

Mr. And Mrs. J. R. 'Jack' Thompso on Live At Mystery Farm Home No. 47

Mystery Farm Home Number 47 was built in 1943 by Jesse R. "Jack" Thompson when he and Mrs. Thompson, the former Florida Bass, decided to come back home and quit following construction jobs.

Their very attractive home is located two and a half miles north of Columbia on the Bunker Hill road, Route 3, Box 702. The farm has 81 acres, most of which are in pasture.

Mr. Thompson is appraiser for loans made through the Veterans Administration in Marion, Jeff Davis and Walthall counties. His 35 years of experience as a carpenter should come in handy and make him well qualified for this job.

For a number of years the Thompsons lived in Jackson and he worked on various housing and construction projects with one concern for some 14 years. For six years he was superintendent of a millwork shop at Oak Ridge, Tenn., with about 35 men working under him.

After moving to Columbia, Mr. Thompson operated the Thompson Millwork Company on Highway 13 North and worked on construction. He has built a number of store fixtures with built-in desks for use in stores in Columbia, Tyertown, and several other places.

Across the road and down the hill an old house has been converted by Mr. Thompson for use as a wood-working shop. Here he has some electrically operated wood-working tools, including a combination rip and cut-off saw, a dado saw, a jointer, a skill saw and a bench grinder.

Woodworking comes as close to being Mr. Thompson's hobby as anything else, although he has made his living by working with wood. He has many nice articles in his home that he built himself.

He showed us a smoking stand he had turned on a turning lathe. There is a built-in dressing table in the bed room that runs across the end of the room. A window is at each end of the cabinet. Between the windows is a large mirror, extending from window-frame to window frame. A valance over the cabinet adds much to the attractiveness of the room.

The dressing table is built with mahogany plywood and the top has a large section of inlaid work in the center, under the mirror. On the cabinet are two picture frames which were turned and made by Mr. Thompson who says he refused \$75.00 for the pair during the war when frames were hard to get.

The Thompsons have two children, each of whom have two children. Their names are Charles and

Jackie. Charles, an Air Force veteran, is written up in the December issue of TV Radio Mirror. He is an announcer at Station WALA in Mobile. According to the story, Charles wrote a song, "Miss America" and said he wouldn't shave until it was recorded. He is pictured being given the once-over by Bob Hope who seemed a little wary of the beard.

Charles started studying law at the University of Alabama but was persuaded to go into radio by one of the professors. He finished the university in radio and worked for a time in Hattiesburg where he married a rival radio worker, Joan St. Amant. They live in Mobile. Their children are Kay and Monica.

Jackie married Harold Van Sant of Jackson. Her two children are Eric, 4, and Vicki, 14 months. Jackie started work at the New Orleans Furniture Company office Friday morning. Eric and Vicki were spending the day with "Pappa" and "Mam-ma". Jackie finished high school at Columbia high school the first year the Thompsons lived at Mystery Farm Number 47.

When the Thompsons started liv-

ing on the 81 acre farm they began raising Jerseys and selling them mostly as fresh milk cows. Later, Mr. Thompson decided to switch to beef cattle because he was away from home so much of the time.

Now there are twelve Herefords on the farm, five of them registered. Plans are to eventually have a fully registered herd.

Three years ago a tractor was bought and a big crop put in. The man who was helping with the farming moved away and Mr. Thompson let everything except about twenty acres go into pasture. A large part of this pasture is in lespedeza and the balance is in native grasses. Mr. Thompson says he is planning to put in 25 or 30 acres of Bahla grass this coming year. Fertilizer will be put on the lespedeza and other pastures. Mr. Thompson says he is starting a long-range pasture program.

There are two small stock ponds in the pasture, but a 12 or 15 acre pond is being planned. The large one will be stocked with fish when it is built.

About twenty acres of corn and other feed crops were grown on the

Thompson farm this year, for use at home during the winter months.

The cattle barn has been partially taken over by Mrs. Thompson's chickens, he says. There are 200 laying White Leghorn hens, and about 650 broilers. Mrs. Thompson likes to raise chickens.

She belongs to the Popetown Home Demonstration Club and likes to keep house. She enjoys having her grand-children visit her.

Mr. Thompson is a member of Pearl Lodge No. 23 in Jackson, the Marion county Farm Bureau and the local carpenter's union. The Thompsons are members of the First Baptist Church in Columbia.

Mrs. Thompson says she keeps the radio tuned to the local station for company when she is working in the house during the day and enjoys the variety afforded by the different programs, liking just about all of them. Mr. Thompson, she says, is especially fond of hill-billy music.

Looking forward to the time when he can retire, Mrs. Thompson says he is fixing a complete wood-working shop so he can earn some income from his hobby and be at home, too.

