

The Columbian Progress Newspaper has long been an important part of the Marion County community. The "Mystery Farm" series was just one example of how the Marion Progress maintained a meaningful relationship with the people of Marion County. The series ran in the Newspaper during the mid 1950's.

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MYSTERY FARM HOME NUMBER 80 WAS BUILT SOON AFTER WORLD WAR TWO

Mystery Farm Home Number 80 was built soon after Bruce F. Thompson returned home from his tour of duty, being Uncle Sam with World War II. He says he was glad to get out of the army and to get home.

He and Miss Laurenda Forbes were married on August 28, 1942. They have an eight year old daughter, Sharon.

Sharon is in the third grade at Marion-Walshall and likes to go to school. She had her first recital last Tuesday night, when the big rain came. Her father says they had a time getting home, and he told her she could always remember that there was a big rain the night of her first recital.

Sharon likes to play with paper dolls. She also likes to listen to the radio and to give a good house for her dolls to live in.

Mr. Thompson likes to hunt and fish, but he says he does more banking than fishing.

Mrs. Thompson is a member of the Beulah Pickett chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the Good Neighbor Home Demonstration Club. These two organizations take a good bit of her hobby time and she is a very enthusiastic member of both.

The Thompsons are active members of the Darburn Methodist Church.

Mr. Thompson is a member of the Eastern Star, a Woodman of the World, and a Mason. He says it is time for him to renew his Farm Bureau membership and was planning to go to a meeting Thursday night.

Mystery Farm Number 80 has 160 acres, and Mr. Thompson has two more farms and a part of a third rented.

In all, Mr. Thompson and the two families on the place are cultivating 46 acres of cotton, 100 acres of corn,

some smaller crops, and there are some 80 acres of pastures.

Argentina, Bahia and Dalia grasses and Albee clover are in the pastures in addition to the native grasses.

Regular field corn is grown for "going to mill" and for feeding stock and chickens, but hybrid corn is grown by Mr. Thompson for crushing for the dairy cattle. He says he uses the regular corn because it is softer, and the hybrid does fine for crushing.

The stock pond on the farm is

stocked with fish.

Thirty head of cattle were bought when Mr. Thompson went into the dairy business. He also bought coolers and built a barn. At that time he says he was bothered with an ulcerated stomach and figured to ease up a little on the work. Since that time he is still running the dairy but hasn't cut down very much on the work.

He was replowing terraces in the field behind his house, following the Tuesday flood which cut some of the terraces. He figured he'd

have to replant about 25 acres of corn.

There are two tractors and complete equipment on the farm. Both are used for the different operations and are kept running most of the time.

Mr. Thompson says he plans to buy some more cattle this fall and bring his herd up to where he can milk over thirty head of cows the year around. Right now, he states, he is milking fewer cows than at any other time since he started his dairy.

