

# A Farmer's Wife, All Right, But....

By PAQUITA FINE

Mrs. Charles (Miss Mary) Stanford lives on a 1,000-acre farm in Orange County where she acts as "a sandwich-filler-inner" for her husband and sons in their prosperous dairy business and is as proud of her filled-to-the-brim 32-cubic-foot freezer as any farm woman ever was of her canned goods.

But to classify Mrs. Stanford as a typical farm woman would be totally misleading. She is an outstanding personality in political, civic and social activities throughout the State. From 1949 to 1963 she was a member of the UNC Board of Trustees. She has also served as a member of the Health Affairs Committee for Memorial Hospital and as chairman of the Orange Democratic Executive Committee. She was State campaign chairman for the women's division when Kerr Scott ran for the U. S. Senate. She has been regent of the Davie Poplar Chapter and the Virginia Dare Chapter of the DAR as well as State membership chairman. Now, she is serving as corresponding secretary of the State Society of DAR and as vice regent of the State Society of the American Colonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanford, better known to their friends as Mr. Charles and Miss Mary, live on their huge farm in a house that was built in 1900 and which has been added on to several times since. The house is furnished in treasured antiques. Not far from the house is their dairy farm plant which attracts numerous students and teachers interested in seeing a modern dairy in operation. Three other places on the farm visitors find intriguing are the old slave graveyard, the "hanging tree" used during Civil War days, and Miss Mary's "Pout House," a

cabin-on-the-pond which houses an old-timey organ and is used by the family when they go fishing and picnicking. Mr. Charles claims it is also Miss Mary's refuge when she is provoked, hence its name. Miss Mary claims it's just a great place to go fishing, her main hobby, and that she once caught a four-and-a-half pounds bass there. "Charles wanted me to throw it back because it was Sunday—but I didn't."

Four generations have owned the Stanford farm, which is as large as Chapel Hill, since the first Stanford moved his family here shortly after the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Stanford said, "There's an old legend that the land was paid for by raising tobacco and rolling it all the way to Petersburg, Va., in hogsheads. Today, the farm produces approximately a million pounds of milk a year with a herd average of about 12,500 pounds per cow. We've got fans to cool the cows and music to keep them quiet during milking time. The men don't holler and shout so much either. I don't know if the music and the fans helps milk production any but it sure makes everything operate smoother."

Despite the large number of cows, there hasn't been a bull on the farm in ten years—not since one knocked Mr. Charles down and Miss Mary had to beat the animal off with a stick.

Miss Mary was born and grew up on a farm on old Highway 54 in a residence that was part of the old Bingham School for Boys. Her parents were Herman Martin McIver and Eva Webb McIver. She attended the Susan Webb School at Oaks until she was ten, then walked a mile-and-a-half through the woods to the Mitchell Hill Public School each day until she graduated.

"This was the horse-and-buggy era when you lighted your home with kerosene lamps," she recalled. "I had five brothers and three sisters, and one of my brothers, Herman, was captain of the football team at Carolina. He had all of us helping him practice football in the yard the year Kenan Stadium was dedicated. He also taught us to box—the girls as well as the boys—and, I'll tell you, we got pretty



MRS. CHARLES STANFORD

good at it too. During the winters, we all ice skated on the old pond. Seems to me the winters were colder then. There were often as many as 50 of us and we'd build bon-fires all around the pond."

Miss Mary attended East Carolina Teacher's College and the University here. At ECTC, she was the champion roller-skater and excelled at volleyball. For the next seven years, she taught school at the fourth and fifth grade level.

Asked how she met her husband, she replied, "We grew up together. There was just a creek between our farms. Back then, he wouldn't look at me, but after I went away to school and came back, it was a different story. His family had lovely horses and sometimes he took me for a ride in the buggy, but if we went to town, I took him in my Ford, the first car in our community and one I had purchased from Bruce Strowd for a little over \$500. I taught him to drive too."

The Stanfords were married in 1923. Mr. Charles, who refers to himself as a "working farmer," wears overalls on the farm but dons a business suit for

other activities. He has been a director of the Bank of Chapel Hill for 15 years and chairman of the County Board of Education for 22 years. He is superintendent of the Neuse River Soil and Water Conservation, director of Carolina Central Farmers' Exchange, and a founder and a director of Long Meadow Dairy. The Stanfords have five children and 11 grandchildren. The children are: Charles, curator of education at the State Art Museum in Raleigh; Donald, chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners; Bill, director of the Farmers Exchange in Carrboro; and twin daughters, Jean and Jane. Jean is married to Eddie Mann; Jane to O. J. Paris.

Mrs. Stanford is fond of recalling the days when Charles, Donald and Bill were youngsters and organized their own band with a piano, ukelele, and guitar to play at Grange meetings. "When they got a little older, it embarrassed them and they stopped."

Mrs. Stanford's present activities are more in the field of historical societies. She recently accompanied Mrs. Norman Cordon on a tour of eight districts of the DAR, a trip of 1,096 miles, to hear reports of the work being done, and to make speeches and discuss programs for the coming year. She is also busy on the committee which plans the publication of a book on General Stephen Moore of Person County. "He's the man who originally owned the land where West Point is now," explained Mrs. Stanford. "There are six of us on the committee and we each took the genealogical lines we came from to work on. I'm working on two lines since he was a relative of both my husband and myself."

"That and fishing are about all I'm doing these days. Well, I do work in my garden, both flower and vegetable, and I've got this freezer locker full and ready for the winter. I remember when I used to go to the cellar for milk and butter and to the smokehouse for meat, but now I can freeze a whole dinner right on the plate and it's all ready to pop into the oven when it's needed. Times really have changed."



BAZAAR WORKERS—Among those participating in the work for the Parkwood Methodist Church bazaar, to be held this coming Friday and Saturday, are, from left, Mrs. T. M. Pennell, Mrs. A. E. McClanahan, Mrs. Lela Crutchfield, Mrs. R. A. Dillard, hostesses, and Mrs. J. H. Cox. Proceeds of the bazaar will go to the building fund of the Parkwood Methodist Church.

## There's Still Time Left To Plant Bulbs

By M. E. GARDNER

It has been d-r-y in our neighborhood as it has in many places throughout the State. About the only way you can dig a hole is with a pick or a power driven auger. The dry, hard soil has made many garden jobs difficult to accomplish and has been especially hard on people who were trying to get a fall lawn established before cold weather. It has been very difficult to plant bulbs unless you gave the soil a good soaking a day or two ahead of planting time. However, there is still time if you can complete the job before the ground freezes.

After the tops of dahlia plants have been killed by frost, cut the stalks off level with the ground. Carefully dig and lift the root clumps and place them in any convenient box or basket. As the clumps are arranged in the container, cover them well with either peat moss or vermiculite. Store in a cool place where they will be protected from freezing.

While lifting and storing is the best method of handling, the roots may be left in the soil. If this method is chosen, cover with about eight inches of straw. Good drainage of surface water is necessary.

If you had an amaryllis in a pot this summer you have probably already brought it in and begun the drying out process. The bulb can be held in this condition until the danger of frost has passed in the spring. A basement is a good place for storage. If it has become pot (root) bound, re-set in a larger container in the spring.

If you want to force the bulb in the house during the winter, put it in a cool location, where it won't freeze, for about a month. Then bring it in the house and place in a light window. Water and keep at room temperature. It should bloom in six-eight weeks if stored food in the bulb has not been too badly depleted.

Watch out for scale insects on camellias, euonymus and pittosporum. When found, spray thoroughly with dormant oil—10 tablespoons to one gallon of water. Select a warm, bright day to do this job. Do not apply when the temperature is below 50 degrees or is likely to go below this point during the night.

In the vegetable garden, remove and burn old tomato, bean, okra and other plant remains which might harbor insect or disease pests. If your garden site is on heavy soil, deep plow and leave rough during the winter. Successive freezing and thawing will do a good job of land preparation for spring planting.

## Parkwood Church Bazaar Is Planned

The first annual bazaar of Parkwood Methodist Church will be held this Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Parkwood Shopping Center.

Eight workdays have been held in which women of the church have made items to be sold.

There will be hand-made wreaths and Christmas balls, decorated pine cone trees, pomander balls and guest soaps, hand-stitched towels and aprons, large and small Santas featured with hurricane lamps and jars of candy, sequined candles and match-boxes, doll clothes and foam-stuffed toys, ceramics, hand-painted bridge tallies and pictures, homemade cakes and pies, and many more articles that will interest the shopper.

## Help the needy through the Community Chest.

The public is cordially invited. Proceeds from this sale will go to the building funds of Parkwood Methodist Church.

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WEDDING—Miss Janet Marilyn Weaver and William Charles Hudson were married Tuesday evening, October 29, in the University Baptist Church. Dr. Henry E. Turlington performed the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max C. Weaver of Chapel Hill. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Thomas G. Donnelly of Chapel Hill, and the late William Charles Hudson.

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## BRIDGE CLUB MEETING

The Newcomers Evening Bridge Group will meet Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Faculty Club lunchroom. Hostesses will be Mrs. William Herzog, Mrs. C. B. Thomas, Mrs. Robert Green, Mrs. Paul M. Weeks, and Mrs. Irvin Perry.

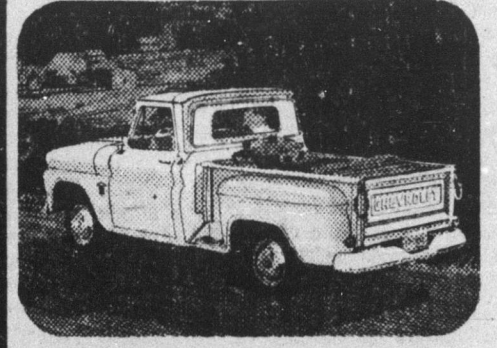
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