Phillip Thompson Is New Owner Of Mystery Farm Number 18 At Darbun

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Thompson may not live at the end of a rainbow in this dry weather, but they do live at the end of the trail leading to the home at the end of Farm Mystery Number 18.

Their place belonged to his father, B. E. Thompson, and is located three miles from Darbun. The farm has half of its 300 acres in cultivation. The remainder is in woods pasture and timber.

Of the cultivated acreage, 85 acres are in cotton and 125 in corn. Mr. Thompson figures that the drought has cut both of these crops but he is expecting over half a crop from each.

Mr. Thompson has not gone in for extensive cattle raising in either dairy or beef type animals but he says he has some cows and figures to grow into beef production for the market.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, the former Elaine Burt, were married in June of last year. Their daughter, Phyllis Lee, is six months old.

They have completely remodelled their home inside. They say the picture was taken just before they finished their remodelling. They cook with gas but heat their water with an electric water heater.

When the water gave out at the windmill and it became necessary to move the well, Phillip says he took part of the windmill off but left the stand and tank. He uses an electric pump to put the water into the tank.

While he was remodelling his house, he used an electric table saw that he says made the job much easier and better than if he had had to do all of the work with a hand saw.

This farm may go into tractor farming on a little larger scale another year. Tractors have been used to do the heavy work before planting, such as plowing and discing. This year Phillip says he did a little cultivating with his tractor and may do more next year. Most of the cultivation this year was done with mules.

This is the first year the Phillip Thompsons have lived on the farm, having moved there the first of the year. Before this he had been doing some work away from here, but decided to come back to the farm.

Mr. Thompson finished at Marion-Walthall High School in 1946. He went into service that year in the Navy. He served most of the time in the states but says he made a trip or two, one time going to Panama.

He was a member of both the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Club chapters while in school at Marion-Walthall. He says he enjoyed the club trips very much and learned a lot from them. His major projects were in corn and calf raising.

Mrs. Thompson finished at Columbia High School in 1951. Among her extra curricula activities while at CHS, she belonged to the Future Homemaker of America chapter one year.

Mr. Thompson likes to fish and hunt, though he seems to prefer the hunting season. Mrs. Thompson is, seemingly, the bigger fisherman in the family.

He says he is planning to plant something on his farm to help him raise quail to improve the hunting there. He has been thinking about planting some type of wild peas. He has also talked about getting some plants another season and putting out some plots of bi-color lespedeza. He figured he would look into getting some bi-color plants through the Soil Conservation Service before they make out their final order for plants.

Mrs. Thompson likes to fish. Fishing is fishing, she says, but she prefers casting in lakes to most other types of fishing.

The Thompson farm has two stock ponds. One of these is stocked with fish, having bass and mud cats in it. This is one place where Mrs. Thompson can keep her casting arm in practice.

The Thompsons subscribe to The Columbian-Progress and were the first to correctly identify their farm. They came by the newspaper office and picked up their original, mounted photograph of their farm home that was taken by the aerial photographers when they made the series of pictures that is being run in The Columbian-Progress and Sunday Mirror.

The radio in the Thompson home is tuned to WCJU a good part of the time. They like the Hillbilly Hayride and the football broadcasts and other programs.

The timber on this farm is protected from fire. It is somewhat scattered, Mr. Thompson says, and whatever cutting is done will be done by selective methods.

Although the Thompsons have not been on the farm long, they are getting their foundation laid for a happy life for many years to come by farming, fishing, hunting and enjoying work and recreation in a good farming area.

MR. FARMER —

DEAN GRINER