

# Clarence Pierce Owns And Operates Dairy At Mystery Farm Number 42

Four 10-gallon cans of milk a day have to be milked and made ready for shipment at Mystery Farm Number 42, but Clarence Pierce says he likes dairying better than row-cropping and stumping.

This Mystery Farm Home is located five and a half miles east of Columbia, about a half mile north of Highway 24. Mr. Pierce says he got much of the land in his present farm from his father's old place. He has bought land a couple of times since.

Some thirty years ago Mr. Pierce and his wife, the former Amanda Dona Singley, began living at Mystery Farm Home Number 42. They have five daughters.

Hilda worked at the Citizens Bank, marrying James Edward Hill while working there. They

have bought a place near Mr. Pierce's and are living there. Their baby is named Cheryl Lynn.

Doris, the second daughter, worked at the Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association office in Columbia until recently, when she started working in New Orleans.

Lela works at the Newsom Agency in Columbia. Her office is in the Newsom Building.

The other two girls, Lynda and Betty, are in school in Columbia. Lynda is working toward graduation this year from junior high. Betty is in the fifth grade.

The Pierces are members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, where they are quite active.

Realizing the value of community cooperation and community spirit, Mr. Pierce is a member of the

Marion County Chamber of Commerce, the East Marion Community Center and the Marion County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Pierce gives J. O. Snowden credit for getting him into the dairy business. He says that the supply of milk to the school gave out and Mr. Snowden came to see him, saying that he had been suggested as a source of milk since he had some dairy cows.

Clarence started selling milk to the school and continued until the law required that all milk be pasteurized. At this time he started selling his supply to a local milk processor who in turn furnished the school.

Pierce's dairy has grown. The dairy barn was built in 1945 and a stock barn has been added. An average of 25 cows are milked

throughout the year, though the number is down to 18 at present — it will soon be back to normal.

There are 55 head of dairy cattle on the farm. Artificial breeding has been used quite a bit, so that 15 of the 55 are from this program. Ten of the 15 are in production and Mr. iPierce says he is well pleased with the production record they are making.

Good pastures are necessary to successful operation of a profitable dairy. This farmman believes, so most of the 135-acre farm is in pastures.

Acresages in the various pastures run something like this: clover, 20; Bahia grass, 37, with some of it up to a good stand and other coming up; oats, 25, and woods pastures making up the small balance. The hollow that has been pushed off will soon be planted in Bahia grass.

Four acres of crab grass were cut for hay because the dry weather interfered with the planned hay production. The four acres produced 228 bales.

Corn was grown on 15 acres of Mr. Pierce's farm and more was grown on two other farms. The supply may run out before the next twelve months are gone, he says, but he can crush a lot of feed until it is all eaten by the dairy cows.

Mr. Pierce says he and his girls drove school buses for 16 years. He is not driving now. Neither is he stumping, as he was doing before getting into dairying.

Soil conservation is standard practice on this dairy farm. Information and assistance is secured from the various agricultural agencies. Twenty-five tons of lime were put out on the pastures this fall.

Reading The Columbian-Progress and listening to WCJU helps the Pierces to keep up with the news of Marion county. There is a radio in the barn that Mr. Pierce says is on whenever any of them are working there.

The garden and a twenty cubic foot deep freeze help keep the calorie count up at the Pierce household. Two or three times a year a beef is butchered and put in the deep freeze along with fruits and vegetables.

Good planning, good management and work at the right time keep Mystery Farm Number 42 running smoothly.

