R. L. McCullough Owns Mystery Farm No. 63, Operates Dairy East Of Goss

Two large sycamore trees standing behind Mystery Farm Home Number 63 signify the length of time that has passed since the owners moved to the farm and set out the trees in that an old corn field at that time.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. McCullough live at Mystery Farm Home Number 63, about two and a half miles east of Goss. They bought the farm some time before then, but they moved to it in 1926. Mrs. McCullough's father owned the farm before they bought it, having moved to it when she was about six years old. She was Annie Belle Cooper.

Miss Cooper changed her name to Mrs. R. L. McCullough on August 7, 1910. They have four children.

Their oldest child is R. Lloyd McCullough, a salesman for Watts Brothers Implement and Supply Company. His farm is near his father's place. He married Miss Ruby Watts, who teaches in the Columbia Grammar School. Their son is named Robert Luther McCullough.

John M. McCullough lives at Montgomery, Alabama, where he is in the conservation department of the forest service. He married Miss Catherine Meadows, Camp Hill, Alabama. They have two sons, Johnny and David.

Their first daughter, Flora, married Kent P. O'Kelly. They live at Arlington, Texas, where he is a mechanical engineer with Chance Vaught, and she works in the office. Their children are named Carroll Ann and David.

The youngest member of the McCullough family, Prudence, married Douglas Laird, now pastor of the First Baptist Church at Carthage, Texas. Their children are named Steve and Jan.

Mystery Farm Number 63 has 160 acres, with half of them in improved, permanent pastures. The other acres are in timber. Pastures are mowed with a rotary type pasture clipper to keep down weeds and bushes.

All of the pastures, except for one five-acre plot, have water furnished by springs or live creeks.

The cattle on the place are dairy cows. There are forty head in all. Twenty head are being milked at this time. Mr. McCullough seems to like to look after the cattle and to take care of the dairy.

The modern concrete block dairy barn was built in 1949 and has been a source of income since that time.

There are no row crops on this mystery farm. All of the row cropping necessary in the feeding program for the cattle is done on Lloyd's place.

Mr. McCullough likes to set out trees and to watch them grow. He says everyone around him says he is cranky about his trees. No tree is cut unless it is necessary, he says. He has been protecting his trees for years and has set out several plots.

Soil conservation practices are followed and soil tests are used in determining the best use of fertilizer for the pastures.

The McCulloughs built a new house in 1954. Mrs. McCullough says she is an old home demonstration club woman with a new house out to win the Better Farm Homes Contest this year, adding that it is better to fight and loose than not to fight at all.

She was planting a dozen azaleas the afternoon we visited her. She showed us plants from Texas, Alabama and other places she has growing in her yard and pointed to the spot where Tiger Lilies would soon be growing that had been brought from Mr. McCullough's great grandmother's old homestead years ago.

Mr. McCullough says she is always digging, changing, transplanting — never through.

Mrs. McCullough likes to do fancy sewing, in addition to working in the flowers and landscaping around her new house, but we gathered that the sewing comes only on those days when it is too bad to be outside.

Mr. McCullough says his hobby is growing pines and looking after the cattle. He says you are only as old as you feel and that he feels much better than he did ten years ago. He recently celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday.

Mr. McCullough is figuring on building a new workshop and setting up his electric bench grinder, sander and other tools. He says he likes to make things but has been too busy to do much of this work lately.

The McCulloughs are looking forward to many, many happy years in their new home, where his love of pines is shown by the little trees growing on the front lawn that slopes from the house down to the road.