

"Lake View" Is Mystery Farm Number 29, Home Of The Lewis Wesley Family

Lakeview is the name given Mystery Farm Home Number 29 by the daughter in the family. This is an appropriate name because there is a small lake near the front of the house. This lake and some of the cattle on the Lewis Wesley farm were featured on the cover of a booklet published by State College.

In this booklet, "Management Ability: The Key to Successful Farming", is a summary of the banker's farm management and credit clinics held over the state and a write-up of the Wesley dairy farm. This farm scored 940 points out of a possible 1000.

Prior to September, 1946, Lewis Wesley was engaged in the sawmill business. He decided that he would buy a farm and settled for his present location which is about eight miles east of Columbia and one mile north of Hilltop Grocery on Highway 24. When he bought the farm there were about 20 of the 320 acres that were free of stumps.

Mr. Wesley says it didn't take him long to see that he needed to do more than the row-crop farming and raising beef that he started out to do. His wife and children were doing a little dairying with the seven dairy cattle. She was taking the children to town each day to school and they were selling some bottled milk.

Today there are 140 head of dairy cattle on the farm, with 80 of these registered and 48 milking.

Mr. Wesley is quite active in the civic life of his community and county. Shortly after he moved to his farm some of the people at Baylis Chapel came to inform him that he had been elected superintendent of the Sunday School, though he and his family were still going to their church in Columbia. There was no Sunday School there at the chapel to speak of, but the people wanted to get one organized. He accepted and served as superintendent for some time. Now, he is teaching the adult class, is lay leader, trustee of the newly-bought parsonage, trustee of the church, secretary-treasurer and on the official board.

Mr. Wesley was very instrumental in organizing the East Marion Community Center and is president. He is president of the Marion County Farm Bureau and has served in that capacity or on the board of directors for several years. He served as community committeeman several times for what is now the ASC program.

Mr. Wesley knows the value of concerted community effort and is an active member of the Marion

County Chamber of Commerce. That organization sponsored the artificial breeding program in the county and Mr. Wesley was very active in getting the program on its feet and has served on the board of directors or as president or vice-president since the ABA was set up as a separate organization.

He was the first man in Marion county to have cattle bred under the artificial breeding program.

Miss Textie Craft from the China Grove community was working at Reliance when Mr. Wesley met her. Later, she became Mrs. Wesley.

After they moved to the farm she quit working at the plant until World War II started and they asked her to come back. She is still in the parachute division and has turned out a number of perfect chutes. She was active in her HD club when not working. She is active in her church as Sunday School officer and teacher and in the W. S. C. S. She is very fond of growing flowers and takes many of them to the church.

There are two boys in this fam-

ily, Walley and Jerry. Both finished C.H.S. with distinction and lettered on the football team their senior year. Both were quite active in 4-H Club work and won many blue ribbons. Both are doing better than average in their college work, in their second year. They were on the Marion county livestock judging team and placed high in district and state judging contests. They won second place on a back-scratcher exhibit at State College.

Walley is in his second year at Mississippi Southern, commuting from home. He helps with the milking and any other work he can at home. He took several individual blue ribbons in his club work; to name a few, he exhibited a heifer that was declared champion of the show in the county livestock show and went on to place as reserve grand champion in the district show.

Jerry is in his second year at Pearl River Junior College. He finished C.H.S. in three years and entered college at 16. He is continuing his music and is in active in

quartet and glee club work and other college activities, including the church.

Jerry and Walley showed grade heifers in their first club showing and Jerry's heifer placed higher than Walley's. Since that time he has collected his share of blue ribbons and high places in county and district shows at Laurel and MeComb.

The daughters in the family are Miriam and Jean. Miriam married Larkin Broom. They have Broom's Grocery on Highway 24, east of Columbia. Their three children are Glynn, Sherrel and Heese. Glynn and Sherrel are in the second and first grades in the Columbia Primary school.

Jean is in her junior year at Columbia High and is active in the extra-curricular projects there. She attends the council meetings of the Y-teens as an official. She is pianist at her church and is secretary-treasurer of the sub-district of the M.Y.F., having been president.

The Wesley family is very active, in fact, too active to tell all of their undertakings at this time.

