

...the oldest in effect in this area, and is considered as one of the best in the state.

W. H. Ouzts Is Owner Of Mystery Farm Number 7 Near Cedar Grove

Mystery Farm Number 7 proved to be a well known place but some of the regular callers failed to call in on this one to identify it. Taken from the air and looking along the direction the highway runs it has a difference appearance than it does from a car passing by the road. The angle of view will fool you on very familiar places, and you will think you are looking at a place you don't know when it could be your own house.

This farm proved to be that of W. H. Ouzts, Route 4, Columbia. The farm is located just west of the Bunker Hill road, on the road going toward Cedar Grove.

There are 73 acres in this farm. Some thirty acres are in cultivation. About ten acres are in timber and the balance is in pasture.

Corn is the largest crop. Eighteen acres of corn are being grown this year to feed the livestock on the farm. Mr. Ouzts says he believes corn is about the best food that can be grown here for livestock. He has it crushed and mixed with alfalfa meal, cotton seed meal and blackstrap molasses.

Twelve acres of bahia grass provide good pasture for the ten head of dairy cattle. In addition, there is carpet grass pasture.

Although there are dairy cattle being milked on this farm it is not a dairy farm. Mr. Ouzts says he uses a cream separator to separate the cream from the milk. The milk is fed to the hogs and the cream is churned. The butter is sold.

From time to time a yearling is butchered and put in the deep freeze. This provides the family with cheap beef and makes it available whenever wanted without having to go to the store.

Gardening is carried on quite extensively on this farm and furnishes much of the food needed.

Sixty white leghorn hens were laying around twenty dozen eggs for sale a week until they started dropping off a little a short time ago. Mr. Ouzts says he plans to cull his flock pretty quick. It is time for the hens that are laying for their second year to quit laying and start moulting.

A soil building program has been carried out most of the time since Mr. Ouzts bought the farm six years ago. He tries to keep a cover crop on all of his land to prevent it from washing away and to build up the soil.

Other soil conservation practices on this farm make Mr. Ouzts a good conservationist. The stock pond has been stocked with broom, though he hasn't fished this year, he says.

Terraces have been built and maintained. Soil tests were run on the pasture land before the six acres were established this year under agricultural conservation program specifications.

Fences are all in good shape and will be maintained that way. Unlike too many farmers who don't take care of their equipment, Mr. Ouzts takes his equipment down

and cleans it and oils it when he is finished with it and then stores it away until it is needed again.

Perhaps he learned this while he was railroading. He was a brakeman working at Laurel when he was injured in 1946. He had served twenty-six years with the railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Ouzts have one daughter, Mary, who married John Ed Turner, and they have one daughter, Tommye Lynn. Tommye says she will start to school this fall. She is learning to wink, and no doubt the little boys will wink back at this cute little girl.

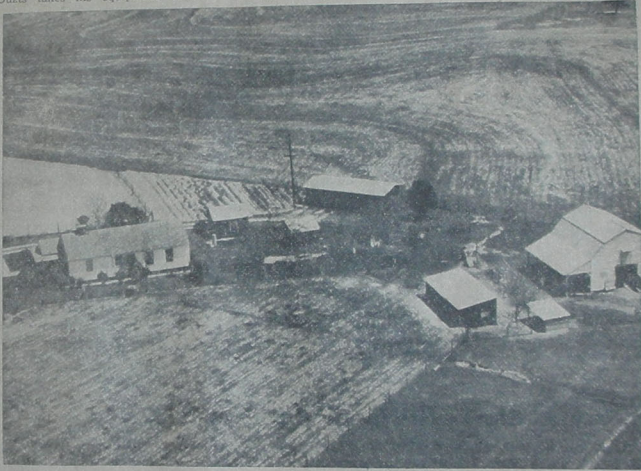
The Ouzts home is well furnished and well finished. Mr. Ouzts says he went around and caulked every place that was an air leak before he painted the house and did a lot of remodelling himself.

The deep freeze, refrigerator, wa-

ter heater, fans, radio, iron, stove and water pump are all run by electricity and provide Mrs. Ouzts with the conveniences she needs. Butane is used for heating, and Mr. Ouzts says its cost is much less than it would have been if he had not worked on the house. This is another example of how he has practiced conservation since he moved to this farm.

The tractor on the farm is used for clipping pastures as well as for farming operations.

This family belongs to the Cedar Grove Baptist Church. Mr. Ouzts was originally from Philadelphia in Neshoba county. He married Lucille Turcott from Laurel in 1925. They bought this place and moved to Columbia because Mary was working here when he decided to settle on a farm after he was injured.



MR. FARMER

DEAN GRINER