

TURNER, GOLDIE.

~~TALTON, O. LAMON.~~

7891

358

TURNER, GOLDIE - TERLTON, OKLAHOMA.

7891

Turner, Goldie, Investigator.
October 21, 1937.

Material Gathered about Terlton, Oklahoma,
by Goldie Turner.

Shortly after the opening of the Strip in 1893 Mr. Terrel came to a place about a mile and one half north of the southern boundary of the Cherokee Strip and about one half mile east of the present town of Terlton. Mr. Terrel bought a small piece of land and started the promotion of a mine, to start a boom and incidentally to start a town. The mine proved of no value and Mr. Terrel had some trouble and left the country. Some little time later a townsite company was organized and parts of several homesteads were bought up to be surveyed and platted off into a townsite. The lots were sold and the townsite was named Terlton, for Mr. Terrel the original promoter.

A general store was established and soon a Post Office was added. The mail at first was brought by stage from Perry and later from Pawnee. Supplies were freighted in from Perry and Red Fork. A saw mill was established near the creek but most of the lumber was freighted in. The first postmaster was Mr. Ed Buchanan and the first mail carrier

TURNER, GOLDIE - TERLTON, OKLAHOMA.

7891

-2-

was Mr. H. E. Reed. Both men came into the territory at the run.

The inhabitants of the town soon grew in number and the first winter after the run the citizens freighted in lumber and built a one-room school house. A short term was held the first year but after that a regular term was held.

The wooded country abounded in wild game and it was an easy matter while clearing off the ground for the citizens to get plenty of meat.

In 1903 the Frisco railroad built its line through the community. It missed the town of Terlton by a half mile. A townsite company was organized and land was bought from the McElhaney and C. C. Hicks homesteads. The land was platted and lots sold. The old town was abandoned or moved to the new site. Mr. J. E. Florer established the first general store in the new townsite and the Post Office was placed in his store. Several other stores were established and a little square stone bank building, which housed the Terlton First State Bank, was erected and which still stands.

The town, being surrounded by fertile farming coun-

TURNER, GOLDIE - TERLTON, OKLAHOMA.

7891

-3-

try, gradually grew to have several hundred in population until about 1913 or 1914 when oil was discovered near the town and Oil companies built tank farms close to it. The town then began to boom and business flourished. Many new stores were established and new homes were built. A large school building was built to replace the old one which was inadequate in size. This building burned in 1924 and was replaced by the modern brick building, there now. The oil boom lasted only a few years and now many of the buildings, as in a number of other little towns, have been abandoned.

There are no Indian allotments in this part of the country. At the time of the opening, however, there was one abandoned Cherokee allotment just north and west of the town of Terlton. This had been allotted to a Cherokee by the name of Archer who had broken out about fourteen acres of land just north of the present townsite and had built a house along the creek bank west of the town. It is thought by many that the creek named House Creek which flows south on the west side of Terlton and then empties into the Cimarron river a few miles south, derived its name from the house which had been built many years before

TURNER, GOLDIE - TERLTON, OKLAHOMA.

7891

-4-

the opening and which stood there for years afterwards,
although Archer did not live there very long.