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Interview: R.Y.Nance

CAPTURE OF NED CHRISTIE

R. Y. Nance of Westville, Oklahoma relates the following story as told him by Charles Copeland.

Charles Copeland, a U. S. Marshal, said that he killed Ned Christie. He secured a small cannon at Ft. Gibson. Joe Byers was one of the possemen, others not remembered by Mr. Nance. Copeland and his posse proceeded to the home of Ned Christie, which was in fact a fort as it was built of heavy logs and the walls were double (two logs thick).

They arrived at Christie's at about dark. Copeland ordered the women and children to leave the house, which they did, only Christie and a boy whose name was "Hair" remained.

The land for some distance around the house had been cleared so Copeland could see any one who might approach his house. Copeland was a brave man of twenty-five years of age. Copeland wished to find some way of approaching the house without exposing himself and the posse to the fire of Christie's gun. He decided to load a wagon which was out some distance from the house with rails from the rail fence. He did so and pushed the wagon before him near enough to the house to throw dynamite under the house. When they heard the explosion Ned Christie came out, whooped and gobbled and the fight was on. Finally, Copeland's bullet struck Christie and he fell dead. Hair was captured. It was never known whether Hair fired a shot or not.

J. O. Moore, Supervisor  
Pioneer History, S-149

March 12, 1937

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Interview: R. Y. Nance  
Westville, Okla.

ROBBERY OF THE BANK OF BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS  
BY HENRY STARR

My reason for writing this story is that Henry Starr was a citizen of  
Ocreek Nation.

I will give this story as near as I can as given to me by Mr. Nance.  
I, R. Y. Nance, was County Judge of Benton County, Arkansas at the time  
robbery. I lived four blocks from the Court House and as I came near  
Court House early the morning of the robbery, I noticed two men standing  
corner of the square, on which the Court House stood. They, being strange-  
and acting suspicious, I decided to watch them and at the same time keep  
knowing I was watching them. They were talking in an undertone and  
to different places near. I stopped in front of the Court House, being  
ut sixty feet away from the men.

At this time, Starr and the other man walked over in front of the hotel  
of the Court House where they undoubtedly noticed they were being  
After seeming to notice I was watching them, they went about two blocks  
an alley where they had left about seven men with horses and one buggy.  
came back to where they had left their saddle horses, only about one  
block from the bank. At this time, they entered the bank, shooting as they  
ey found the banker and two farmers in the bank at this time. Mean-  
Sheriff, Pierce Galbraith, was in the County Judge's office when a boy  
ng in and told him the bank was being robbed. The sheriff then ran  
the men and buggies were and began to shoot.

getting the money, \$11,000.00 and

made an attempt to take the money to one of the buggies. Then they came ~~near~~ 80 yards and found the battle raging, they made a dash on their horses, to get away with the money, as did the other men. About this time a drayman came down from north of the Court house and shot one of the robbers as they passed him. Shooting seemed to be going on everywhere. The cashier was wounded while being forced to carry some of the money. Starr carried the remainder. During the running fight, Mrs. Nance, the wife of R. I. Nance, ran out into the street to get some children out of the street. About this time she saw one of the men rob the money from the horse, get off and get the money and ride off. Mrs. Nance afterward at Stilwell, Okla. recognized Henry Starr as the man who dropped the money in the street.

There was a running fight for some 18 miles, after which the robbers got to the Cherokee Nation where they were safe.

Later Starr was captured in Colorado. At the time he had some of the money.