

Anna Marie typed this to make it easier to read.

The Chinese Riot at R.S. in 1885

The description of the Chinese Riot which occurred Sept. 5, 1885 at R.S. Wyo. has been told by several persons and printed in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Rock Springs and Evanston News papers during last 3 years, varies somewhat as to dates in particular Mrs. J. H. Goodnough's narrative of this vicious madness is nearest to being correct. Most of the writers give the date as Sept. 2, 1885 while Mrs. Goodnough's dates being Sept. 5th of that year. Her father Dave G. Thomas was a mine boss of No. 5 mine. She undoubtedly obtained her information from her father as to that unhappy episode. The Hon. D. G. Thomas, had the rare gift to know and to call every man, white and Chinese, by their first as well as their last names, in R. S. about that time and for many years thereafter. I have noticed that this outstanding gesture was in a large measure responsible for his political success. Judge Thomas still lives in R. S. having his office in the city hall and greets his old time friends by their first names and likes to be called "Dave".

The causes leading to the Chinese Massacre in 1885 date back several years off 1885. For years prior to that time and even since, they were imported legally and otherwise, by U.P.R.R. and other corporations. They came in to R.S. in the early seventies to work in the mines and just prior to the Riot, the R.R. Co. replaced all the white Sec. labor by Chinese labor and the feeling was high against the Chinese in R.S., terminating as it did in a shameful killing of about thirty harmless men, shot in the back running for their lives. I think many of them died in the hills of their wounds and never have been found. No one could tell the exact number killed. Uncle Sam was called upon later to settle by payment to the Chinese government for the lives taken by irresponsible mob. I often wondered if the families of those dead Chinamen received thru their government that blood money in view of the fact that the Chinese government was then and is yet, weak and not dependable. I often wished this slaughter had been inflicted upon those that were responsible for the presence in R.S. of these orientals.

On Wednesday, Sept 5th, the massacre took place and if Judge Thomas had partly viewed this destruction (his mine as all the other mines ere in operation that day) I have had the privilege to see it from beginning till end as I was idle and at home, only a little ways and across the creek from the place where the mob organized for it march toward the Chinatown. On Tuesday eve. Alex "Sandy" Cooper, in whose house my cousin and I were living, addressing my cousin said: "Andrew, have you a rifle or a Shotgun?" "Well, said "Sandy" Cooper, "I will furnish you with one which you must use tomorrow, for we are all going hunting and shooting all the Chinamen we see". We thought this was a joke but in about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour "Sandy" Cooper returned with a long barreled rifle and two boxes of cartridges. It was an Octagon barrel heavy and a single shot. I have never seen a rifle like it before that time nor since. Sandy Cooper, before leaving my cousin's cabin, implored him not to go to work in the morning as it was important that all white miners be "present". After "Sandy" left our house, my cousin and I began to view this proposition rather seriously. In the morning which was Wednesday, cousin Andrew went to work ~~into~~ into No. 1 mine as usual for the mine whistle blew for work. I stayed in the cabin and about 10 o'clock noticed that the Chinese dinner carriers, who daily carried the dinners on a pole across their shoulder from which pole at each end was suspended a basket containing the dinner for a bunch of the Chinese in the mine, were being stoned with rocks and chased by boys and men till they had to drop their load and flee for safety. One after another they were treated with rocks in the same manner. Rock Springs, in the town proper, is devoid of rock suitable for throwing and these stones were undoubtedly brought into town for that purpose day or two before. All mines were working except possibly No. 6 where a fight took place between Chinese and white a day or so before. It seems that a larger $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Chinese employed in mines stayed at home in anticipation of this trouble. But those of the Chinese who went to work must got the warning for they didn't come out of some of the mines until dusk but when they did come out, they were on the run toward S.E. of the No. 1 mine and over the hill. Rifles cracked in the hands of the several of the mob on the old bridge on Bridge Ave.

and several Chinese were shot from that very spot where the mob organized early in the day and started from there for Chinatown. All Chinatown was ablaze and smoldering by now. Nearly all the work was done by this time. The sharp shooters picking off here and there only one or two, or three, that ventured out of the mine or some hiding retreat, little too early. If they had stayed in the mine longer, it would have been safer. Soon after the stoning by boys and men of these "dinner carriers", about 10 o'clock A.M., the mob with guns on their shoulders, began their march toward Chinatown. I watched through the window the starting of the march. I don't think there were over 60 to 75 men in that crowd and probably 40 or 50 with guns on the shoulders. The balance of the crowd may have been armed with pocket guns. Back of the armed brigade were trailing men and boys and I was amongst the hindmost braves about $\frac{1}{2}$ curious and $\frac{1}{2}$ scared and 200 yards or so from the front line. The Chinese had at end of their Chinatown a large building (and this was of two stories) and was used for worship and the safe keeping of their prized and sacred Dragon. This building was used for faro and other Chinese gambling when the crowd reached within 200 yards of the building they halted and sent committee to apprise the Chinese of the mob's intention if they didn't leave within given time. It seemed to me that this house was full of men, say, 400 or 500 men. In the entire Chinese population in R.S. at that time there were only two or three women. As the expiration of the time for leaving approached, the Chinese seemed very excited and seemed almost at point of fighting among themselves. Some urged to go others evidently wanted to stay. There was a loud jabbering and swinging of arms etc etc that could be observed from outside long way off through the windows. The mob got to be impatient and moved forward/^{and} when near the building I saw some Chinese jump out of the window upon a bundle of what looked to be blankets. Then more Chinese jumped out and ran. By that time some of the mob was against the house and some one hit the locked door with an axe or sledge from the way it sounded. The doors were open by that time with Chinese pouring out through the doors and window. The mob started shooting into the house and toward the fleeing men. Soon we saw smoke oozing out of the windows of this building. As the men ran the mob

kept up their fire and hundreds of shots must have been wasted for scare. I believe only very few of the mob were killers because of the small number killed for the hundreds of shots fired.

The mob advanced into the Chinatown driving out of the houses those that were too frightened to run and setting fire with kerosene oil to all the houses after first plundering each house of everything valuable. Some Chinamen were killed inside of their house but most of them on the run, shot in the back. U.P.R.R. Co. ordered that all Chinese be picked up along their line and taken care of, which was done. The fleeing Chinamen gathered up, loaded into box cars and brought back to R.S. Soldiers were already waiting their arrival. Squads of soldiers would guard the Chinese on their errands for many months after the riot. For a while after the riot white workmen such as carpenters etc. were guarded by the soldiers but soon the guarding of the white~~s~~ was discontinued. At first the soldiers and whites were mistrustful of one another and many fist fights took place in the saloons between bunches of miners and soldiers. Later the soldiers and whites began to fraternize and confidence^d between them restored. Soldiers got drunk in saloons very often. They didnt seem to have very strict discipline. On several occasions a Chinaman was caught in darkness and his "pigtail" cut off by soldiers. That act was held to be a very grave offense by the Chinese and a soldier if proven to have committed it, was given severe penalty. These "blue coats" as they were called, spent their pay freely intown. There were missed by R.S. businessmen when they finally left in 1898 after 13 years in R.S. At one period R.S., during the "occupation" was very sick and tired of Uncle Sam's men. This was a year or so prior to the final withdrawal of the army, from R.S. One or two companies or detachments of companies of colored soldiers came, ..the white army leaving. The colored army sojourn in R.S. while brief^f, was the most trying period for the peace officers as well as citizens in general^l, of the entire 13 years history. Zeph Jones was

town marshal and his main man was Chris Bunning, the present R.S. mayor. Both were good men physically and otherwise and unafraid. Their resourcefulness in their line saved R.S. a dangerous outbreak and killing of probably many citizens and negro soldiers. R.S. drew a breath of relief when this colored army was replaced by white one but only for a brief period when finally Camp Pilot Butte was discontinued and passed into the history of the Chinese Massacre. With the final removal of the army, went many pleasant friendships and memories till this day.

The Chinese Dragon didnt come into such general notice before the riot as it did afterward. In fact I am not sure whether the Chinese possessed one in R.S. prior to the riot. After the riot however, this idol of Chinese worship was used on certain important occasions for years in R.S. It was said ~~in~~ that only two such Dragon^s existed in the U.S. One of them in S.F. and the other in R.S. Wherever this hug^e thing was brought out in a celebration of a big event, it was necessary to enlist about 75 to 100 men carryi^{ng} this animal. The men carryi^{ng} it had to keep even step and they were invisible except their feet. With Dragon was accompnied all sorts of music in the form of pipes, tamborines, and drums and fire crackers and these noises were followed through the streets by all R.S. children with $\frac{1}{2}$ the grown ups following and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ watching from sidewalks. The body of the Dragon was in the form of a serpent made of hoops covered with linen and silk of many colors to imitate the scales on the snake's back. It head was bull's head with large horns, greenish, bulging out eyes and its mouth open with serpents tongue sticking out. The dragon would halt in front of each Chinese business house for a moment acknowledging by turning toward it its head and bowing couple of times ^{to} the terrific fire cracker noise the house so devotedly spent in its honor.

APB
[Andrew P. Bugas?] - Father of John S. Bugas
April 16, 1933

I
The Chinese Riot at R.S. in 1885

The description of the Chinese Riot which ~~has~~ occurred Sept. 5, 1885 at R.S. Wyo. has been told by several persons & printed in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Rock Springs & Evanston News papers during last 3 years. Varies somewhat as to dates in particular Mrs J. H. Goodnaugh's narrative of this vicious madness is nearest ^{to} being correct. Most of the writers give the date as Sept. 2, 1885 while Mrs Goodnaugh's date being Sept 5th of that year. Her father Dave G. Thomas was a mine boss of No. 5 mine. She undoubtedly obtained her information from her father as to that unhappy episode. The Hon. D. G. Thomas, had the rare gift to know and to call every man, white & Chinese, by their first as well as their last names, in R.S. about that time & for many years thereafter. I have noticed that this outstanding feature was in large measure responsible for his political career. Judge Thomas still lives in R.S. having his office in the Court House and greets his old time friends by their first names and likes to be called "Dave".

The causes leading to the Chinese massacre in 1885 date back several years. For years prior to that time, and even since, they were imported legally and otherwise, by U.S.R.R. & other corporations. They came in to R.S. in the early seventies to work in the mines and just prior to the riot, the R.R. Co. replaced all the white Sec. labor by Chinese labor & the feeling ran high against the Chinese in R.S., terminating ^{as it did,} in a shameful killing of about thirty harmless men, shot in the back ^{for their lives.} I think many of them died in the hills of their wounds & never have been found. No one

could tell ^{the} exact number killed. Uncle Sam was called upon later to settle by payment to the Chinese government for the lives taken by irresponsible mob. I often wondered if the families of those dead Chinamen received from their government that blood money, in view of the fact that the Chinese government was ^{then} and is yet, weak & not dependable. I often wished this slaughter had been inflicted upon those that were responsible for the presence in R.D. of these orientals.

On Wednesday, Sept 5th, ~~Sept 5th~~, the Massacre took place, and if Judge Thomas had partly viewed this destruction (his mine as all the other mines were in operation that day) I have had the privilege to see it from beginning till end as I was idle and at home, only a little ways and across the creek from the place ^{where} the mob organized for its march toward the Chinatown. On Tuesday eve. Alex "Sandy" Cooper, in whose house my Cousin & I were living, ~~and~~ addressing my Cousin said: "Andrew, have you a rifle or a shot gun?" "No," said my Cousin, the late Andrew Hudack, "I have not." "Well," said "Sandy" Cooper, "I will furnish you with one which you must use to morrow, for we are all going hunting and shooting all these Chinamen we see". We thought this was a joke but in about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour "Sandy" Cooper returned with a long barreled rifle and two boxes, Cartridges. It was an Octagon barreled heavy & a single shot. I have never seen a rifle like it before that time nor since. Sandy Cooper, before leaving my Cousin's cabin, implored him not to go to work in the morning as it was important that all white miners be "present". After "Sandy" left our house, my Cousin & I began to view this proposition rather seriously. In the morning, which was Wednesday, Cousin Andrew went to work in to No 1 mine as usual, for the mine whistle blew for work. I stayed in the cabin & about 10 O'clock noticed that the Chinese Dinner Carriers, who daily carried the dinners on a pole across their shoulder from which pole at each end

was suspended^a basket containing the dinner for^a bunch of
 The Chinese in the mine, were being stoned with rocks ^{and}
 chased by boys and men till they had to drop their load
 and flee for safety. One after another they were treated
 with rocks in the same ^{manner}. Rock Springs, in the town proper,
 is devoid of rock suitable for throwing and these stones were
 undoubtedly brought into town for that purpose day or two before.
 All mines ^{were} working except possibly No. 6 where^a fight took place
 between Chinese & Whites a day or so before. It seems that
 a larger $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Chinese employed in mines stayed at home
 in anticipation of this trouble. But those of the Chinese
 who went to work must not get the warning for they didn't come
 out of some of the mines until dusk but when they did come
 out, they were on the run toward S.E. of the No. 1 mine and over the
 hill. Rifles cracked in the hands of several of the mob
 on the old bridge on Bridge Ave. and several Chinese were
 shot from that very spot where ^{the} mob organized early in
 the day and started from there for Chinatown. All Chinatown
 was ablaze & smoldering by now. Nearly all the work was done
 by this time. The sharp shooters picking off here & there only one,
 or two, or three, that ventured out of the mine or some hiding
 retreat, little too early. If they had stayed in the mine longer,
 it would have been safer. Soon after the stoning by boys
 & men of these "dinner carriers," about 10 o'clock A.M., the
 mob with guns on their shoulders, began their march to
 ward Chinatown. I watched thru the window the starting
 of the march. I don't think there ^{were} over 60 to 75 men in that
 crowd & probably 40 or 50 with guns on the shoulder. The
 balance of the crowd ~~was~~ may have been armed with pocket
 guns. Back of the armed brigade were trailing men & boys

and I was amongst the hindmost braves about
 1/2 curious & 1/2 scared and 200 yards or so from the
 front line. The Chinese had at one end of their China
 town a large building (and this was of two stories) and ~~the~~
~~building~~ was used for worship and the safe keeping of
 their prized & Sacred Dragon. This building was used
 for jans & other Chinese gambling. When the crowd
 reached within 200 yards of the building they halted & sent
 Committee to apprise the Chinese of the mob's intention if
 they didn't leave within given time. It seemed to me that
 this house was full of men, say, 400 or 500 men. In the
 entire Chinese population in R.S. at that time there was only
 two or three women. As the expiration of the time for leaving
 approached, the Chinese seemed very excited and seemed
 almost at point of fighting among themselves. Some urged
 to go others evidently wanted to stay. There was a loud
 jabbering and banging of arms etc. etc. that could be
 observed from ^{outside} long ways ^{off} thru the windows. The mob got
 to be impatient & moved forward when near the building
 I saw some Chinese jumped out ^{the} window upon a bun-
 dle of ~~what~~ that looked to be blankets. Then more Chinese
 jumped out & ran. By that time some of the mob was against
 the house & some all hit the locked door with an axe or sledge
 frame ~~by~~ the way it sounded. The doors were open by that time
 with Chinese pouring out thru the doors & windows. The mob
 started shooting in to the house & toward the fleeing men. Soon
 we saw smoke going out of the windows of this building. Soon
 men ran the mob kept up their fire & hundreds of shots must
 have been wasted for naught. I believe only very few of the
 mob were killers because of the small number killed for the
 hundreds of shots fired.

V

The mob advanced up the China town driving out of the houses those that were too frightened to run and setting fire with kerosene ^{oil} to all the houses after first plundering each house of everything valuable. Some Chinamen were killed inside of their house but most of them on the run, shot in the back. U.P.R.R. Co. ordered that all Chinese be picked up along their line & taken care of, which was done. The fleeing Ch. men gathered up, loaded in to box cars & hrat back to R.S. Soldiers were already waiting their arrival. Squad of soldiers would guard the Ch. on their errands for many months after the riot. For a while after the riot white workmen such as carpenters etc. were guarded by the soldiers but soon the guarding of the whites was discontinued. At first the soldiers & whites were mistrustful of one another & many ^{fight} fights took place in the saloons between bunch of miners & soldiers. Late the soldiers & whites began to fraternize & confidence between them restored. Soldiers got drunk in saloons very often. They did not seem to have very strict discipline. On several occasions a Chinaman was caught in darkness & his "pig tail" cut off by soldiers. That act was held to be a very grave offense by the Chinese & a soldier if proven to ^{have} committed it, was given severe penalty. These "blue coats", as they were called, spent their pay freely in town. They were ^{dismissed} when they finally left in 1898 after 13 years in R.S. At one period R.S., during the "occupation" was very sick & tired of Uncle Sam's men. This was a year or so prior to the final withdrawal of the army from R.S. One or two companies or detachments of Companies of colored soldiers came, the white army leaving. The colored army sojourn in R.S. while brief, was the most trying period for the peace officers, as well as citizens in general, of the entire 13 year history. Jeph Jones was town marshal & his main man was Chris Bunnick, the present R.S. mayor. Both were good men physically & otherwise & unafraid. Their resourcefulness in their line saved R.S. a dangerous outbreak and killing of probably many citizens & Negro soldiers. R.S. drew a breath

of relief when this colored army was replaced by white one
 but only for a brief period when finally Camp Pilot Butte
 was discontinued and passed into the history of the Chinese
 massacre. With ^{the final} removal of the ~~the~~ army went many
 pleasant friendships, and memories till this day.

The Chinese dragon didn't come into such general
 notice before the riot as it did afterward. In fact I cannot
 surmise whether the Chinese possessed one in R.S. prior to the
 riot. After riot however, this idol of Chinese worship was used
 on certain important occasions for years in R.S. It was said
 that only two such dragons existed in the U.S. one them in S.F.
 and the other in R.S. Whenever this huge thing was brot out in
 a celebration of a big event, it was necessary to enlist about ⁷⁵~~50~~
 to 100 men carrying this animal. The man carrying it had to
 keep even step & they were invisible except their feet. With dragon
 was accompanied all sorts of music in the form of pipes, tambourines,
 & drums & fire crackers and these noises were followed thro
 the streets by all R.S. children with $\frac{1}{2}$ the grown ups following
 & the other $\frac{1}{2}$ watching from sidewalks. The body of the dragon
 was in the form of a serpent made of hoops covered with linen &
 silk of many colors to imitate the scales on the snake's back.
 Its head was bulls head with large horns, greenish bulging
 out eyes and its mouth open with serpents tongue sticking
 out. The dragon would halt in front of each Chinese business
 house for a moment acknowledging by turning toward it its
 head & bowing couple of times, the terrific fire cracker noise
 the house so devotedly spent in its honor.