

Mystery Farm Number 22 Belongs To C. A. Hoag On River Road

Mystery Farm Number 22, located ten miles south of Columbia on the River Road, has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hoag for the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Hoag says he married Miss Levasse Jane Brotherton at the beginning of the century. They were living in Iowa when they decided to come south. A neighbor of theirs, it seems, had come down to this section and returned in a big car, telling about the killing he had made by growing potatoes.

The Hoags loaded up their car and drove down, headed for a county in Alabama near Mobile that Mr. Hoag says was raising a lot of potatoes at that time.

In talking about his experiences as a stranger in a strange land, Mr. Hoag laughs and says it was rough at times but adds, "We had a lot of fun."

When they got to Gulfport they met a man from Chicago who was promoting a "colony" near Brooklyn. This man was selling land, and Thanksgiving, 1927, found the Hoags on their new place, along with some twenty other families on their new farm.

Mr. Hoag says he has just about decided that every man ought to go broke when he is young. He adds that his going broke, "took us two years to do it," taught him a lot that he figures he should have learned sooner.

For one thing, he told about paying around seventy-five dollars an acre for land that was in a location where some of his neighbors told him, "Man, that's too much! Why, I'd have sold you forty acres with a house on it for \$400.00."

Much can be learned from the natives when you go to a new coun-

try, advises Mr. Hoag. In Iowa, he said, they were hitching two or three teams to implements and working two rows at the time. It looked perfectly silly to see a 200 pound man walking up and down the same row four or five times behind a little mule that didn't look as strong as the man.

What the folks at the colony didn't know, he explained, was that they were in a different part of the country, in an entirely different economic set-up, and they didn't stop to investigate to see if their old methods of farming would pay off. Not so much plowing with two or four mules, but from the economic side of how much will be left after paying expenses.

Two years after going to Brooklyn, he heard about his present farm. It belonged to the Federal Land Bank. It was for sale, so he

bought it from them and started making payments, nothing down, he stated.

Today he and Mrs. Hoag have made their come-back. They own the farm of 210 acres that has sixty acres in cultivation. About 50 acres are in pasture and the balance is in timberland.

No cotton is grown on the farm now. Most of the land in cultivation is planted in corn and worked with a tractor. This year an average yield of thirty bushels per acre is expected. "I can raise corn about as cheap as hay," is the way Mr. Hoag figures his feeding program.

The fact that he grows some hogs in addition to cattle is another reason why he uses corn for feed. Twice a year Mr. Hoag sells hogs. He recently sold 19 head. He says he got his stock from Worth Tullis and likes these hogs very much. He has about that many more he is growing to sell at a later date.

This year two acres of bahia grass and red clover are being put in under the A.S.C. program. Most of the pasture on this farm is native grass. Mr. Hoag believes that proper treatment of native grasses will give farmers in this area much better pastures than many of them have.

Goats on the Hoag farm do a lot of the pasture trimming and clipping. He has taken in some additional pasture by turning the goats in where there wasn't much timber and letting them eat the smaller bushes.

Although Mr. Hoag says he couldn't afford to rest in on the first group of subscribers on the REA line when it came through, he now uses electricity for at least ten different things, including an electric fence that he finds quite handy.

Even if the time since 1927 has had some rough going, Mr. Hoag says they are at home here and that he doesn't care anything about going back to live. He can laugh at the hard times they have come through. He could give a lot of advice to anyone trying a new venture in a new place, but his advice to investigate and see where you are going, financially, before you get there, is sound anywhere at any time.



MR. FARMER —

DEAN ...