

Uncle Ab From Abington — February 18, 1976

By Jim Jones

When our Aunt Opal from Greenfield passed on a few months ago, we found in her possessions a copy of an ancient book entitled: "Blasts from the Ram's Horn". The book was in pretty rough condition and showed signs of great age. The fly leaf was missing so we didn't know much about it. An ad in the Tri-State Trader advertising a copy of this book for sale stated it was a "collection of sayings, sermons and lectures by Elizah P. Brown, published in New York in 1893".

The book is a classic. Old sketches, one line sayings and poems are mixed with paragraphs and sharp-tongued remarks designed to keep the reader in the straight and narrow path, show the evils of drink, and point out what happened to those who encountered the wrath of an angry God. The following are a few examples of the writings contained there-in:

Why some people go to church: for the sake of a walk; because its the fashion; for business only; because she must (accompanied by a picture of a bored little girl asleep in a pew); to show her new bonnet; for worship and consolation.

It is a bad thing to keep two dogs and not do anything to help support the preacher.

Many sermons are spoiled because the preacher doesn't know when to quit. A cook stove in the church basement never gives any spiritual warmth to the church. If all who rob God were immediately locked up, some churches would have to hold their prayer meetings in the jail.

Why some people do not go to church: Mr. Goodenough says the preacher can't tell HIM anything. Mr. Guzzle says Christianity is played out, Mr. Makepenny says he has no time, Mr. Gourmand says he is about half sick anyhow. Lonesome Dick says he has no clothes.

The recording angel never seeks information from a gravestone. There will be many a surprise at the resurrection. Some people who sit in the front seats in church, leave their religion behind them whenever they go away from home, Men who say they can quit drinking when they want to, generally quit before they want to.

The farmer has no right to expect that God will give him a corn crop until he has done some good strong praying for it with plow and hoe.

Well, there's a sample of Blasts from the Ram's Horn. Stop and consider how many of these sayings still hold true today, over 80 years after they were written. There is much truth and wisdom in the writings of our grandfather's day and the Ol' Hoosier Farmer respectfully suggests we all take heed to our elders and pay attention to what they say.