

Mr. And Mrs. Joe McDaniel Owners Of Mystery Farm Home Number 48 Prepare For Christmas Reunion

Mystery Farm Number 48 is located five miles north of Columbia on the Williamsburg road and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDaniel.

Before Mrs. McDaniel married Mr. McDaniel she was Julia Forbeperry. They were married October 24, 1924. They have one son, Robert Wayne McDaniel, who is a civil engineer in California and he married Miss Jean Williamson from Masco.

Mrs. McDaniel says that Robert won't have only one day off for Christmas so he and Jean won't get to come home. However, the brothers and sisters of Mr. McDaniel planned to be there Wednesday night to celebrate Christmas together.

Those who are to be around the Christmas tree are, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDaniel, Mr. and Mrs. Bas Pittman, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Blackwell, Mr. and Mrs. Fate McDaniel, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McDaniel, Mr. and Mrs. Bowers McDaniel and Mrs. Fred McDaniel. All of these folks live around Columbia except Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McDaniel who live at Bossfield.

In addition to the McDaniel family for Christmas at Mystery Farm Number 48 will be little Miss Elaine Bennett from Olin. Elaine is spending this week with the McDaniels.

Mr. McDaniel drives Marion County School Bus Number 45. Mrs. McDaniel says he has about seventy-one school children that he picks up and takes to school each day. He collects the Cedar Grove district students and delivers them to the schools in Columbia, going to the primary, grammar and high schools on his route.

He has been driving a school bus for about four years. Up until this year he would get back home and do some work on the farm. This time, however, bus rules are different, and Mrs. McDaniel says he can't get home as easily because the bus has to stay in town. That is one difference in driving a privately owned bus and a county owned bus.

Mr. McDaniel is a fox hunter, by hobby. Mrs. McDaniel said he hasn't done much hunting this winter. However, he can turn his fox dog and four puppies out and hear them running at night without having to leave the house.

A feast and a chihuahua greet visitors to Mystery Farm Number

48, meeting you at the end of the cement walk with a rousing, barking welcome. The chihuahua accompanies you up the walk while the feist runs under the front porch and quits barking with a growl. In a short while both will be stretched out on the porch, enjoying the winter sunshine.

Mrs. McDaniel says she guesses her hobby is house keeping. She has some nice quilts that she has quilted herself. She says she likes to sew.

She seems to like to make cakes. She said she didn't make a regular fruit cake this year, but she cooked a Japanese fruit cake. Do you know what a Japanese fruit cake is? Not being a good cook, I didn't to have more curiosity than men, but being a newspaper reporter gives a man a chance to exercise his curiosity. So, I exercised mine and found out what a Japanese

fruit cake is.

Mrs. McDaniel says she puts raisins, nuts and spices in the cake layers. The icing is made by using a grated cocoanut and the milk, adding one and a half cups of sugar and three oranges, all squeezed up. This is cooked until it is real thick. The big trouble is grating the cocoanut, according to Miss Julia, but she says it is worth all the trouble.

The thirteen hens at this Mystery Farm are laying thirteen eggs a day. Thirteen is not an unlucky number, Mrs. McDaniel says. This farm has one milk cow and her calf.

Three bales of cotton were produced last season and a nice lot of corn for home use. Rats did a lot of damage to the corn last winter. Miss Julia said, so Mr. McDaniel decided to install active rat catchers this year. There are six cats on the place this time. Most of them

stay around the barn making "Where's a cat?" the pass word among the rodent population.

The McDaniels listen to WCJU quite a bit. Listening to the Sunday morning devotional while getting ready to go to church and Sunday School at Cedar Grove is a part of the day's activity. In addition to taking an active part in his church Mr. McDaniel is a member of the Marion County Farm Bureau.

Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel moved into this house about eleven years ago. It is his father's old place. It is the old home place of his father. Before they moved into Mystery Farm Home Number 48, they lived in a house nearby.

The McDaniels are looking forward to having all the folks home again, enjoying the friendship and fellowship that makes Christmas what it ought to be — Christmas for Christ.

