

STANSBURY, LON R. INTERVIEW

TULSA'S FIRST POST OFFICE

by

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George Perryman married Miss Rachel Alexander and their first home was south of town at about 37th and Peoria Streets. It was a double log house with large rooms and had the usual entry way between the wings. After living there several years, they built the white house, the lumber for it being hauled from Coffeyville, Kansas by wagon. The house, still standing, was built at 41st and Peoria Streets, where was located Tulsa's first post office. (A suitable marker has recently been placed at this site.)

The government established this post office on March 25, 1879 with Josiah C. Perryman acting as postmaster. All mail was addressed to Tulsey Tulowa, Indian Territory (Tulowa means town in the Creek language.) Mail was carried on horseback from Coffeyville, Kansas, to Tulsey Tulowa, where the carrier would spend the night. The next day he would go on to the Sac and Fox Indian Agency about eight miles south of Stroud and after spending the night there, would start back, making the entire trip in four days. That is, he would make the trip in four days if the rivers and creeks were not flooded. The government would not allow the carriers to swim their horses

through high water and some times it would take ten to twelve days to make the trip. However, in good weather Tulsey Town would get mail from the east every fifth day.

Later they started a line from Fort Smith by way of Tahlequah, which gave Tulsa mail from the south. Green Yeargen, who now lives at Skiatook, was one of the first carriers over this route. He tells many interesting stories of his trips, the hazards and many hardships he had to endure. Verily, different from our modern air mail system.