The Ol' Hoosier Farmer — September 7, 1977

By Jim Jones

One of th' things that indicates th' end of summer is approachin', besides Labor Day when all th' farmers do is labor, is th' Tri-State Gas Engine show at Portland. Lou an' I an' some o' th' kids went up there th' other day an once agin we went back into th' past an' experienced how Granpa did his work on th' farm.

Th' usual multitude of ol' time engines wuz runnin' an poppin' away an' the usual group of ol' timers wuz standin' aroun' watchin' them an' relivin' th' past. There wuz delco light plants, well field engines that wuz bigger then a autymobile an' still only had one cylinder, there wuz early diesel and hot air engines, air compressors, water pumps, burr mills, corn shellers, early garden tractors an lawn mowers an all that stuff. There wuz 3 separators runnin' this year, an' a big saw mill driven by a Baker steam traction engine which with all its power, smoke and size still runs quietly with very little sound. Its amazin' that th' big steamers make so little noise while th' small gas engines make so much. There wuz lots o' tractors includin' oil pulls, John Deere's Farmalls, an many others such as th' model Sears Roebuck built years ago called th' Economy, Silver King, Oliver, an' so on. Cider an' apple butter wuz bein' made, a couple o' blacksmiths had forges in operation, an' fellers waz tradin' parts, stories, an advice all tryin' to help th' other feller get his engine runnin' better.

It wuz a long day an' we finally headed back home, hot, tired, dusty, with engine oil an' coal smoke all over us. We thought all about th' machinery we liked an' wished we had but probably won't be able to afford an' then took stock in what we had an' felt a little better.

Noticed th' country side is takin' on a fall look with occasional trees turnin' an' even a field of soybeans startin' to turn yeller. We has harvested all th' sweet corn an' got th' stalks tilled under. In fact, about one third o' th' big garden is turned under fer fall since th' sunflowers are cut too. So we sees th' end o' summer approachin' an finds it is time to make th' garden ready fer winter. Oh, yes, we will be busy in th' garden fer another month yet or so but its time to start now.

But its been a good summer an' we has lots o' stuff put up to eat so we are most thankful. Time to set back a minit an' enjoy th' fine weather. Won't be too much longer an' we'll be stuck inside by th' fire an' lookin' out at th' snow.