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8 times, Vinton, Iowa, April 1, 1977



This is the rural residence of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jesse in northern Cedar Township. They built it in 1970.

Line fence lingo

By CHARLIE GEBHARD

Diving down a country road just south of La Porte City one day several weeks ago I came to the lovely country home of the Willard



The steel building was erected on the Jesse farm last fall. They farm approximately 600 acres.

Jesse family. Remembering that Willard and his wife Lois were honored last December for their soil conservation work, I decided to drop in and visit with them. Willard was away but Mrs. Jesse



Lois and Willard Jesse are pictured here as they were honored with district conservation awards last December at the recognition luncheon in Vinton. The award came to them for the conservation program they have carried out, including terraces built in 1974 and 1976 that extended into the neighboring farm they rent from Mrs. Noma L. Jebe, executor of the Charles Rupprich estate.

was most hospitable and invited me indoors. The temperature outside was fairly mild but there was one of those raw early spring winds that made for discomfort outdoors.

The home the Jesses live in is a new one having been built only a few years back in 1970. There is also a new steel building on the farm which was just erected last fall and serves as a machine shed.

The Willard Jesse farm home is located on the north side of the country road but much of their land and added adjoining acres they farm lies across the road to the south. Later Mrs. Jesse pointed out to me the location of some new terraces built last fall after previous ones had been built in 1974.

The terraces extended into land the Jesse's farm which is owned by the estate of which Noma L. Jebe of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is the executor. The land originally belonged to her parents, the Charles Rupprichs. She was honored at the same time as the Jesses at the special awards dinner held in Vinton last December which Mrs. Jebe's husband also attended. He is now with the University of



Jesse has a herd of angus beef cattle a few of which are shown here in a field across the road from their home.

Michigan at Ann Arbor doing environmental research after starting his career in Vinton as a corn-hog tabulator. The awards received by the Jesses and Mrs. Jebe were in the nature of the tenant-operator category. They are presented annually to farmers or farm operators considering to be doing an outstanding job in conserving the soil. Mrs. Florence Rupprich, Mrs. Jebe's mother, lives in La Porte City.

Later after I had completed my visit with Mrs. Jesse I sought to get a picture of the terraces but decided to wait till some time later on this year after the crops are growing when such terraces become more clearly outlined in the fields. They are easy to see now, however, and obviously represent a lot of work and a wonderful improvement to the farmland. The terraces are both grass-backed and the "farm-over" type with tile intakes.



The Jesses also have a hog production program.



East of the Jesses is this large old-style country home on land they rent, which is occupied by the D. Minard family. This was the home of the late Charles Rupprichs.

Willard and his wife carry on a sizeable beef cattle operation and a herd of Black Angus beef cattle was grazing in a field of corn stalks just south of the road. When I remarked that I noticed four "outsiders" among the Angus, Mrs. Jesse laughed and informed me that a strange bull had been "associating" with some of the cows and the four gray-looking animals were the result before the intruder was discovered. The Jesses are also in the hog business and all told farm around 600 acres of land. I was told by Mrs. Jesse that their place is the original Porter Shaner farm and that she has lived here all her life since the Shaners were her parents. The Jesses have a son, Duane, who assists in the farm operation, and a daughter, Mrs. Kurt Grovert who lives on a farm not too far away.

The old Richard Rupprich residence, now in the estate, is presently rented to the Daryl Minards. It is a large old-fashioned type country mansion, the kind that aren't built anymore not so much because they are out of style but because the cost would simply be prohibitive.

I left the area marveling once again at the enormous number of outstanding soil conservation projects that have been completed in Benton County, particularly when contrasted to other counties in

the state. If anyone can find a more progressive group of farmers anywhere and a more dedicated Soil Conservation staff than headquartered in Vinton and serves Benton County, I'd be surprised.