

end of the cotton row. They dived under the barbed wire fence. Bullets from the guards rifles were cutting twigs and limbs from the trees all around them as they fled, but they made it. They headed west for Indian Territory through the wilderness. They had plenty of water available but only a few dried berries to eat. As they walked they heard a train whistle to the south of them. Finding their way to the railroad they followed it until they found a steep grade where the train would have to slow down. They waited a long time and a freight train came along. As the train slowed down for the grade they got in a box car and rode to within two miles of Ft. Smith. They left the train and went around the town to the river. There they found a fisherman's boat which they "borrowed" and crossed the river into Indian Territory. Making their way to Muldrow they were able to be among friends. Here they were fed and given clothes to replace their prison uniforms. They stayed there about a week doctoring their feet which had suffered during the long walk. Their friends then took them to their Cookson Hills home. The boys recovered from their experience and went back into business. Meanwhile they had hired a lawyer for \$1000 to get them cleared of the prison charge and escape. They heard that there was quite a bit of money circulating around the towns in the Kansas wheat country. They paid a visit to the north country and robbed the bank at Elmwood, Kansas of \$18,000. Troy got shot in the robbery, but got away and made it back home. Many of the outlaws had experiences in and out of prison, but most returned to the Cookson Hills. Some died with their boots on and others passed away quietly in bed.

Mr. Rider tells that he has seen many a man hung in Tahlequah during the old days. The old Cherokee Nation law was enforced, and if a man was convicted they hung him. He remembers the old Sheriffs such as Joe Coker and George Roach who worked hard to make good citizens out of the people. Zeke Parris was another of the old lawmen. Tom recalls Zeke Proctor, a colorful Indian in those days on both sides of the law. He says Proctor and his father were good friends. Among old timers of his acquaintance were Sheriff Caleb Starr and Henry Starr whose professions were far apart. Henry Starr as a young man became well educated and was well on his way to make good in the professional world. One night he went to a dance in the Cherokee Hills and after a while got tired and decided to go home. He could not find his horse among several at the hitching rail so he just took the first one he could get on. After he got home he turned the horse loose and headed it back. The next day the Sheriff came and arrested him for horse stealing. He was sentenced to time in the Ft. Smith jail. After he got out he started his long trail in the outlaw world. Mr. Rider says he was treated unfairly and that Henry Starr was a good boy. Henry Starr teamed up with Al Caneey, Henry Wood and others to relieve banks throughout the tri-state area of "back pocket money".

In the early days of eastern Oklahoma there were all kinds of people. One of these was Crawford Goplsby, better known as Cherokee Bill. Cherokee Bill made some unwise decisions in his time and ended up getting hung at Judge Isaac Parker's Court in Ft. Smith. Zeke and Nick Crittenden were a couple of Indians who wore long hair. They would visit wagoner on occasion and lose their money gambling. ~~They had a~~ They had a habit then of going into a store, taking what they wanted and leaving without paying. Certain ones frowned on this practice. Also the