

finally retiring to his beloved homeland after a few years of work around Bartlesville. Two of his sons operate a machine shop, another is a landscape engineer in a large city, another is a plant superintendent, and so on. Almost to himself, he says he wonders if there was anything else he could have done to help make this a better world during his productive years. If comment from a visitor was necessary, it would be that Vann has certainly done his share.

Van speaks of the extreme changes in standards of living, attitudes of society in general, the way children are brought up now, and other things. During his lifetime he has seen home lighting go from a grease wick lamp to the electric light bulb, cooking progress from the open fireplace to the automatic built-in stove and oven, the machine age into the space age, mannerly children into a marching mob of howling banshees, and the horse and buggy to the 100mph GTO bent on destruction. He has lived to see the day when visiting ones neighbors and friends went out of style, and most people seem to have time only to live in their own little closed-in worlds.

He has seen many things in his time and experienced much in his travels. In the early days of 'oil booms', he recalls working at an oil well near the little town of Cromwell. He had gone into Wewoka for some equipment for their job. In those days most of the oil towns in the early 20's were full of rough and mean men. It was on that trip into town that he heard gunfire up on main street. The disturbance caused he and others to go see what had happened. Wylie Lynn had just killed 'Big Bill' Tilghman, one of Oklahoma's finest peace officers.

The only school that the Bly Mountain country has ever had was at the foot of the mountain on the west side. Lane School had existed for many years, and had been rebuilt three or four times. The last rebuilding was promoted by Vann himself and a Mrs. Hitchcock. The native stone building now stands unused, since school consolidation has made country schools something of the past.