

is now, Bill Foreman and Gene Hunt had a feed store and livery stable. Where the post office is now was a camp ground and parking for wagons. On east Illinois St. near the railroad Bill Chamberlain had a set of weighing scales and sold coal and wood. Another of the early places of interest was the railroad turntable, which was located at the intersection of where Flint Ave. and Scaper St. is now. When the engines had to be turned around, there was always a crowd of men and boys there to watch. Where the First National Bank is now, a man of small stature by name of Johnson operated a blacksmith shop some 60 years ago. Where the Oklahoma State Bank is now, and in the middle of the main street block John Gunter and Bill Rains each ran livery stables. A few years later Willis Buckett had a wagon yard where Hotel Vinita is now. On the corner where the Burkhalter Funeral Home is now, George Caney operated a feed mill. John Swain had a big home located where the old Thompson Hotel is now. On the west side of the Katy railroad was the Cobb Hotel, and the Green Hotel was on the east side. Mr. Christie remembers that picking cotton and shucking corn was in progress where the County Court House is now, and all the area on south was in cultivated field. From where Luginbuel Funeral Home is now on west was a big corn field. In 1916 Mr. Christie worked with the crew that built the first street curbs in Vinita, but it was some time later that the first streets were paved. The first paving in Vinita was with brick, and some of the streets today still have the original brick pavement. In that day, the workmen got \$1.00 a day for their labor, and it was considered good pay and would buy a lot of goods. The early history is not complete without mention of Sam J. Cobb, one of the few remaining old timers. Mr. Cobb built the first Hotel in Vinita which bears his name.