

Among the early stores put in were those by John Swain, W.O. Ballentine, Cox Brothers, Julius Cox was the first man to have an automobile agency and handled Fords.

In his early days at Vinita, there was no funeral home. Burkhalter was the first to put in an undertaking parlor. Before his venture into the funeral home business Burkhalter was in the farm implement business, and in 1920 established Burkhalter Funeral Home. In about 1926 Luginbuel established themselves in the undertaking business. However, before the establishment by Burkhalter of a regular funeral home, J.K. Taylor and Levi Page each applied themselves with early day knowledge in undertaking and did some work in this profession.

In the early day educational atmosphere in Vinita was the Willie Halsell Academy. Halsell's three children attended this institution. It was here in attendance one who brought fame to himself and Oklahoma, whose name was Will Rogers. Early country schools of the Vinita vicinity was Cobb School that used to be located about where the main gate to Eastern State Hospital is now. Some three miles southeast of Vinita was the Sequoyah School. Following them came Ironside, Dupree, Kelso, and Landrum.

In the days before embalming for burial, he worked with others one day digging a grave for a burial. The deceased was to be buried in a bronze vault. After the graveside services, the sexton and others working with him, were waiting for the bronze vault to come in on the afternoon train. But the vault did not come in, so the internment was completed with the casket in the rough box. However, on the next train late in the evening the bronze vault did come in, and the workmen were called to reopen the grave and put the wooden casket in the vault and rebury. They worked into the night. A doctor was summoned to oversee the work. As they removed