

in Minnesota. Susan and her family were new to the language and culture here, but they decided that opening a Chinese restaurant was a good fit for survival. Susan, her husband, Warren, her brother, Vincent and his wife, Bi Xian, and her parents began looking for a place to open a restaurant, according to the **Shakopee Valley News**. They wanted a place for sanctuary, a place they owned, without the possible of increase rent prices or problems with landlords.

“We realized Shakopee was a growing city and we were excited to share in that growth,” said Susan.

They opened the *Imperial Wok Restaurant* in downtown Shakopee.

By 1978, the streets in downtown Shakopee was a mess. The city of Shakopee decided to tear down the north side of First Avenue. It was part of a plan that also included a highway 169 south of the city. Judy Case noted, “This venture to renovate downtown must be done carefully and correctly.”

The redevelopment meant that buildings on Block 3 and 4 would be torn down, and a joint county-city housing and retail complex would be built.

For Susan Xian Jeung and her family, it meant *Imperial Wok Restaurant* would be torn down. And so the restaurant was closed down on March 4, 1997. Susan and her family learned firsthand about eminent domain—the right of a government entity to take private property for public use, with compensation to the owner.

Former Shakopee City Administrator Mark McNeil noted that “Whenever a city of government acquires a property, we must be able to show a public purpose for that.” And so the *Imperial Wok Restaurant* location was on a redevelopment city, and the downtown development is a benefit to the entire community.



The three families of the Jeungs and Xians were the last of the owners to vacate the non-empty building, which was soon torn down. “We try to make a living, but now, what’s the road for us? It’s very sad and painful. I can’t sleep. I have nightmare after nightmare, tear after tear,” said Susan Xian Jeung said in the article, *Force relocation a quandary for family* in the **Shakopee Valley News** in 1997.

As Susan noted, “Our family wants to work to support our children, get them through college so that they get out of this kind of work, which is 14 hours a day with no holidays, no vacations. Now, we have no options. We’ve basically been thrown out on the streets.”

And while the city has been very nice, Susan and her family will have to move to a new place, probably not in Shakopee. “We don’t know when and where we’re going to be able to open a new restaurant, but we will open one, that’s for sure.”



SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

shakopeeheritage.org



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Susan Xian
Jeung

In Shakopee 1992-1997

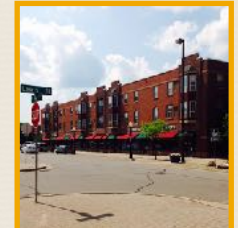
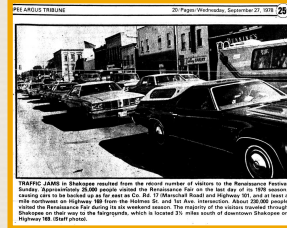


Susan Xian Jeung was born around 1957 in Canton, Shunde, Guangdong, China. Her parents were Wiley Xian and Bao Xian. Susan's brother, Vincent, was also born there.

Guangzhou, formerly romanized as Canton or Kwangtung, is the capital and largest city of Guangdong province in southern China, according to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangzhou>. Located on the Pearl River about 75 miles north-northwest of Hong Kong and 90 miles north of Macau, Guangzhou has a history of over 2,200 years and was a major terminus of the maritime Silk Road. It continues to serve as a major port and transportation hub as well as being one of China's three largest cities. For a long time, the only Chinese port accessible to most foreign traders, Guangzhou was captured by the British during the First Opium War. No longer enjoying a monopoly after the war, it lost trade to other ports such as Hong Kong and Shanghai, but continued to serve as a major transshipment port.

Most of Guangzhou's population is Han Chinese. Almost all Cantonese people speak

Guangzhou
广州市
Canton



Susan Xian Jeung and her family had a Chinese restaurant on the north side of First Avenue in Shakopee in 1992. The *Imperial Wok Restaurant* was in business until 1997, when the city of Shakopee redeveloped Blocks 3 and 4 in Shakopee, which required eminent domain to tear down the two blocks and built a joint county-city housing and retail complex. The restaurant was closed on March 4, 1997.

Cantonese as their first language.

China's Laogai prison system was created soon after Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949 and it still exists today in its essential form.

In concept, it is rooted in communist revolutionary ideology blended with traditional Chinese views on punishment, namely that anti-social behavior (whether criminal or political in nature) can be "reformed" and eliminated through forced labor and re-education.

Originally patterned after the Soviet Gulag, and put it place with Soviet assistance, the Laogai prison system has fostered similar inhumane treatment and been used as a vital tool in suppressing dissent and maintaining Communist Party Power, according to <https://laogairesearch.org/laogai-system/>.

The system was introduced by the ruling Communist Party in China in the 1950s and is used to lock up petty criminals. But it is also a convenient way to get rid of people considered to be troublemakers, such as dissidents,

according to <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-24019666>. The system gives the police immense power. Many argue they use this in an arbitrary manner.

Research reported that Chinese have 350 camps and about 150,000 prisoners.

When Susan Xian Jeung was two years old, the Chinese government sentenced her mother, Bao Xian, a banker, to a labor camp. According to Sandra Brands from the *Shakopee Valley News*, March 13, 1997, when Susan was 12, her mother was imprisoned a second time, and this time Susan's father, Wiley Xian, a civil engineer, and her grandfather, a doctor, had also been interred in labor camps. They were intellectuals, and "The Chinese government is very afraid of intellectuals. The government wants to reform intellectuals because they think the intellectuals want democracy," said Susan.

Susan Xian Jeung and her family did want democracy, and they fled Communist China, settling first in Hong Kong, and then moving to the United States in the early 1980s. Eventually, they

