

Uncle Ab From Abington — February 9, 1977

By Jim Jones

The last weekend in January was a real mess weatherwise. Blizzard conditions Friday, cold and windy rest of th' time. Our local fire chief an' his crew spent one night checkin' fire hydrants here in town an' found half of them frozen -- guess they hadn't been drained since last used. What a mess if we had had a fire. Th' boys spent the next night thawin' them out an' pumpin' out the' water so now we is ready if th' unfortunate thing should strike. Th' local fire laddies has done another great job keepin' us safe again. Need to give Charlie an' his crew a big thank you fer a good job.

Heered th' other day this is th' first of some three or four winters that will be colder and stormier than normal. Ol' Farmers Almanac has shuuuure missed this year so far. It called fer a mild December and January then a rough February and March. Don't think we want a couple more months of this stuff. Been busy stuffin' cracks and weatherstrippin' doors an' windows. Think you got stuff pretty tight until the wind starts blowin. Then th' holes shoure let th' cold in an' we start all over agin.

Ought to mention the local water department fellers who have had their hands full with broken water lines an' other stuff this cold spell But with all their other problems, we had to call them a couple weeks ago when our water meter in the cellar froze and busted. Had a new meter installed in an hour. That is speed and fellers, we want to add our thanks to that you have no doubt received from others in the same predicament. Us small town folks has a lot to be thankful fer and we often takes a lot of these things fer granted until trouble comes up.

Had an ol' library table that belonged to Aunt Opal which came our way when she passed on a while back. This ol' table had a drawer an' a pull-out writin' shelf with an inkwell on it. Sometime over the' years it had been painted a blue color, so we proceeded to strip off th' ol' finish an' found the wood was oak. After much cleanin' an' rubbin', got off th' ol' finish an' restained an' varnished it. Looks like new now an' has a place of prominence in the ol' parlor. Total cost less than \$5.00 fer paint remover an' steel wool. Had th' other stuff includin' labor, otherwise might a spent \$10.00. Always good to restore somthin' from the past an' give it a new lease on life.

Been eatin' home-grown popcorn an' other good stuff from th' past summer's endeavors. Dug some carrots out of th' celler th' other day, have them stored in sand an' peatmoss. Jest as solid an' sweet as when we buried them last October. Still have some left--maybe enough to do til spring. Which isn't too fer ahead, really.

Ain't got much else to report so will stop an' go thaw out another water pipe. Keep an eye on your stock -- better get another tank heater so they had lots of water. Give thanks fer th' winter time--spring ain't too far behind.