

Chef credited with inventing General Tso's Chicken has died

By Verena Dobnik
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The chef credited with inventing General Tso's Chicken, a world-famous Chinese dish smothered in a sweet sauce that was never a staple in China, has died in Taiwan at age 98.

Peng Chang-kuei died of pneumonia in Taipei, his son, Chuck Peng, told The Associated Press. He was still cooking in the family's Taipei restaurant kitchen just a few months ago.

Peng first brought the sticky, sweet, and spicy dish to New York about 40 years ago.

It's now on Chinese restaurant menus across the United States, exploding in popularity after President Nixon visited China in 1972. The dish also reportedly became a favorite of famed statesman Henry Kissinger, who with Nixon helped open the communist country to the west, spotlighting its culture and food.

But General Tso's chicken was never part of the Chinese culinary tradition.

The chef created the dish in the 1950s in Taiwan, where he fled in 1949 with Chiang Kai-shek after the communists took over, said Chuck Peng, speaking from his home in Taipei.

In Taiwan, the chef helped welcome the commander of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet in the Pacific with a banquet that included the new culinary creation named after a 19th-century Chinese military leader from Peng's native Hunan province.

By the 1970s, he was in New York running a restaurant named after himself near the United Nations on Manhattan's East Side. Kissinger was a frequent guest, said Chuck Peng.

"General Tso's Chicken



GENERAL TSO'S CREATOR. In this undated photo, chef Peng Chang-kuei, right, cooks in his restaurant, Peng's Garden, in Taipei, Taiwan. Chef Peng, who has been credited with inventing General Tso's chicken, the sticky, sweet-and-sour dish brought to New York 40 years ago, has died at age 98. (Yung-Chuan Hou/United Daily News/World Journal via AP)

is so famous because of Henry Kissinger, because he was among the first to eat it, and he liked it, so others followed," said Peng.

Americans quickly took to what is now a mound of deep-fried chunks of floured chicken, smothered in sweetness that usually includes soy sauce, sugar, ginger, and other spices.

In the dish's first incarnation, the chicken reportedly was not fried, and its unsweetened flavor came from garlic, soy sauce, and chilis.

The story of the delicacy is told in a 2014 documentary called *The Search for General Tso*, which traces the roots of Chinese food in America through the iconic dish.

"The march of General Tso's chicken has been long and wide," said Jennifer 8. Lee, author of *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*. "It's the most popular of Chinese dishes in America, because it is sweet, fried, and chicken — all things

Americans love. It is easily a billion dollar industry in and of itself."

Lee also worked as a producer on *The Search for General Tso*.

Chuck Peng runs the family's chain of 10 restaurants in Taiwan, all called Peng's.

Until he was hospitalized a few months ago, his son said Peng was a daily presence at their flagship Taipei restaurant which opened after the chef left New York in 1983. The restaurant space on East 44th Street was later occupied by a steakhouse that also is gone.

"My father thought other people's cooking was no good," his son said, chuckling. "The way he cooked was different, it was much better."

While he was "very good to other people, he was very hard on his family" — seven children from three mothers. "He was very demanding, he didn't want us to make any mistakes."

Tiger cubs raise cuteness quotient at Milwaukee County Zoo

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Three 11-week-old Amur tiger cubs romped and wrestled together as they made their public debut at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The two females, named Eloise and Bernadette, and the male, named Kashtan, were born September 14.

Zookeeper Amanda Ista said the cubs are doing well, but the male is being hand raised.

In October, Kashtan developed an ab-

Real Madrid contests Club World Cup in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Hundreds of Japanese soccer fans showed up at the crack of dawn to greet Real Madrid as they arrived in Japan to contest the Club World Cup.

Led by Cristiano Ronaldo, the European champions were met by about 300 fans at Tokyo's Haneda airport before boarding a team bus.

Zinedine Zidane's team held a practice session in Yokohama as they prepared for the semifinal clash with Mexico's Club

success on his leg. Zoo officials weren't sure if the mother would accept him after being away, so they now keep him in a separate area and feed him by hand.

But Ista says Kashtan regularly visits with his sisters to socialize and exercise, like he did during the debut.

Ista says Amur tigers are extremely endangered in the wild, so their zoo cousins act as ambassadors to raise awareness.

América, which Real Madrid won 2-0.

At presstime, Real Madrid was scheduled to play the Kashima Antlers of Japan's J-league, who became the first Asian squad to reach the Club World Cup with a 3-0 win over Atlético Nacional, in the championship match.

Madrid returned to the competition with 13 of the players who lifted the Club World Cup title in 2014, when they beat San Lorenzo in the final.

Sammy Lee, two-time Olympic diving champion, dies at 96

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sammy Lee, a two-time Olympic gold medal-winning diver who later mentored four-time Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis, has died. He was 96 years old.

The University of Southern California (USC) said Lee died of pneumonia in Newport Beach. He was the school's oldest living Olympian.

The five-foot Lee, who was of Korean descent, was the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal for the U.S.

Lee became the first man to win consecutive Olympic titles in platform diving in 1948 and 1952 and was the oldest diver at age 32 to win Olympic gold. He also earned a bronze in three-meter springboard at the 1948 Games.

Lee later coached Olympic diving champions Pat McCormick and Louganis, who swept the springboard and platform events at the 1984 and '88 Olympics. Lee coached the U.S. team at the 1960 and '64 Olympics.

He remained an active swimmer and golfer into his 90s.

Lee was the AAU national champion in platform and springboard diving in 1942, becoming the first person of color to win a national diving title, and in

Christmas delivery at space station, courtesy of Japan

By Marcia Dunn
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Christmas gifts have arrived at the International Space Station, courtesy of Japan.

A Japanese cargo ship pulled up at the orbiting lab four days after launching. The capsule — called Kounotori, or white stork — contains nearly 5 tons of food, water, batteries, and other supplies. NASA said there also are Christmas presents for the two Americans, three Russians, and one Frenchman on board.

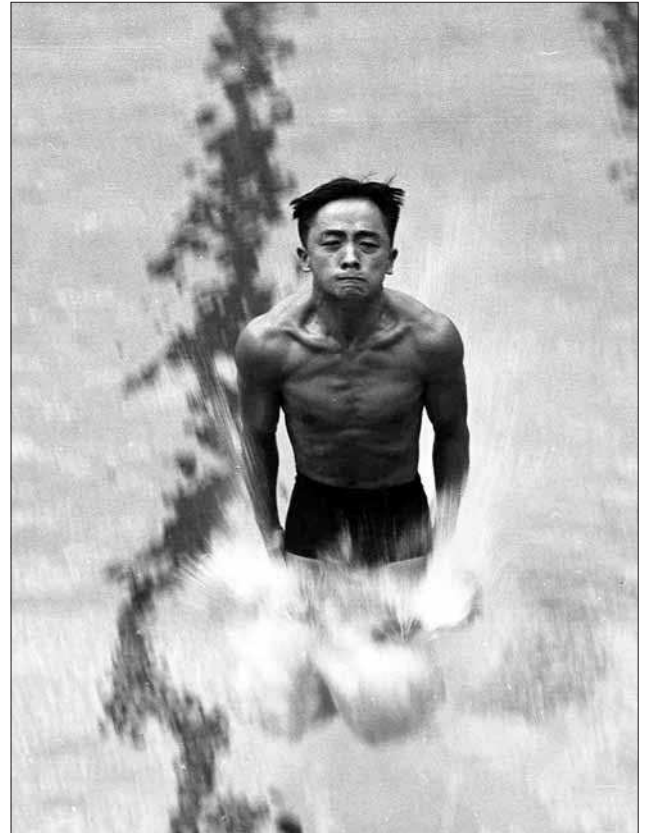
Commander Shane Kimbrough, an American, and France's Thomas Pesquet used the robot arm to grab the capsule 250 miles above Chile. Flight control-

Ground broken on new 2020 stadium

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godas. It is intended to blend in with surrounding parkland and will be structured to minimize costs for heating and cooling.

The structure will use Japanese-grown larch in its wood and steel composite roof and prefabricated panels to help speed the work along and contain costs.



ATHLETE & COACH. American Sammy Lee enters the water at the end of a back dive at the Empire Pool in Wembley, London, on August 4, 1948 during the men's Olympic Games high-diving competition. (AP Photo)

platform in 1946. He won the 1953 Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

He was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1968 and U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1990.

After attending Occidental College in Los Angeles, he graduated from the USC School of Medicine in 1947 and became an ear, nose, and throat physician. He served in the U.S. Army

Medical Corps in the Korean War.

Sammy Lee Square in the Koreatown section of Los Angeles was named in his honor in 2010. In 2013, the Los Angeles Unified School District named one of its elementary schools the Dr. Sammy Lee Medical and Health Sciences Magnet School.

Lee is survived by his wife, Roz, children Pamela and Sammy II, and three grandchildren.

lift-off. At the same time, one of NASA's main suppliers, SpaceX, is grounded.

So the Japanese delivery is especially welcome.

The astronauts need the six new lithium-ion batteries for next month's spacewalks. They will replace the old nickel-hydrogen batteries that store energy generated by the station's big solar panels.

Barely two weeks ago, a Russian supply ship was destroyed shortly after

