

variously called "Demon Rum", "The Devil's Brew", "Evil Spirits", "Amo-atsi'la", etc. By whatever name, it must have served a purpose, as the distillery at Southwest City was kept busy supplying the demand. Mrs. Butler recalls that many-a-time people would come by their house on their way back home to ask to stay all night, or to ask for something to eat. Whatever view was taken of their mission, or their condition, the traveler was never refused the hospitality of that day.

As a town, Southwest City began its existence in the spring of 1870, and the city plans an observance and celebration this year in having reached the century mark. Several old buildings still stand along main street built in those early days. But gone are many of the places and things that were of the town some 80 to 100 years ago, such as the saloons, railroad, distillery, grist mill, etc.

Mrs. Butler's parents were Jess Rogers, a white man; and Agnes (Becky) Snell, a full blood Indian. Both of them spent all their lives in the Butler Prairie country.

She tells that when she went to school at Old Butler, there was a wood stove in the middle of the room. On cold days the children would sit close around the stove to keep warm, as there were cracks in the floor and walls two inches wide. Most of time the windows just had shutters to cover the broken glass. How they made it thru those winters, she does not know, but they did - bespeaking of a hardier people than now. She says that her father was determined that his children finished the eighth grade at Butler School, and that would be enough schooling. She says she never got to go to high school.

For the most part in the history of the Butler, Peters, and Cowskin Prairies has been spared tragic events, although a few have happened. Sometime in the days before statehood, Will Butler and John Muskrat met on a lonely road. A gun fight ensued, and John was killed. One of the older Butlers was trying to make a neighbor's house one cold winter night and froze to death in his saddle. Two miles west of Southwest City is the Polson (or Peters Prairie) Cemetery where Major Ridge and John Ridge are buried, both assassinated June 22, 1839. To the west of Butler Prairie is the site of the old Delaware District court house where the whipping tree and the hangman's noose were used when the crime demanded.

Mrs. Butler likes to recall things of the past, and among her papers she has a copy of the book "GENERAL STAN WATIE", written by Mabel Washburn Anderson in 1931. She has pictures of Indian settlers to her part of the country of long ago. She recalls many of the families that lived in the Honey Creek country and out on the prairies long ago. Some of them were the Scrapers, Starr, Cheater, Fox, England, Bushyhead, Downing, Qualate, Welch, Caudill, Harlin, Scuggins, Brewer, Muskrat, Steen, Hanna, Masters, Buckett, Fields, Mosby, Ketcher, Wright, Ward, Black, Silversmith, Inlow, Leaf, Wickett, Keene, etc.