

# Camera Picked J. Walter Forbes' Home For Mystery Farm Number 8

The aerial camera returned to the Darburn community for this Mystery Farm picture after making a trip to the Cedar Grove community for the Mystery Farm Home picture of the W. H. Quits home that was run in the last Sunday Mirror.

Mystery Farm Number 8 was identified as that of J. Walter Forbes, Route 1, Kokomo. This Mr. Forbes is one of the leading farmers and outstanding citizens of his community and county. He is a member of the Farm Bureau. He belongs to the Church of God. For twenty years he has been on the County Board of Education. He is County Board of the Federal Crop Insurance Company and has served as community committeeman for ASC several times.

Like most of the best farmers around the Darburn community, Mr. Forbes expects to hold his average of a bale of cotton to the acre for his 34 acres in cotton this year.

About three years ago two farms in the county were selected for soil testing, and L. E. Golston, who is in charge of the Soil Testing Laboratory at Mississippi State College, came to Marion county and took the soil for these samples from the two farms himself. One of these two farms was that of Mr. Walter Forbes.

Mr. Forbes has a number of tenants on his farm. He followed, with the help of his tenants, the recommended fertilization program suggested by the results of the soil tests. He is certain that testing soils and following the results of the tests, as to crops to be grown and the amount of different fertilizers to be used is a good and profitable way to farm. It takes a lot of the trial and error and guesswork out of farming.

Forty-six acres of corn are growing on this farm. The usual yield has been thirty bushels per acre.

The farm is made up of 200 acres, of which half are in cultivation, 60 in pastures and 10 acres in timber. The timber is protected from fire.

Time was when more of this farm was in row crops. But Mr. Forbes did some figuring and decided to get into growing cattle to balance his farming operations. He figured that it would be more profitable to grow some cows than to stay with

all row crops, and he has found it that way. Some of the idle land he had at one time he put into pastures.

Three stock ponds were built. When he had some grass worms on his pasture a few weeks ago he gave them some toxaphene to eat.

There came up a rain and washed some of the poison into one of the ponds where it killed all the fish. He will be quick to tell you to be careful if you spray around a pond with toxaphene. He has ordered

some more fish to restock the pond. Forty-eight head of Hereford and Red Devon cattle graze on the twenty acres of pasture on the Walter Forbes farm. For some time he has been building up his pastures and increasing his permanent pastures. Sixteen acres are in Bahia grass. There are 10 acres of Dallis grass and six acres of coastal ber-

muda grass in the permanent pasture listing. The rest of the pasture is native grasses. However, kudzu has been planted on the steep land to hold it from washing off down the hollows and on to the sea. All of the types of pasture grasses named have clover growing in them in season.

Terraces have been built to check the run-off of surface water. Terraces also direct the flow of water so that the water doesn't go straight down the side of the fields and take the top soil with it.

Although there is a tractor and equipment on this farm, mules still do most of the cultivating. This is partly because Mr. Forbes still has tenants doing a major part of the farming and if the mules were discarded it would throw these people out of work.

Mr. Forbes has a farm plan made

out by the soil conservation folks. This plan helps him to put the crops planted in the land that will give him the greatest yield. Using the help available from the various agencies has enabled Mr. Forbes to get his farming on the level he is now operating.

Mr. Forbes is a busy man. In addition to the activities going on around the farm, he has an interest in Thompson's Gin at Darburn and is the official weigher at the Prentiss Sales Barn on Wednesdays.

The Forbes farm grows four acres of truck, or that is the amount grown this year. These truck crops help to bring in a little money when other crops are in the growing stage.

Mr. and Mrs. Forbes have been married 33 years. There are four children in the family; Kathleen, Troy, Mac and Jerry. Mrs. Forbes was Lou Bracey.

