

Uncle Ab From Abington — January 5, 1977

By Jim Jones

Got to the house this evenin' and figgered the Christmas season is dun fer another year. Good wife had the dekerations put away an' stuff back to normal. Wonder where th' time has gone. Makes a body a little sad to see sech a joyous time go so fast.

Winter is settin' in in earnest--snow flurries an' cold temperatures. But spring is comin' --jest as the Good Book says it will come back ever' year. Got two seed catalogs alreddy -- mus' be about time to git the order made out an' start to think about plantin'. Seems like a lot o' work but certainly enjoyable gettin' out in the dirt agin after a long cold winter.

Been fiddlin' around with the ol' crank telephones some. Got ahold of one from a friend in Wisconsin a while back and had a good time restorin' it. Good wife got another frum sum friends in Dayton, Indiana an' give it to me fer Christmas. So after sum work and more fiddlin' we now have a rural party line goin' 'tween the house an' the office, an will run a third one down to the shop. These are the old oak phones with the magneto and crank, which Granpaw had years ago, Lots o' folks latches onto these ol' phones an' just hangs them on the wall. Bet they didn't know they can be converted fer dials and modern stuff, but we likes them they was an' have tried to keep the wirin' intact and so on. Amazin' how well they work after all these years an' compared to the modern stuff they really has class. May have to put a switchboard in an' compete with the big fellers.

Got the iron parts in fer the cider mill so Lou an' I has a winter's work cut out fer us makin' the wood parts. Hopes fer a fair apple crop next year so we can make lots o' squeezin's.

New Year's jest past an' we hopes you will not make resolutions you can't keep. Not so embarassin' that way. The ol' year wasn't so bad an' the new one has lots of promise. Jest remember to plant a big garden an' drink lots of cider, an' eat lots o' corn cob jelly and popcorn an' you'll keep healthy.

With winter here fer sure the farmer don't have a lot to do except take care of the stock and keep the stove full o' wood. Time to reflect on what lies ahead and plan for spring. Makes winter a lot shorter an' more pleasant that way.