## · anna Marie typed this to make it easier to

The Chinee Riot at R.S. in 1885

The discription of the Chinee Riot which occured Sept. 5, 1885 at R.S. Wyo. has been told by several persona 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 naraative 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 Chineese, 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 Lending to the Chinee Massacre in 1885 date back several years of \$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 sevneties to work in the mines and just prior to the Riot, the R.R. Co. replaced all the white Sec. labor by Chineese labor and the feeling was high against the Chineese in R.S., terminating as it did in a shameful killing of about thirt harmless men, shot in the back running for their lives. I thing 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 be payment to the Chinee 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 Chineese 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.

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On Wednesday, Sept 5th, the massacre took place and if Judge Thomas had partly viewed this distruction(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 got 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 monring which was Wednesdayk cousin Andrew went to work xxxxxx 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 Chinee dinner carriers, who daily carried the dinners on a pole across their shoulder from which pale at each end was suspended a basket containing the dinner for a bunch of the Chineese 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 Chineese and white a day or so before. It seems that a larger \frac{1}{2} of the Chineese employed in mines stayed at home in anticipation of this trouble. But those of the Chineese who went to work must got the warning for they didnit 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 Chineese 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 bee 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} crious and \frac{1}{2} scared and 200 yards or so from the front line. The Chineese 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 Chineese gambling when the crowd reached within 200 yards of the b ilding they halted and sent committee to apprize the Chineese of the mob's intent on 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 Chinee population in R.S. at that time there were only two or three women. As the expiration of the time for leaving approached, the Chineese 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 lon way off throught the windows The mob got to be impatient and moved forward/when near the building I saw some Chineese jumps out of the window upon a bundle of what looked to be blankets. Then more Chineese jumped out and ran. By that time some of the ob 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 Chineese 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 inisde of their house but most of them on the run, shot in the back. U.P.R.R. Co. ordered that all Chineese 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 Chinesem on their errands for many months after the riot. For awhile 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 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 configure between them restored. Soldiers got drunk in saloons very often. They didn't 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 Chineese 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 rear or so pior to the final withdrawal of the army, from R.S. One or two companies or detchments 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 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 Chineese Massacre. With the final removal of the army, went many pleasant friendships and memories till this day.

The Chineese Daragon didnt come into such general notice before the riot as it did afterward. In fact I am not sure whether the Chineese possessed one in R.S. prior to the riot. After the riot however, this idol of Chineese worship was used on certain important occasions for years in R.S. It was said www that only two such Dragon existed in the U.S. One of them in S.F. and the other in R.S. Whereever this huge thing was brought out in a ceplibration of a big event, it was necessary to enlist about 75 to 100 men carryi g this animal. The men carrying 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 Chinee business house for a moment acknowledging by turning toward it its head and bowing coule of times the terrific fire cracker noixse the house so devotedly spent in its honor.

> [Andrew P. Bugas?] - father of John S. Bugas April 16, 1933

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april 16, 1923