

Owners Of Mystery Farm Number 87 Built New House From Fishing Cabin

The picture of Mystery Farm Number 87 shows the site of the old Steve Foxworth home which has been visited twice by fire. The first fire burned the old home that the present owners of the farm had taken a pride in restoring and making it a showplace in the county, and the second fire burned the dairy barn at the right of the picture. The house had been destroyed by the first fire before the picture was made.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKenzie are the present owners of the farm and have built a new house where their fishing cabin was located on a lake a short distance from the old house.

Mr. McKenzie says the farm had 1320 acres in it when he bought, but he sold 1200 acres. This farm is the old Quaker Oats place.

There are about a hundred head of cattle and a hundred goats on the farm which is almost totally in pastures. Bahia and Dallis grasses and Crimson and White Dutch clovers are the main pasture plants. The only row crops are in the large garden.

For a while Mr. McKenzie operated a dairy. Then, after having a spell of sickness, he says he sold the dairy cattle. It was some time after that when the dairy barn caught fire and burned.

The lake by the house was made by a natural draw that Mr. McKenzie built a dam across. It runs back of the house and curves out across the pasture.

After living in Columbia for a few months following the loss of his house, Mr. McKenzie said he decided to add another room onto the fishing cabin. And, they kept adding until they wound up with their present house. Original plans were to rebuild where the house burned, but now, he says, they like their present house and probably won't rebuild.

Mr. McKenzie likes to fish and hunt. Some of the coat hangers at the front of the house are made of dried feet of turkeys he killed.

Wild ducks light on the pond behind the house where he has tame ducks. He says he can walk out the back door of his house and shoot a duck when in season. He could stand in the door and fish in the pond, if he wanted, but it is more comfortable to get in the boat tied nearby.

He says he has treed many a 'coon and 'possum and likes to hear dogs run in a swamp. He has a bunch of Beagle hounds that he likes to turn loose to run rabbits.

Mrs. McKenzie likes to work in her flowers and to improve her

yard, Mr. McKenzie stated. She had gone to town when the reporter visited. Ordinarily, Mr. McKenzie said, he would have been at the sale barn where he usually buys or sells something. He says he likes to trade.

For a number of years Mr. McKenzie was the paperwood man in this section for Gaylord. He began shipping to the Great Southern Lumber Company when the papermill in Bogalusa was started, he told us. Later, they offered him the contract of shipping wood from the

area. He says he hauled the first wood to Bogalusa that went to the papermill on a truck and trailer.

He started shipping a carload or two of wood about thirty-three years ago. Slightly over four years ago he quit this business and his son-in-law took it over.

Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie have one child, Edgie Lee, who married Ratliff Prisk. They have five grandchildren, Barbara, Jack, Joan, Rachel and Tommie Lee.

The McKenzies belong to the Hurricane Creek Baptist church, where they attend regularly.

