

for the \$20 bill. Andy left in an old car that was waiting outside. Later Devault was returning home from Tahlequah, and down in those hills he came upon a car parked across the road. He stopped and Andy Cookson and another man came up to him carrying Winchester rifles. They wanted Wattie to take them to a place near Cookson post office. Wattie told them he was afraid, as the law was out looking for them, and if they met there would be shooting and he might get shot. Although he had no choice but to go, they assured him he would not get hurt. While taking the two men down the road, Wattie asked Andy if when he came in the store the other night, did he come to rob him, and he said yes he did, but you beat me to it by having your gun in your belt.

Also in the early 1930s, a gang of the outlaws robbed a bank at Harrison, Arkansas, and George Price was killed. George was a personal friend of the Devaults and had traded at their store for years. Price had bought a wagon from the store and after he was killed a friend, F. A. Lucee, came in and told him he would buy the wagon from Mrs. Price, along with a team and some other stuff, and as soon as they had made the deal he would come in and settle up George Price's account. A day or so later he did come in and settle up the dead outlaw's account. These were some of the people who lived in the Marble City country of 40 or more years ago.

At one time there was a cotton gin at Marble City, and people would bring cotton from as far away as Hungry Mountain. He remembers the Hardins, Deermans, Prices, and Cooksons would come together with several wagons loaded with cotton. There was no place to stay in town and Devault would let the men sleep in the upstairs of his warehouse. They would drag out mattresses from the stores furniture department and make themselves to home. They never disturbed a thing, and would buy a load of supplies on their return trip. One of the Price boys bought a rocking chair, and told Wattie he would pay him when he brought in his next load of cotton. As he loaded up, he turned to Devault and said he would see him next year as he had just sold his last load of cotton. He was just joking, and a short time later came in and paid for the chair.

Dwight Mission has figured much in the education of Indians in this part of the Cherokee Nation. The Mission is located just a couple miles south of Marble City and has been there a long time. Dwight Mission was originally on the river east of Ft. Smith, but was moved into Indian Territory in the early days.

In speaking of his Cherokee ancestors, he tells of some of his people coming on the Trail of Tears. From his people he has learned that the first public school in the United States was operated by the Cherokees in Georgia in the 1820s. He tells about his grandfather living at Ft. Smith a long time ago, and who made and laid the brick wall around the first cemetery at Ft. Smith. He tells also that the first settlement in the Ft. Smith area was at Sulphur Springs, and Ft. Smith has grown to take in the original settlement. He remembers long ago two boats came up the Arkansas River hauling freight to Ft. Smith. One of the boats was named MYRTLE BRACH and the other called CAPTAIN BLAKE.