

INTRODUCTION BY MARTIN HAGERSRAND

When he was a boy, Willard says, that he used to watch the gyro of these people here. They trade back and forth and they all the time they'd be sitting there whittling and perhaps at the end of time, they'd come up with a piece of chain they'd whittled or a cane or something, and this is how he got interested. He thought that this is a pretty good profession to get into, horse trading and whittling. I'm not sure if he got in on the horse trading business, but he certainly did get in on the wood whittling business. Willard is truly one of the great artists in this field. He's had his works displayed in galleries all across the nation. Now, he spends most of his time, I'm afraid, instead of producing the great works, which he is capable of turning out, making lectures, visiting and talking in the shows and the demands on his time for presentation of one kind or another to stay with his exhibit in such a gallery are tremendous, and this is, of course, a great loss to the art. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present to you a truly great artist in his own field, Willard Stone.

(Clapping)

WILLARD STONE: STORY OF HORSE TRADING

That's quite a build up. There's a lot of money in horse trading though, but I got too much in whittling. I want to say this little bit here. Well, what this is that OkTaHa people familiar with OkTaHa-- But the other lodge by the depot just when I was about 8 years old and every year this horse trader would come through Checotah and Renoldsville and on up to OkTaHa and trade there. They have a whole string of horses. You have an orange crate on the side of a wagon,