

13 Stories III
Story Options 2022

Option #18: Darrell "Scoop" Thurston

In 1924, Darrell Thurston #3440, began a sentence for First Degree Murder at the Idaho State Penitentiary. He robbed a bank and killed a police officer in Lewiston, Idaho. No stranger to incarceration, Darrell previously spent time in Walla Walla and Portland county jails for stealing cars. In 1929, Darrell and two inmates, plotted to escape by overpowering a delivery driver and ramming one of the flimsy exterior gate. Guards, however, learned of the plan and foiled the attempt. He petitioned the parole board numerous times to no avail. In 1941 Warden Pearl Meredith noted Darrell's model behavior over the previous ten years. He played first base on the "Outlaws" baseball team. He earned the nickname "Scoop" for his superior play. In 1942, after eighteen years in prison, Darrell suffered a fatal heart attack. He was 44. His "Outlaws" teammates donated money for a proper burial and headstone at Cloverdale Memorial Park Cemetery. He expressed a wish not to be buried in the prison cemetery. A few of his inmate friends were permitted outside the walls to attend Thurston's service at Cloverdale.

