Louisiana Places—Strange Sounding Names

Cullen

“In most cases the town comes first and industry comes later, but Cullen reversed the procedure. First came industry, International Paper Co., then came the town — Cullen.

“Before the year 1936, the land on which Cullen now stands was a plantation owned by Mr. H. J. Coyle and the L & A train stop and the mercantile store which Mr. Coyle operated and owned was known as Clifford. The main industry of this area at that time was farming and timber.

“Things began to buzz in 1937 when International Paper Co. chose this location for one of the largest paper mills in the U.S., and Clifford was changed to Cullen, being named after one of the men connected with the paper mill and, I believe, also connected with the L & A Railway Co. The town is located in north Webster Parish.

“The paper mill is known as the Springhill mill since Springhill was the nearest town at the time of its construction, but is located directly across the railroad track from Cullen. Sometimes when the mill is referred to as the Springhill mill and we aren’t recognized at all, our pride is ‘sorta’ hurt, but we just remind them of its actual location and go on about our business. Our town now has a population of 2,194, was incorporated in June 1955 under the Lawrason Act, having a mayor and alderman form of government. In the nine years Cullen has been incorporated, the town has made notable strides which are to be expected since Cullen takes its cue from the hustle and bustle of the giant mill and has earned for itself the title of ‘Town in a hurry.’”

My thanks to Mayor M. C. Burnham who so promptly provided the above material on the town of Cullen. — Clare D’Artois Leeper