

Kong Kuen Lai

July 28, 1927 - Dec 22, 2022

黎光强



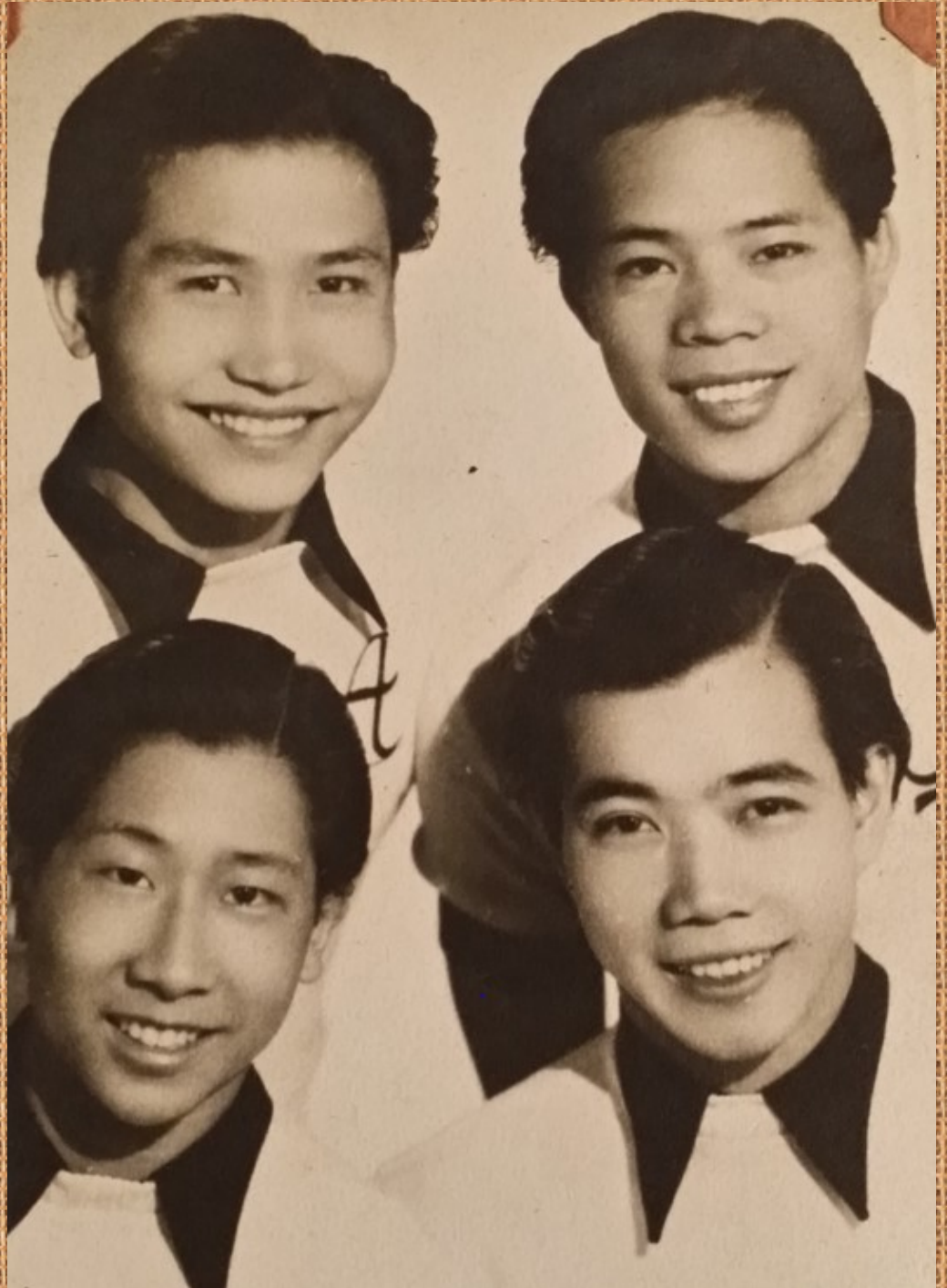
China



Acrobat Days



4 ASIAN BOYS





**When Kong had his
kidney Removed**









1950-1960's





Chop Suey a la Back Flip

Acrobat Runs Chinese Restaurant in Cedar Grove

If balancing restaurant budgets and menus has any resemblance to acrobatics, Kong Lai should be eminently qualified.

A former acrobat, Kong recently has engaged in his first restaurant venture at 465 Pompton Ave., Cedar Grove.

Kong, who is 32, has been an acrobat all his life. He started training as a child in China under the tutelage of his uncle, with whom he went to Europe before World War II to perform.

"The war trapped us in Germany," Kong recalled, "and one day I found myself performing as part of a team before Hitler." The theater was surrounded by guards and each person in the audience was thoroughly checked. The Fuehrer liked acrobats and had a good time, Kong said.

Formed Troupe

With his Chinese passport, Kong was among the few aliens permitted to travel freely in Germany. He never was imprisoned, although China fought with the Allies. After the war, Kong, with two other young Chinese acrobats, formed the Asia Boys troupe, which came to America in 1947 with high hopes for success.

"They were not disappointed. Las Vegas, Reno, and Miami spas as well as the Radio City Theater in New York were among the night clubs and theaters in which the Asia Boys performed.

"You may notice that there are no old acrobats. The average acrobat survives the strains of his profession till the age of 35," Kong said, explaining why he left show business three years ago. Besides, since his arrival here he has acquired a wife and two children, from whom constant travelling with the act was keeping him separated.

The numerous recipes Kong has collected in his travels, plus three years of training in New York restaurants as a cook and waiter should come in handy.

While working in the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, Kong met Jun Leung, (Louise to her friends), a 5 foot 7 inch dancer and show girl appearing with the China Doll show. "It was love at first sight," said Kong, who is five inches shorter. The couple have been married seven years and have

Community News

From Essex Suburbs and Union County

18 NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS, FEBRUARY 23, 1958



HEADS UP—Kong Lai, acrobat turned restaurateur, performs for wife, daughter.

two children, Michael, 6 and Cathi, 2.
Kong still does acrobatics daily, "to keep in shape." And every once in a while, when the mood hits him, he will do a few hand stands around the kitchen, accom-

panied by another acrobat, Jen Wong, once of a group known as the Canton Boys, now a waiter at the restaurant.
"Perhaps we should do a floor show someday for old times' sake," Kong said.

VERONA-CEDAR GROVE TIMES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1958

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KONG LAI

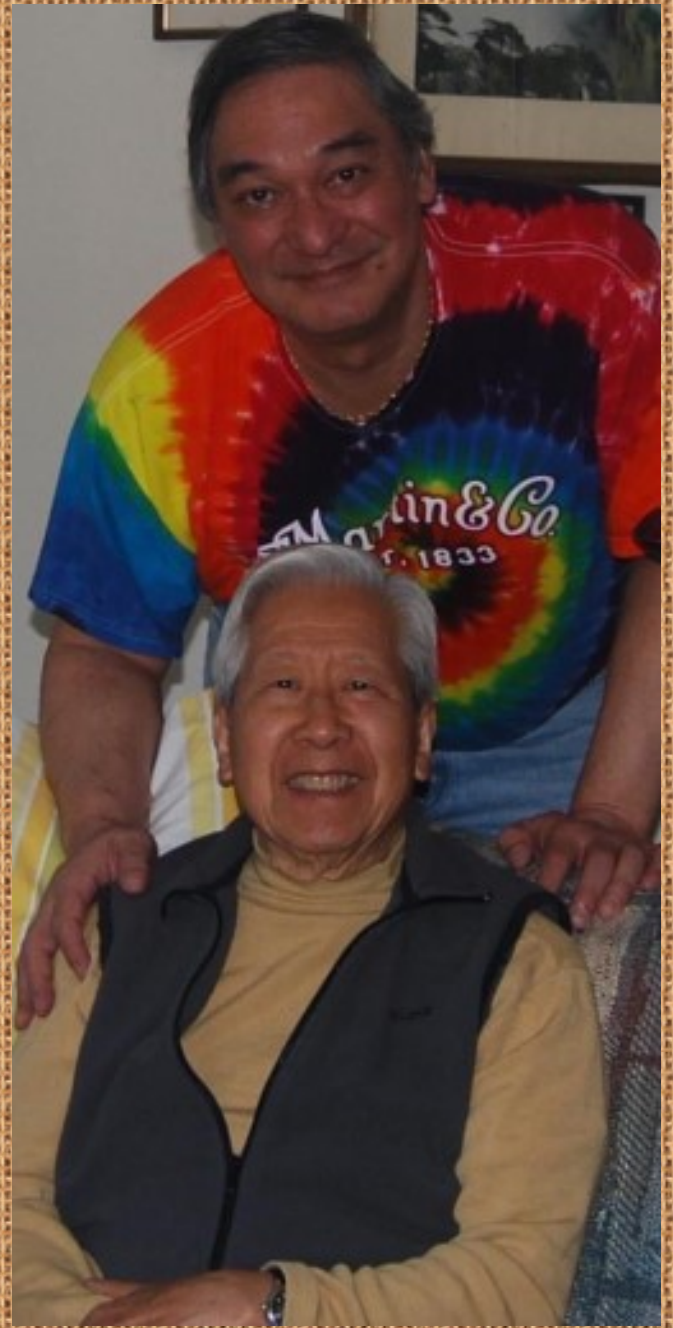


LOUISE LEUNG LAI

















When Kong had his Heart Attack

