

Crittenden boys would ride thru Wagoner shooting up the town. Ed Reed was U. S. Marshall at Muskogee at that time and he was called to come up and see what could be done to preserve some law and order. The two men had come into town that Wednesday morning and caused some disturbance, and rode on out. A Hotel man there knew that they would be coming back into town about four o'clock that afternoon and so told Ed Reed. Reed waited out the day and the men did come back shooting up the town. People cleared off the dirt streets and Reed went out to arrest them, but the two men started shooting at him. Reed shot both of them off their horses and they fell dead in the street. The poor men tried hard to do right, but it just did not work for them. Some of the townspeople loaded the bodies up and took them home to their families.

Mr. Rider tells about the Cook boys who were raised on the east side of Grand River in the Hulbert country. These two boys, Jim and Bill, were part Cherokee and had been out in the western part of the Oklahoma Territory and had been in and out of various kinds of trouble. During the Strip Payment they had come back to their home area but were then hiding from the lawmen. They had returned to try to get their Strip Payment money somehow. They had a sister, Lou, who had moved back to the old home place after killing her man and lived there alone. Jim and Bill would come see her whenever they thought it safe. To get their money they wrote out an order and got Lou to take it to Muskogee. The bank there was handling lots of money and there were lots of marshalls, bank guards and others protecting the bank. When the Cook boys order was presented it was honored and Lou got their money for them and returned home. The boys were waiting, and she told them that some lawmen had followed her and believed they were hiding down in the timber and brush. The boys watched and sure enough they saw some of them go into a thicket near the house. The two Cook boys got their rifles and went out the back door and edged around the house. They opened fire on the posse killing two and wounding three. The posse retreated and gave the boys a chance to get their horses and leave. The boys left the country and were never seen again.

Tom Rider says that even in the days he remembers eighty years ago, when there were some rough and mean people in this new and young country it was still a better place to live than it is now. In the past couple of months someone has tried to break into his house in Hulbert at night. He says this present age has produced the lowest form of criminals and law breakers. He now keeps a loaded pistol by his bed each night.