

Mystery Farm No. 21 Is Producing Milk From Green Winter Pastures

Mystery Farm Home Number 21 was unidentified for quite a spell. It was identified by W. F. Clark earlier this week, after his not previous able to identify it on previous occasions. Just goes to show that aerial photographs are not always easy to identify, but they can sometimes be identified on another look.

Guy Broom Route 1, Box 31, is the owner of Mystery Farm Home Number 21. He takes The Columbian-Progress but not the Sunday Mirror, so he didn't see the picture when it came out. He is proud of the fact that he has been taking The Columbian-Progress' since it was two papers before they were combined' and says he is going to take advantage of the combination. He is subscribed to both the Columbian-Progress and Sunday Mirror when he resubscribes this month.

Mr. Broom is a staunch believer in the artificial breeding program that was begun in this county by the Marion County Chamber of Commerce. He says this "is the only way for a poor man to get up into the best cattle". A few of the cows he is milking are third generation, raised on his place by artificial breeding. He finds that his herd is being greatly improved by each generation. Over half of his present production is from cows raised by this method.

Beginning with 12 cows in 1947 when he was tolled into dairying by promising to milk a few cows, as he expressed it, Mr. Broom now has 102 head of cattle, all dairy cows and heifers.

Mr. Broom says that after he had milked a short while he saw there was green money in dairying and decided it would beat the cross-tie hewing, sawmilling and railroading he had been doing. He pitched in to make the most of a good opportunity.

Now, he is following the green route, securing his green money from dairying by feeding his cattle on green pastures.

Planting 125 sacks of oats and 40 sacks of rye grass in addition to his all ready established permanent pastures has Mr. Broom in pretty good shape for winter grazing. He stated that three or four more days would put his pastures in good shape, to where his cattle would never catch up with them this season.

There are 230 acres of pasture on the farm, 185 of them green now

Oats alone are growing on 75 acres and with rye grass on 25 more. Some 60 acres are in clover alone. Other acreages include bahia, lespedeza and clover. Mr. Broom says his bahia pastures have been "a cow stand-by". He has some bahia planted under some pine trees that aren't too thick and says it made excellent pasture. He says his cows eat the bahia grass and bring it to the barn and put it in the cans.

Longleaf pine is growing on much of the 125 acres in growing timber on the farm. Six or seven years ago this timber was cut to 10 inches, Mr. Broom says, but has shown much growth since then. Land that was formerly in black-jacks has been put into pastures. All open land on this farm is terraced. Mr. Broom says it is a sandy type of soil and he terraced it himself. He says he has one terrace that is 900 yards long without any breaks. He is a firm believer in soil conservation and used his soil map. He says a farmer can go broke by throwing fertilizer in the

ground unless he is putting what is needed, so he uses soil tests. Under his oats, that are about six inches high, he said he put 300 pounds of 8-8-3 and 100 pounds of potash; then he came back with 100 pounds of soda and 100 pounds of nitro-lime.

Four stock ponds on Mystery Farm Number 21 provide water for the cattle and give Mr. Broom and his folks some good fishing territory. He says he likes to sein his ponds to get the big ones. One pond had a four foot alligator in it five days after it was built. This the boys caught and stuffed.

Mr. Broom married Nettie Mae Singley on December 12, 1924. They have 7 children. Eldure is working with Boyd Construction Company. He married Doris Sylvest and they have three children, Darryl, Lavern and Darnell.

Dempsy and Willie James are mechanics at Broad Street Service Station. Joan and Millard are living at home and helping Mr. and Mrs. Broom do the dairying. The

Hillbilly Hayride program comes into the barn every afternoon over the radio in the milking room. Merry Lou is in the seventh grade and Lennis is in the third at Improve church. He belongs to the Marion County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Broom has three tractors to do his farm work, part of which is to cultivate the 75 acres in row crops. Nineteen bales of cotton were made on the 20 acres in cotton last year.

The residence has been built since Mr. Broom started dairying. He is enjoying being at home and making a good living. He says he is glad to be living now instead of a few years ago when he would be milking by hand instead of by electricity and wouldn't have an electric grinder in his blacksmith shop or any of the other electrical conveniences he now has. Mystery Farm Number 21 is taking advantage of modern, scientific methods of farming to provide better living for its owners.

