

Dewitt Speights Residence Proves Mystery Farm Home Number Fourteen

Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Speights are the owners of Mystery Farm Number 14 which is located about six miles north of Columbia in the Cedar Grove community.

Mrs. Speights was Virgie Robbins before she married Dewitt on October 11, 1936. For two years of the first part of their married life they lived on the coast. Mr. Speights was working on defense jobs.

Later, they bought this farm from the Federal Land Bank and moved into the house that was there when they bought the place. They moved here about 1942, having bought the farm before this.

Mrs. Speights says she can caution anyone to keep their insurance premiums paid up. The house was insured when they bought it from the Federal Land Bank. When they paid off the debt, the insurance was out. She says they didn't do anything about it, and she let the time get by without renewing.

Six years ago the house burned without any insurance. She says that she doesn't proccahinate about paying insurance policies any more. She gets them paid first.

Mr. Speights works on construction jobs. He has done a lot of work for Local contractors. Mrs. Speights said he had done some work in New Orleans, but much preferred to work around Columbia so he can be at home.

The two children in this family are Judy and Carl Speights. Judy is eight years old and Carl is four.

Judy was quite interested in the original photograph of the Speights farm home. She attended school at Cedar Grove last year but will be going to school in Columbia this time, in the third grade.

Carl is quite a man for his four years. His mother says he likes to go fishing as he does Judy. Several times she has told them that if they would wash the dishes and Carl dry them, she would take them fishing early. Almost invariably Carl says he had just as soon skip the fishing as to fool with the dishes.

Carl is having trouble with his two ducks his grandmother gave him. Since there are three ponds on the farm there is plenty of water for the ducks. Carl thinks there should be a duck on at least

two of the ponds and can't understand why they won't stay that way when he separates them. He is accumulating miles, keeping the ducks away from his mother's back door and trying to keep them separated on the ponds.

The three ponds have all been stocked with fish and they provide water for the 30 head of beef cattle on the farm. Mr. Speights has liked livestock since he was a boy. Some time ago the Speights grew a bunch of hogs. That was when the price was down and you couldn't give hogs away. Mrs. Speights says they couldn't sell them for a dollar a head, so they killed and cured nine head and finally got out of the hog business.

The Speights have a large deep freeze. Everything in it was grown at home except the strawberries and peaches, including the meat. The deep freeze is an important piece of equipment in this household.

This Mystery Farm has 150

acres. There are 4 acres of cotton, 16 acres of corn, 30 acres in improved pasture and the balance is in native and woods pastures. Some paperwood was sold to clear some land which will be cleared for pasture. Fire is kept out of all timber.

Oats will be planted as soon as there is enough moisture in the ground. The 30 acres of improved pasture are planted in white dutch clover, bahia grass and sercila lespedeza.

There is a horse on this farm that was bought to plow the garden. However, the tractor is still doing the garden plowing and the horse wears a saddle instead of a collar. The children enjoy riding.

The Speights family belongs to the Cedar Grove Baptist church. Mrs. Speights teaches the class of primary girls.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Speights are natives of Jeff Davis county. She finished high school at Basfield.

She likes to sew and to make jelly. He likes to hunt and fish and is especially fond of coon hunting. His coon hunting was cut down while he was working in New Orleans.

Mrs. Speights says she likes to get out on the tractor once in a while and do a little plowing, especially when she can plow corn after it gets up to a good size. She says there is something about looking back at a row of corn that is freshly plowed, and it isn't nearly as hard as ironing.

This year they plan to feed the cattle a good bit of crushed corn and meal. Last year they used oat hay. This time there should be lots of green pasture, and the corn will be used as a supplement.

The barn is used as a stock barn. It has a hay loft and cribs at the bottom for corn and other feed.

Despite having to build a new house when the old one burned, the Speights family is getting along fine and enjoying living.



MR. FARMER

DEAN GRINER