



'Mysterious' Mystery Farm Number Ten Is Identified

Mystery Farm Number 10 has been identified. Friday afternoon Hezzie Dunnaway came to the newspaper office and said it belonged to his neighbor, Willie Ratliff. Saturday August 21, Mrs. Willie Ratliff came by the office and identified the home as hers. She said a neighbor had told them about the place and Mr. Ratliff told her to come by the newspaper office and see about the picture.

Before their marriage in 1928 Mrs. Ratliff was Annie Mae Dunaway. Mr. Ratliff says he gets by with buying an anniversary present every four years, since they were married on leap year. Like most men, he gives her credit for the idea of getting married in the first place.

The Ratliffs moved on this place a long time ago, soon after they were married. Since then they have worked there for Johnny Cooper, who owned it at first. They also farmed for J. T. Hammond. About three years ago they bought 85 acres of what was the old Johnny Cooper place, located seven miles west of Morgantown and about three miles from Marion-Walthall School, from Ben Dunaway.

The three children in the family are O. V., Wilda Faye and Billy.

O. V. married Evon Alford and they have built a house near the Ratliffs, on the same place. He finished high school at Marion-Walthall. Their son is named Lynn Ray.

Wilda Faye recently married James Henry Beard. Billy will be 14 years of age in October and will be in the seventh grade at Marion-Walthall.

Mr. Ratliff belongs to the Farm Bureau and the Holly Springs

Baptist Church. Mrs. Ratliff belongs to the Sinai Church of God.

Forty-five of the 85 acres of this farm are in cultivation, while the remaining forty acres are in pasture. The pasture is native pasture, part of it being woods pasture.

Mr. Ratliff had planned to put in some winter pasture but figured the time had run out to get any assistance on this through the ASC office. The reporter asked if he had been reading The Columbian-Progress lately, that there was an article in the last issue of The ways a farmer may use federal cost-sharing to help improve his farm, and that the deadline for making application for this assistance is August 31. Mr. Ratliff said he would come in and make application within the next few days for assistance in planting 8 acres of improved pasture. He figures he was about to lose right at half the cost of planting this pasture because he was not reading his home-town paper. Had the aerial photographers not picked his home as a Mystery Farm he would have missed this financial assistance.

Mrs. Ratliff says the reason the house was so hard for most people to recognize was because it is a new house. Last January they tore down the old house and rebuilt. The present house has white asbestos siding and is well finished.

He expects to get about twelve bales from his 14.4 acres of cotton. His corn crop, he figures, is cut just about half by the dry weather. He expects to harvest 300 to 400 bushels from his 25 acres of corn.

There are 9 head of cattle on the farm. They are beef and Jersey cattle. The improved pasture he

plans to plant will help these cattle through the winter and save some of the corn.

Speaking of corn, Mr. Ratliff has a rat-proof sheet-iron corn crib that is built on high pillars that are wrapped with sheet-iron. He doesn't see much point in growing corn and feeding it to rats.

This family likes to listen to the radio. They enjoy hillbilly music and say they especially like to hear Dutch Hammond sing over WCJU on Saturday mornings.

Mr. Ratliff said he didn't know where he was when the picture was taken, but that if he had known when it was going to happen he would have had his mule hitched up and been plowing close to the house, or would have been sitting on the front steps. As the shadows in the picture show that it was taken about noon, he figures he may have had his feet under the dinner table.

Area Gas Appliances Dealers To Attend Meeting Here Monday

"Chuckwagon Charlie," the rootin', tootin' character selected by United Gas to introduce the 1954 Old Stove Round Up to gas appliance dealers in this area, will be presented Monday night, August 30, at a combination barbecue dinner, sales meeting and Western jamboree.

Ol' Charlie and his Old Stove Round Up troupe will arrive in town shortly after noon on the day of the jamboree, traveling in a mammoth double-decker, air-conditioned bus.

At the sales meeting after the dinner, gas appliance merchant

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