

First Farm In New Mystery Picture Series Identified

By B. B. BRADLEY

This is the first of the Farm Mystery pictures to be run in this series and we wondered what the lady of the house would think when she saw it. However, two of her friends saw it and called to ask if she had seen the picture of her house before she saw it so we still don't know what we wanted to find out. She said that when the second one called she got in her car and went to get a paper.

This house was built right after the couple owning it got married in 1938. She saw a house plan she liked in a magazine when she was studying home economics at Columbia High School. With some changes this is the house. The house is located on the East side of the road

to Bunker Hill, just North of the city limits.

The barn behind the house was built by Hugh White when he was promoting the growth of hogs in Marion County. It has a big hay loft and is pretty well open underneath.

Both the husband and the wife finished Columbia High School. There are two children in the family, Butch and Joe, who are enjoying their vacation from the Columbia City Schools.

Has this information helped you to figure out whose place this is? In case you haven't guessed it yet, it is the home of Welda and Nell McNeese.

Welda is the local Pontiac dealer but loves to grow cattle. He has a

place of eighty acres at Bunker Hill, 120 acres of timber land near the game reserve and 26 acres where the house is. The home place and the one at Bunker Hill are pastures used for growing cattle. Some of the best Dallis grass and white clover pastures in the county is on the Bunker Hill farm.

His herd is made up of sixty head of grade and fifteen head of registered Herefords. Although he has bought some cattle to put on pasture most of them he has grown himself.

Welda says he got into the cattle business because he wanted to make some money. After the price dropped on cattle the opportunity to make money got smaller, but he says he likes to grow cattle and

is going to stay with it. He has some expensive equipment and plans to get his money out of it by using it. He seems proud of the fact that he has pretty much grown into the business and hasn't lost any money, yet.

His timber land is protected from fire. Last year he planted ten thousand seedlings and plans to plant that many again this coming planting season.

Having his land in pastures cuts down on the possibilities of erosion on his farms, but he has retraced the place at Bunker Hill and believes in good land-use practices, having had soil tests run on his places by SCS technicians in order to get the most good from fertilizing.

Most of the pastures are improved pastures. About ten years ago, Welda started an improved pasture program. The latest addition made along this line was a ten acre planting of Argentina bahia grass.

There is a large stock pond on the Bunker Hill farm and a smaller pond on the home place. The one at the house has been stocked with fish.

It is the people in the house that make the home. When Nell and Welda built their house there were some big shade trees around it. Most of them have died and Nell says she is afraid the last one is about gone.

The loss of the shade trees does not keep them from enjoying being out doors. There is a large car port with concrete floor behind the house. Just past the end of this is a large out-door fireplace where the McNeeses enjoy Welda's barbecued specialties. Being on the east side of the house it is a nice place for afternoon living.

Butch will be in the eighth grade when school opens. She will be one of the attractive graduates of Columbia Grammar School next commencement. She likes to bake cakes. (I'm sorry she didn't know I was coming to visit her.) Her mother says she is very good at baking cookies and making sandwich spreads.

The first family in this series got a kick out of having a picture of their house in the newspaper. They enjoy living because they appreciate their many friends, have a nice house and know how to make that house a home.



—Zekun-Robbins Aerial Photo

MR. FARMER —

DEAN GRINER