

Uncle Ab From Abington — January 7, 1976

(By Jim Jones)

Well, Christmas has come and gone. Time flies. The Glorious Season with all its tinsel and glamor was a little quieter this year at the Ol' Hoosier Farmer's place, but we had a fine time and were humbled by the love and friendship of those around us who blessed us with their gifts and fellowship. It has been a time of year when we take stock of our many blessings and thank the Good Lord above for giving us another year to celebrate the birth of His Blessed Son.

Now we take note that the winter solstice has passed, and the days are getting longer once again. This is good news because even though the rough winter days are still ahead of us, spring is just ahead. Thank the Good Lord for Spring!! The first seed catalog has come and already study has begun concerning the spring plantings and how the seed money will be spent. We are considering changing certain varieties of crops and staying with others that proved satisfactory. Some new items are available that are worth a try. Soil tests have been made and plans are under way to correct fertility deficiencies. And so it goes.

One sits inside on a cold day and takes pleasure in the fire on the hearth and the beauty of the snow-covered fields and still longs for the first chance to dig in the earth and start the growing season again. The seed catalogs don't help this feeling any and no doubt their mailing, at the time of the worst weather, is a clever piece of psychology.

Have a small burr mill ordered and plan to grind some corn for cornmeal and wheat for whole wheat flour. Figure there is an extra measure of flavor in doing it yourself as well as maybe saving some money and taking of advantage of the nutrients usually lost in commercial milling. Hope to try it out and report on the findings soon. Maybe be a good idea to raise some field corn for corn meal next year and run it thru the old John Deere 2A corn sheller now in a corner of the barn. The cobs make good jelly, too. Ever tried Corn Cob Jelly?? One of the finest.

In closing, the Ol' Hoosier Farmer wishes for his friends and neighbors a very happy New Year. Look back on the old one and rejoice in your accomplishments and take heed of your errors. We are fortunate indeed to have another year to try again to live a good life and make something of ourselves. Take also a moment to thank the Good Lord for his blessings and ask for His guidance thru 1976. He loves us all and without His help, this Ol' Hoosier Farmer would not have much luck with his crops and gardens. May He bless all of you.