

Uncle Ab From Abington — February 25, 1976

By Jim Jones

The middle of the second month has slipped by us and there is a touch of Spring in the air. It's not seasonal, but the crocuses and daffodils are peeking up thru the mulch on the flower beds and the air is a warm 45 degrees. Spent much of the day building cold frames to be used next month in starting seedlings. Built these up from used concrete blocks since there was a pile of them out behind the barn and filled them with good rich black dirt hauled in from the peat bog last fall. Too early to sow seeds yet, but at least we are ready. Have some marigold seeds sprouting under a bank of lamps so we can hopefully transplant some in April.

Valentine's Day has come and that is one day the government hasn't moved to a Monday to meet the convenience of the government workers. We have never understood the moving of the holidays around like they do now. F'r instance, Monday was President's Day. Supposed to fly the Flag and pay tribute to George and Abe. Abe's birthday was on a Thursday this year and when the 12th rolled around, nobody paid any attention. I suppose Abe and George don't give a hoot, but we are losing too many traditions as it is and those two fellers should at least have the respect of their own special day. One of these days there will be a National Birthday Day so all of us who have such events in our lives can celebrate it on the same day. We get everybody's birthday presents all at once, something like a middle-of-the-year Christmas. Mabbe they can have it on my birthday since it comes in the middle of the year. Since we won't have to decorate a Christmas Tree, we will paint the windmill and plant morning glory vines around it for deckeration. That will bring back the windmill since everybody will have to have one for National Birthday Day. Can you see all them fancy city apartments with a windmill in the parlor for National Birthday Day?

All this is pretty silly and no doubt some readers will recommend we go back to readin' the seed catalog and digging in the cold frames and quit waistin' time with this stuff. But if you do nothin' more than think about what has happened to our holidays (Hollerdays as Aunt Opal used to call them) then it has served its purpose. Consider Armistice Day--now called Veteran's Day. Used to be on November 11. Memorial or Decoration Day used to be May 30. Arbor Day--where did they put that? Many folks don't even know what that is any more--used to plant trees on Arbor Day to keep the green in the countryside and pay tribute to Mother Nature.

So be glad Valentine's Day is still February 14, and remember Abe was born on the 12th and George on the 22nd. Granddad was born on the 20th and he always said he was 2 days older than George. Mabbe he was--he had been around a long time.

There will be cold and snow ahead yet, but this preview of Spring has been most welcome. Take advantage of the nice days and git out in the sun for a while and look around. There is much to be done this spring and it isn't too early to start thinkin' about it.