

Lloyd Cook Has Good Livestock Program At Mystery Farm No. 34

Mystery Farm Home Number 34 has been named "The Oaks" by its owners. The house is surrounded by magnificent oak trees that make the name very appropriate.

Mystery Farm Home Number 34 belongs to Lloyd and Daisy Cook. It is located four miles east of Columbia on the road toward Laurens and is on the inner side of the curve of the paved road that has meant much to the people living in that direction.

This couple has been very active in the life of their community for a long time and are known better by their first names, probably, than most couple living in a community. Lloyd and Miss Daisy say that their community is the best in the county.

Lloyd married Miss Daisy Williams on June 25, 1923. Their two children are named Ronald and G. V.

Ronald married Miss Betty Mae Johnson. They live a short distance toward Columbia from The Oaks and are still on the 339 acre farm. They are laughing. Janis Dale Cook, started school this year.

G. V. married Miss Jacqueline Hargrove. He is coaching football at Wynn Seal School in Corpus Christie, Texas and Jacqueline is secretary to the superintendent of schools there.

The Cooks are members of the East Columbia Baptist Church. Miss Daisy has been teaching the class of young unmarrieds at the Sunday School there three years. She told of the progress being made toward the new church building that may soon take its place with the educational building that is almost out of sight.

Lloyd likes to hunt and fish. He says he doesn't have much time for either. His time is pretty well taken up with farming activities. There are 73 acres in cultivation. Open and woodland pastures take up 444 acres and timber is on 120 acres.

Cotton was grown on 9 acres this year and averaged a bale to the acre. Twenty acres of corn will furnish a large part of the feed needed on this farm during the winter months. It yields an average of 40 barrels of corn per acre.

Hay and oats were grown on 44 acres. This fall Mr. Cook is planting 33 acres in oats. These will be grazed for winter pasture and cut for hay or combined next spring. Lloyd says whether he combines or cuts for hay will depend on how they grow.

The 160 head of beef cattle on Mystery Farm Number 34 can eat lots of hay. Mr. Cook says. He saves much work by having pastures for them to graze so they can do their own gathering, but a good reserve of hay is necessary to keep down feed bills when pastures get lean.

Most of the cattle on this livestock farm are grade cattle, but there are registered Hereford and

Brahma males and eight head of registered cows.

Permanent pastures of Lespedeza, Bahia, Dallas, Carpet and Bermuda grasses cover some 144 acres of the farm. Four stock ponds are scattered over the pastures.

Time was when Mr. Cook did more row crop farming than now. He became interested in livestock when it became hard to get good labor, he said, and started putting some of his idle acre into pasture. Finding that growing livestock is more profitable than the old system of row cropping that he was following.

He has obtained all the help and inspiration that he could from the various agricultural agencies in the county and gives them credit for having good programs that will help any farm if they are correctly followed.

Timber land is protected from fire. Timber sold is selectively cut. Mr. Cook told us that he has sold some timber for a nice amount last August that made timber protection look profitable to him.

Miss Daisy teaches at Improve. This is her 13th year to teach there, all but a couple of them have been teaching the sixth grade. She says she has had 24 years of teaching experience in all. She is taking some work at Mississippi Southern and says she will be in class at 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning in-

stead of listening to the radio program over station WCJU which will salute this farm.

Reading and crocheting are Miss Daisy's hobbies. She says she likes all types of needlework.

She was at home when the reporter visited Monday night, after leaving a note in the door when not finding anyone home on two previous visits. Miss Daisy is secretary of the Marjorie Stewart Home Demonstration Club which was meeting that night.

Mr. Cook belongs to the Marion County Farm Bureau. He says farmers don't know enough about what other farmers are doing and that this is one way of finding out. Any group of people should have an organization so they can pull together.

Mr. Cook finds using tractors much faster than using mules and when it comes time to bale hay, he says there is no comparison.

The Cooks keep up with the news by reading The Columbian-Progress and listening to station WCJU. Miss Daisy wrote the newspaper and identified their house when she and Lloyd saw the picture in the Mystery Farm Home series, saying that they might be delayed in getting in to pick up their aerial photograph.

Favorite programs on the local station are sacred quartets, the Arthur Godfrey programs and classical and popular music.

For thirty years Lloyd and Daisy Cook have lived on this farm. They have worked to make a good farm and to make their assets grow. They have two large barns that were built in 1924 and 1936. It is hard for a farmer to have too much barn space, he says.

Their house is attractively finished. Gas and electricity are both used for the usual chores around the house.

The deep freeze is just about full. Miss Daisy says they put something back in it almost every time anything is taken out. This method, she told us, keeps them from having so much work to do at once to fill the box. She explained that they did not have much time at any one time to do such jobs, so they take it a little at the time.

It is about time to butcher another yearling at The Oaks and the deep freeze is too full to hold all of it. What's the answer? Rent a drawer in a local freezer food locker and put the surplus there.

Daisy and Lloyd are proud of The Oaks, as they should be, and are enjoying life because they are helping to make a good neighborhood better.

It's strange how otherwise intelligent men always fall for stories that the fish were biting better two hours ago, or yesterday, or just a little bit further out.

