

The Ol' Hoosier Farmer — August 24, 1977

By Jim Jones

We been busy th' last weeks an' ain't had time to write nothin' but that's all right since winter's comin' and we been busy stockin' up th' cellar an' freezer. Th' good wife been busy makin' catsup an' cannin' th' pickles an' early punkins. Th' shelves down cellar are gettin' full of all kinds o' good stuff an' winter don't look half so bad knowin' we will git to eat.

Been makin' a lot o' cider too. Early transparents were ready a few weeks ago an' made a nice mild juice but we are into some red apples now that have more flavor an' a little tartness. Froze a few gallons an' drunk th' rest, an' will have lots more to make since th' trees haven't quit yet. With an average of 3 to 4 gallon per bushel o' apples it don't take long to make a good bit.

Th' pickle and tomato crop has been outstandin' this year an' th' punkins are lookin' good too. Counted about 35 or so still in th' patch in all sizes. Got a couple o' early ones already canned an' they shore will taste good in pies this winter. Th' boys been sellin' squash an' we got some late turnips an' beets planted fer winter storage. Seems like a feller never gits done but kind o' reminds one of th' story about th' grasshopper an' th' ant. Th' ant worked all summer while th' grasshopper fiddled around. When winter come, th' ant ate like a king while th' grasshopper didn't have nothin' to eat.

But summer moves along an' we sees fall in th' air an' over th' countryside. Lots o' haze of a morning' an' th' locus an' crickets are in full song. Time fer th' ol' time gas engine show at Portland that indicates th' approachin' end o' summer. Been makin' plans with Lou to go up there agin and to start cuttin' firewood fer winter. Makin' plans to pat some more insulation in th' house to cut down heat loss. Sweet corn about gone, limas about ready an' green beans are ready to pick agin. Paintin' an' fixin' up around th' place is in full swing an' my good neighbor Dan give me a sack of winter onions to plant. Another sign of fall comin'.

Th' good wife been savin' flower seeds an' plannin' next year's flower beds. She got enough seed saved to plant th' whole town which is a good idear, since lots a folks could benefit frum a few flowers aroun' th' place. Shore been pretty this year.

Time to think about tillin' th' garden fer fall. Nothin' looks worse then a garden let go to seed but by tillin' under th' crop residue th' soil is enriched an' made ready fer next year. Bout th' time we gits th' garden put to sleep fer th' winter, its time to start thinkin' about next years, so we manages to keep gardenin' about 3 fourths of th' time.

Harvest time is a good time--time to see th' results of th' spring an' summer labor. Good wife sez she is wore out but its a good feelin' to go down cellar an' see th' cause o' bein' tired all lined upon th' shelf. I fer once agree completely.