

Women's Work

By Suzy Hopkins

Surprisingly for Susan Anderson her father encouraged her to attend medical school. Why is this surprising? Because it was in the year 1893.

She became a licensed physician and attempted to practice medicine in Denver, Greeley and Eaton, Colorado. No one would hire a woman doctor.

Seven years later she was appointed Coroner of Grand County, Colorado during which time she investigated some of the suspicious deaths associated with the construction of the Moffat Tunnel railroad.

In 1907 she moved to Fraser, Colorado to recover from TB. For the next *49 years* she was the only doctor in that town. She lived alone in a log cabin with no running water where she treated mumps, measles and chicken pox, amputated smashed fingers, fixed broken bones and helped people survive the 1918 pneumonia pandemic, all without any anesthesia except whiskey.

She was also midwife, delivering babies who grew up and had their own babies that she also delivered.

Abandoned at the altar she never again attempted to marry.

She died a slow death in a Denver hospital in 1960 at age 90. Thirty-seven years later she was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

She will always be remembered as "Doc Susie".