

STANSBURY, LON R.

INTERVIEW

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GEORGE B. PERRYMAN, LAND OWNER AND RANCHER

by

Lon R. Stansbury, Tulsa.

In 1882, George B. Perryman owned more land than any other Indian in the Creek Nation. His farm land was in the Arkansas River bottom and began at about 19th Street, ran south on Peoria Street to 51st Street and was all under fence. His pasture land ran east at Lynn Lane and south to Broken Arrow.

In 1883, he began renting these big pastures to the ranchers of Texas, and thousands of cattle were shipped in to these pastures each year. Such noted men as W. O. Woodley, Shanghai Pierce, J. M. Daugherty, B. L. Naylor, Wallace Lynn, P. L. Yokum and Joe Price shipped their cattle to these pastures; and so it was that George Perryman with his many acres of lush pasture land made Tulsa the cow town of Indian Territory.

The late W. A. Forsythe leased 30,000 acres from Perryman, including the ground where the Tulsa County Farm is now located, between Tulsa and Broken Arrow. The big Daugherty ranch included the present Indian Hills Country Club golf course, where instead of shooting wolves and coyotes as the cowboys did, they are now shooting golf. This writer (Lon R. Stansbury) came to the Indian Territory in 1889 and there was, at that

time, only one house between this big Daugherty ranch and Tulsa, and only one between Broken Arrow and Tulsa. This was on another big ranch where they hired fourteen cowboys, including this hard-riding writer, to work the cattle, so you see there was not much space taken up by houses on these huge pastures. Cattle, and nothing but cattle, all to be shipped when they were fattened.

All shipments from these pastures were made from Catoosa, which was one of the largest shipping points in the Indian Territory. The town was always crowded with cowboys and has had more shooting scrapes on record than any other small Oklahoma town. Three men were killed in one night when Jim French tried to hold up Tom Reynolds' store. If any one was looking for trouble or wanted a good scrap, it could be found in that little village.

Not many of the cattle shipped in to ~~fatten~~ fatten on these big pastures were wintered here and many of the cowboys who came from Texas in the spring would return there in the fall. Some of them liked this country, however, and stayed. Some were Lem Hooks, Jim Wilson and O.J. Baker, all of whom came with M. M. Daugherty. Sam Blair came with the Merchant Brothers. The late Jim Woolley came with Shanghai Pierce. Jim became

sheriff of Tulsa County and was later a member of the Tulsa police force, where he was killed while on duty. Jim was well liked by every one who knew him. His old friend, Arthur Antler, says that he was as good a cowman as ever checked a bronco or turned a cow into a mill. And though this former cow hand who came from Texas and gave up his life in the performance of his duty as a city policeman has gone on, he is well loved and remembered among his friends.