

Vincent Charles (Bud) Perini, Jr.  
A Life in Photographs



Charles W. Perini







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By Charles W. Perini

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Charles W. Perini was born in Ft. Worth, Texas in 1947 and lives in Mystic, Connecticut.

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Cover photo:  
Bud Perini prospecting for oil in Utah, 1921.







My father, Bud Perini, died on February 20th, 1965 from complications following surgery for a broken hip. He had been fighting a particularly aggressive and debilitating form of Parkinson's disease which was, in the 1960's, not treatable with the modern drugs which have now made the disease less devastating. During the last four years of his life we had become very close, not only because I was needed to take care of him every day, but because I spent my high school Summer vacations with him filing and collating forty years of maps, geological field notes, geologic and electric well logs and, most importantly, business and personal correspondence in his office in the Mims Building in downtown Abilene, Texas. Many of these files now constitute the basis of the "Perini Library, Inc." a professional resource in Abilene, Texas. His business records and letters are archived in the Special Collections Library of the Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University.

Although we had always known that he was highly respected as a geologist and civic leader and was universally well liked, it was not until I began going through the hundreds of letters and files that I came to understand the scope of his personal relationships and the respect from his peers over a long career. As his primary driver, taking him to the office in the morning and picking him up after school every day, we spent a lot of time together and would also go to drilling sites and even "ran the plane table" on occasion to check surface geology. In the afternoons, we often went to the ranch in Buffalo Gap, where he could relax and enjoy the companionship of his dogs, horses, ducks, geese and mules. It was only later, after seeing some of these photographs, that I began to understand his lifelong affection for people, the great outdoors and animals. As his disease progressed and became more and more debilitating and frustrating for him, we spent much more time together, something for which I will always be grateful. I only wish that I had known enough then to ask more questions about his early life and career. When he died, in my high school senior year, I felt that I had lost a best friend as well as a father.

In the early seventies, while visiting my mother in Abilene, I asked if there were any old photographs of dad and she replied that there was a cardboard box under one of the beds, out at the ranch, and that she had no idea what was in it. The contents of that box has become the primary source for this collection. Many of these photographs are now included in the Photographic Archives of Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas and I am indebted to The West Texas Digital Archives where I found other photographs from other sources which were not in this collection. Some of the color photographs are from his 35 mm slides taken from the mid 1940's until about 1960.

For the biography, I have quoted generously from an autobiographical sketch he wrote for the History of Abilene, published by the "Abilene Reporter News" in 1955 and from various obituaries written for professional organizations by some of his closest friends. I am also grateful to Susie Stevens, daughter of his only niece, Virginia Anderson, for her compilation of the "Perini/Lee History Notes" and to my brother, Vee, for his extensive transcriptions of family discussions held after his death.

In 2015, we will celebrate Bud Perini's 120th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his death. It is my hope that this little book will serve to illustrate and somehow convey to his grandchildren and future generations why those of us who knew him speak about him so often and with such affection and respect, even after so many years.

Many of the details and stories of his life are now lost to time, but, lucky for us, a picture really is worth a thousand words.

Charles W. Perini

Mystic , Connecticut 2014



## Biography of Vincent Charles (Bud) Perini, Jr.

Vincenzo Perini, father of Vincent Charles (Bud) Perini, Jr., was born in 1855 and came to the United States in 1872 from the small village of Mergoscia, high on the sunny side of a steep mountain in the Swiss Canton of Ticino. After the American Civil War, there was a large influx of Swiss immigrants to the United States who were fleeing the stifling multiple problems of over population, poverty and a devastating drought. In fact, the situation was so dire in Ticino that the Swiss Government and local churches provided travel funds for many of these emigrating young Swiss and it is likely that Vincenzo was in this group. When the seventeen year old arrived in New York, in 1872, he was processed through Castle Clinton, now known as the "Battery" in lower Manhattan, and was hired at the gate to milk cows on a farm in New York. After learning some English, he headed West, working in the famous Comstock silver mines, near Virginia City, Nevada, where he became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1876. He eventually ended up in Denver, Colorado and, in 1884, with his younger brother, Enrico, opened "Perini Brothers" store in downtown Denver featuring imported and domestic, high quality clothing, fine gloves and accessories. Perhaps because of his mining experiences in the West, the brothers invested in mining properties in the San Juan mountains of Southwestern Colorado where he met Emma Berkey, the sister of a well known mechanical and mining engineer, Charles M. Berkey. Charles Berkey was also involved in the engineering of the famous, now iconic, narrow gauge spur of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad which was built to supply the mines and bring the rich mineral ores of Silverton down the rugged Animas Canyon to the smelters in Durango.

Perini married Emma Berkey in 1890 and they had three children: Phyllis Mary (1891), Vincent Charles (1895) and James Goddard (1908). Around 1900 they moved to a fine house, located in the "Capital Hill" section of Denver at 773 Downing St.

Vincent Charles ("Bud") Perini, Jr. attended the Corona Grade School and Manual High School in central Denver. When he was only nine, he reluctantly started working as a checker in his father's store in Denver and later when he was in high school, worked as a clerk in a grocery store in Bailey, Colorado, where he was summarily fired for smoking a pipe. He also worked on a ranch in the foothills, where he was disappointed because, rather than becoming a cowboy, he tended the garden and had to rake hay. During the school year, he delivered automobiles from a garage, run by his uncle Charles Berkey, to their owners. In those days, automobiles were kept and maintained in large, communal garages and the owners would have them brought to their houses when needed. One of his delivery clients was the Doud family, who owned an electric car and whose daughter, Mamie, would later become Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Other notable neighbors and possible clients were Molly Brown and the sister of movie director Cecil B. DeMille.

When Bud was in high school, he travelled each Summer to Durango, Colorado, taking the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, where he worked in the gold and silver mines owned by his father and uncle. He began as a pack train driver and worked his way up to mucker, miner and other mining jobs. These summer jobs were, undoubtedly, the inspiration for his life long interest and love of geology.

In 1914, he enrolled in the University of Colorado, majoring in geology, but, in 1917, shortly before the United States declared war on Germany, he enlisted in the Army and was commissioned a First Lieutenant at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was assigned to the Depot Brigade at Camp Funston, Kansas and saw active duty as Adjutant of the ammunition train assigned to the 15th Cavalry Division patrolling the Mexican border under General John J. Pershing when the U.S. Army gave futile chase to Pancho Villa after his brazen attack on Columbus, New Mexico on March 19, 1916. When the United States entered the World War, he was stationed at Fort Bliss and was discharged from the Army, as a Captain, in February, 1919. He returned to the University of Colorado, earning a Masters of Science degree in Geology. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi social fraternity and elected to the national honorary scientific research society, Sigma Xi.

Immediately after graduate school, he worked for the Colorado Geological Survey and as geologist for the Colorado State Inspector of Oils and the Colorado Bureau of Mines. In 1920, perhaps utilizing material from his master's thesis, he co-authored a notable and extensive paper, "Anticlines in Routt and Moffat Counties, Colorado" which was published in Bulletin 23 of the Colorado Geological Survey in 1921. Perini had an historic experience when he teamed with an old friend and ex-Army pilot from his Mexican border days, H.H. (Hal) Bullen, to explore the Southeastern part of Utah for oil by airplane. "In... perhaps the first time 'aerial geology' was employed in the discovery and location of valuable oil lands,"<sup>(1)</sup> Perini and Bullen were credited with the discoveries of the Lockhart and Indian Creek anticlines in Southeastern Utah after flying those rugged canyon lands in a war surplus Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" biplane. He later packed into this isolated country on horseback, augmenting and verifying the geology, mapping and making oil claims.

In 1922, Perini made a comprehensive geologic study of the Ten Broeck vein system in the La Plata mining district of Southwestern Colorado for his father's mining company which had a gold and silver mine with a 1400 foot crosscut tunnel and adits, drifts and stopes of over 7000 feet. This "Report on the Ten Broeck Vein System" to the Lewis Mountain Mining Co. included maps, plans, ore blocks and theoretical geology which were incorporated, in toto, into the United States "Geological Survey Professional Paper 219", the definitive geological study of the region, published in 1949.

A chance meeting with another old Army friend, J.M. Houghland, who was associated with the Marland Oil Company of Ponca City, Oklahoma, led to their joint establishment of the Marland Oil Company of Colorado in Denver in 1923 and, shortly thereafter, they were sent to Sulphur Springs in East Texas to set up the Marland Oil Company of Texas. The parent company, Marland, became one of the largest independent oil companies in the United States and later emerged as the Continental Oil Company or "Conoco".

In 1924, Perini moved to Albany, Texas and joined with two brothers, Edward and Howard Merry to form "Merry Brothers and Perini" an oil production and consulting firm. They were responsible for a number of major oil discoveries in Central Texas and the firm moved their offices to Coleman, Cisco and, in 1927, to Fort Worth where, having been very successful, they invested heavily in the booming stock market. In Fort Worth, they had a large house complete with wine vineyard (during prohibition, it was legal to have a private vineyard), Philippine house boys, polo ponies, a Stutz Bearcat automobile and, generally, the trappings of a very fine lifestyle. The financial crisis of 1929 put an end to all of that and the firm gathered what little assets they had and, as if to dramatize the severity of their financial loss, moved to the tiny town of Paducah, in the Texas "pan handle". In 1932, "Merry Brothers and Perini" moved to San Angelo where they did extensive surface and subsurface geology of West Texas including early work in the Permian Basin and parts of New Mexico. In San Angelo, they established the "Oil States Exploration Company" which developed and drilled throughout the region. Merry Brothers and Perini moved to Abilene in 1935 and dissolved the partnership in 1944 when the two Merry brothers moved their operations to Louisiana and Alabama. Some of the oil fields which the partnership either discovered or provided the initial discovery geology were the Cook and Fry pools in Shackelford County and the Royston and Howard pools West of Hamlin. The firm also drilled the first well in the Old Glory Field in Stonewall County.

In 1936, a young artist from Chicago, Maxine Blake Walker, whose grandmother lived in Abilene, had an art exhibit at the Wooten Hotel in Abilene and Perini, who really did have a taste for fine art and already a very good collection of Santa Fe paintings and prints, saw her photograph in the Abilene Reporter News and developed an even more keen interest in art. Their first date, a picnic the next day, was spent at the veterinarian's office because "Blacky", one of Perini's many Cocker Spaniels, broke his leg in a prairie dog hole. They were married three months later and moved into a small rock house on Highway 36, South of Abilene. They had three sons, Vincent Walker, Frank Thomas and Charles Whitling. Together, Maxine and Bud Perini contributed significantly to the Abilene community and were well known cultural, civic, church and social leaders.

(1)"Salt Lake City Tribune", Sunday, January (?), 1926, page 16.



Throughout the 1940's, Perini developed and produced oil properties in Central Texas and the Permian Basin and, during the uranium excitement in the late 40's and early 50's, established the "Perini Mining Co." which, through the use of a small airplane and a fleet of jeeps, prospected for uranium throughout Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The company also prospected for other commercial mineral deposits, including iron and cinnabar.

Perini considered himself to be a lifelong "student" of geology and his reputation for accuracy and ethical procedure as a geologist was legendary. By all accounts, he was a willing and interested advisor and was unquestionably considered the "Dean" of geologists in West Central Texas. As testament to this, he was often asked to be an expert witness in some of the largest lawsuits over disputed mineral interests in Texas. He was a founder and first president of the Abilene Geological Society in 1946 and, in 1959, the Society awarded him it's first Honorary Life Membership. After his death, the Society established a fellowship to defray the expenses for a geology graduate student mapping surface geology in West Texas. He was a former president of the West Central Texas Oil and Gas Association, a former vice-president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, a former vice-president of the National Stripper Well Association, a charter member of the American Institute of Mining and Professional Geologists, a member and past district representative of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, member of the Geological Society of America, delegate of the Abilene Chapter of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, member of the Texas Academy of Science, director of the Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association and a member of the Texas Professional Engineers. He co-authored and led numerous field trips sponsored by the Abilene Geological Society and helped define the fundamental geology of West Central Texas. He was awarded a "special honor" by the West Central Texas Society of Professional Engineers and was honored as an "Alumni of the year" by the Alumni Association of the University of Colorado.

The honor for which he was most proud, however, was his election as a "Fellow" to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, normally awarded to scientists for noteworthy and outstanding performance in research. After his death, a group of geologists acquired his personal well log library and extensive geological maps to form the "Perini Library, Inc." in Abilene. In 1974, the Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas dedicated the "Big Spring" sheet (scale 1:250,000) of the Geologic Atlas of Texas, which covers much of West Texas, to his memory.

He died, at the age of seventy, on February 20th, 1965 and is buried in the Buffalo Gap Cemetery.



Vincent Charles (Bud) Perini, Jr.

A Life in Photographs



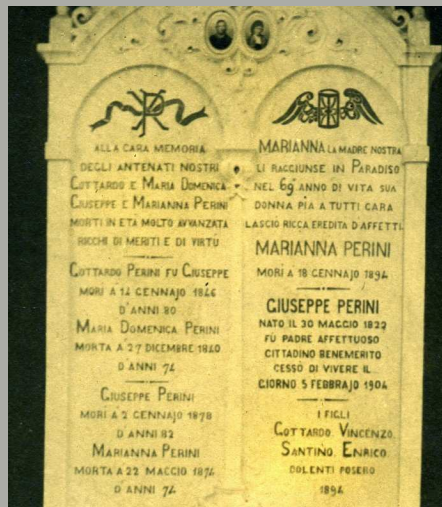
Mergoscia, Switzerland in the Canton of Ticino and the family house where Vincenzo Perini was born in 1855. He, along with many other Swiss, emigrated to the United States in 1870 because living conditions had become very difficult in that part of Europe.







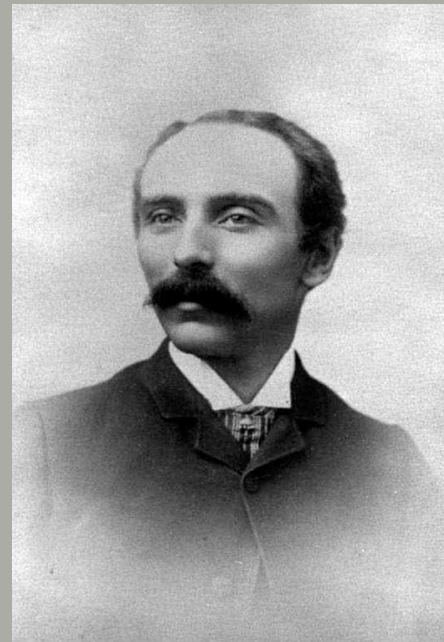
The Perini family was well known and there is a plaque dedicated to Vincenzo's parents on the tower of the church. Below right, a celebration in the town square, toasting the "American cousins".







In 1920, Vincenzo and his brother, Enrico, had a bridge built for the people of Mergoscia to shorten the trip down the mountain during the Spring thaw when raging snow melt isolated the village. The bridge is now a prominent feature on one of the main trekking trails in the famous Val Versasco. Below, the plaque on the bridge and a photo of young Vincenzo after immigrating to the United States. He was naturalized in Virginia City, Nevada in 1878.







Vincenzo (now Vincent) Perini opened a dry goods store in Denver in 1884 and had mining interests near Durango, Colorado where he met Emma Berkey, the sister of a prominent mechanical and mining engineer in the San Juan mining district. Above, Emma ("Baca"), Phyllis Mary, Vincent Charles (Bud) and Vincent ("Papa") Perini, about 1899. Below left, Bud with one of the first of his many dog companions. Below right, man on the left is Charles M. Berkey in his office in Durango. He did much of the engineering work on the iconic Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge spur to Silverton.







Denver Colo  
April 2/ 1908.

Dear Uncle Charlie :-  
I suppose you think I have forgotten you but I havent It is snowing awful hard out. I suppose you are having fine weather down there. The other day papa and grandpa took out the stove and we were glad to get rid of it but now we wish we had it again. You would not know Denver if you should come here because of the houses the people are building. There is a new Park like Elich gardens out to Berky Lake it is called the White City they have a scenice rail way and a Velvet powder and a shoots the shoots. they have a train that goes around the Big Lake, and many other fine things it is not finished yet. I am in the seventh

grade I go to the same school. I have a dog whose name is rover. He is a beauty of a dog. I was going to put him in the dog shop but I could not because he had ~~now~~ pedigree. papa and mama have gone to bed and Phyllis is over to Jennies I weigh one hundred and one pounds and I am five feet one and three fourths inches high. I suppose I will have to go to bed for it is getting rather latde with lots of love Goodbye

Your nephew  
Bud Perini

R.S.  
Pleas come to Denver for I want to see you awful bad be here soon.  
773 Downing Ave

Young Bud Perini and an early letter to his Uncle Charlie in Durango. Below, Bud (right rear) with school friends.







## CORONA SPOTLESS

There is one political administration in Denver in which no "graft," bribery and the like appear, and that is in the school "City of Corona." The citizens of this unusual place are the pupils of the Corona school and the object of the government to keep their city—the Corona school—in beautiful order in every way.

There is no stuffing of the ballot boxes in the elections, which occur every three



VINCENT PERINI JR.

Elected Mayor of "Corona City," the School Organization Which Has a Board of Aldermen and All Municipal Officers.

months, and every man and woman—for there is woman's suffrage in this little city—who is elected to serve the city knows that the offices are honestly obtained.

The administration has just been selected and the mayor of this city is Vincent Perini Jr. Gilbert Givens has been selected as alderman, Frank Love and Edna James are the new hall commissioners, Henry Nichols and Amy Pitkins are the two yard commissioners and the wheel room commissioner is Irwin Anderson.

Mayor Perini said in his address, showing what a model city this new place is—leading one to think it might be heaven: "We, the officers, wish to place the welfare and prosperity above 'selfish greed and personal ambition.' In our school



Bud with school friends, barrel stave skis and an article in the Denver Post announcing the election of the "Mayor of Corona City". Below, Uncle Charlie's garage in Denver where Bud worked delivering automobiles to residences in the neighborhood.







ES: FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1896.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

**THE NEW  
Gloves**  
Have arrived at  
**Perini's**

We have expected them for three weeks, but as our manufacturer was so rushed for these elegant GLOVES by the largest, most exclusive Glove houses in the country, he found it almost impossible to deliver on time. However, they are now in and we can show you the Gloves that the best dressers in the ladies circles are carried away with. Four lines to select from—

**THE AVONDALE** Two-waist affair, fancy fourchettes, French laces, Permed with the softest, finest, and best Scotch-wool. **Price, \$2.50 Pair**

**Reindeer Fancy Fourchettes** In solid BROWN, TAN, and white or black fine Fourchettes, made of the finest Reindeer hair. **Price, \$2.50 Pair**

**Our Two-Class Our Seam** In WHITE and BLUE, and in black, with scarlet or black thread, made of the finest heavy German leather. **Price, \$2.25 Pair**

**Our Own Import Pique** This is our regular class, and the cheap—heavy black embroidered back—brown, white, blue, or pink—fine French silk, with the finest black, red, blue, and gold. **Price, \$2.00 Pair**

It would save the trouble of leaving that we show in these lines of GLOVES a FEW FINEST EXAMPLES OF THE GLOVES ARE: If the prices should, an examination of the quality and style will show the reason, each Eastern house will sell such GLOVES at lower prices.

**Perini Bros.**  
1641 STREET OPPOSITE POST-OFFICE



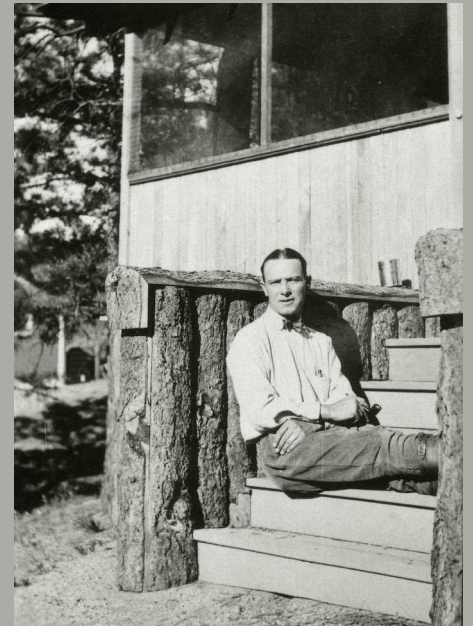
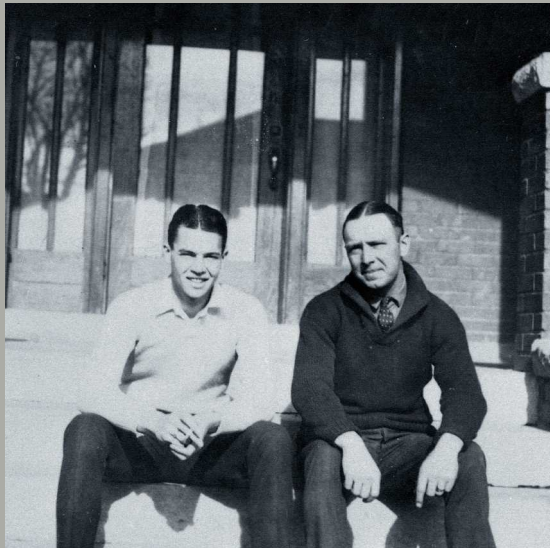
An early advertisement for Perini Brothers Store and Bud Perini standing in doorway. Singing and playing the guitar with friends began early for Bud and became an important and enduring part of his life.



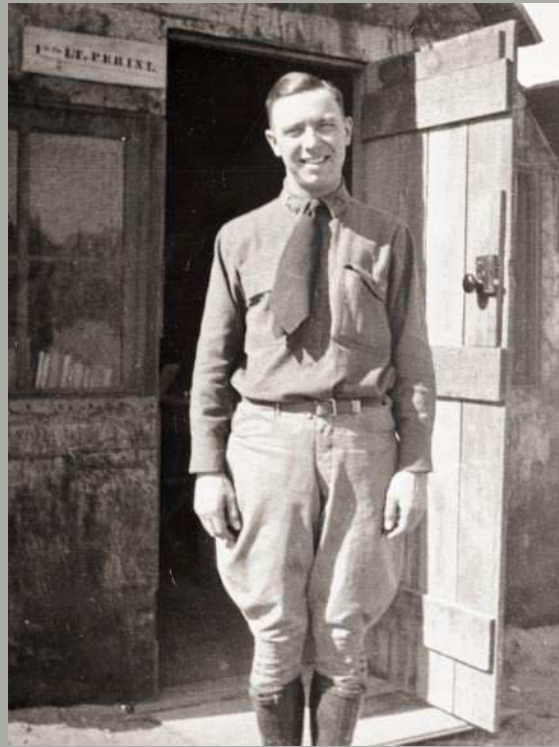




Attending The University of Colorado.







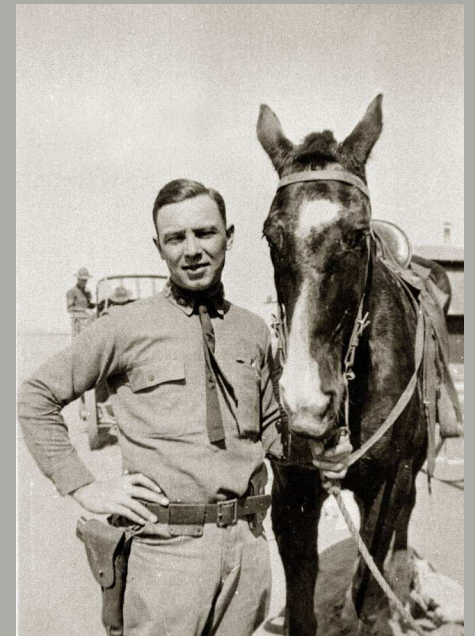
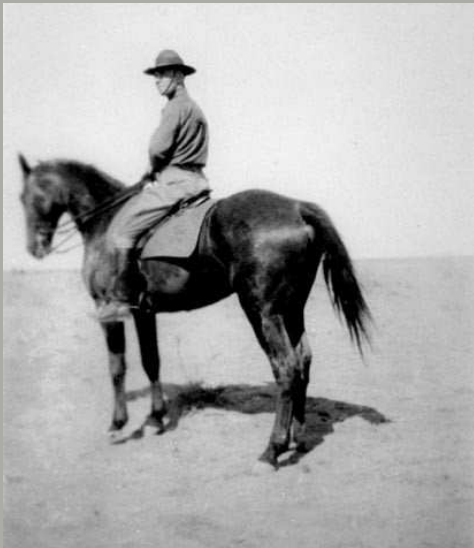
In 1917, before the United States declared war on Germany, Perini volunteered for the army and was commissioned a First Lieutenant at Fort Riley in Kansas.







Perini was the Adjutant for a motorized supply train of the 15th Cavalry which was under the command of General John J. Pershing, engaged in the futile chase of Pancho Villa in Mexico. This was the first time that motorcycles, automobiles and heavy trucks, all of which were new and untried equipment, were deployed for active duty with the U.S. Army.



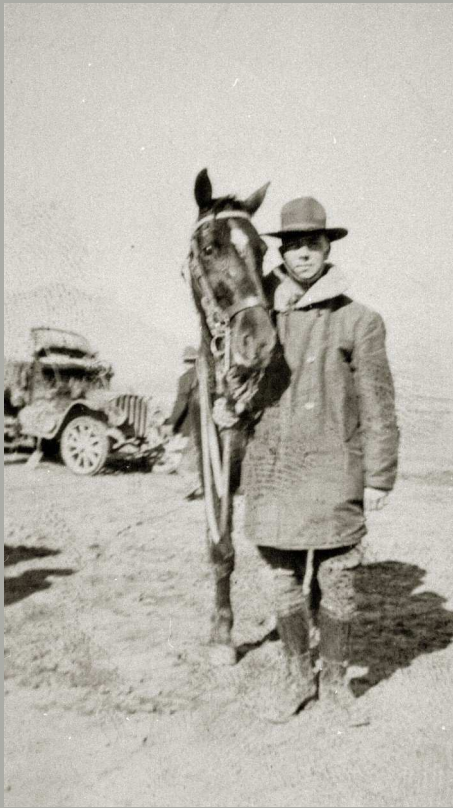




Camp scenes and loading hay for the cavalry.



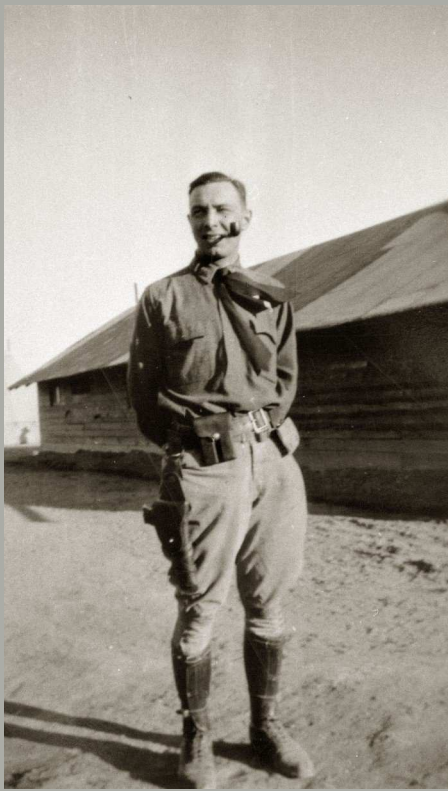




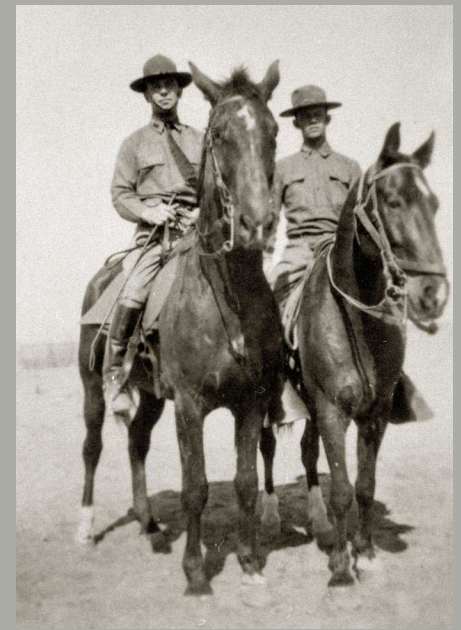
The 1st Aero Squadron was assigned to the expeditionary force and was the first time airplanes were actively deployed by the U.S. Army. Above, a Curtiss JN 4, notorious for being underpowered and for suffering frequent engine failures. Below, artillery with the cavalry.











There was some time spent driving a "red sports racer" in El Paso. Perini was discharged as a Captain in 1919 and returned to The University of Colorado.







Perini received a Masters of Science Degree in Geology and began his career with the Colorado Geological Survey and the State Inspector for Oils doing the research and field work on a paper entitled "Anticlines of Routt and Moffat Counties, Colorado", published in 1920 as "Bulletin 24 of the Colorado Geological Survey".







Routt and Moffet Counties, Northwestern Colorado.



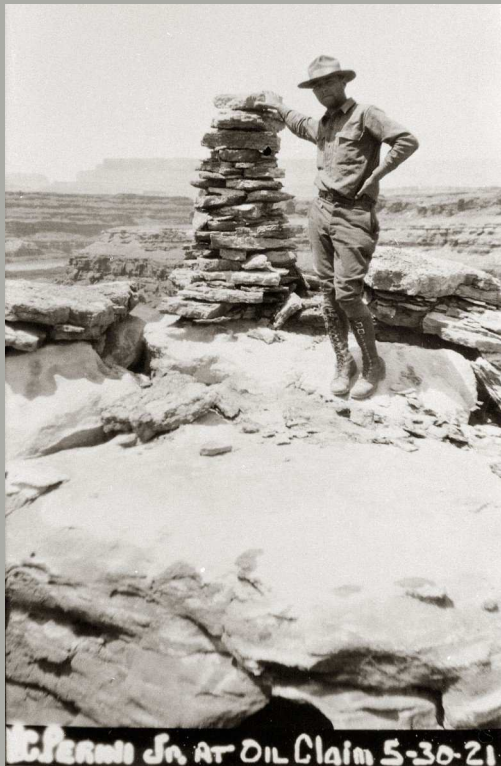




After working for the Colorado Geological Survey, he prospected for oil in the Southwestern corner of Utah.







Fording a river and building rock "corners" for oil claims.





"the furnace," the lack of water on the mesas back from the rivers, the loneliness of the country (several thousand square miles being absolutely uninhabited), impose severe hardships on expeditions on foot, on horseback or by boat.

#### AIRPLANE TRIED.

In the spring of 1921 an airplane sailed forth from Denver on an expedition in search of oil lands in the rugged wastes of southeastern Utah. The reward was the discovery of the Lockhart canyon and Indian creek anticlines, which are the third and fourth of the great Moab group.

Though geologists were at work mapping the Big Six and Shafer anticlines at the time the plane flew overhead, the aviators were too high to discern them. Of course, the men on the ground watched the plane and followed its course as it circled above the southern domes a few miles down the canyon that were discernible only to the armen. The race which followed to lay claim to the southern anticlines was won by the flyers by a matter of hours. Although conflicts arose these were adjusted before drilling started.

This was perhaps the first time that "aerial geology" was employed successfully in the discovery and location of valuable oil lands. Two young Denver men, V. C. Perini, Jr., geologist, and Hal H. Bullen, pilot, were the flyers on this expedition. Following the discovery flight, Henry L. Rath, a civil engineer and pioneer oil man of the Colorado river country, made several flights with Mr. Bullen, taking aerial photographs of the country and collecting other engineering data.

#### TRIP MADE IN COMFORT.

While surveyors weltered below them in torrid heat, Bullen and Perini made their three-hour flight in the cool of an early morning, and, based upon the conservative estimate of ninety miles per hour speed and analysis of the ground for only three miles to either side of the plane, the geologist scouted more than 1,000,000 acres of ground in that one flight.

The Big Six dome in the Orange Cliffs, gashed through its heart by the canyon of the Colorado, presents a unique picture from the sky—a variable rainbow arched upon the rocky surface of the earth.

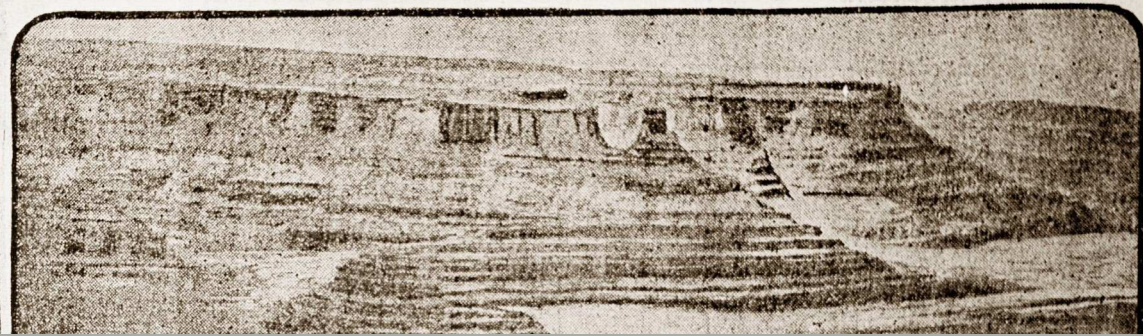
Mr. Bullen was engaged in commercial aviation in Utah during the 1920 drilling campaign of this state, and he became interested in the possibilities of aviation as an aid to geology in rough and mountainous country. Returning to Denver, he interested a friend, Paul T. Mayo, son-in-law of the late Verner Z. Reed, founder of the Midwest Oil group, in the possibilities of an aerial expedition.

Another friend, Christopher F. Cusack, prominent young business man of Denver, joined them in the novel venture. After acquiring several oil claims, Bullen flew on to the Grand canyon, where he engaged in flying tests for the government with the late Lieutenant Alexander Pearson, Jr. This was the first flying undertaken in the Grand canyon. It was followed by more geological reconnaissance in northern Arizona. The expedition ended at the point of the mountain near Salt Lake in July, 1921, when the plane, caught in a storm, crashed and burned. Bullen and his mechanic, I. B. Dutro, escaped unharmed.

#### ANDRESEN FIRST DISCOVERER.

To L. P. Andresen, geologist for the

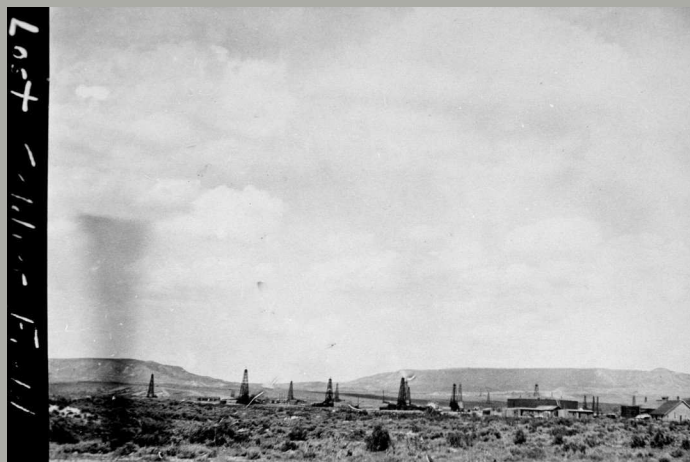
## Air, Land and Water Routes Used to Make Oil Reconnaissance Utah's Roughest Terrain Yields Secrets to Intrepid Explorers



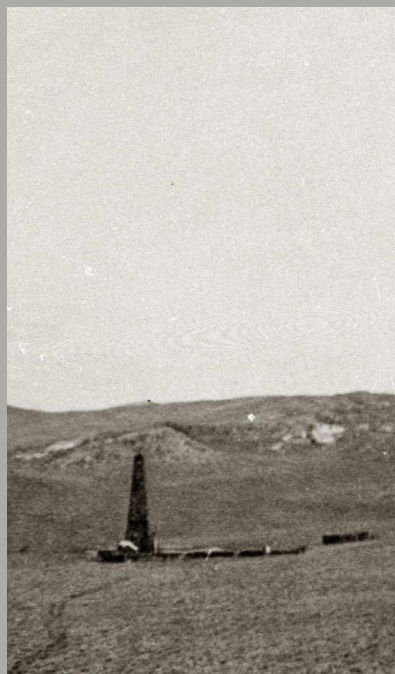
With an ex-Army pilot friend from his Mexican boarder days, H.H. (Hal) Bullen, Perini explored the Southeastern part of Utah for oil by airplane. In "...perhaps the first time 'aerial geology' was employed in the discovery and location of valuable oil lands," Perini and Bullen were credited with the discoveries of the Lockhart and Indian Creek anticlines in Southeastern Utah after flying those rugged canyon lands in this war surplus Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny" biplane. Perini later packed into this rough country on horseback, augmenting, verifying the geology, mapping and making oil claims.







"Lost Soldier" field and high over the canyon lands in Utah. Below, H.H. Hal Bullen with his J-N 4. Later, Bullen crashed this airplane but no one was hurt.







In 1922, Perini wrote an extensive report for the Lewis Mountain Mining Co., owned by his father and uncle., on the Ten Broeck Vein System in the La Plata Mountains of Southwestern Colorado. Above, the eastern portal to the Ten Broeck mine. Left, the post office in La Plata city, the nearest "town" and Perini on the summit of Lewis Mountain (12,655 ft). Below, packing in supplies to the Brawner crosscut tunnel.



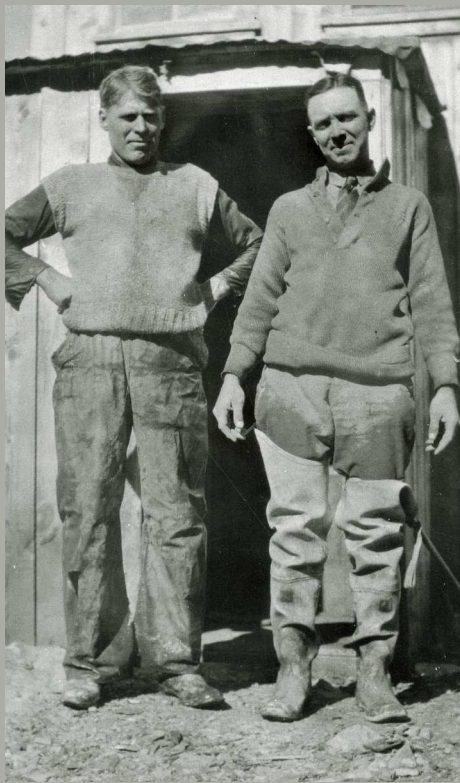




Lewis Mountain from the south in Winter. Left, Perini with skis, Kodak camera, which took many of the photos in this collection, and a pistol. Below, packing in supplies in Winter.



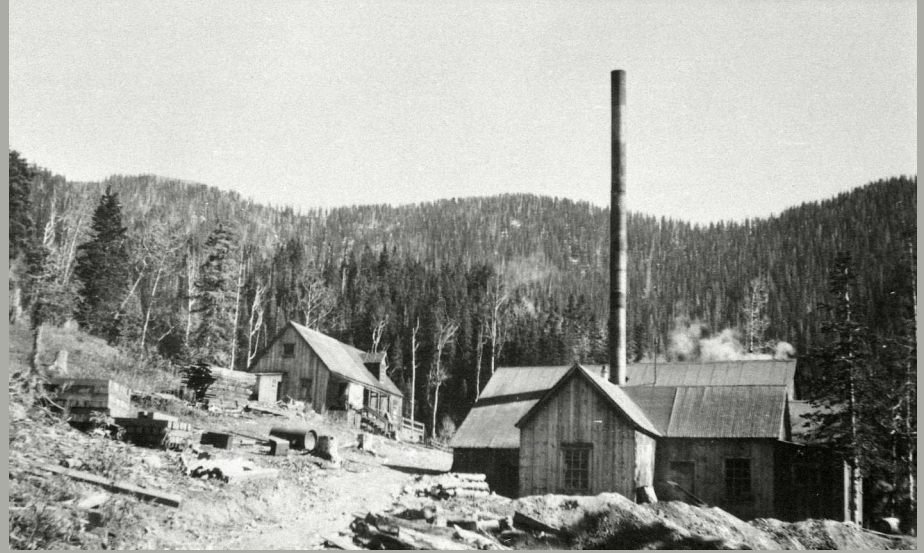
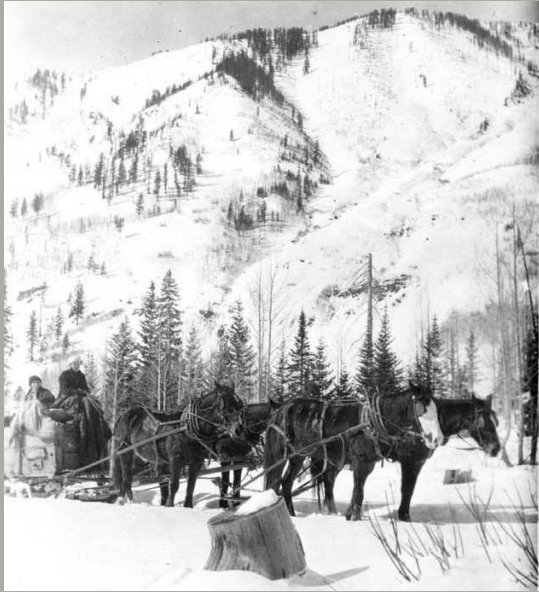




Below left with mother, Emma and below right with his father, mother and brother Jim.







Olga Little ran the pack trains, wagons and sleighs to supply the mines in La Plata Canyon. Typically, the ore was taken down during the Summer months and coal and other supplies for the Winter were taken back up. Mining continued through the Winter. Above, the power house, used to generate steam for the pneumatic drills and ventilation for the mine. Below, packing in mining timbers by donkey train and, left, supplies by sledge.







The "Durango Girl" mine on the lower East side of Lewis Mountain, part of the TenBroeck system. Mrs. Little with a heavy wagon on the way down the canyon to the railhead at Hesperous, Colorado. Olga Little was legendary in the La Plata mountains and ran supply pack trains to the isolated mines and camps in the San Juan mining district for many years. In the late fifties, she was featured on the popular television program "This Is Your Life". She and her husband, Bill, were lifelong friends of Perini.



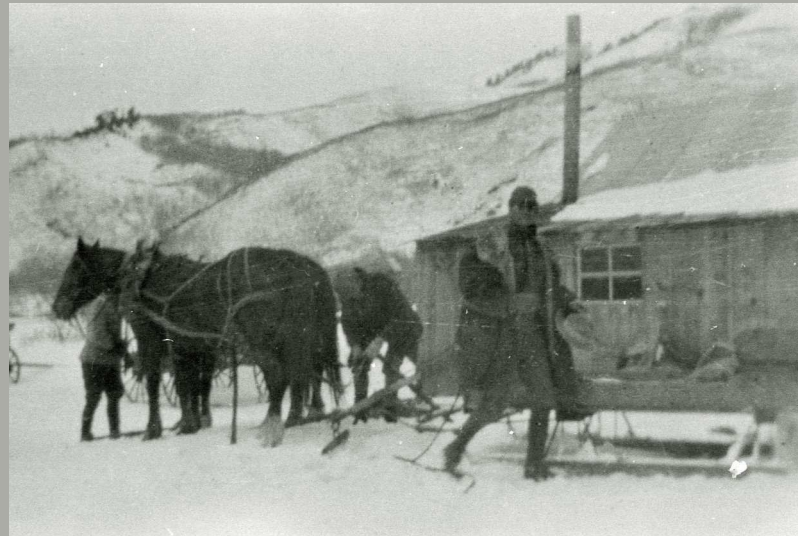
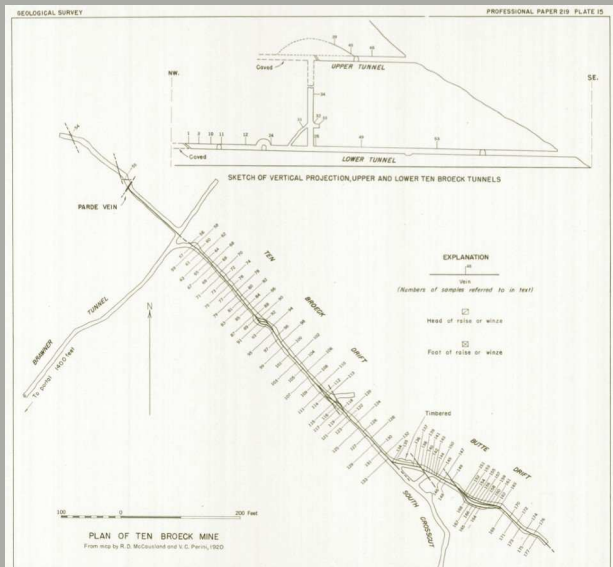




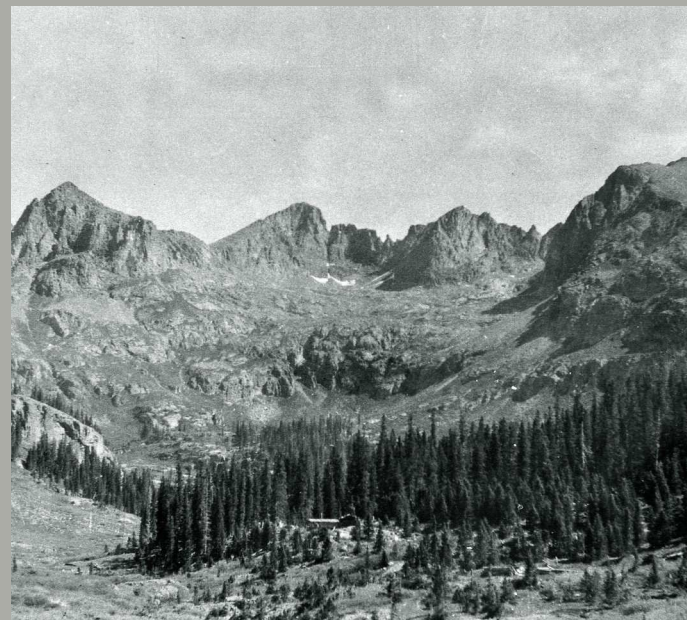
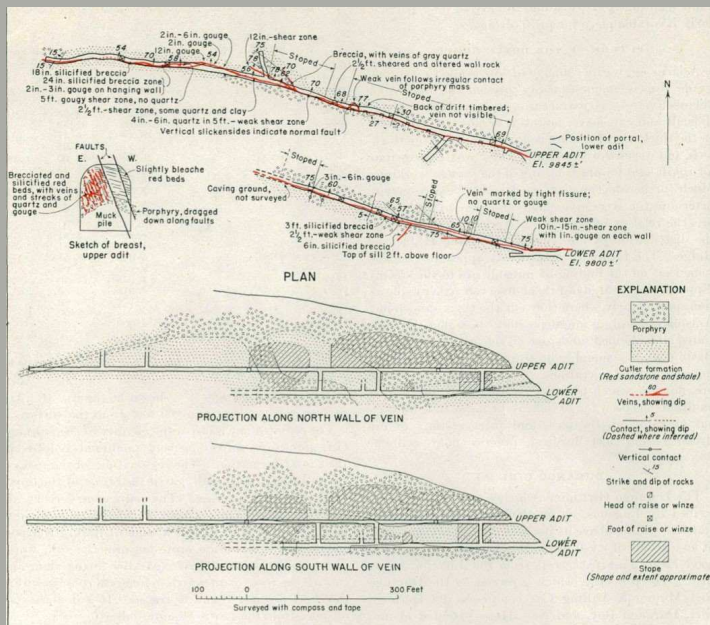
Mrs. Little on horse back (with "Papa" Perini) and, upper right, with a pack train. Below right, looking up at the summit of Lewis Mountain from the Brawner tunnel. Below, "Papa" Perini (on the left) with friends at a cabin near timber line, about 11,500 ft. on Lewis Mountain.

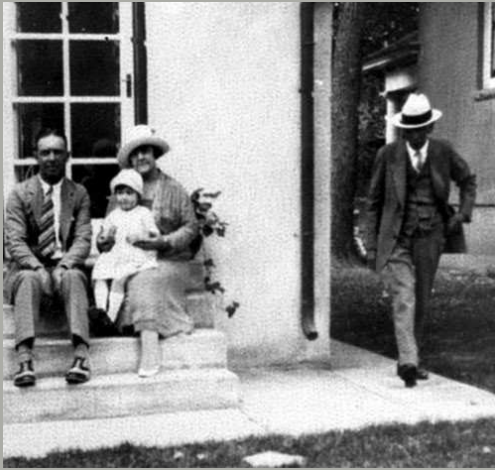




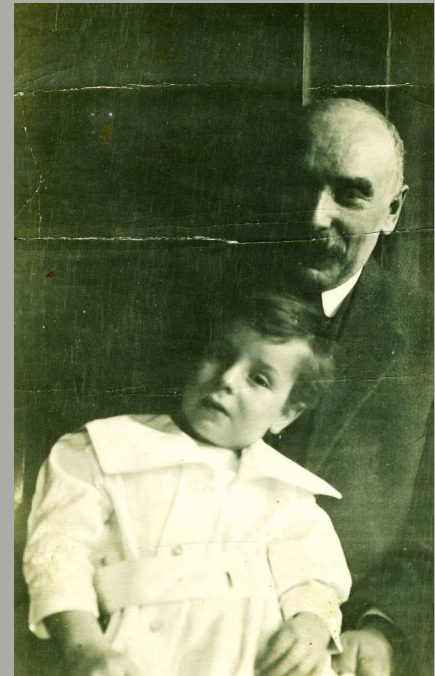


Plans and plats, included with the report to the Lewis Mountain Mining Co., of the workings, sampling stations and ore blocks of the Ten Broeck Mine. This report was included in the U. S. Geological Survey "Professional Paper 219" published in 1949. Below, Lewis Mountain looking from Cumberland Basin from the North.

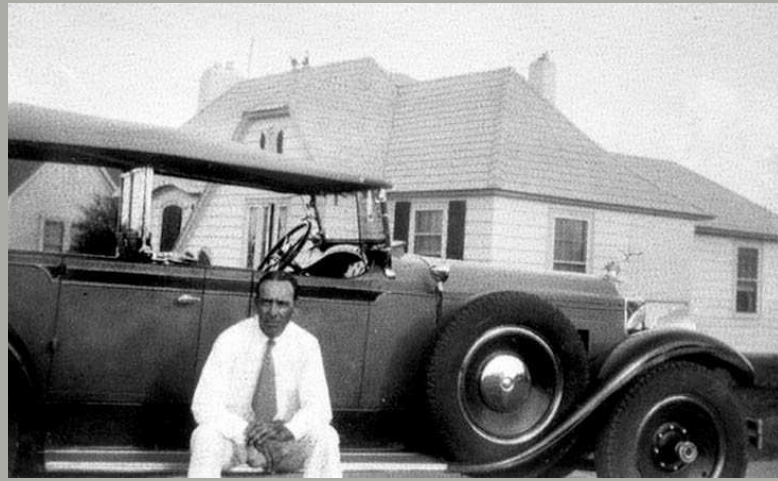




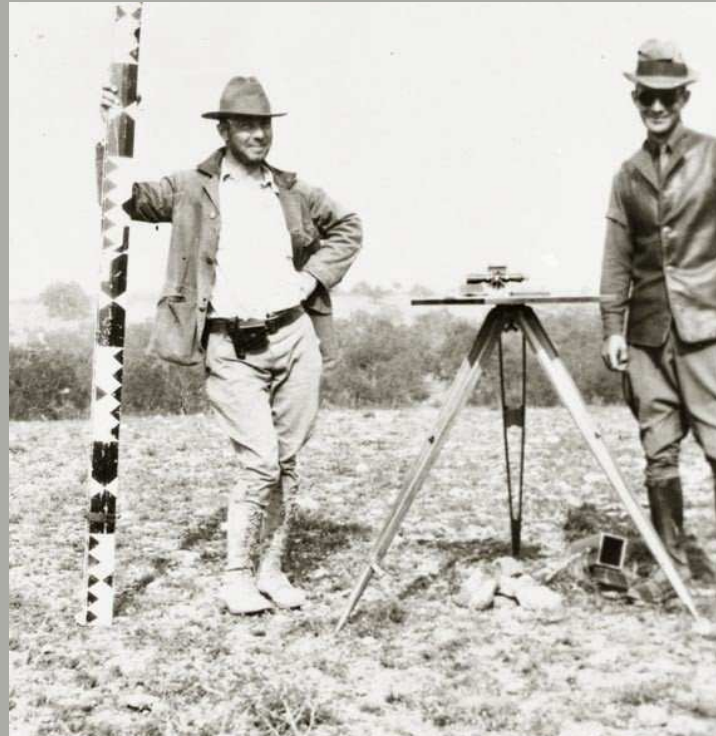
Left with sister Phyllis, her daughter, Virginia, and Papa Perini walking around the corner in Denver. Below right, Papa Perini with Virginia. After writing the mining report, Perini helped found the Marland Oil Co. of Colorado and Texas and began prospecting for oil. Above, an early core drilling rig somewhere in Texas.







Above with his father and below with J.M. (Mason) Houghland, his partner in the Marland Oil Company. Below right, surface geology in West Texas with a plane table and stadia rod with Edward Merry.





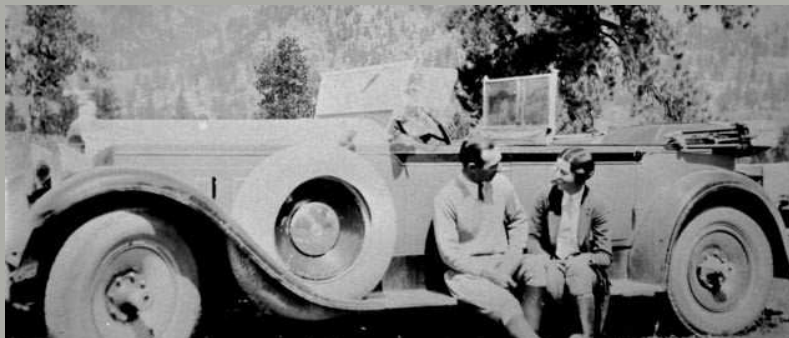
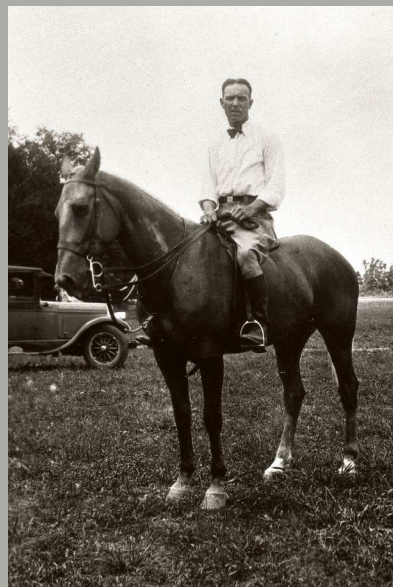


Perini became an "independent" oil producer and formed a partnership with Edward and Howard Merry. "Merry Brothers and Perini" was very productive in Central and West Texas and, for a short time, the partners lived in this house near Ft. Worth.





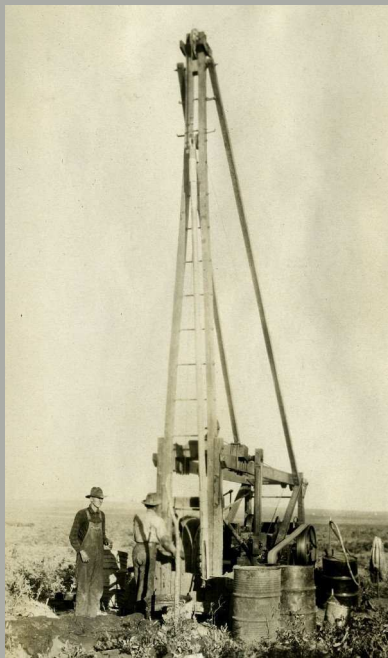
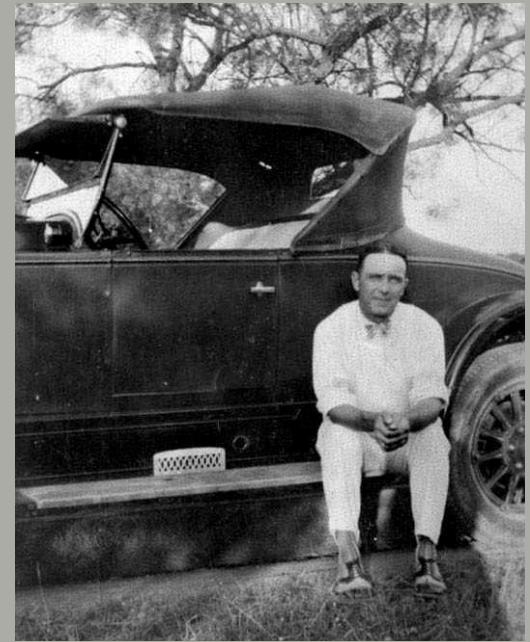
Above left and below right, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Above, Howard Merry with Stutz Bearcat automobile. Below left, Perini with Polo pony, the house near Ft. Worth.



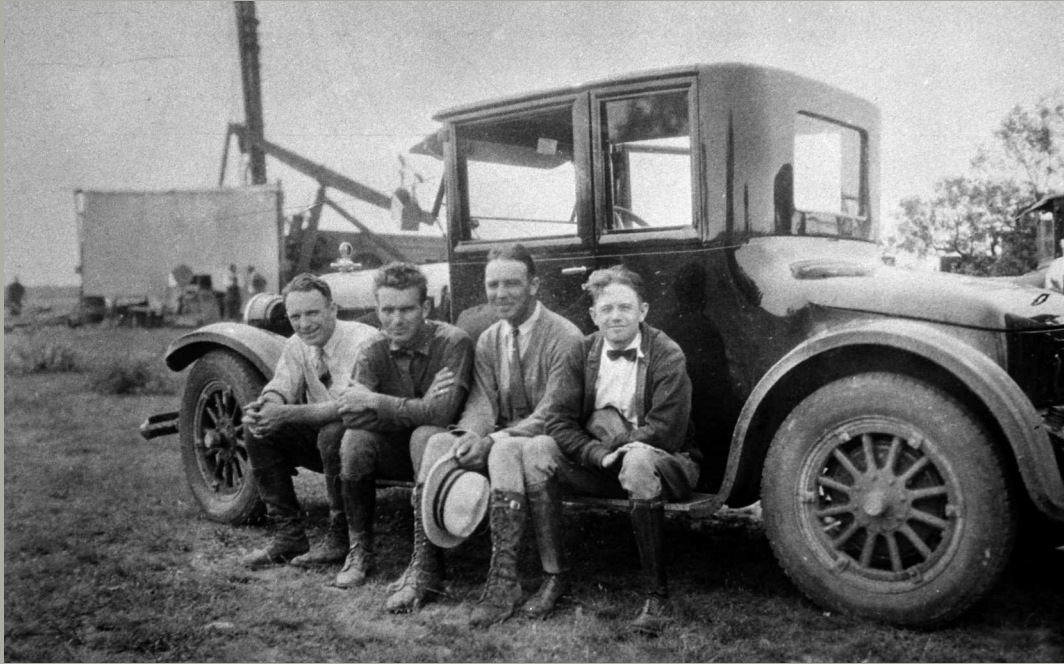




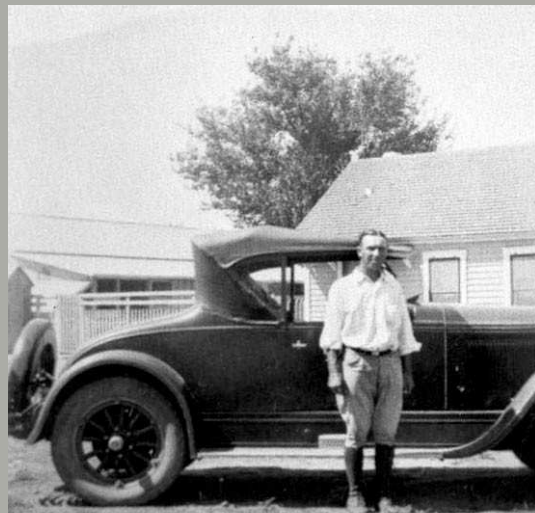
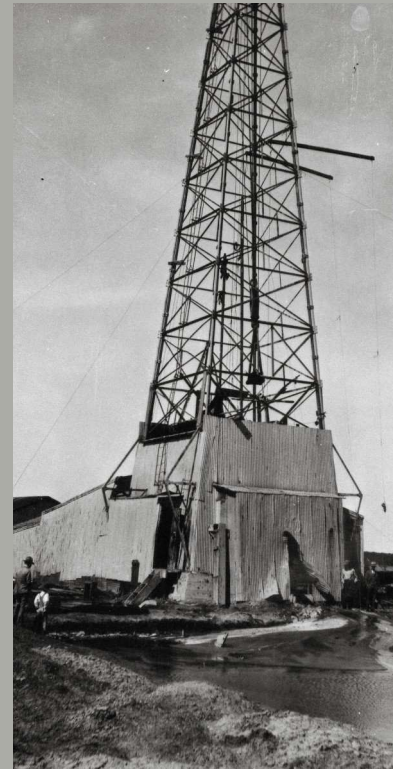
The financial crisis of 1929 affected the partnership adversely and Merry Brothers and Perini moved their operations to the second floor of the 1st National Bank building in Paducah, Texas, above. Below, a cable tool drilling rig.



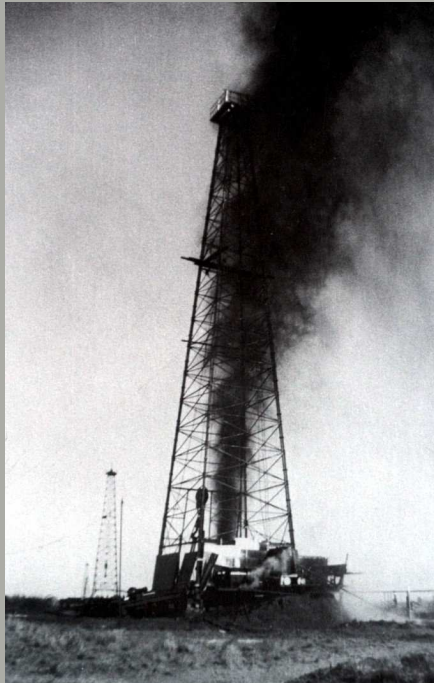




Above, Howard Merry, Edward Merry, Bud Perini and Riley Maxwell at a drilling site. After a number of moves, the partnership moved to this small house in Albany, Texas (below left). Below, right, a cartoon of Bud by his old Army friend, Charles Butler.







Upper left, the Hathaway No. 1 in the Permian Basin, West Texas. A notation on this photo states that the field "paid off the bank debt ...". Above, cable tool drilling with Luther and Ed Russel and an early drilling crew.





IN SOCIETY PICTURES TODAY:

Mrs. Joseph M. Perkins of Eastland, upper left, president of the sixth district of the Texas Federation of Women's clubs, and Mrs. John J. Perry, lower right, district program chairman, will arrive Monday morning to direct the twenty-first annual spring convention of the district to be held here April 6, 7 and 8.

Announcement was made Saturday by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Berry of the engagement of their daughter, Norma Elizabeth, center top, to Richard Henry Toliaferro, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Toliaferro, of Denton. The wedding will be held in the early summer.

Mrs. Frank Walker of Chicago, upper right, is expected to return here late this week from Mexico D. F. to continue a visit with her mother, Mrs. Rebecca T. Blake. Her only child, Maxine Blake Walker, lower left, young painter, is here for a solo show of her work which opens today at the Wooten.

**Maxine Blake Walker, Young Modern  
Chicago Painter, Native Texan, Will  
Open Ten-Day Solo Show Here Today**

**PREVIEW HELD  
FOR 100 GUESTS**

Friends of Artist's Par-  
ents Entertain At

By MARY McKENZIE  
AS strikingly different as her crea-  
tions is Maxine Blake Walker,  
young Chicago painter who brings a  
collection of varied work to her  
native Texas this week.  
Miss Walker is a vivid picture  
herself, with long dark hair  
about her head, eyes wide  
and flash as she talks enthusias-  
tically of modern art, low of stature  
and well-proportioned.  
From the time she was a little



In 1936, Perini read an article in the "Abilene Reporter News" about a young artist having an art show at the Wooten Hotel in downtown Abilene. He went to the opening and met Maxine Walker, a recent graduate of the Art Institute in Chicago. They had a picnic date the next day and spent much of that time in the veterinarian's office because Bud's dog, Blacky, had broken his leg in a prairie dog hole. Maxine made a drawing of the event and other dogs, right. Above right, Maxine with her mother, Thile Walker.







Maxine returned to Chicago and Perini had these photographs taken of his house to share during their correspondence. They were married three months later. Notice the photograph of Maxine prominently displayed on the book shelf, upper left.





Wedding in  
Evanston, Illinois.





Maxine with milk cow and calf in Abilene. On couch under a portrait painted by Maxine. Below right, Maxine with Vee.





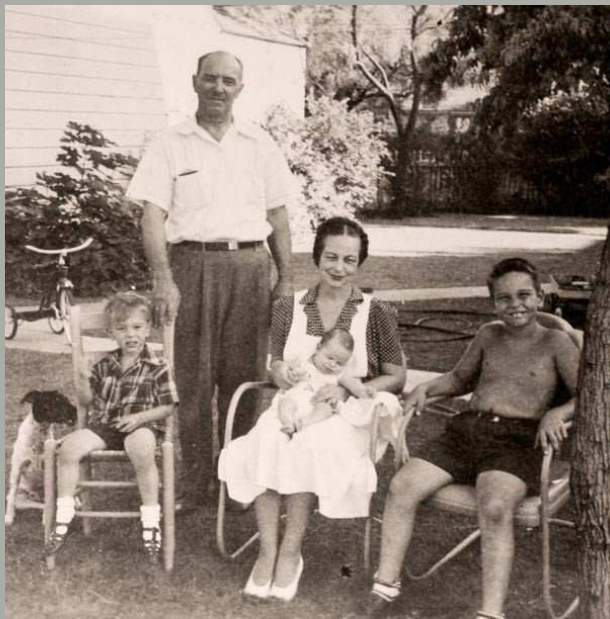
Always the life of the party! A friend once commented that "Bud Perini might not be the best geologist in the world, or the best guitar player in the world, but, without doubt, he is the best guitar playing geologist of all time".

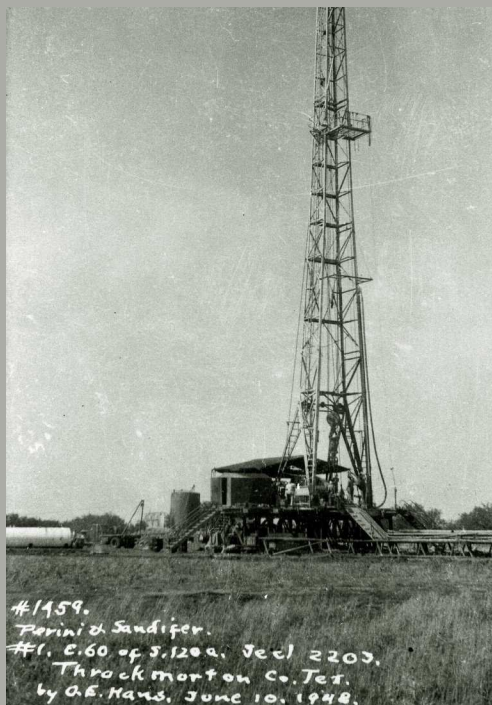
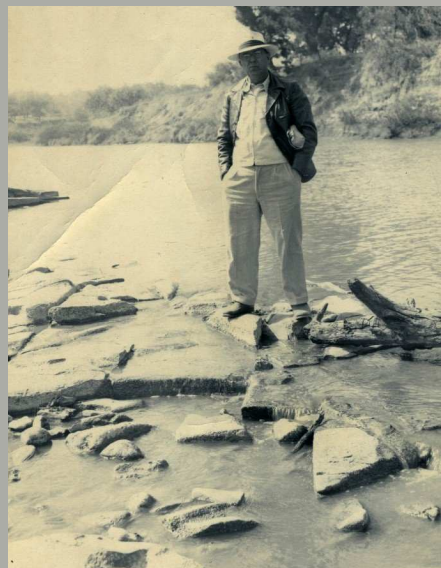






A growing family.





A well in Throckmorton County coming in strong. Above right, Bud on an Abilene Geological Society field trip, many of which he led. As the well bore came close to the producing zones, geologists had to "sit on the well", often for days at a time to examine the drill bit cuttings. Below right, looking very tired at the well site.







Above with sister, Phyllis, mother and brother, Jim. Perini boys at a well site, early 1950's. Below left, Perini boys with Maxine at the "bunk house" in Buffalo Gap, Texas. Below right, happy and typical in his office in the Mims Building, downtown Abilene.







In the 50's, the Perinis at home, with with sister, Phyllis, Maxine and Percy Lee, brother in law. With Bob Wagstaff, below left, and with geiger counter, Perini Mining Company. Below right, with Maxine visiting his first cousin and family at the family house in Mergoscia, Switzerland.







Son, Vee, with the airplane and crew used by the Perini Mining Co. prospecting for uranium. Below, at the Abilene train station.







With the family, horses, mules and dogs in Buffalo Gap, Texas





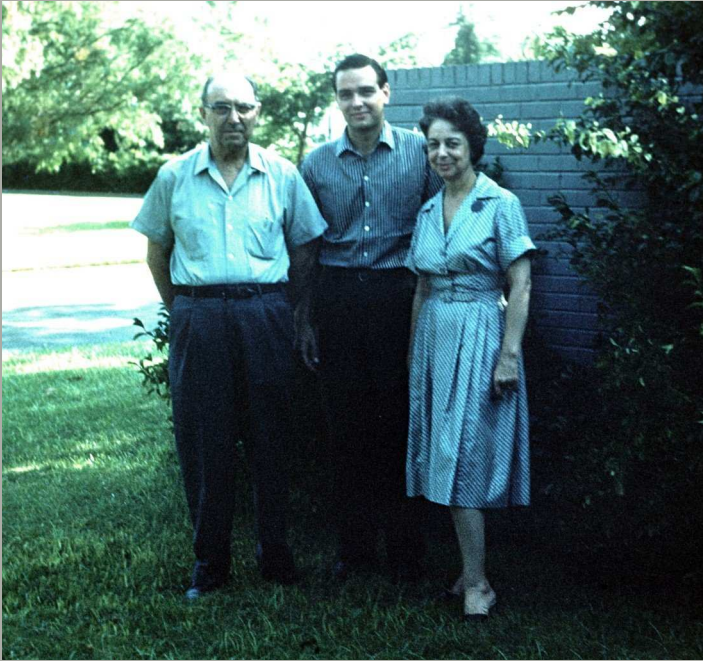




Perini was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1959. Below left, with son, Charles, and right, at the "cabin" in Evergreen Colorado, 1964.







Top left, with son Vee. Above, with his sister, Phyllis Lee, sons, Vee and Charles, Christmas 1964. Thile Walker, Maxine's mother, below, right..









A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "R. L. Smith Jr." with a large, looping initial "R" and a distinct "Jr." at the end.

January 15, 1895 - February 20, 1965







