

Mrs. Dikes tells that it was on her father's side of the family that at one time lived and contributed to the settlement of what is now the town of Adair, Mayes County, Oklahoma.

Most of the section of land across the road east of her home was at one time owned by the Duncan family. For many years this was where Red Cloud Duncan lived and worked out of the Saline District Courthouse for the Cherokee Nation. It was on this same section that Arcadia school was built, one of the first schools in this frontier district. Mrs. Dikes first went to school here. She says it was a long log building facing the west, and located back in the woods about a quarter of a mile northeast of her home. Alta Hickman Johnson was one of the first teachers at this school, and Miss Johnson was also a Cherokee. Before the community was able to build a church house, the school was used for religious services.

As Rowe Prairie began to settle more, a post office was established at Rose and Eli Ragsdale, a Cherokee, was the first postmaster to hold office there.

She tells that the first Sunday School was started by Grandma (Mrs. Eli) Ragsdale and Grandma (Mrs. Red Cloud) Duncan, and they used the Arcadia school building. Mrs. Duncan was from the prominent Carsolowry family who were settled in southern Craig County. In the early days the Duncan home was considered as the first of the mansion type dwellings in the area, a large, two-story white frame house.

When Mrs. Dikes reflects on the wonderful days and events of long ago she is reminded of the story of the carpet with a hole in it, and how it fit so well the feeling and attitude of the people of a past generation. She says there was a family whose home had a large carpet in the front room and near the center of the floor covering was a worn hole. One day a visitor asked about the hole he had seen for so many years. The old man told him that hole was very important to him, as it told of the coming and going of his children and their children, and of the countless friends and neighbors that had been to his home. And more, it spoke of the love for one another, a reminder of the happy days his home had seen, and a silent monument to his blessings.