

2016 PHOTO RESTORATIONS

This circa 1920's portrait of a beautiful woman with her chow was a challenge to restore because of the lack of contrast in the original faded image.

Luckily there was no photo damage and I was able to tweak some lovely details back such as the expression of the chow & woman as well as the costume.

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I love this photo so much. the woman has such a gentle and loving expression focusing on her beautiful chow. I wonder if this is a blue as the face is lighter than the coat even in the original version.



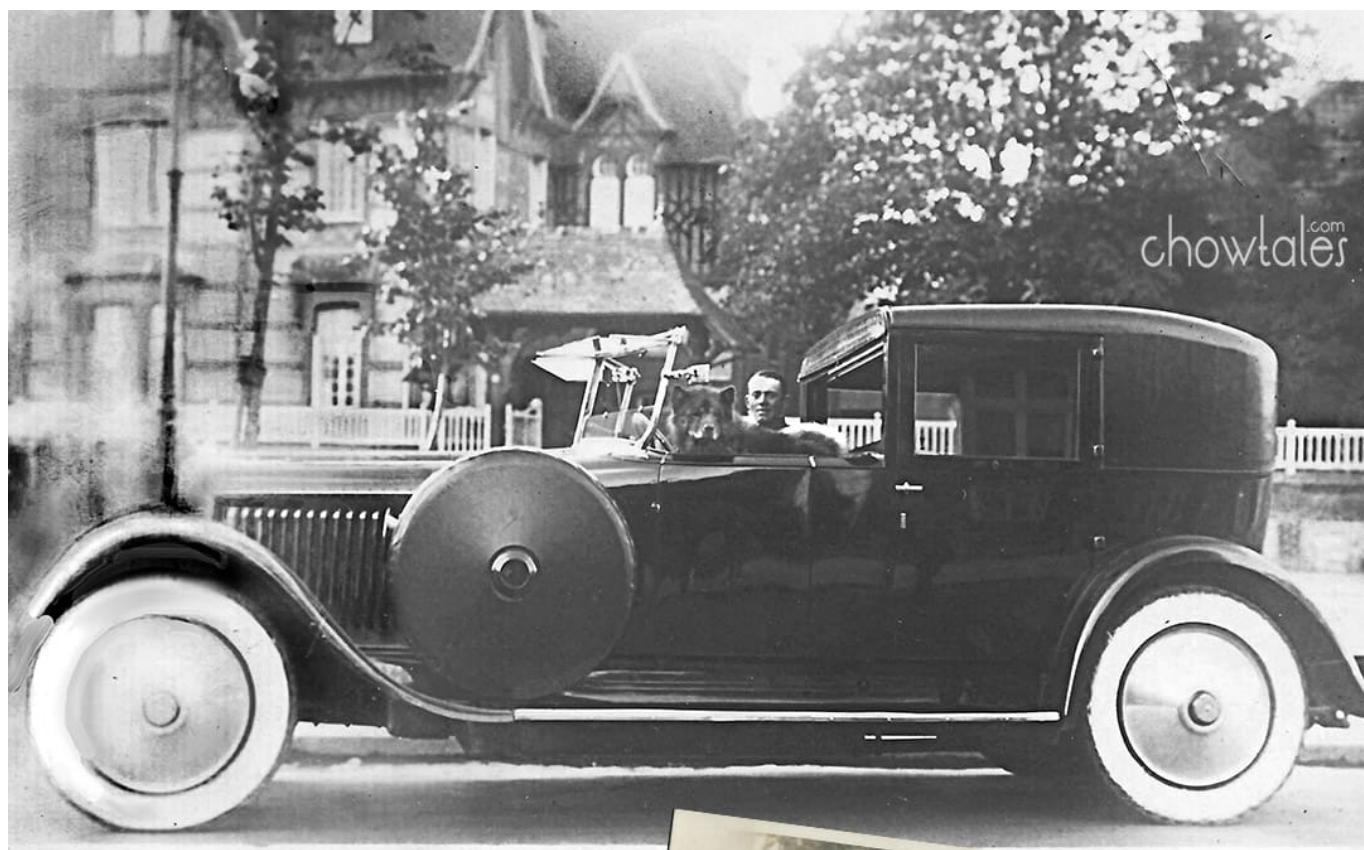
LATE 1800'S Eton Schoolboy and his chow – Rare set of albumen prints.

These two sepia “albumen prints” you see in the collage are in my private collection. Both of the same Eton School boy with his Chow, in two different poses, presumably from the same photoshoot. To add to this rarity, I purchased each of these photographs from 2 different sources , years apart...both from the United Kingdom.

Eton College, often informally referred to simply as Eton, is

an English boys' independent boarding school located in Eton, Berkshire, near Windsor. It educates over 1,300 pupils, aged 13 to 18 years. It was founded in 1440 by King Henry VI as "The King's College of Our Lady of Eton besides Wyndsor"

I did a lot of restoration work on these two prints using Photoshop to bring out the details, however with images this old and rare, I like to show both the original albumen photos in the condition they were found, and the restored version. I like them both for different reasons



OUT FOR A RIDE Circa 1920's - 1930's

Original photo is from the
Collection of Riitta Ropponen

Restoration by Sandra Miller



Thank you so much Riitta Ropponen for allowing me to restore your photo of this very happy chow and owner, going for a ride in their fancy schmancy wheels!!!

The left side of the original photo you can see needed a lot of work. I literally had to rebuild this area from looking at other similar cars of the era. I'm not quite done but couldn't wait to share!! And check out the details that popped in on that house in the background once I worked on the contrast.



OUR HAPPY PLACE

Talk about a photo I can relate to. My chow Lil and I used to spend countless hours doing just this at the Oregon coast.

Look at all the detail in the chow, clothing and beach scene behind.



Circa 1930s America

Private collection of Sandra Miller

Snapshot of a woman and her chow, blissfully watching the ocean and whatever else happens at the beach. Both chow and owner seem so content...those expressions are worth their weight in gold.

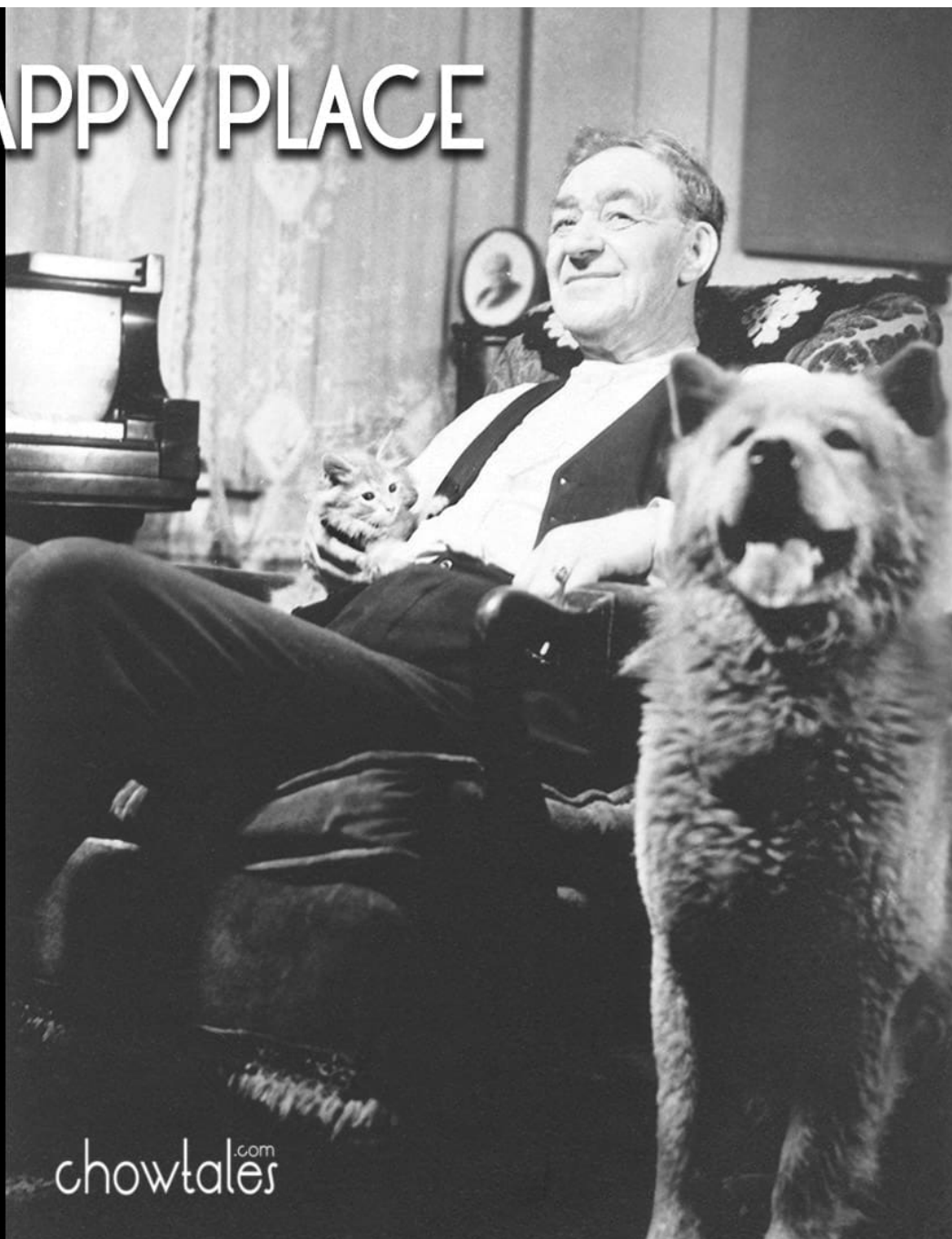
While this particular photo was not difficult to restore with only a few scratches and specks, in converting to black and white and making some contrast adjustments I found so much

detail was there in all parts of the photo. I hope to identify this beach some day. Those buildings in the background were very typical on the east coast in the 20's and 30's. The "pier" to the right may give some clues.

HIS HAPPY PLACE

With a
kitten
in the
lap and
chow
by
his side....

this fella
looks like
the
most
content
man on
earth!



And now a sequel to the photo above "OUR HAPPY PLACE". These two images are of the same dog and I'm assuming the man and woman are a married couple. I really love getting more than one image of a dog with their family and this one has such charm and warmth. I didn't even know there was a kitten in

the mans lap until I scanned and enlarged the image and sharpened it up. Priceless!!

I never imagined that this little 1915 faded photo could reveal so much detail after my digital restoration.

The chow puppy is typical of the early imports to England & America.

From the pockets on her jacket to the crochet bag and hat details.....this is a beautiful turn of the century time capsule, restored for generations to come.

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Not all photos reveal as much detail as this restored beauty...especially when there is such a drastic crop. Scanning at 2000 dpi does help a lot. I put about 4 hours into digitally restoring this image. It was so worth it and will be part of my book!

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1934

Posing
for his
portrait
in the
garden



In the private collection of Sandra Miller

Circa 1934 -This tiny photo wasn't in bad shape at all. The main thing it needed was to bring out the details through careful adjustments to contrast and exposure and converting to black and white. Then a crop that focused on the fact that this handsome dog is in a serene garden setting. I love that pergola behind him!



Do you see who I see or am I totally imagining things???? Here is an amazing photo I purchased just for the obvious subject matter alone...first the chow...then the car. This teeny 2x3 photo from the 1920's was very hard to see the details until I scanned it in at 1200 dpi then proceeded to do some restoration work on it. WOW what an amazing image.

The thing that struck me right away was the man between the driver and the woman. Could this be James Cagney???? What do you think????

THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

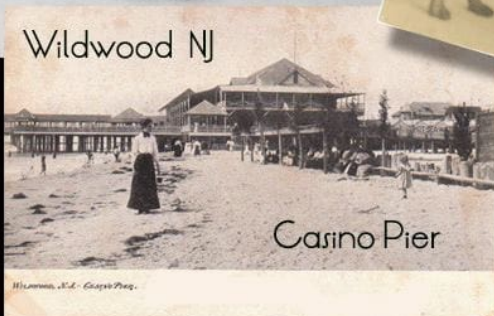
Circa 1934 England.
3 chows greet a young
man with his spaniel
at Thorn Lodge



This tiny photo was a real puzzle until I got it scanned in and "counted tails". It reminded me of when we would ultrasound to do a head count of puppies in an expectant chow mother.

The dog in the boy's lap at first I thought to be a chow but upon closer inspection I can see it's a spaniel of some sort. It makes me curious if this is a Thorn Lodge guest with his dog. The 3 teenage chows are sure giving him the once over.

Note this chow wears both a studded harness and a type of bridle or muzzle on the head



This early 1900's large photo was taken by a well known photographer on the Casino Pier in Wildwood N.J.

When I received this amazing photo I had a couple of big surprises. One, is that it was such a large format on very heavy backing like a cabinet card. Two, when I converted this damaged sepia toned image to black and white and brought in more contrast, not only did the detailed leather harness show up, but some sort of matching head gear was revealed in the process.

It doesn't seem to be a muzzle per se, as on both sides of the

face (see enlargement below) the leather straps seem to lead into the mouth like a “bit” a horse would wear. I see no obvious signs of retouch had the leather gone over the muzzle as well.



ROBIN and MY “CHOPS” 1957

This photo was in bad shape but I had to have it as it was taken one year before I was born.

Instead of fighting the scratches, grain and flaws, I went with where my muses carried me.



This photo was in terrible shape but I decided this would not discourage me since I love the subject matter so much. My mom made me a little dress just like this and its become “personal” to me

I dove in head first and gave this photo a brilliant colorized

lens flare effect along with countless other adjustments to bring the details of the chow and girl forward. I could totally see doing a series like this. The photo seems so full of life now.

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“The Babysitter”

Circa 1920's France-
Upon closer inspection
during restoration I found
this was a pacifier in the
Chow puppy's mouth!



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ITS ALL IN THE ATTITUDE



1920's Paris France

I believe these are
show dogs after
seeing the other
images in the album



Nell & the Dogs.

"NELL & THE DOGS"

Circa 1900 England - A Gibson Girl
with her wagging Chow

We've come a
LONG WAY baby!

Look at the corseted
waist on this beautiful
girl...I just want to take
a deep breath for her.

This photo is an
amazing study on
period costume as
well as a wonderful
example of one of
the very early chows
in England. This looks
to be a deep dark
red so popular then.



This photo came to me with a number of issues I needed to address, such as permanent fingerprints on the right side of the photo and bad fading in the same area. A crop to focus in on the subject matter helped a ton but hundreds of minute scratches needed to be healed out of the image.

Once I fixed the damaged areas I brought "Nell and the Dogs" back to life through multiple layers of contrast and highlight adjustments. I just can't get over that hourglass waist and how tight her corset must have been to achieve the ideal "Gibson Girl" look of the times.

The chow seemed distracted and what a long tail he has as he waves it in the air. My guess is this dog is either a Chinese

import or just one-two generations away from it at most. This is a great example of the earliest roots of our breed outside of China

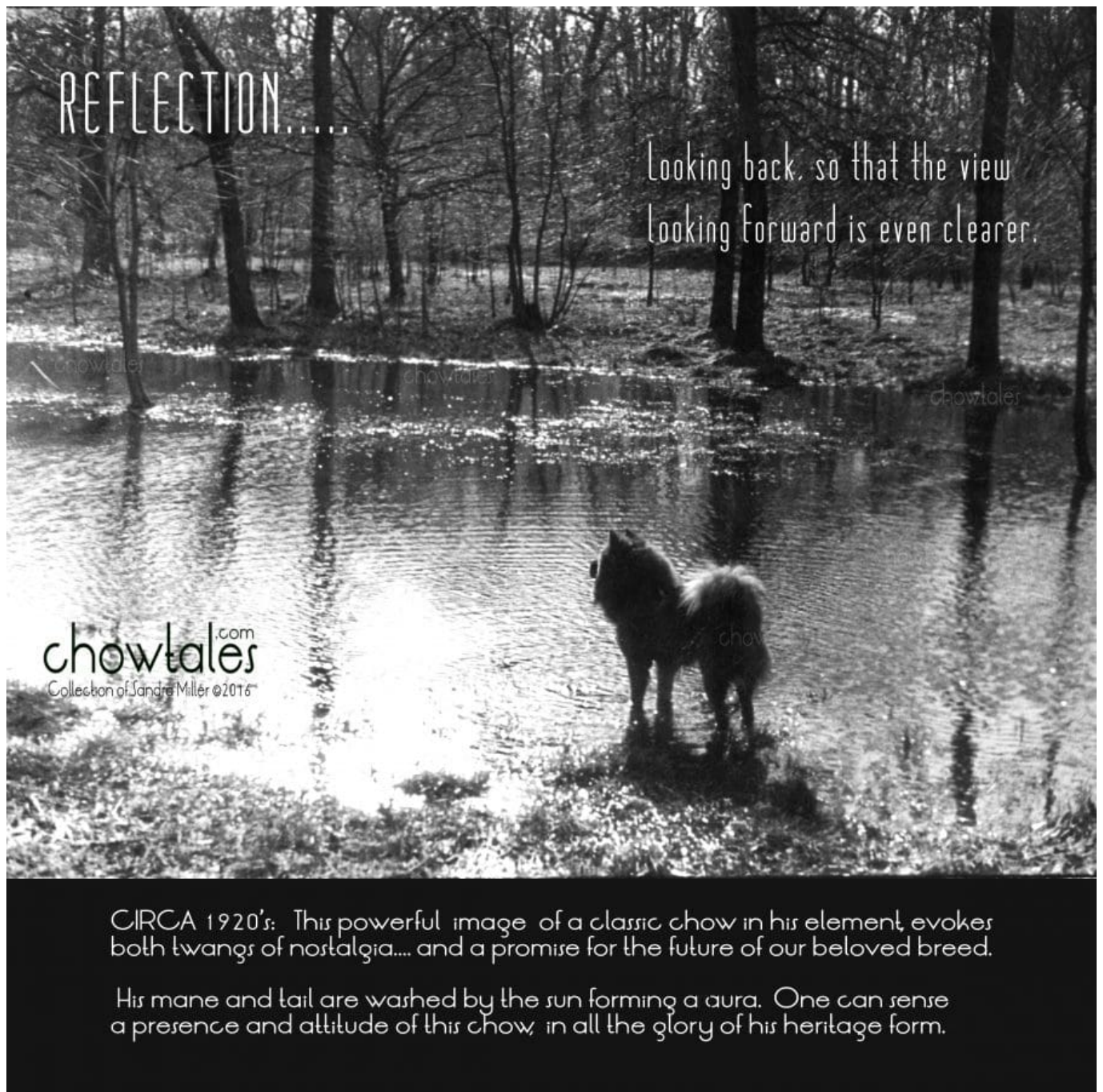


It is amazing how a photo of someone you never met , can speak to you so clearly from the past. It helps that my daughter's name is Liz of course. The original photo had writing on the back Liz and Fanny 1929. I can't stress enough how important it is to write on your photo backs with a soft lead pencil...not just on scrapbook pages

Most photos I acquire have been removed from once treasured

family albums and have lost their “identities” if there was anything written in the albums to start with.

This girl and her gorgeous chow appear to have a wonderful bond. Both of the subjects look very relaxed and doing what the photographer is asking of them. I love the way her hand arches around the chow's mane . It is so artistically done and an absolute treasure in my personal collection. The finish on the photo paper is pebble grained so it was a hard one to make adjustments on. It helped to have a high quality image to begin with. I love both the original sepia and the black and white for different reasons.



REFLECTION.....

Looking back, so that the view
looking forward is even clearer.

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Collection of Jandre Miller ©2016

CIRCA 1920's: This powerful image of a classic chow in his element evokes both twangs of nostalgia.... and a promise for the future of our beloved breed.

His mane and tail are washed by the sun forming a aura. One can sense a presence and attitude of this chow, in all the glory of his heritage form.

This stunning 1920's antique gelatin silver print I restored this week from a very faded original. It was a larger 6x9 image...possibly taken by a professional. This will be a part of my 2017 ChowTales antique photography/quotes wall calendar coming out in early November 2016

All funds from the calendar sales will be dedicated to the expenses of archiving the physical and online ChowTales collections for the future

