

Uncle Ab From Abington — September 1, 1976

By Jim Jones

Well, the summer is going fast. August is nearly over and altho the thermometer still shows a high reading, fall is definitely over the next hill. The crickets and locusts are at their loudest, the first sugar pumpkins are already harvested, squash and sweet corn are about finished. The garden and fields are taking on a well-used look with dry cornstalks and bean vines in abundance.

Sunflowers are in bloom, marygolts are at their best. The morning glories are at the top of the fence and into my neighbor's trees just beyond. It's time to pick limas, finish up the corn, dig carrots and make the land ready for a long winter's rest.

Time for farm sales and other socializing times. Noted that Hazel Morgan was selling off all the old farm machinery. Quite a collection of old relics from the past-- a collector's paradise. Time also for the Portland Gas Engine Show. Farm Progress Show is at Greenfield in another month---a sure sign of fall coming.

The old farmer is busy with crops and buildings--finishing up the barn down on the farm, and a greenhouse for next spring's plants will be going up soon. Any feller handy with tools and some spare cash can build up a fine greenhouse out of a few 2x2 poles and some fibreglass roofing---gits a jump on spring plus fall vegetables for the table, to say nothing of flowers and ornamentals. Might want to look into it.

County fair is over and as this is written, State Fair is in full swing. School starts soon--kids are sore about that. But the seasons march on. It has been a good summer---with the Bicentennial, a bumper garden crop and much hard work, which don't hurt anyone anyway.

Time to check the grapes and keep the black raspberry vine shoots buried to start new plants for next year. The wisteria vines planted this spring have made it to the top of the porch and should bloom next summer. Fall seed catalogs are showing up and it is time to look them over and plan the fall plantings.

Prairie Farmer predicts an early fall. Supposed to be several degrees cooler than normal during September. Time to think of harvest and plenty of food in the freezer, cellar and on the shelves. Got to get some barrels burried for root crops and get the root cellar ready.

We look back on the busy summer and feel a twinge of regret for the sunny days and good garden vegetables. But winter is a time of rest for the earth and the Ol' Hoosier Farmer will need a little rest too.