

In early day Adair the only utility was the railroad telegraph. For water, cisterns and dug wells were the source. Electricity was yet to come, and coal oil lamps and lanterns were the night lights. Some of the stores had board sidewalks in front of them and the better stores had a porch out front. Adair was a popular stop over for the early day "drummers", as the traveling salesmen were called then. They would come in on the early 4 AM train, put up at the Adair Hotel, conduct their business and leave on the late afternoon train. Adair was the trading center at one time for a large area of Indian Territory, encompassing Pensacola, Strang, Spavinaw, Foyil, Lushynoad, and the farm and ranch area.

It is not definitely known how Adair came by its name, although a prominent Adair family of Cherokee blood lived there before 1900. Of this family, a Dr. Adair was one of the first physicians attending the needs of the Orphans Asylum at Salina.

The town at one time supported a bi-weekly newspaper, "The Adair Citizen", and Mrs. Thomas remembers the editorials around the time the issue of statehood was to be voted on. Prominent names seen in the newspaper of that time included Lee, Carsolowry, Youngblood, Adair, Trout, et al. She remembers that the voting place was in the big stone Dunham Building, built about 1901. This building then housed the Adair Bank, and a hardware store on the first floor, while the second floor was for offices and rooms.

When Mrs. Thomas was going to school before statehood, there were two schools in Adair - one for white kids, and the other for Indian children, where she attended. Schools were maintained by subscription.

Religious worship was held in the school houses in the early days. With the building of the Methodist Church in 1902, other church buildings soon followed.

Much of the soil in the area is a black loam, and Mrs. Thomas remembers that much of the winter the streets and walkways were always ankle deep with mud. Yet, she likes to recall that the community life was a happy one and neighbors and friends were indispensable. Then she recalls it was the custom to load up the family in a wagon and go visit another family without invitation, sometimes staying all night. This custom is gone now.