

YOUNGER, SCOUT

INTERVIEW

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Effie S. Jackson,
Interviewer,
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An Interview with Scout Younger,
1440 E. Third St., Tulsa, Okla.

Scout Younger and His Cowman's Bar.

I found Scout Younger still clinging to a semblance of the old Wild West Show and Carnival days. Off and on for thirty years the Youngers, Scout and his wife, Pauline, have been in and out of Tulsa. I remember the early days when they produced and filmed their own productions, then with glowing posters let all of us Tulsans know that they were holding forth at the Lyric with not only the Movie film "The Daltons", but Emmett Dalton in person. Then next their Wild West Indian Show came to town. Then a regular stage with movie productions, and finally when well-known Carnivals came to town, here were brilliant billboards depicting the wonders of the "Younger Wax Figure Collection of Outlaws". So it is quite in keeping that Scout Younger in his old

- 2 -

days still does something spectacular in his own home town.

He looks old and broken but keeps on his five-gallon hat and gaily decorated vest as he presides over his Cowman's Bar at 1440 East Third Street. The place is plastered with relics of outlawry--wax figures made in 1924 by a German, Schmidt, in Chicago, the same man who made the figures for the New York Eden Museo, according to Pauline, Younger's wife. These figures run the gamut of all well-known outlaws: Jesse James, Ford, Kate Ender, (bloody-looking) Dillenger, Belle Starr etc; all space is covered with various regalia: Belle Starr's saddle, ropes that claim to have hung Cherokee Bill and Rufus Buck, guns of all caliber and placards typical of the old wild west saloons greet the eye.

To Younger, this is the end of the trail--his last stand. He told of the days when he was with the Ringling, Barnum and Bailey, Wallace Hagenback, Sells Floto, Pawnee Bill and Buffalo Bill in his varied career. The

- 3 -

best wild west show, Scout said was Buckskin Bill's Real Indians. All the cowboys were real outlaws. They were so tough they would rob each other on payday between leaving the show and reaching the train. They would kill each other for a five dollar bill. For nine years he was with the Dodson's World Fair Shows, which he left last season.

As Scout says, "I have driven cattle from the salt grass country of Texas all the way to Vinita-- why, my chuck wagon fire has burned at the very spot where my bar stands today." I don't belong to the present. I feel at home with these wax figures--ghostly to you--for they belong to the day when all this was in the making. Right or wrong, it is history.

"Always we preached, 'Crime does not pay' in our movie productions, in our lectures and even these wax figures tell the same story. I have the questionable honor of knowing more gangsters and outlaws than any other man in the United States, and I still believe the 'Old Days' are the best from a moral stand point."