

The Mountain of Gold by F. S. Chin (typed December , 1999)

Temple Keeper - scholar - master of calligraphy

died at a very early age.

mother - very tall woman - bound feet

Ah Wei (1883-1961)- The Temple Keeper's son - 19 yrs old (1902) water buffalo boy - 24th gen. House - half Uncle Din's - other half Ah Wei's Uncle Din's buffalo

Ah Mei-heng (next door) 24th gen. younger than Ah Wei.

Uncle Soo and Temple Keeper went to school together and played together as boys. Has wife, son, and daughter. Just came back from U.S. after 15 years (1887). Worked on railroad at first as cook. Saved his money and opened a restaurant in a railroad town. Sold business and went to S.F. Came back to buy Chinese goods such as cloth, tea, dishes, to sell in U.S. Partner, a friend, in S.F. pooled their money, to buy goods. U.S. law allows him to bring some assistants. He decided on three: (1) his son, Leng Hing, (2) Ying Toi (school boy), (3) Ah Wei. Both Leng and Ying are older than Wei.

setan -社坛[社壇] sì -hàn

Letter from S.F. to home dated 28th year of Emperor 11th month 12th day. (December 11, 1902).

Soo's partner gambled away starting capital. No money left. Sold goods at a loss. Sent letters to friends in other parts of U.S. to find work for Ying and Wei.

Meanwhile, Uncle Soo advised Wei to learn English in Sunday School. "Work hard and save."

Finally received two letters: one from Nebraska (for Ah Ying), one from Iowa (for Ah Wei).

On way to Watertown, Iowa, he studied the books Sunday School had given him.

Uncle Soo's friend, **Bing Yee** (in his 40's) picked him up in Watertown. Bing Yee's village (where Ah Wei first changed flat boats) hours by boat, minutes by train from Ho Ching.

Ah Wei will work in kitchen (dish washer -very long hours). Restaurant as a lunch counter affair - two story frame building. A lot of railroad workers here.

After one year, he repaid his expense to Uncle Soo in S.F.

After three years, Bing Yee (50 years old) sent Ah Wei to Sunday School to learn more English. Soon was able to speak a little, and write a little.

Bing Yee wants Ah Wei to work in the dining room. Bing Yee prospered.

"Emperor Overthrown China to be Republic" (10 October 1911)

Ah Wei returns to Sunpo after almost a decade (1911?). Leaves old house and builds new one. Marries. Girl is born (1911). [something wrong with the time here.]

(1913) Ah Wei returned to China again - son born.