

Uncle Ab From Abington — August 25, 1976

By Jim Jones

August is the time of year to enjoy sweet corn, squash and other garden stuff and we have been doing that with gusto, but the Ol' Hoosier Farmer and the head man down at the farm have been working up a sweat raising a barn. An odd thing to do in this day and age but this has been a real experience.

Planning and work started nearly two years ago with the felling of several large poplar trees down in the woods. Winter time was spent at the sawmill sawing timbers and siding lumber and this summer we actually got started.

To be sure, nails were used instead of old-time mortise and tendon joints held with pegs, but the rest of the work was strictly by grandfather's way. Timbers were hand-carried and swung into position and the sweat flowed freely as nails were hammered home. Although we are a ways from finishing up, it is a great satisfaction to see a barn rise from logs raised and sawn on the place with no outside help and little out of pocket cost for materials. Other than gas for the tractor and chainsaws, and a few pounds of nails, all material has come from the place to date. True, we will have to buy metal roofing and some hardware, but that is about it.

We take a great deal of pride in our barn, since it has been a labor of love and an attempt to do it as cheaply as possible using materials at hand. To see the framework rise from the earth as if by magic and know we put it there, drove all the nails into timber we sawed ourselves, makes it a thing of beauty, at least to the builders. Hopefully it will stand for many years to protect machinery and equipment from the weather.

In this day and age where buildings are usually purchased from a contractor who puts up massive structure in days, it seems like a return to the past to put up this barn piece at a time, using our labor and materials instead of money which we don't have anyway. We hope that a sense of accomplishment will result from this endeavor, that we doubt would come by buying a ready-built structure.

So, if the sweet corn and tomatoes have filled up the belly and you feel full and lazy, pick up your hammer and build a barn.

It does wonder to reduce the bulging wasteline and the sense of satisfaction is one rarely found in this modern day and age.