

# Mystery Farm Home No. 3 Located North Of Kokomo On Summers Place

By B. S. BRADLEY

The Z. E. Summers farm, four miles north of Kokomo, was a busy place when I visited there Thursday afternoon. As the siding was being put on the sides of the house and the painter was painting windows and frames.

It was quite evident that work is no mystery on this Mystery Farm. Everyone there knows that work is necessary and each does his share.

Mrs. Z. E. Summers was Hettie Brumfield before she married. Mr. Summers and she and the boys moved on this farm when they bought it fourteen years ago from Edgar Conery. When Mr. Summers died four years ago he requested that the boys run the place and take care of everything. We found Hardy in the kitchen eating a late dinner. He had been in from his milk route just a short time. He alternates weeks with Carl Brumfield. This makes it easier on both of them and gives them time to do more work at home.

Hardy finished his school work at Marion-Walthall. While there he belonged to the 4-H Club. He belongs to the Marion County Farm Bureau.

Eugene is the oldest of the four boys and is the only one who is married. His wife was Lucy Grace. They have a cute little girl with red hair. She was supervising the work on the house when we left. Her name is Lucy Gene. Eugene said he had picked a hot day to plow the garden. He is a Mason.

Ed is the second oldest. He was busy working on the asbestos siding. Poy, the youngest boy, has been in the Korean. He was active in 4-H and FFA work. He wrote his mother that his name was up and for her not to write him anymore after June. Naturally, she hopes he is on the way home.

Mrs. Summers and Hardy gave us most of the information for this story. The white line going to the barn on the picture was caused by fresh dirt were a water line had been run just before the picture was taken.

The Summers dairy farm has 70 head of Jersey cattle, cows and calves. The base on their production is 375 pounds of milk per day. The agricultural activities center around the dairy.

Instead of growing a lot of row

crops as was done at first, pastures now take the day. Crimson clover, oats, eye grass and white ditch are the principal winter crops for pasture, while bahia, millet, dallis and carpet grass take over during the summer.

They take advantage of all soil conservation practices they can work into their program. A stock pond was built three or four years ago and has been stocked with fish during the past stocking season.

Hardy says that milking cows is like running a store. You've got to keep books on them. Production is checked each week by weighing the output or production of each cow. She is fed accordingly. She is fed one pound of feed for each three pounds of milk unless the pastures are extra good. Then she gets a pound of feed for each four pounds of milk.

"Plant plenty of green stuff and let them gather it. Feed a little

while milking," is the dairy philosophy of Hardy and his brothers.

He says that they have been in the dairy business for a long time. They were running a dairy before they bought this place and moved to it. Dairying is a more stable income than crops that are sold once a year. Cotton acreage is down to five acres. Corn takes up about twenty-five acres. Pasture amounts to about 100 acres. Timber acreage is twenty. The whole farm is 160 acres.

Income from the timber is not much because most of it is being saved for home use. Fire is kept out and all harvesting is by selective cutting.

This farm boasts two barns. The mule barn was built in 1944 but has been converted and taken over by cattle. The cattle didn't do the work of converting but they financed it. The other barn is the dairy barn that was built in 1941.

Having to go about 115 feet to

get water means that they must have a good pump. Electricity and butane gas give this home all the modern conveniences. Mrs. Summers cooks with gas, has hot and cold running water and the other conveniences that go for making living more comfortable and convenient than it was when the farm was homesteaded by Flynn Conery.

Hardy says that milking, fixing fence and clipping pastures take up most of the day and don't leave much time for hobbies. These folks take The Columbian-Progress and some magazines. They listen to Station WCJU. Hillbilly programs are on the list of favorites.

I would say that one of Hardy's pets on the farm is pastures. He believes that more men ought to plant pastures because they really pay off. He says that the cows don't have to eat bitter weeds because of the good millet pasture they are grazing on now.

