

Underwood's Mill

Willis Manning

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF FORTH COMING ARTICLES ON OLD MILLS OF THE BAILEY SECTION. (Editor)

The present site known as Underwood's Mill has quite an interesting history. The mill itself has changed hands a number of times.

Sion Saunders, the first owner, built the mill and cotton gin with slave labor. The cotton press was run by means of a wooden screw with long side beans pulled by horses.

BISSETTE RUNS MILL

Mr. Saunders sold the mill and gin to Daniel Bissette. In addition

to operating the mill Mr. Bissette ran a tavern at his home situated between the railroad and mill. His residence was completely destroyed by the famous cyclone of 1888 visiting this section.

Some time afterwards, Burt Hicks bought the mill and operated it, followed in turn by M. C. Bissette. After a short period Mr. Bissette sold the mill to Jim Underwood.

GIN DISCARDED

Soon after Mr. Underwood bought the mill, he discarded the cotton gin, since its operational methods were so old, but con-

tinued to run the corn and flour mill.

Later a big rain came and broke the dam, washing the mill house down the stream. The dam rebuilt, the pond was turned into a swimming pool.

The pool was operated for several years and then another big rain came; again, the dam was washed out. As no one has ever built the dam back, there is now only a small stream left.

MRS. WATSON: (during vocabulary building period) "Use the word enthusiasm in a sentence".

TOMMY PERRY: "The enthusiasm was in his pocket."

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