

Mrs. Bertie Mae Anderson Commutes To Reliance Every Day, Operates Dairy At Mystery Farm Number 69

Mystery Farm Number 69 is located about three miles south of Cheraw on Highway 35. It was bought and Mystery Farm Home Number 69 built in 1947 by the late J. J. McMurray. Mrs. J. J. McMurray and her daughter, Mrs. Bertie Mae Anderson live there now.

Mrs. Anderson works at the Reliance Manufacturing Company plant in Columbia, commuting every day. Her son, Marvin Anderson, lives nearby and looks after the farm.

Marvin married Evelyn Boone and they have one son, Stephen, who was a year old last month.

Thirty of the ninety-two acres in the farm are cultivated. The balance is in woods and pasture. Mrs. McMurray says. Some of the pasture is of the improved type.

Oats and clover are planted for the dairy cattle to graze and some of the oats are cut for hay. Mrs. McMurray says they still have quite a bit of oat hay on hand, after feeding through the winter.

Corn is grown on the farm, and some extra land was rented last year and put in corn. There was a good crop and corn has been crushed and used for feed for the dairy cows all winter.

Farming is done by both mule and tractor, though the mule is used mostly for small jobs, like gardens and little pea patches. Mrs. McMurray said Marvin was plowing up a watermelon patch when the reporter visited her Tuesday afternoon. He has been doing some work in the garden, too.

Soon after Marvin got out of service at the end of World War II, Mrs. McMurray said, he decided he wanted to stay at home. He and his mother, Mrs. Anderson, bought some dairy cows and built the dairy barn.

Since this time they have been operating the dairy and improving their herd of cattle. He believes in using soil tests to determine what fertilizers should be used for the crops he is growing. This year, he will continue to plant mostly feed crops for the cattle.

Mrs. McMurray says she likes gardening, working in her flowers, and also likes to raise chickens. Just as far as possible she keeps a year-around garden.

The flowers were beginning to bloom along the circular drive in front of the house and in the beds along the edges of the yard.

The drive circles in front of the house, entering across a cattle gap at one front corner and going out the other front corner.

Water for the house and for all the cattle comes from the electric pump. There is no creek on the farm and no stock pond.

The electric washing machine saves Mrs. McMurray a lot of rubbing, she says.

Mrs. McMurray says she has seventy-five laying hens and two hundred and one biddies. These little chicks are beginning to feather, and she plans to keep them for layers. She sells eggs locally and also in Columbia.

Mrs. McMurray's sister, Mrs. Marella Allen, is visiting her at this time. She visits around, she says, staying part of the time with Mrs. McMurray and Mrs. Anderson and a good bit of the time in Texarkana with her daughter. Mrs. Allen says

her daughter lives in the Arkansas side of Texarkana, but they lived until a short time ago in the Texas side. They plan to move back when school is out.

Mrs. McMurray and Mrs. Anderson keep up with what is going on in the county by reading both The Columbian-Progress and the Sunday Mirror. Mrs. McMurray says she looks forward to seeing the papers.

They recognized the picture of their house when they saw it, and Mrs. McMurray said she was very glad to get the original picture that was given her when she was interviewed for this story.

