

Johnny Cash, Joe Bean

"Last time we were here at Folsom Prison, they were hanging Joe Bean. Is Joe still here... Joe Bean. Bitch anyways, right?"

Well, they're hanging Joe Bean this morning, for killing a man in Arkansas. Funny thing about it, Joe Bean never heard of the man. In fact, today is Joe Bean's twentieth birthday. To Arkansas. On top of that, Joe Bean never heard of the man. In fact, today is Joe Bean's twentieth birthday.

See through the prison bars, Joe Bean, see where the gallows stand. Just twenty short years from now, you die by the hangman's hand.

Yes, they're hanging Joe Bean this morning, for a shooting that he never did. He killed 20 men, by the way. Was an unruly kid.

Yes, they're hanging Joe Bean for the one shooting that Joe Bean never did.

Well, Joe - your mother is at the Capitol, asking the governor for a stay. And it's hard on her, 'cause she loves you. You were, on that particular day. You were working, Joe Bean, hardworking, robbing the Santa Fe Express.

Well, the telegraph wires are humming. Hear the governor's words come through. He said, "I'll do it, Joe Bean. Up to me, but this much, Joe Bean, I'll do. I'll join your mother in extending birthday greetings to you. Happy birthday, Joe Bean."