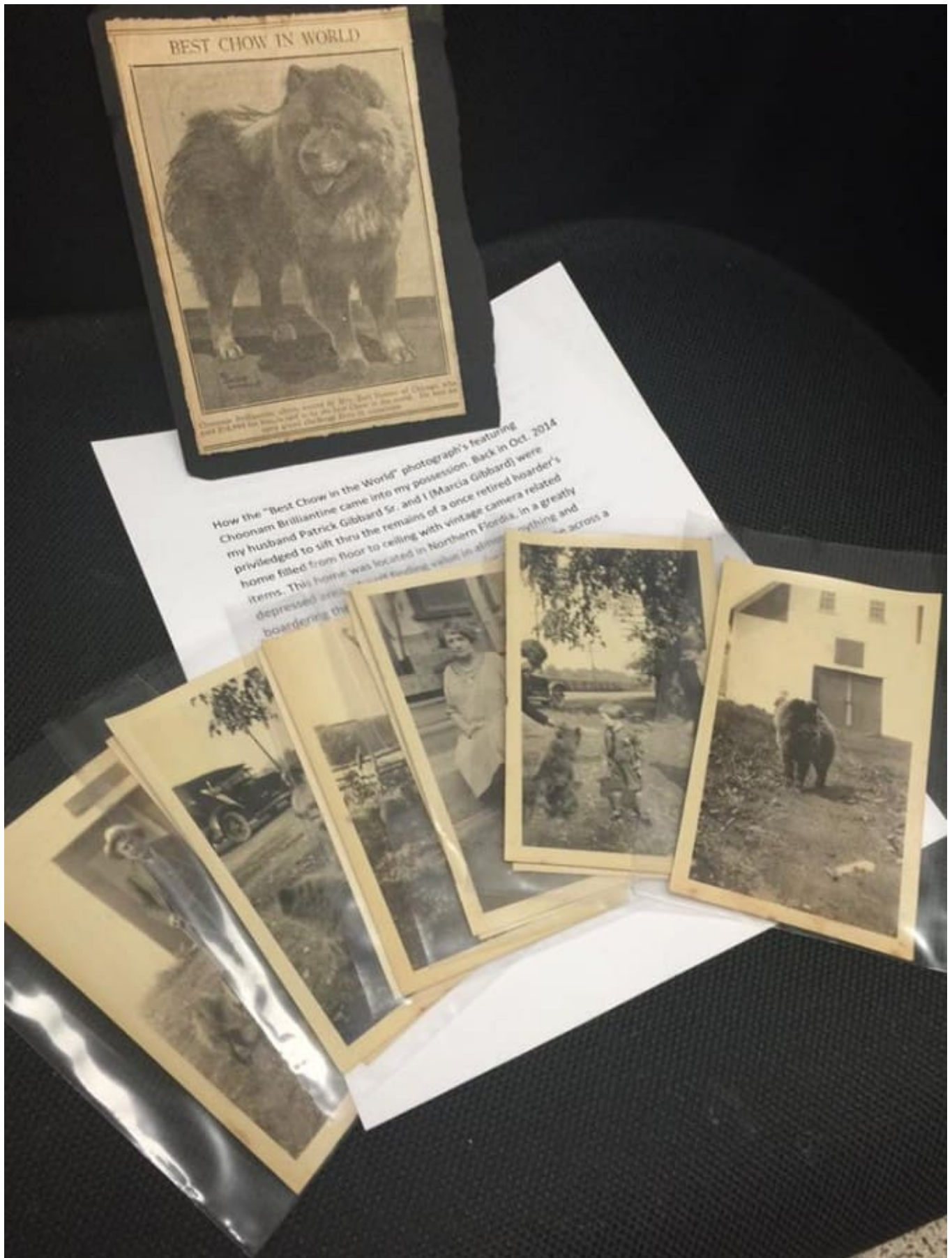
Circa 1929 photo of Mr and Mrs. H. Earl Hoover with a Manchoover chow puppy and son Gordon
From the ©Sandra Miller Collection

Above photo is an original press photo in my collection for comparison to images below, and not from the Hoover family album

To catch up on the history of this early celebrity of the Chow breed, you will want to first read the [TIME CAPSULE](#) on Ch. Choonam Brilliantine of Manchoover

Now to continue this Brilliantine Sagain 2014 I was contacted through ChowTales archive by a reader who was researching some photos she discovered in an album. She was a

“picker”, kind of like you see on the tv show “American Pickers”....discovering treasures in other peoples collections and cast offs.



ABOVE ARE THE PHOTOS AND LETTER BEFORE I SCANNED AND RESTORED THE IMAGES

She asked if I was interested in purchasing the photos, and after corresponding for months , Marcia and I agreed on a fair price for these images below. She was just as concerned about them being preserved as she was in making a living. I appreciate her negotiating with me on the pricing, as even at a discount they were still more than I could afford at the time.

SEE MARCIA'S DOCUMENTATION OF HER FIND BELOW AND EACH OF THE INCREDIBLE 1920'S PHOTOS TO FOLLOW

BEST CHOW IN WORLD



Choonam Brilliantine, above, owned by Mrs. Earl Hoover of Chicago, who paid \$10,000 for him, is said to be the best Chow in the world. He won six open grand challenge firsts in succession.

chowtaler.com

ABOVE: A NEWS CLIPPING FROM THE HOOVER FAMILY ALBUM OF NONE OTHER THAN CH. CHOONAM BRILLIANTINE

BELOW IS MARCIA GIBBARD'S LETTER DOCUMENTING HER DISCOVERY OF
THIS ALBUM. I WOULD LOVE HER JOB!

How the "Best Chow in the World" photograph's featuring Choonam Brilliantine came into my possession. Back in Oct. 2014 my husband Patrick Gibbard Sr. and I (Marcia Gibbard) were privileged to sift thru the remains of a once retired hoarder's home filled from floor to ceiling with vintage camera related items. This home was located in Northern Florida, in a greatly depressed area. Myself finding value in almost anything and bordering the fine line of being a Hoarder myself came across a photo album that contained what I later figured out was the famous Hoover Vacuum cleaner family album. In this album was several photographs of a Chow dog. In this album was also a newspaper article which linked this chow dog as none other then the famous "Choonam Brilliantine" coined the Best Chow in the World. I found this to be fascinating as to how this hoarder gentleman was linked to this album and the fact that this dog was bought for \$10,000 back in the 1920's. So I began my search thru the web to find out any information I could and stumbled across Sandra Miller's blog on the Chow breed. I also learned that Choonam Brilliantine set the standard for how the chow breed is graded here in the United States at shows, and that there are still descendents of Choonam Brilliantine here in America and was glad to see that his bloodline is still going strong. The 11 photographs of the Best Chow in the World are now in the safe keeping of Sandra Miller, someone who loves the breed and will

make sure that he is never forgotten. So the timeline of this famous dog from once a pet and show dog of the Hoover Family as photographed, to a Northern Florida Photography hoarder, (whom I never found a connection to the Hoover Family), to my husband and I who by chance stopped at a run down building in a very depressed part of Northern Florida to see if we could pick, wheel and deal and found the hidden treasure such as Choonam Brilliantine buried amongst a towering stack of papers, books and photo albums only to be rescued and his famous legacy to live on with Sandra Miller. Picker's Exchange a small mom and pop business in Northern Michigan owned by Pat and Marcia Gibbard will drive and have driven the distance to unearth the rare and unusual historical items that carry great value. Please visit our web site <http://pickersexchange.weebly.com> and like our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pickerspawn>

Thanks Sandra, hope you are pleased with your photo's and look forward to seeing what you can accomplish with them. have a great day. Marcia

Thanks Sandra

chowtales.com

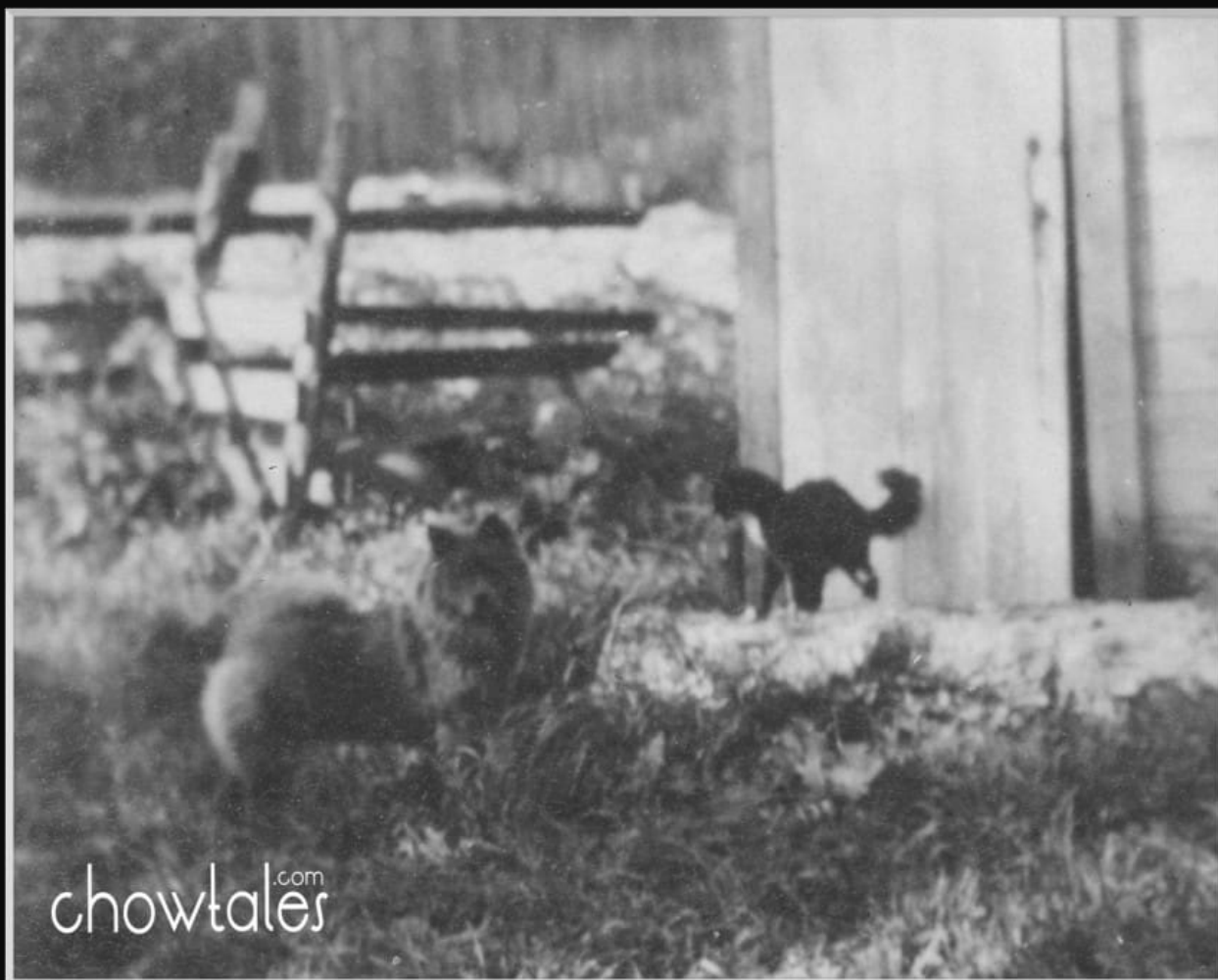
Image made from the Sandra Miller Collection

AS A SIDE NOTE TO THE "FLORIDA CONNECTION" ON THIS ALBUM.... , I RESEARCHED THAT THE HOOVER FAMILY AT SOME POINT IN TIME HAD A WINTER HOME IN FLORIDA AS WELL AS THEIR REGULAR RESIDENCE IN GLENCOE ILLINOIS. THIS EXPLAINS HOW THE PHOTOS COULD HAVE ENDED UP WHERE MARCIA FOUND THEM.

There are two more brothers:
Gordon, the oldest, lives in
Florida and follows his love of
boats and the seas they travel

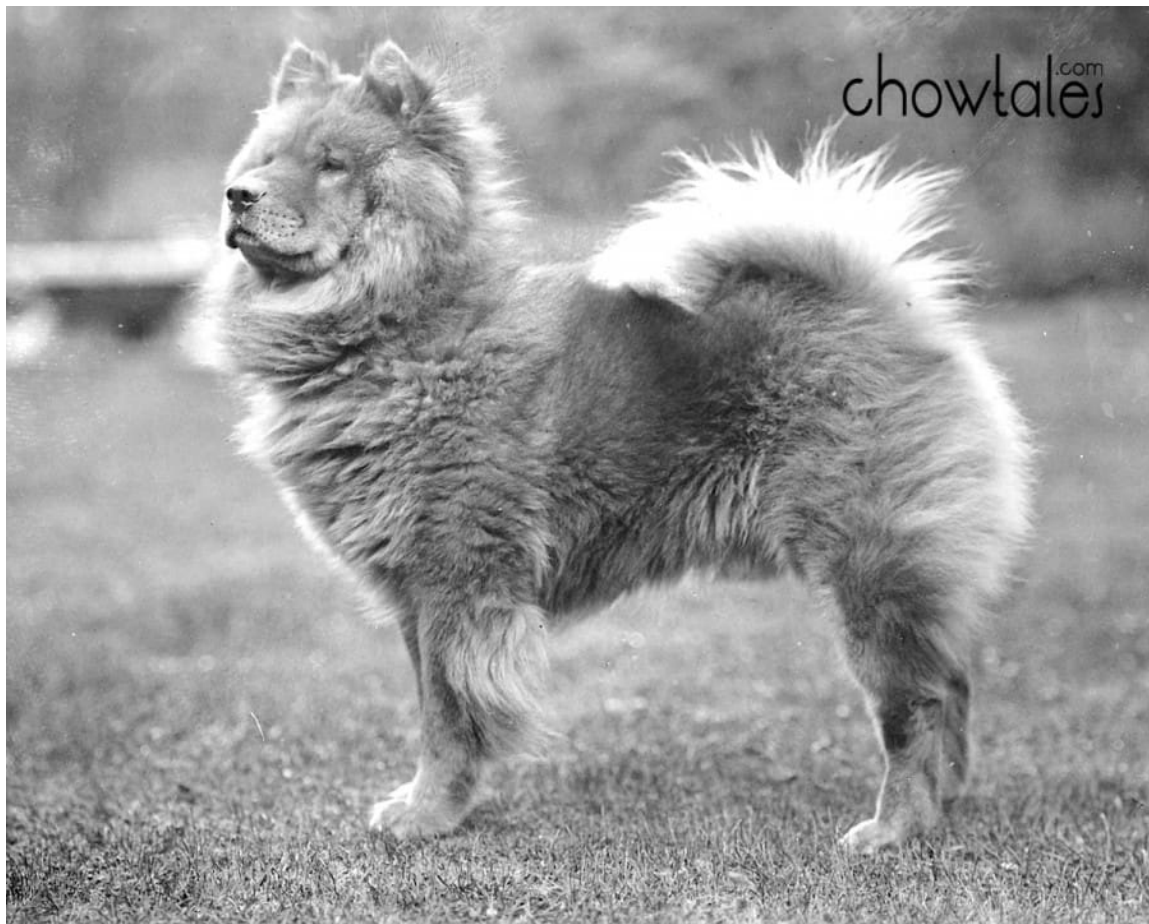
ABOVE IS A CIRCA 1974 SNIPPET FROM AN
ARTICLE ABOUT THE HOOVER FAMILY . GORDON IS
THE BOY IN THE PHOTOS WHO ALSO RESIDED IN
FLORIDA AS AN ADULT.

UPON SCANNING, ENLARGING AND EXAMINING THE 11 TINY PHOTOS
CLOSER WHEN THEY ARRIVED I REALIZED MOST OF THE CHOWS IN THE
PHOTOS WERE MOST LIKELY NOT CH. CHOONAM BRILLIANTINE BUT WERE
CERTAINLY THE HOOVERS AND THEIR DOGS. A FANTASTIC 100 YEAR
OLD TREASURE UNEARTHED JUST ON THOSE IMAGES ALONE



Vintage image from the ©Sandra Miller Collection

HOWEVER.....THIS CHOW ABOVE I AM QUITE CERTAIN IS NONE OTHER THAN CH. CHOONAM BRILLIANTINE OF MANCHOOVER, AS HIS STYLE AND LIGHT BRITCHES AND TAIL AS WELL AS EAR PLACEMENT ARE A GIVEAWAY. THE \$10,000.00 DOG ON THE FARM CHASING A CAT AND JUST BEING A DOG. BELOW SEE 2 PRESS PHOTOS OF BRILLIANTINE THE DAY HE ARRIVED IN AMERICA BY SHIP FOR COMPARISON



CH CHOONAM BRILLIANTINE OF MANCHOOVER arrives in New York circa 1925 from the private collection of ©Sandra Miller

I COULD
BE READING MORE INTO THE PHOTOS THAN NEED BE, BUT IT "SEEMS"
MOST OF THEM WERE TAKEN CLOSE TO THE SAME TIMEFRAME. COULD
THIS BE THE DAY BRILLIANTINE ARRIVED IN ILLINOIS. MY RESEARCH
SHOWS MORE THAN ONE CHOW WAS IMPORTED BY MRS. HOOVER WHEN
BRILLIANTINE CAME OVER BY SHIP. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE AN
OCCASION TO TAKE OUT THE CAMERA TO DOCUMENT THE HISTORIC
ARRIVAL OF THE FAMOUS \$10,000.00 CHOW



CH CHOONAM BRILLIANTINE OF MANCHOOVER arrives in New York circa 1925 from the private collection of ©Sandra Miller

THE APPEARANCE OF THE TRUNK/CRATE IN ONE OF THE ALBUM PHOTOS
MAKES ME CURIOUS WHY IT IS OUTSIDE.

A CAR IS PRESENT AND DIRECTLY ABOVE IS A PRESS PHOTO I HAVE
OF BRILLIANTINE ARRIVING IN NEW YORK ON THE BOAT WEARING THE
SAME STYLE OF HARNESS I SEE ON THE YOUNGER PUP IN THESE
HOOVER ALBUM IMAGES.



ABOVE: A BEAUTIFUL PHOTO FROM THE ALBUM OF MRS. DOROTHY MAY HOOVER AT HOME



ABO

VE: GRANDPA WITH THE YOUNG CHOW AND GRANDSON GORDON



POSSIBLY DOROTHY HOOVER LEFT, CHOW, SON GORDON AND ANOTHER WOMAN



I'M NOT SURE WHO THIS IS. COULD IT BE THE WOMAN BELOW, MRS. WILLIAM S. BAER WHO BROUGHT THE CHOWS FROM ENGLAND ON A SHIP

FOR MRS HOOVER? MRS BAER WAS THE WIFE OF DR. WILLIAM S.
BAER, A HEAD FIGURE AT JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL AND OWNERS OF
MOOSILAUKE CHOW KENNELS

CHOONAN TRAVELS FIRST CLASS



JULY 1925 NEWS CLIPPING. BRILLIANTINE TRAVELS TO USA WITH MRS
WILLIAM S BAER



CHOW DOING TRICKS. THIS LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE TRUNK/CRATE
BRILLIANTINE TRAVELED IN FROM A DESCRIPTION IN ANOTHER ARTICLE
I WAS READING

Mrs. Beyer said. The duty paid on the dog was \$1,400. After being inspected by the customs officials and admired by the crowd the famous chow was stowed away in a big square box like a miniature seashore bungalow and shipped away in charge of an attendant.

ABOVE: Circa 1925 Newspaper snippet describing the box that Brilliantine was taken away in



chowtales.com

Vintage image from the ©Sandra Miller Collection.

A VERY

SWEET PHOTO OF THE PUP, SON GORDON, AND BEAUTIFUL CAR AS WELL. IT LOOKS AS IF THAT IS THE MYSTERY WOMAN IN WHITE FROM A PREVIOUS PHOTO GETTING OUT OF THE CAR.



Vintage image from the Sandra Miller Collection

MRS HOOVER AND CHOW. THIS COULD BE VERY WELL BE THE DOG

PICTURED BELOW ON THE LEFT WHO I AM NOW CONVINCED IS THE FAMOUS CH. LU CHENG. THE DOG TO THE RIGHT I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN IS BRILLIANTINE.

Early 1920s

Mrs. H. Earl Hoover
with 2 of her
Manchoover kennel
champion chows

It is most likely
that the chow to
the right is
the famous
Ch. Choonam
Brilliantine

The dog on the
left looks similar
to the deep red
dog pictured
in the Hoover
family album
featured on

ChowTales.com



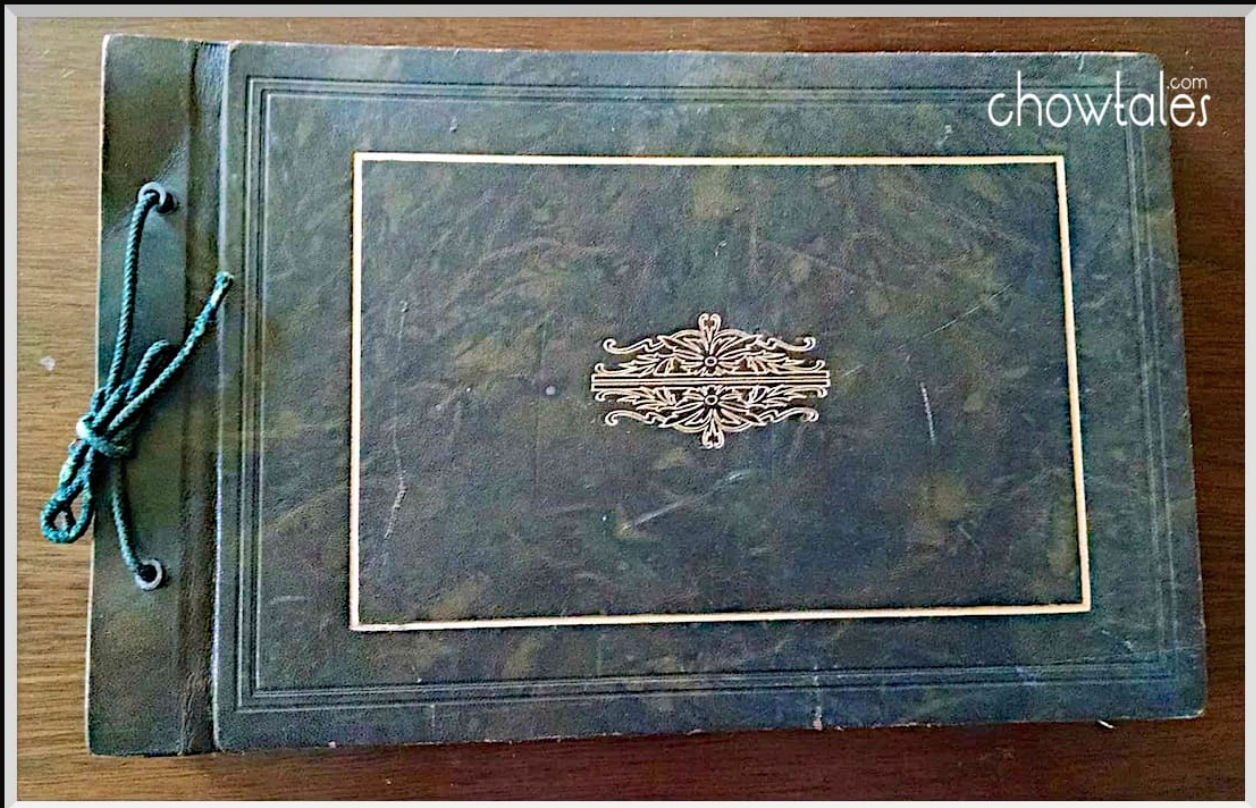


MR H. EARL HOOVER, OF HOOVER VACUUM FAME WITH THE YOUNG CHOW. THIS IS THE SAME MAN AS IN THE FIRST PRESS PHOTO. IT SEEMS THE WHOLE FAMILY CAME OUT OF THE WOODWORK TO HAVE PHOTOS TAKEN WITH THESE DOGS. AGAIN MAKING ME THINK THIS COULD HAVE BEEN THE IMPORTANT DAY OF ARRIVAL TO THE USA FOR THESE CHOWS.

ESPECIALLY WITH THE NEWS CLIPPING BEING INCLUDED IN THE ALBUM



ONE OF THE CHOWS WITH SOMETHING IN HIS MOUTH



The 1920's Hoover family album found by Pickers Exchange in a Florida Hoarders house.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE HOOVER/ BRILLIANTINE PAINTING](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ CHOONAM BRILLIANTINES HISTORIC BIO](#)
