

TON, DAN W.

INTERVIEW.

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OUTLAWS.

In 1896 or 1897, Dan W. Patton, a mere boy, chanced to be in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, with some of his elders and at the time Cherokee Bill, a notorious Indian Territory "outlaw" was confined in the Federal Jail there under sentence to be hanged and in some way a gun had been smuggled to him in a cake, supposedly by his sister or some near relative. He attempted his escape on this day and in so doing had to kill a guard whose name was Lawrence Keating. After killing the guard, he was overpowered and returned to his cell, but still had possession of the gun.

Henry Starr, another famous outlaw, was also in jail there at the same time, also under sentence of death, so he told the jailer he would go into the cell and get the gun. It looked like certain death to try and enter the cell occupied by Cherokee Bill, but they finally gave him permission to do so. As he entered the cell he said to Cherokee Bill, "Give me that gun," which he did and for this act of bravery his sentence of death was changed to a prison term at Columbus, Ohio.

A short time later and before Henry Starr was moved to Ohio, Mr. Patton was back in Ft. Smith and with some of his elders was permitted to visit Henry Starr in his cell. A number of years later, Mr. Patton formed an acquaintance with Starr here in Tulsa through an episode in a barber shop. Mr. Patton was waiting his turn to be shaved or to have his hair cut and the conversation drifted to Starr and Mr. Patton made some remark about Starr and a man raised up in the chair and gave him an answer and this man was Henry Starr and that time on their friendship grew until it became an intimate one and lasted until Henry Starr was killed in an attempted bank robbery at Harrison, Arkansas.