

Rice, U. T. D. Farmer of the Year

Mr. and Mrs. Carlie Rice of the Bolens Creek section of Yancey County, were chosen as the Unit Test Demonstration farm family of the year by the other U. T. D. farmers in the county. The contest was on the improvement made on the farm within last year.

The prize for the contest winner is an expensive paid trip to the valley wide association meeting of Unit Test Demonstration Farm Families in Muscle Shoals, Alabama next August.

The rules of the contest were: To judge the farm on the improvements made during the past twelve months; the farmer must be present at all the farms visited on the tour the day his farm was visited to be eligible to vote on the winner, or to have his farm eligible to be voted on. These rules were discussed at the summer quarterly meeting of the County U. T. D. Farmer's Association in July and voted on by the group.

The Rices started nine years ago as all of us do, a young married couple trying to get a start. They lived with their families and rented land. This was not what they wanted, they wanted a farm and home of their own. The problem of money or financing, as with most of us, was the big stumbling stone in their path.

In 1949, the Rices found a run down mountain farm which they thought had great potential. They weren't as easily scared by briars, locust bushes, and copper-head snakes as were many other couples who had viewed this farm with the real estate agent. As the agent talked of the beautiful view, the potential of Cane River which flows on three sides of the farm, and the old water mill sitting on the bank of the road, the Rices were looking at the topography of the farm, the depth of the soil, the types of soil, how and where to clear first, where to build a home, and kinds of crops and livestock best suited to them and the farm.

After returning to town from the farm, they stopped off to see about making a loan, getting the boundary lines run, and checking the deed. The banks were a bit reluctant to make farm purchase loans at that time, but they were fortunate to find an individual willing to

help them out. They borrowed \$7,100 at 4% to purchase the farm. This they repaid in two years. The day they paid off the farm loan they decided to go back into debt and build a new home. They secured a home loan from the Farmer's Home Administration in 1951 for \$8,500 to build a six room brick vaneer ranch type home. The home has a full basement with an oil furnace supplying hot air to each room. They have added a 21 ft. home freezer to their all electric modern kitchen. The home sits on the knoll overlooking the entire farm and the beautiful river surrounding most of the farm. The yard is landscaped and seeded to blue grass, white Dutch clover and native shrubbery planted near the foundation, tying the house to the lot. There is a low water bridge crossing the river at the highway with a winding drive up to the house.

The Rices have added several items of farm machinery to the farm, 35 head of sheep and 3 brood sows within the last two years. They plan to pay out of debt this fall as a result of good crop season in 1955.

When asked to tell how they did it the Rices smile and say, "We don't put all of our eggs in one basket, and just plain hard work with the help of all agricultural agencies in planning and managing the farm business."

In addition to the hogs and sheep, they grow 6 acres of foundation hybrid seed corn, 1 1/2 acres of pepper, 1 acre of sweet potatoes, 0.6 acre of burley tobacco, 6 acres of alfalfa, 6 acres of orchard-grass, red clover meadow, 32 acres of improved pasture, and they are selling gravel from 1.5 acres of what was waste land near the river.

Since 1952, they have used 39,920 lbs. of T. V. A. phosphate and fused tri-calcium phosphate, several tons of lime, plus 2-12-12, Ammonium nitrate, murate of potash, and commercial fertilizer. They plan to add feeder cattle and certified Irish potatoes of the new Boone variety to their list of enterprises.

Beside their busy farming operations, Carlie and Ruth find time to participate in community and church work. Ruth teaches third grade at Clearmont Elementary School, and both

PET PEEVE

by Mike Bennett

MAYBE you've wondered, too—why in this day and time with our colleges and educational institutions overflowing their campuses, with degrees as common as high school diplomas in the old days—why aren't we getting enough doctors, scientists, chemists, industrial engineers, etc.?

I don't think you have to look very far to find the answer. The promising young man who might have discovered a force more powerful than the atom can probably be seen chasing a football on your Sunday afternoon television screen. A limber giant with the fingers and agility needed for great surgery work probably chases a small round ball in the outfields of the major leagues. Among our champions in the many professional sports lies an abundance of hidden talents and suppressed abilities in other fields.

The reasons, too, are just as obvious. Read your sports pages. Ralph Kiner earned half a million dollars in 10 years of baseball... in 1954 Casey Stengel signed a two-year contract which, with bonuses, could net him about \$100,000 a year... Tony Trabert signed a pro tennis contract which offered him \$75,000 for less than a year and a half... Three heavy-weight boxing champions earned over \$2,000,000 in ring combat.

But the great financial rewards are not to be accepted, as the greatest lure offered by professional sports. There is the love of competition, of the "games," and probably most important of all, the satisfaction of doing what one likes to do best of all.

Let our educators and industrialists figure some way to up pay scales in the fields where we're short on talent... and at the same time develop an interest in these fields among our new generation.

The \$1,400,000 weekly payroll of a single Southern aircraft plant goes to employees in 38 different counties.

are active in P. T. A. Carlie represented the Yancey County Association of Unit Test Demonstration Farmers at Muscle Shoals this year. They also attend farm Bureau Meetings, A. S. C. affairs, and other community activities. They are always looking for new and better ways of helping others as well as themselves.

WORDS AND THOUGHTS



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