

Mystery Farm Scene No. 65 Shows Homes Of Willie And H. H. Holmes

Mystery Farm Home Number 65, the home in the foreground, belongs to Willie Holmes. The other home belongs to his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Holmes.

These two homes are on opposite sides of the road leading from the Columbia Fire Tower toward New Hope. The fire tower is about two miles west and one mile south of Foxworth, on old Highway 24.

Willie says he owns 38 acres. When his father bought his place he bought a place from the state at the same time for Willie, who was then a minor.

On October 19, 1952, Willie married Miss Mary Jeanette McDonald from Collins. He had met her when she was playing and singing for a revival at the Assembly of God church in Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Holmes have an eight months old daughter, Judy Catherine, whose hobby at this time, he says, is eating. He gives her credit for being a very good girl who doesn't keep her parents awake at night.

Willie is a graduate of Columbia High School. Jeanette graduated from Collins High. Both were active in their school work. Willie won a trip to Starkville on his cattle judging when he was an FFA member and had some good 4-H Club projects at the same time.

Jeanette was a leader in her home economics class and took some prizes on her projects.

About 25 acres of Mystery Farm Number 65 are in timber, much of it young pines. There are 12 acres open for cultivation. Willie says he wants to rent this cultivatable land to someone this year, but will plant it in pasture if he doesn't rent it. He has four head of cattle for home use, milk and beef.

Willie's farm joins his father's place. There is a stock pond on the line between the two farms, partly on both. This furnishes water for the cattle.

Jeanette likes the radio and enjoys the Queen for a Day program very much. Willie says he likes the radio, too, but doesn't get to listen very much, although he has a special radio on his job.

Willie is the dispatcher at the Columbia Fire Tower. The radio in the tower has three frequencies and Willie says he can hear folks talk-

ing at Jackson, Wiggins, Forest and other places where there are fire towers. He can talk as well as listen. About the only time Willie can have a radio in the tower with him is on a quiet Sunday. If the wind is up a little, there is no radio because regulations prohibit a standard radio in the tower on such days. Willie says this is because the man in the tower might not pay enough attention to the "business" radio.

Jeanette and Willie read The Columbian-Progress every week. Then, it is rolled up and mailed to Collins, where Jeanette's mother can keep up with what is going on in communities around where her daughter and granddaughter live.

Being a telephone operator keeps Jeanette away from home part of the time, but Willie says she likes

flowers and is planting some more things around the house that was built in 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Holmes, across the road, have five other children. Deamus married Ouida Bedwell and they have one girl, Kathleen. They live near Willie and his father. In fact, Willie says, their house is located just off the right border of the picture.

Lucile married Red Little. They and their children, Earline, James Edward and Patricia, live on the Sumrall Road, just past the Marion County General Hospital.

Wilton married Patsy Sharp of Los Angeles. They and their little boy, Steve, live at Lubbeck, Texas, where Wilton is a Tech. Sergeant in the Air Force.

Clifton is in the Air Force as an

Airman First Class, stationed at San Angelo, Texas. He is not married. Shelby is in the army, serving in Germany. Willie says he wrote he was figuring on getting married, but that he doubts it.

The three pigs on Mystery Farm Number 65 are for home use. Willie says they lost all their hogs a year or so ago but are going to grow some more to cure at home.

Willie has a mule but doesn't have time to do much plowing. His job in the tower keeps him up there during the days, seven days a week, except when it is too wet for the woods to burn. The ground will dry off enough for the woods to burn long before it is dry enough to plow. So, when it's too wet for Willie to need to be in the tower, it's too wet to plow.

