

And there was in 1931, 1932, there was a construction company south of there, doing a lot of work. And the payroll was pretty big. And uh- they all traded with me. And I had to have funds to cash their checks.. (Uh-huh.)

So one of them was a good friend of ours. He's alive today. And I like him and he likes us. He'd do anything for us in the world if he could.

Lady: We was good to his mother then.

I got him out of the penitentiary. I take credit for that. He knows it now. He didn't till after he got out.

(Uh-huh.)

How he got out. There was a - I'd known him so long and his mother and dad was such good people. And I didn't think he oughtn't to be in there. Cause he never killed anybody.

Lady: His dad was about dead with cancer.

Dad was about to die. So I wrote to the federal government for parole. To try to get him released..

(Uh-huh.)

And told them why. I went into detail. All about him. And then they sent a FBI man here to investigate me. Not him. (Laughter)

(Well)

See who - what I meant by wanting to get him out, Well, they found out all they wanted to find out about me, from the state officials and county officials. I was just about as well known as anybody in the country.

(Yeah)

So they let him out, on the strength of that. He appreciated it. So anyway before he was caught. He was, you know, how the crooks steal here. He come in the store. I couldn't afford to call the law, and tell him he was in my store, that I'd seen him, I just couldn't do that. Because I knew what it meant. 'Cause I wouldn't live long if I had. So we was in the store one night. And he come in, back door see. And I said, "Charlie, that check failed to show up on that train." The check should come on the train, and we was uneasy. 'Cause we had that money. I said, "Charlie, I have to have quite a lot of money to handle this payroll. And I feel uneasy." He said, "Now Wattie, don't you feel a bit uneasy. Now me and ..or my gang, and none of these others are going to bother you. So just go right ahead and feel secure. You are not going to be bothered." Well I wasn't. All the time he's come in, he would just before he was caught. He had it, arranged that he was going to come to my warehouse. And go in the warehouse.