

INTRODUCING.... A NEW COLUMN FOR CRUSADER READERS.

WE WANT YOU TO MEET AND ENJOY READING....

Uncle Ab . . . FROM ABINGTON — September 24, 1975

BY JIM JONES

A garden in Indiana is one of the places where the Good Lord really shows His hand, For years we raised a big garden and rejoiced not only in the bountiful harvest each summer but in the opportunity to git out in the dirt, feel it with our hands and watch things grow, It's even more of a marvel than a field planted with machinery and seen only from a tractor seat 12 feet off the ground. In the garden one gits down on his knees, sets out plants, drops seed from his fingers and thins out plants. You really git to know Nature and its wonders.

Most of us on the farm take growing a garden for granted. I submit this is wrong. You should experience the frustration of not being able to grow a garden. It is heartbreaking.

It became our lot to spend three years out of Indiana and in the state of Alabama, George Wallace's state may be a nice place but it is no place for an Indiana farmer to try to raise a garden. They don't have dirt there. They have a red sandy soil that doesn't know how to treat seed corn or beans or peas or any of the crops we take for granted. I tried for three years to grow a garden in this stuff and finally gave up. No organic matter to nourish crops, or hold water, or even look like Indiana soil Neighbor, you should go out in your garden every day, kneel down and thank the Almighty for Indiana soil The great Midwest has a heritage worth more than gold. I have seen and lived in the black prairie country in northwest Indiana and the lighter rolling country in Southeastern parts of the state and it all will produce fine crops.

Time was when a garden was essential. This time is returning from the looks of food prices today. But I believe that the garden does not provide only food for the body, but food for the soul. This year's garden had something to be desired, but plans are already underway for fall plowing, early planting next spring of an even larger and finer garden than this year's. After all, one's body AND soul need food for the coming year. I suggest that all folks get your seed catalogs next February and start making out your seed order, If you were raised on a farm and haven't had a garden in years, you are in for a great awakening, If you were city born and raised, then you are in for a revelation, If you raise a garden every year, then you already know the rewards that only a garden in Hoosierland can bring.