

PERCHAU, CHARLES

INTERVIEW

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Interviewer

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Interview with Charles Ferchau
Cage, Oklahoma.

Mr. Ferchau left Oklahoma City in 1890 and went to Dallas, and while there he became connected with some fairly sharp promoters. His associates apparently were doing well in Dallas selling gold mining stock and one of them, as Mr. Ferchau related to me, made him a present of a \$2,500.00 block of the stock, \$1500 of which he traded for a beautiful span of horses with an expensive set of metal mounted harness and a luxurious coach type vehicle. Soon after, however, Ferchau and his two associates felt it necessary to leave Dallas suddenly and his remaining gold stock was turned for a mere trifle and the three men started north for the Oklahoma boundary in much haste.

They went north across Red River and well into Indian Territory until they reached a ranch house owned by a United States Marshal.

At this ranch they remained for a number of days. One day while they were there the owner invited Ferchau to go with him on a ride some distance east.

Good saddle horses were made ready for the Marshal and Mr. Ferchau. Before departing, however, Ferchau says

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he particularly noticed that the Marshal's saddle had on either side back of the cantle a large leather bag and each of these bags was full of something. These two journeyed on and Ferchau says that the further they went the rougher and wilder appearing the region around them became. He became anxious and feared that they could not proceed further over such seemingly impassable country. The United States Marshal, however, assured him that he need only cling safely to his horse and saddle and he would suffer no mishaps. At length the end of the perilous ride ended in the depths of rugged hills and gulches, thickets of timber and underbrush and the Marshal and Ferchau met in this wilderness the notorious Emmet and Grat Dalton. Ferchau says that at this very time this United States Marshal carried a warrant for the arrest of both these Daltons but instead of serving them with it he unburdened to them his two bulging leather saddlepockets in which he had carried to these outlaws quite a quantity of food and some ammunition.

Mr. Ferchau and his two friends went on in the direction of Oklahoma City and El Reno.

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What is now El Reno at that time was only a rough and woolly little trading post on the north side of the North Canadian River called Reno City. It was then situated in what was known as the "four-mile bottom." Even then it seems that there were many places of amusement in and adjacent to Reno City.

Soon, however, the new El Reno was born and Ferchau moved over the river and converted his coach and team into cash and entered into the building business in earnest. He did not let his contract work and building business interfere with his other less profitable interests too much and being nearer to the active military post of Fort Reno he developed many friendships and acquaintances with the Fort's soldiers. Fort Supply then was still an active United States Army Post and Ferchau with soldiers from Fort Reno made trips overland to Fort Supply and return. In this manner he discovered the possibilities for a man of his inclinations and interests at the cow town of Woodward toward the west end of the Cherokee Strip. Also he was fascinated with the numerous wild deer and wild turkey that abounded along Wolf Creek and other streams in the western part

of the Strip. So in the course of time he located at Fort Supply. In the meantime he was out in this section of the country on many hunting trips with parties from El Reno. Along Wolf Creek in this immediate section he says these hunting parties used to kill fine wild turkeys without number.

Mr. Ferchau was an intimate friend of Temple Houston, the gifted son of Sam Houston. Unfortunately, both men were habitual drunkards. Mr. Ferchau was one of the two eye witnesses to the murder of Ed Jennings by Temple Houston and Jack Love, which occurred back of one the many saloons in Woodward. Ed Jennings was a prominent lawyer of Woodward, whose father was Judge of the Territorial Court in Woodward at the time of his son's death.