

Uncle Ab From Abington — December 22, 1976

By Jim Jones

Wal, the first snow of any description has come down and it looks like winter is here. About time too. Calendar has sed for a while that it's time to cut wood and burn some, and time to think about the holidays.

Been spendin' a lot of time in the woods cuttin' firewood to feed the ol' Round Oak stove which keeps the oil man away. Takes a lot of cuttin' but we git warm twice thatways. Somptin' about an ol' wood stove that sorta makes winter more pleasant.

Got the fall plowin' done and the soil is ready to receive the poor man's fertilizer as the farmer calls snow. Lots of good nitrogen and other natural plant foods in snow so we tries to take advantage of it all. Makes the ground easier to work up next spring and we can git the seedin' done a little earlier.

Lou and I are plannin' to build a cider mill this winter to put by next year's batch of cider. Can't afford to buy it but we can build a mill and make our own. Also can make vinegar and other stuff. Anybody got a surplus of apples next fall, drop around and we'll make a batch of squeezin's.

Been makin' plans to reconstitute an ol' Aladdin lamp that came our way by means of Aunt Opal. Need to add a mantle, wick and chimney. Aladdin's still around, you know, has a big factory down in Nashville. Still makin' parts fer all the ol' lamps and stuff. Claim as much light as a 100 watt light bulb, and sum 50 hours burnin' on a gallon of coal oil. We'll see.

Been pullin' a few radishes out of the greenhouse this fall--pretty good eatin'. Have a few tomato plants in bloom so we'll see what happens there. Seems funny to have tomatoes in bloom this time of year.

This is the time of year the outside stuff slows down. Keep the snow shoveled off and the pump unfroze, take care of the stock and the woodpile high. Guess that's all right--feller needs a breather after the fall work and time to rest up fer the hollerdays. Gives one a good feelin' knowin' that seed catalog time is jest around the corner and almost time to make plans fer the spring plantin. We do a lot of plantin' on paper befer the calandar sez to till the earth--have to look over last year's results and mebbe make a few changes. New varieties to try and different amounts of seed to order. Makes fer many a pleasant evenin' around the stove lookin' at the pitchers and dreamin' of summer.

Wal, time to lug another load of wood in. Ol' stove eats it up. But the heat is welcome and the wood ashes are good for the ground. Can't waste them-- high in potash and other good stuff. Sumthin' you don't git from burnin' oil or gas. Better save em.