

In the early days of Lynch Prairie the settlers built Requa School, the first school to come for the pioneer families. Joe did not attend school there, but tells that the school enjoyed a long period of time and saw many children come and go. Like most country schools, Requa is now only a memory.

He recalls when there was no town where Strang is now, and the nearest store was over on Grand River at Ketchum and across the river at Spavinaw. There was a grist mill on Spavinaw Creek where they took their corn and flour to be ground. In those days Vinita was the nearest market and trading center.

The town of Strang, named after the first storekeeper there, started in 1911 when it was learned that the railroad was coming through. The railroad was completed in 1912 and Strang immediately boomed. During construction of the rail system it was being built from both directions and the rails joined in the middle of Strang town. A day of celebration was called, and the K.O. & G railroad officials drove the customary golden spike on the occasion. The rail company, of course, took their golden spike with them when the festivities were over. For nearly 30 years Strang enjoyed prosperity and many people settled in the area. The depression of the late 1920's and early 1930's, the advent of World War II, and other factors including the removal of the railroad in the 1940's reduced Strang almost to a ghost town. At one time both sides of three blocks of Main Street were lined with business buildings. Now only two or three little businesses struggle to keep open. Once an important shipping point in early Oklahoma many carloads of cattle brought from the prairies left Strang on the way to northern and eastern markets. Also much grain, hay, hogs, and lumber were shipped from Strang. The town of Strang is some four miles from Mr. West's home and he has seen the town begin and seen it decline. Such is also the story of