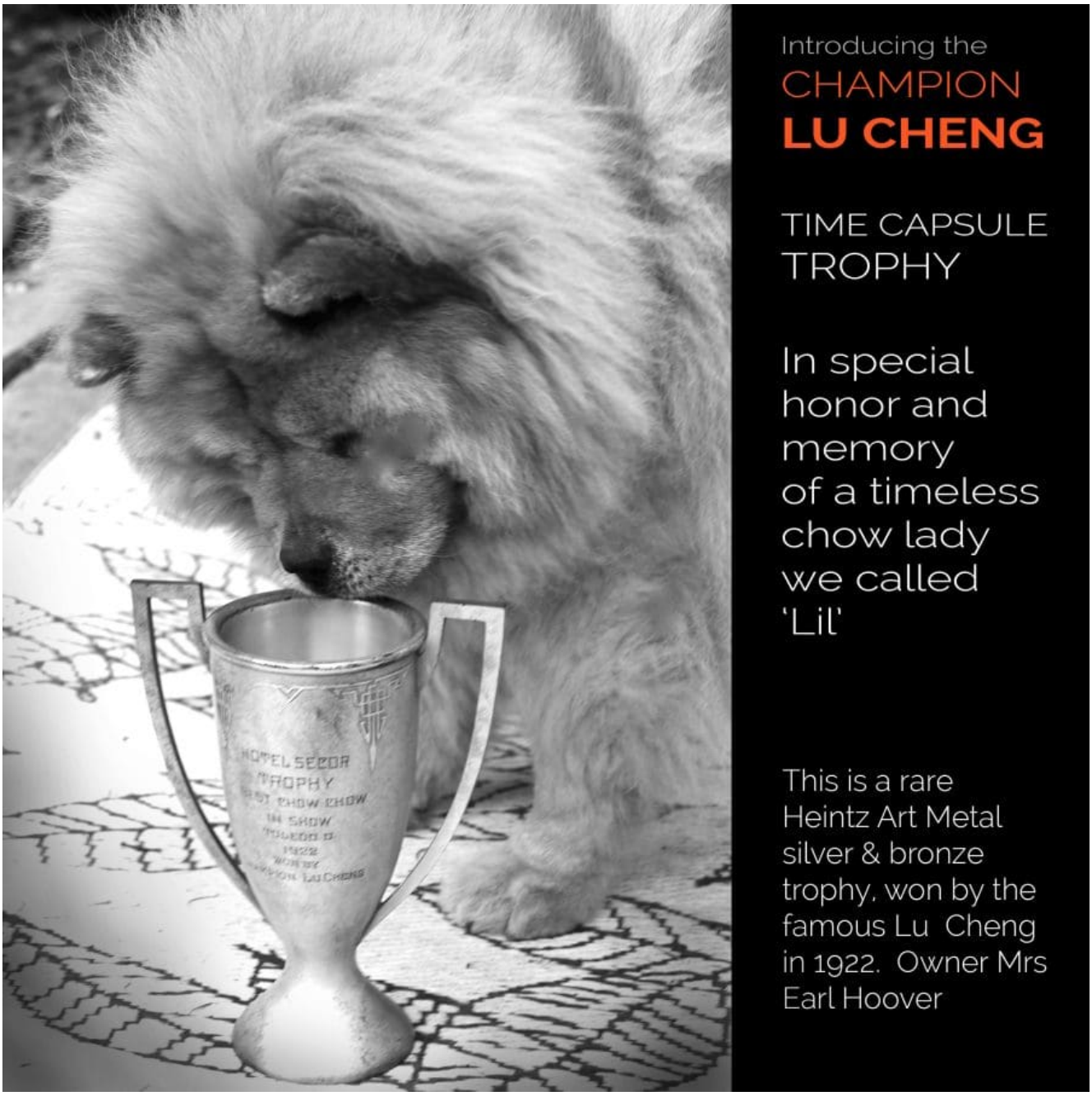
Introducing the 1922 Ch. Lu Cheng Time Capsule Trophy-In Honor of Lil



This was our lovely Lil in early 2016. I was photographing this rare 1922 trophy won by Ch. Lu Cheng, when she came up to investigate and claim it as her own special prize.

This classically detailed art deco Heintz Art Metal trophy

created in Fine Sterling over Bronze and weighing about 3 lbs, was won in 1922 at a Toledo, Ohio dog show held at the Hotel Secor (see hotel photos below). At the time this trophy was awarded, Champion Lu Cheng, a glorious deep red chow male was owned by Mrs. H. Earl Hoover. His sire the great Lord Cholmondeley out of Heathen Chinee

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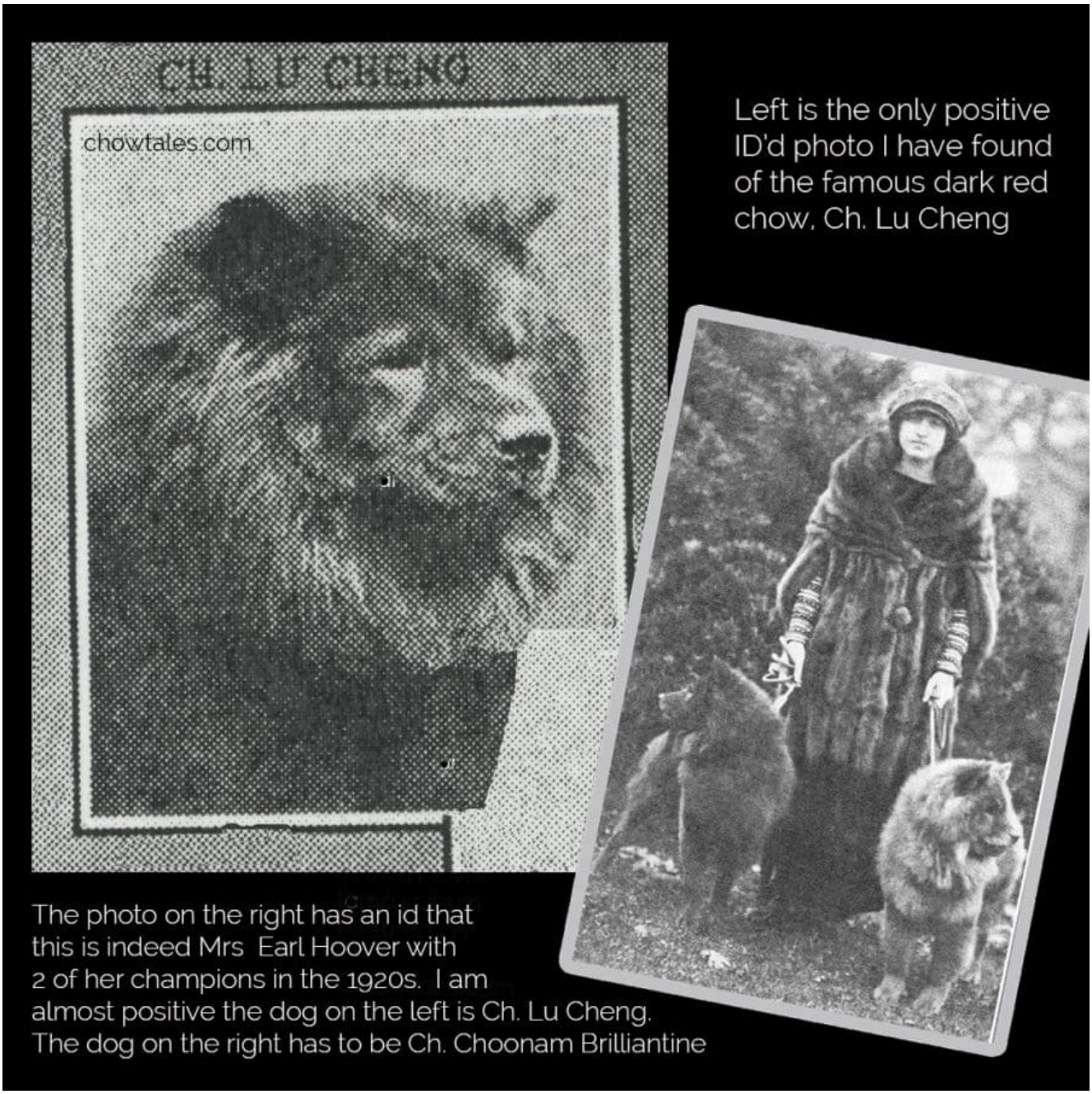

ABOVE: you will find Mrs. Hoover with 2 of her champions which I am deducing are Ch. Lu Cheng (left) and Ch. Brilliantine

Looking through AKC records of the era, I discovered that Mrs. Hoover acquired Lu Cheng from his first owner, John Richardson around May of 1922. Mrs. Hoover of the Manchoover Kennels only purchased the very best show and breeding stock and had the resources to do so….. her husband H. Earl Hoover was chairman of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner empire. CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT HER $20,000.00 CHOW

Many of you following ChowTales will remember a print I was offering from my original artwork entitled "GUARDIANS OF THE PAST" (below).

I needed to earn some fast funds which would allow me to purchase this priceless (to me at least) piece of Chow history before someone else bought it. I raised the money in record time thanks to our ChowTales friends, and when the trophy arrived, all I could imagine is who had handled this treasure from the Hoover family and how did it end up at auction?

I was on a mission to seek out every bit of information I could get my hands on……. photos of the hotel show site and of Ch.Lu Cheng….the dog was MOST elusive!! So far only ONE photo has been found of this famous dog which has the name attached as a positive ID and another of Mrs. Hoover with 2 of her champions which are most likely Ch. Lu Cheng and Ch.Choonam Brilliantine of Manchoover. (see above)

Lo and behold…only one day after I posted about the Lu Cheng

trophy and what do I find in my own vintage magazines?…… An elusive head study of CH. LU CHENG in an equally rare advertisement from Mrs. Hoover’s Kennels. This was so early in her showing/breeding career that her eventual kennel name of “Manchoover” was not mentioned in the ad. See the ad below

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CHOW CHOWS

MRS. H. EARL HOOVER'S
KENNELS

1801 Green Bay Road Glencoe, Ill.
PHONE GLENCOE 122.

AT STUD

Ch Lu Cheng . . . $50
Victorious of Tien Hsia (Imported) $40
Omar (Imported) $30

Chow Puppies for sale from finest American bred and English bitches sired by Ch. Lu Cheng and Victorious.

Dog World Magazine - December 1922 - Ch. Lu Cheng
is featured in Mrs Hoovers Christmas ad
From the private collection of Sandra Miller

THE HOTEL SECOR, 425 JEFFERSON AVENUE AND SUPERIOR STREET, BUILT FROM 1906 TO 1908. By the end of the 19th century, Toledoans no longer considered the Boody House a first class hotel. While the restaurant, bar, and barbershop remained popular, guest rooms with a communal bathroom down the hall could hardly be considered "state of the art." Finally Jay Secor commissioned a new hotel on the site of the historic Palmer-Hunt House at Toledo's busiest intersection where all of the interurban cars passed. Designed by Charles Nordhoff, the reinforced concrete structure had 400 rooms, 300 of which had private baths. It was Toledo's premier hotel for over 20 years. The hotel closed in 1969. (PL.)

ABOVE AND BELOW ARE PHOTOS OF THE HOTEL SECOR WHERE LU CHENG WAS AWARDED THE TROPHY IN 1922

What a sight the grand opening must have been to witness in person

THE HOTEL SECOR LOBBY. An open interior court provided light and air to the spacious lobby and the inner rooms. It was the hotel's richest space with marble columns, oriental rugs and comfortable leather chairs. At the grand opening four orchestras played and "ladies in hats which towered with floral pieces and smoking cigarettes swept about, while the gentlemen were imposing in high collars and glittering watch fobs." (Korb photo-PL.)

AS FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS TIME CAPSULE FROM THE PAST YOU ASK…….

I am commissioning an artistic base to be created for the trophy which will feature an engraved plaque of Ch. Lu Chengs head(from his portrait above) along with a few details about his career and lineage.

It seems only fitting that this Art Deco trophy becomes a symbol for the heyday of our breed and the optimism of The Roaring Twenties. I will be letting you all know more about the new purpose for this antique treasure when the restoration is complete!!!