

STANSBURY, LON R.

INTERVIEW

GEORGE B. PERRYMAN, FRIEND AND PEACEMAKER
by
Lon R. Stansbury

During his many years in this country, George B. Perryman had many and varied experiences with both Indians and white men who would go on the war path in those wild pioneer days. Sometimes the gun was the only means of settling an argument. Such was the case with Goob Childers, who had become an enemy of Perryman's during the Spieche war. One day he went on the war path, went to Red Fork, killed his sister-in-law, bought a coffin and started home. Suddenly he decided to come over to Tulsa and kill George Perryman and David Hodge, so loading the coffin into the wagon, he started after George, to place him in it as chief occupant. An Indian runner was sent ahead, however, to warn Perryman and when Childers drove up he was ready and waiting. When the smoke cleared away, it was Childers who was eligible for the coffin.

Childers, left a large family and Perryman helped raise them. He took two of the Childers boys, Spot and Jim, and made good cowboys out of them. Spot was noted for his wit and humor and was always the life of the camp. Many an old cowboy remembers the story of his "aces" when he was playing poker on a saddle blanket in the old Daugherty pasture. He

was later killed by his younger brother Daniel. Jim Childers became very successful farmer and his wonderful Berkshire hogs took prizes at the county fairs for years. He passed over the range in 1935 to join his cowboy friends who had gone on ahead to pick out the bedding ground.

These boys are only two of the many whom George Perryman befriended and helped. He was always ready to help those in need and always a booster for Tulsa. He stood for law and order, better schools and churches. He and his brother, L. C. Perryman, helped start the first Indian mission school. He was well liked by his cowboys and they would work harder for him than for any other cowman. He had only two foremen during his many years as a rancher. The first, Bill Jones, was with him six years and the other, C. B. Hamilton, was with him twelve years. In 1884, he built a big house in the block where the Tulsa County Courthouse now stands, and where he lived until his death in 1899. His property was the square block from 5th to 6th Streets and Main Street to Boulder Street, Tulsa.

Aunt Rachel, his wife, had many offers to sell this property after the death of her husband but refused to consider it for several years. One day J. E. Haywood, from

Danville, Kentucky, told her he wanted the property badly and asked her to name a price. After consulting with General Plez Porter, principal chief of the Creek Nation, she told Haywood her price was \$60,000. He accepted the deal, went home and returned with \$60,000 in currency, no checks, no drafts, just \$60,000 in real cash. He later sold the southwest corner to Tulsa County as a site for the Court House. Aunt Rachel then moved back to the white house on South Peoria, which she and her husband had built soon after their marriage and lived there until her death in 1934. Many mourned her passing, for she, like her husband, was much loved by all who knew her. George Perryman's burial place is at 32nd and Utica Ave., Tulsa.