

Melvin Meeks Owns And Operates Diversified Farm At East Columbia

Mystery Farm Home Number 23 belongs to Melvin Meeks, who lives on the old Purvis road, where the road goes east from Lampton crosses it. This is near the East Columbia Baptist Church and is on the paved road.

Mrs. Meeks says she was real glad to see the road paved, thinking she would be rid of almost all her dust problems. It is surprising, she added, how that did not turn out to be so. The other road is not paved. The paved road draws so much more traffic over the gravel road that she still has about as much dust — it just comes in a different door.

Mrs. Meeks, widely known as "Buddy" Meeks, is a native of Madison county. He is also a brother of Mrs. Buford Smith. He came down here and helped Mr. Smith with some of his farm work several years ago and met Hattie Leigh McElroy. They were married on Christmas Eve, 1941 and built their house out of concrete blocks and moved into it in November, 1946.

They have two children, Mary Ann and Bobby. Mary Ann is seven years of age and is in the second grade at the Columbia primary school. She is interested in cooking and sewing and dolls, as all little home-makers her age.

Bobby is eleven years old and is in the sixth grade in the Columbia grammar school. His interests are more varied. He has a 4-H Club calf and last year he won a white ribbon with the calf he showed in the Marion County Livestock Show. This time he is out to get a ribbon with some color in it.

In addition to the calf, there is a pet goat. This goat was raised on a bottle and has gotten too good to stay in the pasture with the other goats, so the barn is headquarters for this particular animal.

Bobby belongs to the 4-H Club. His mother says he likes to read and has a nice collection of model cars. He is also a member of the East Columbia Boy Scout troop which meets at the East Columbia Baptist Church. Bobby has been looking forward to the camporee that was held at Camp Sequoia last Friday night for some time.

Buddy has four Beagle hounds. Mrs. Meeks says that Buddy got the dogs so he could go hunting but that she doesn't know when he will get

to go, as long as he stays as busy as he is most of the time.

Someone asked Mr. Meeks why he had so many white chickens and he said that he hoped the 225 white leghorn hens would soon start laying so the dogs would have something to eat.

Mrs. Meeks belongs to the East Columbia Baptist Church. She is active in the Frances West circle of the WMU and helps with the beginners in the Sunday School, there.

The Meeks farm is a dairy farm and crop farm, in other words a diversified farm. This year there were some thirty acres on the farm. In addition to the 225 acres Mr. Meeks owns, he rents land from two different people.

There are 35 cows being milked

at this time and a nice group of heifers coming on for future production.

Buddy has not been pushing his cows for production during the summer, but he started feeding silage out of his silo about the time school started. This was to increase his milk supply. The use of milk always goes up when the schools start using milk.

Pasture on this place is both improved permanent pasture and native pasture. A transition is taking place, however. Some pushing was recently finished in some of the native pasture and part of it has been planted. The balance will be planted shortly in various types of improved pasture crops. Mr. Meeks was not at home, and Mrs. Meeks said

the usual coffee period had not been held in the kitchen so she did not know just what was being planned.

Cotton is being picked from the 30 acres that were planted this year. More corn than anything else is grown on the farm. Most of it goes into the silo for ensilage.

Mrs. Meeks says they couldn't stay there and milk cows without silage. The Meeks have found it to be a good feed for their cattle and to be one of the cheaper methods of supplying the cows with feed.

Little River flows through part of this farm, so there is not too much danger of running out of water for the stock. With pastures being improved and other advancements underway, the Meeks are looking forward to the day it won't take quite as much work to keep things going.

