

## Amazing Montanans—Biographies

### **Dr. Huie Pock**

I came over to the United States when I was older than most Chinese men. I was already a well-established physician in China, but decided to make the long trip to the United State, in particular Montana, because I heard that the many Chinese workers needed Chinese physicians.

It was hard starting out as a Chinese physician in Butte, Montana during the 1800s because so many white Americans looked down on us Chinese and discriminated against us. But I ended up being a well-respected and even quite wealthy man in Butte.

Chinese medicine and acupuncture was thousands of years old in the late 1800s and I brought not only my knowledge of its power, but also many of the ingredients like Chinese herbs necessary to make the remedies. I cured many Chinese people from simple to very complex ailments in Butte. After a while, some of the white Americans even began getting treated by me. I enjoyed meeting new people and helping anyone that I could.

In the early 1900s I saved a very sick and wealthy young woman – the daughter of William Andrews Clark, one of the Butte Copper Kings. She had a terrible ulcer that I was able to successfully cure with an herbal poultice made from banana stalks. You might be wondering how I got these to Butte? The local mercantile store had a good shipping system, where anything that I needed could be sent to me.

But in 1918 my reputation as a well-established physician was greatly boosted when I helped to save many men from a terrible influenza (flu) epidemic. During that



*Dr. Huie Pock, October 15, 1914, Butte, Montana*

year, hundreds of people, who would not visit my practice to receive the effective herbal treatment, died.

Although I was a very skilled physician, I could not save my wife, Chong Chie Huie, who died in 1923 after eating food from a can with botulism (an extremely dangerous food poisoning caused by harmful bacteria). I was very sad about my wife's death. She was peacefully buried in the Chinese section of Butte's Mount Moriah Cemetery. I had hoped that she would be returned to our native China, but since Butte became home to us, it is a good final resting place.