

Uncle Ab From Abington — October 6, 1976

By Jim Jones

Wal, the harvest season is upon us--leaves turnin', frost frostin' and so on. Combines are out burnin' up the fields with smoke and noise, bringin' the corn and beans in. Fall is here.

Had a popcorn shellin'-- Brother Jon and his bunch came down with several bushel of prime popcorn. He allowed he got tired shellin' by hand and since we had a sheller--an Ol John Deere 2A probly 50-60 years old, thought it'd be in order to run his corn thru the beast. And we did.

Lou and Matt brought the ol' Ferguson tractor up with the big belt. We hooked it up and started in.

Quite a sight -- altho it was corn shellin' on a small scale. This ol' machine hadn't turned over in nearly 20 years and we didn't know what would happen. What did happen was a couple bushel of shelled popcorn in about 20 minutes-- includin' feedin' the sheller by hand and havin' to dump the tub under it several times. Them ol' machines don't wear out, given any care at all.

Jon and I looked back over the years and recalled when we used to shell all the corn on the place thru that danged thing. It was an intermediate step between a wooden 1 hole sheller cranked by hand and a big John Deere sheller with a shellin' cylinder that you scooped corn into. Oh yes, you scooped into the 2A but then you poked each ear down into the holes to reach the shellin' disc so it was scoop, poke a while, then scoop once agin. At least, it was faster than crankin' and pokin' as we did with the first one we had.

We go by the fields today and see the big combines pickin' and shellin' all in one operation and marvel at it all. Makes our little shellin' operation look purty puny. But that's progress and all that. But the romance of it is gone and the feelin' that we were doin' it like Grandpaw did. Don't suppose it will make much difrence in the taste, but there's satisfaction in knowin' we did it the ol' fashion way. At least, the naybers turned out to see what was happenin' and marveled at it all. Sompthin' about a piece of belt powered equipment draws the fellers around to see what's happenin'!

Got our own popcorn harvest to do yet. Wonder how big a crowd it'll bring.