

Wilmer Byrd Builds Fences On New Fifty Acre Farm, Plans More Cattle On Pasture On Lower Little River

Mystery Farm Home Number 44 is located two miles northeast of Pinebur and is the home of the Wilmer Byrds.

Mr. Byrd says he built the house soon after he got out of the Army in 1946. The house was finished and they moved into it in 1947.

Mystery Farm Number 44 has thirty acres within its boundaries. Another fifty acres have been bought by Mr. Byrd in another farm which is located about three-quarters of a mile down the road.

The Byrds are planning another house to be built on the new place. Mr. Byrd says he won't start on the house immediately but it is being planned and he seemed to be looking forward to building it.

Mr. Byrd said he farmed the first couple of years after he got out of service and liked it. Then he decided to start growing a few cattle and put a few head of beef cattle on the place. He began working away from home, and for the past two years has worked in New Orleans in the Higgins shipyard.

For about the last month he has been at home and has been doing work around there. When we visited him the first time no one was at home. The next morning we caught him before he left the house. He told us he had been buying fence posts the day before.

When we left Mr. Byrd's place he told us that he was fencing the fifty acres in the new place. He was putting down the posts and planned to stretch the wire later, when he would have some help. This fifty acres under fence joins Robert Culppepper's place and together they will have over a hundred acres of woods pasture under fence. Mr. Culppepper is his father-in-law.

Mrs. Culppepper was Lettie Mae Culppepper before she and Wilmer married in 1940. She has worked at Reliance in Columbia for the past eight years.

Mrs. Byrd likes to sew. Sewing is her job at Reliance and Mr. Byrd says sewing is her hobby, too.

The two children in this family are in the sixth grade at Hub. George Austin likes to hunt and fish. Lettie Marie is taking music in addition to her regular sixth grade studies. She had a couple of parts on the Christmas program presented at the Hub PTA meeting Monday night.

Lower Little River flows across both of Mr. Byrd's farms and there is a little creek on each place, too. He says this gives the cattle plenty of water and there are some fish in the streams.

He says that although there are some squirrels in the woods he hasn't killed any. It was some time after the season opened before he had a chance to go and by then the woods were so dry and so many leaves were on the ground the squirrels had gotten cagey. Anyway, he says, fence building doesn't leave much time for hunting or fishing.

Mr. Byrd says he isn't spending a lot of money on getting into the cattle business. He says he sold several head and has about fourteen head now. He expects ten calves in the spring which will increase his herd quite a bit.

The Byrds attend the Church of God at Pinebur. He says they don't have time to belong to any clubs because they are away from home so much of the time.

Mr. Byrd stated that the whole family is looking forward to the Christmas parade in Columbia Saturday afternoon. He commented on how good he thought the parade was last year and how much they enjoyed it. The Byrds are looking forward to this one, and he says it would be hard to tell who is the most enthusiastic about it.

Mr. Byrd says he has an electric paint sprayer that is mighty handy when he has time to use it. In addition to the paint sprayer there are the usual electrically operated household appliances and a water pump at this Mystery Farm Home. The Byrds buy The Columbian-

Progress and Sunday Mirror newspapers regularly. By reading the newspapers and listening to station WCST they keep up with what is going on in the county. Mr. Byrd says the Hillbilly Hayride program is probably the favorite program of the entire family.

Mr. Byrd's job in New Orleans keeps him on the road a good part of the time. He has been home for about a month, he said, but will probably go back about the first of the year. He is making good use of his time at home, but says there is so much to do that all of it won't go done.

When working in New Orleans he comes home for the week-ends. He is always glad to get back home. He is looking forward to the time when he will have his two farms in good shape and can stay home more of the time.

