

quick and the dead of other days. A singing was being held one Sunday night at Grandview school. Blue Ghormley was sitting between two friends inside the school. One of the Carters shot and killed Blue, firing from outside through the window. That incident did not lay quietly, as on the coming Fourth of July, there was a big celebration in Tahlequah. The block in front of the Court House was roped off to provide for the concession stands and promenade. George's three older sisters were standing by a soft drink stand enjoying a refreshment when shots rang out. Not ten feet away a Carter fell dead, and one of the Ghormleys was seen making his way up north main street. In fairly recent years, Grover Bishop was having trouble with Wilson Rider and his boys. The Rider boys got into a nasty habit of driving their cattle into Bishop's fields and letting them eat up his grain. There was bad blood between the two men as Bishop was not welcome in the community in that part of the Cookson Hills probably because he had previously been with the sheriff's force, and the Riders were known to be on the mean side. This combination came to a head when Bishop warned the boys if they let their cattle in on his field again he would come shooting. The boys did not heed the warning and the next time they let the cattle in, Bishop came shooting, but did not hit any of the boys. Immediately came old man Rider to see Bishop. Bishop told him not to come in the yard, but come he did, and Bishop shot him down. He then told the boys that if they made a bad move he would come after them also. Again, bad blood still simmers, and someday it may boil over. Mr. Young says that many good people can be pushed just so far, and then something happens. Such was the time when U.S. Marshals Ridenhouer and Gilstrap were trying to fabricate a case against the Wickliff boys. It is said these Marshals hung their aged father up by his thumbs in an effort to make him tell something about his boys dealing in whiskey. That act blew up in their face, as the Wickliff boys at once went on the warpath, that was to end years later and several men dead.