

The Ol' Hoosier Farmer — November 2, 1977

By Jim Jones

This here's one o' them wet, cold, rainy fall nights that makes a feller glad he's inside next to an ol' base burner stove an' has most of his fall work behind him. Leaves fallin' an' th' rain beatin' down outside-- seems like Hollerween is here. Guess it's about time.

Folks complain lots about th' leaves an' I guess they are somewhat o' a nuisance but better look at them twice. Good fer th' ground, fine mulch fer fruit trees, berries an' strawberries. We saves all we git, choppin' them up with th' mower an' spreadin' them around stuff we wants to protect fer winter. After readin' th' words o' some o' them perfessers at th' universities, seems like Raspberries really likes a leaf mulch an' indirect sun. Mebbe that's why our red ones has done well. Tryin' th' same with th' black raspberries-- been settin' out a new patch frum th' new starts that growed frum th' plants my brother give me last year. Got more plants then we knowed what to do with. Even had sum berries this summer.

Lots o' folks burn leaves. Saw a feller t' other day rakin' his leaves on his garden in big piles then burnin' them. What a waste. Mebbe his soil wuz fertile enough. Guess it would be troublesome to pick sum twelve foot corn.

Got th' carrots an' turnips dug an' put down in th' root cellar in th' basement. Lots o' good eatin' down there. Ready to finish tillin' under th' rest o' th' garden stubble then we is done fer this year.

Spent t' other evenin' with th' good wife lookin' over th' year's seed catalogs an' plannin' next year's plantin'. Good way to spend a fall evenin' and gits yer thinkin' in order before the new batch o' seed catalogs come in after th' first o' the year. Plenty to do then--make out orders an' mail them off, git seed startin' equipment ready, an' before you knows it its spring agin.

Ain't much else goin' on aroun' our place until time fer corn cob jelly. Has to keep an eye on th' corn fields an' git th' cobs out as soon as th' combine goes thru. Prob'ly find a little corn too fer winter corn bread. Good wife has a recipe fer ol' fashion corn bread that's hard to beat. In fact, better git some meal ground an' see if she will make up a batch. Corns good fer more then hawg feed.

Indianny's beautiful in th' fall. Kind o' hate t' see th' leaves go. Gits kind o' drab out when they is gone. But after a summer's work a feller needs a little rest, Better git back next to th' stove an' take advantage o' th' oppertunity. Won't be long to Thanksgivin'.