Key NOTES

I don't know whether you are aware of it or not, but the month of February is quite a month. Do you know that in this most abbreviated month of the year that all kinds of observances are on the calendar. Everyone knows that Lincoln's Birthday is Feb. 12, Washington's --Feb. 22 and of course, Feb. 14 is the delight of every merchant whose business is to supply "sweets for the sweet".

No doubt you know that the entire month of February is American Heart Month, and Hemophilia Month, and American Music Month, and National Cherry Month, and also Frozen Potato Month. It is entirely likely (but I don't believe it) that you know that the week of Feb. 7-13 is not only Boy Scout Week, but it is also Children's Dental Health Week AND National Electrical week.

I should like everyone who knows that Feb. 11 is the birthday of Thomas Edison to make a date with me to celebrate it--and I defy any of you who say you knew that Feb. 20 is John Glenn Day; that is those of you who remember who John Glenn is.

But honestly did you know that the week of Feb. 14-20 is National Beauty Salon Week as well as National Crime Prevention Week?--Well, how about Negro History Week of the same period before we brought it to your attention.

I bet you think you're on your toes when you read this issue of the VOICE and releases from the National Conference of Christians and Jews that you can honestly say you are aware that it is Brotherhood Week; BUT did you know that Brotherhood has to share its week with Future Farmers of America Week?

All kidding aside, February is one steady jumping month. Until I returned to the Desert several months ago where, aside from my immediate family, most of the people whom I love the most, reside, I had been able to survive February's deadly dedication to all things good and dull.

But how I had forgotten! I only celebrate occasions with people whom I really love--and the month started off for me with my boon buddy's birthday. . . Bob Bailey's birthday is February 14, and he is some other kind of valentine as far as the Keynoter is concerned. There was no marking of the occasion except acknowledgment of it by those who dig this wonderful cat. But two days later, it was Feb. 16, and the 15th wedding anniversary of Ann and Bob Bailey's.

EVEN THEN, there was no big thing. Just a few old close friends dropped in on Ann (arranged by Bob) as Buck and Dottie West, Gene and Avanelle Lewis, and Bob's Dad, and I HAD A BALL. You can imagine how we reminisced. It was a wonderful night--a reaffirmation of friendship and kinship and all that wonderful jazz.

I got so carried away, I invited the same bunch to the house on the following Sunday to celebrate my friend Schapp's birthday (Feb. 18 was really her birthday but she flew to Los Angeles to spend it with her ailing mother). (Schapp is Avanelle Lewis). We had the pot ready when she got back though--Oh, the chitterlings, greens, and corn bread jumped--a Happy Happy event. . . NOW comes the Desert Queen's birthday. Dottie West will be celebrating her birthday today and I love her madly and do anything for her. She understands why I am going home to California to rest this week-end and seek the company of friends and relatives who are born in July and August; or September, October, and even in December.

In the meanwhile, February is a BALL.

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