

WILLARD STONE, A SCULPTOR

(Did you know this Indian wood sculptor over here at Locust? Was it Willard Stone?)

Third: Willard Stone.

(I see his picture in the paper all the time. Supposed to be one of the best wood carvers in the country. I guess he's quite famous. But I've never met him yet.)

Third: No, I don't think I know him.

(Oh it seem like all the time his picture is in the Muskogee paper, Tulsa paper. You know just as you go east of Locust Grove and start up that hill. The first house on the south side, his name is out there.)

Is he Indian?

(Yeah. Yeah, I think he's half-breed. But he's sure good. He's got two fingers gone, I believe. I don't know how he holds that knife, but he can sure do pretty work. You were born and raised at Peavine. Is that right?)

Uh-huh.

(How do people make their living down in those Flint Rocks when you was young fella? Look like that would be awful hard.)

I just don't know. I used to work out in Colorado, Western part Wisconsin.

(Yeah. Some people used to visit me in Oklahoma, eastern part.

(Yeah)

Around here and Stillwell, and I was sitting there one time. And one of those big farmers ask me, "How do you all live?" Around over in the eastern part of Oklahoma. Ain't nothing but an old garden spot.

(Well, it makes you think too then how hard it must have been when they moved the Cherokees from North Carolina and Georgia over here way back 1839.)