

Mystery Farm Number Four Proved To Be Toney Home At Kokomo

Mrs. Hugh Henry Toney of Kokomo said she didn't recognize her house when she first saw the Mystery Farm picture of it in The Columbian-Progress. Then, when someone in the family said it was somewhere in the place it was their place it all came to her.

"There's the old gate that's down. There's the windmill. It surely shows up everything." These were some of the comments heard around the Henry Toney home that morning.

The farm has 415 acres, with 69 in cultivation, 166 in pasture and 160 acres in timber. There is some timber land in Walthall county.

Corn, cotton, hay and pastures make up the crops that have to be cultivated on this acreage. Cotton averages a bale to the acre. The corn yield is forty bushels per acre.

Beef cattle are grown on the pastures on the Toney farm. Mrs. Toney said they would probably feed out some cattle this fall and winter.

Although the Tonys have never given their farm a special name, they have lived here twenty-five years. Within the past three or four years they have done a lot of work on the outside of the house and have remodeled the inside.

Several pine trees were set out during the past planting season. These will add much shade to the large front lawn.

Mr. Toney was working in the field on the back of the place when the reporter visited this Mystery Farm, so he talked to Mrs. Toney and to H. P. at the house.

Every morning Mr. Toney carries the mail on a fifty-two mile route from Kokomo. In the afternoons he goes to the fields and farms. Mrs. Toney says he is usually home from the mail route by noon. For a while he was much later than this, but the mail schedule is earlier, now, and he has more time for his farming and cattle-growing operations.

Timber lands are protected from fire and taken care of by selective cutting and other sound timber management practices.

Following good soil conservation practices is another way the Toney farm is being improved year by

year. A stock pond adds its soil conservation value to its use as a watering place for livestock.

Mrs. Toney believes in a good garden. She knows that it adds much to the diet of her family, while cutting down the cost of groceries at the same time.

There are three children in the H. H. Toney family, Helen, H. P. and John Aubrey.

Before Mrs. Toney married Mr. Toney she was Clemis Pickering of Mt. Olive. They were married in 1927. The Tonys are members of the Kokomo Baptist Church.

Helen is married. She is Mrs. R. B. Duke, Jr. and lives in Hattiesburg.

H. P. finished high school at Columbia High School. He graduated from Mississippi Southern this past June, having majored in music.

John Aubrey is a student in Columbia High School. He belongs

to the Future Farmers of America and his mother says he was quite interested in Scouting as long as there was a Boy Scout troop active at Kokomo.

H. P. and his father are Shriners. Mrs. Toney is active in the Kokomo Home Demonstration Club and teaches English and history in the Kokomo school.

Just as it is true of practically all of the land in the Columbia area, the Toney farm was once all timber land. As the timber was cut, sawmills had to follow the tracts of timber. Lumber camps were more numerous than the sawmills.

One of these lumber camps was located where the Toney home is now. The old Fernwood Lumber Company commissary stood not far behind their house.

When asked if any other interesting things had happened on the place before they bought it, Mrs. Toney laughed and said, "Whether

DeSoto went through here, I wouldn't know."

The Tonys subscribe to The Columbian-Progress and several magazines. They keep up with their favorite programs over radio station WCJ U.

Modern conveniences such as running water, electric lights, refrigeration and all the other items that become household necessities when electricity becomes available are all found at the Toney home. The windmill has pumped thousands of gallons of water for house and livestock since it started turning.

Yes, many changes have been made since the old commissary was built on what is now the H. H. Toney farm. The number of crap games held in the old logging camp on Saturday nights can't be solved but readers solved the Mystery of who owned Mystery Farm Number Four — H. H. Toney.

