

# J.H. Murphy, Owner Of Mystery Farm Home No. 64, Is Working Toward Beef Cattle Production At Kokomo

J. H. Murphy, owner of Mystery Farm Home Number 64, says the place has changed a good bit from the way it looks in the picture. The bags of cement on the front porch, and more of the same, have been used to pour new front steps and a walk. A drive has been built, and the old barn has been torn down.

The Murphys bought the farm about a year ago. The house on it at that time has been added to and remodelled. Landscaping and planting of shrubbery is in progress at this time. This is the first planting season since the major part of the work on the house was done.

There are four members in this family. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Murphy and their two daughters, Mary Clay and Sandra. Mrs. Murphy was Margaret Clay before her marriage in 1942.

There's is an active life. Mr. Murphy is bookkeeper for Ratliff Prisk Wood Yard in Columbia. Mrs. Murphy teaches at Kokomo and the two girls are in school there.

The Murphys moved to Kokomo in the fall of 1946. He taught vocational agriculture at Columbia High School from that time until January, 1954, when he resigned and began working at Prisk's. The house furnished the vocational agriculture teacher at CHS is in Kokomo, so they lived there until he bought his farm.

Plans are to go into cattle raising. Murphy says he has to build a barn and put up a lot of fences and plant some pasture before he begins stocking the place in beef cattle. He also wants to build a stock pond or two.

There are some fifty acres in open land that will be devoted to pasture. He stated that he may grow his cotton allotment this year, but hasn't definitely decided.

Soil conservation practices are being followed, as any vocational agriculture man naturally would. Fire is kept out of the twenty acres of timber, and 8000 pines have been planted within the last two weeks, on the ten acres of what Murphy terms "miscellaneous" land.

Mystery Farm Number 64 is located about half a mile east of Ko-

komo on old Highway 24. This location makes it handy for the two girls and Mrs. Murphy, who go to the Kokomo school five days a week.

Mrs. Murphy teaches third and fourth grades at the Kokomo school. She is a member of the Kokomo Methodist Church, as are the other members of the family.

Mrs. Murphy is also an active member of the Kokomo Home Demonstration Club and of the Women's Society of Christian Service. Mr. Murphy is a Mason and a member of the Marion County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Murphy says he likes to fish very much, but is getting a little behind on his hobby. His largest trout, he stated, weighed either six and three-quarters or seven and a

quarter pounds. He didn't remember just which. Either way that's a big fish, and he is looking forward to the time when he can go to a pond he is planning on his place and catch a string.

Mrs. Murphy likes to fish and enjoys different types of sports, just as he does.

Mary Clay is beginning to like to play basketball. She also likes swimming and is anxious for swimming time to get here again. Reading is another favorite pastime with her, and she likes to help Sandra with her dolls at times.

Sandra enjoys pretty much the same things that Mary Clay does, her father said, but she had rather draw than to read.

The girls like to get home in the afternoon and get the radio tuned

up. Mr. Murphy says he doesn't know what their favorite program is, but they like radio, period.

Remodelling done on the Murphy home proved to be a very good job. Last year Sebe Dale, Jr., vice president of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce, presented her with a check for having won second place in the Better Farm Homes Contest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Reliance Manufacturing Company.

The owners of Mystery Farm Number 64 are continuing to improve it and are looking forward to the day when they can cross the improved, permanent pastures to a pond and watch top quality cattle graze on the other side of the pond while they catch a pan of fish for supper.

