

Uncle Ab From Abington — June 9, 1976

By Jim Jones

The busy time of year has kept us from putting pen to paper for sometime now, but the crops won't wait. This has been a time of planting, strawberries, fruit tree spraying and other chores that all have need to do. The long dry spell hasn't bothered us too much yet, but seeds are slow to germinate. The early garden is looking fine and the later stuff has poked thru the soil and shows promise.

Ground up a batch of whole wheat flour the other evening and put some more flower seeds in the ground. Been eating our fill of onions, radishes, lettuce and have had the first mess of swiss chard and a head or two of broccoli. Tomato plants are looking good and the early strawberries, the ones the birds don't get, are a welcome addition to the table.

Been some hay bailing in our area the last week or so and the boys have been busy helping. The wisteria vine is showing signs of life and the early morning glories, poppies and other flowers are growing well.

Prairie Farmer says it will be a long, hot, dry summer. Toward this end we made up a rain water barrel out of a 55-gallon drum. Ran a downspout into the top, cut a hole on the side near the top and ran the overflow pipe back into the soil pipe for drainage. A wood top with an old pitcher pump on it completes the arrangement. This gives rainwater for watering plants and other things. The old pitcher pump brings back memories. Thinking about driving a well pipe down to the first water vein for plants, etc. Will have to find out about how far to go down.

The last garden seeds, late beans, were planted the other day. Done with planting until turnip time in July. Have a few early turnips out and they are looking good.

Had a good rain this evening--first in several weeks. Ground sure soaked it up and we can almost hear the stuff growing again. We look forward to a good harvest this summer and fall and hope we will have pumpkins to sell, popcorn for the winter evenings and a freezer and cellar full of stuff to see us thru until next Spring.

Growing things are a great inspiration. Those fortunate enough to have the space and the inclination have much to be thankful for.