

Owners Of Mystery Farm Number 19 Combine Town And Country Living

The owner of Mystery Farm Number 19 is one of the many people who live in the county and enjoy country life, but who work in town during the day and are of Columbia's rural-urban population. Fenton Polk's farm is just far enough out of the city to be in the country, about half a mile from the city limits on the Bunker Hill road.

Mr. Polk is the manager of the grocery department in the Lamp-ton Company. When a man comes in with some farm produce to sell to the grocery department, Mr. Polk knows whether it is a good product because he was reared on a farm.

Mr. Polk married Jewell Mae Carter on December 21, 1934. Jewell was from Bassfield, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Carter had a farm there.

Mr. and Mrs. Polk moved to Columbia in 1936 and have been living here ever since. At first they lived in town, but Mr. Carter was reared at Bunker Hill and

wanted to come back home.

In 1945 Mr. Polk bought the old Ed Campbell home that had been built by Mr. Campbell. Mr. and Mrs. Carter moved in the big house with Mr. and Mrs. Polk. Fenton continued to work in town and Mr. Carter took over the farming operations here, having rented his Bassfield farm which Mrs. Carter still owns.

Mr. Carter farmed with mules. When he died two or three years ago Mr. Polk says he didn't have time to look after the farm with mules and work in town, too. So, he bought a tractor. The type of farming carried out on this farm dovetails pretty well with a town job, he says.

For one thing, the only crops grown on the farm are feed crops for the beef type cattle grown on it. This year Mr. Polk says he expects to make about ten tons of corn on eight acres. Permanent pastures take care of a major part of the winter feeding problems for the livestock. A small plot of hay

is grown. A year 'round garden supplies much of the vegetables used by the Polks, and is worked on Wednesday afternoons and after work hours just as the other farming operations are carried out.

The pastures are green with rye grass, white dutch, crimson, dallis grass and native clovers around the calendar. The 20 head of cattle graze and drink from the stock pond or the creek running through the farm and live the contented life that well-fed cattle live.

Mr. Polk is proud of his stock pond. He says that when it was built he was a little skeptical about its holding water because it had a sand pit in the bottom. However, he says the man building it knew his job and put a layer of clay over the sand. Consequently, the pond holds water very well. It is getting a little low, now, but is still plenty deep.

In the last thirty days five nice trout and 195 bream were caught from this pond. Mr. Polk says he

has fertilized the pond twice a year with 6-8-8 since it was stocked in 1949. He says he can catch a mess of fish in thirty minutes almost any time of the year.

This farm is cooperated with the agricultural agencies in the county and he has made the most of the opportunities to get the technical and financial assistance that is offered to farmers.

Mr. Polk says they plan a remodeling job on the house in the near future. It hasn't been done sooner because he had to buy a tractor and all the equipment to go with it when he had to take over the farming operations. Plans as to what they want to do when they remodel have been made.

Mr. Polk likes the neighborhood where he lives. He says there isn't a better group of neighbors anywhere in the world. Your closest neighbor is as close as your telephone, he says.

Mrs. W. N. Carter lives with the Polks. She likes chickens and has some ninety White Leghorn hens on the yard. They sell eggs to their regular customers, seldom having any eggs to go on the open market.

Brenda Joyce is the daughter in the Polk family. She is nine years old and is in the fourth grade in Columbia. She is fond of school and music, belonging to one of the choirs at the First Baptist Church. She is active in the G. A.'s.

Brenda has a cat and a dog that her father says are very special with her. She likes her dolls, too, but he says she would have a hard time getting along without her cat and dog.

Mr. and Mrs. Polk are members and quite active in the same church. She is a member of the W. M. U. He was elected as a new deacon in the church, recently, and will be ordained Sunday, September 19.

Mr. Polk says that working at home and in town makes him have more work to do than he would have if he didn't have the farm, but he believes the diversion does him good. And, too, he says that growing livestock does not take up as much time as growing all row crops would do. As long as he has time to get a little fishing in all along and to visit with his many good neighbors. Mr. Polk says that life is really worth living when you have a fine family.



MR. FARMER —

DEAN GRINER