

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.