



Every day of the year there's something to celebrate and has been marked to commemorate a special occasion. Some of these holidays are familiar ones; others are obscure and for the most part ignored.

Right now most of us are occupied with Christmas, but we might, if we cared to, take note on December 15 of Bill of Rights Day. Is that important? Apparently it's not, but shouldn't it be?

December 17 has been set aside as Wright Brothers Day; consider how changed are the lives of people in every corner of the globe by the contributions made by these two men.

Two special days fall on December 21st. We remember, if we stop to think, it's the first day of winter, but who thinks of it as Forefather's Day? That's what it is.

January brings us New Year's Day when many experience renewed hope, determination to improve ourselves in the coming months, and sometimes a feeling of relief that the storms of the preceding year have been weathered successfully and left behind us.

This month also brings to our nation the birthday of Martin Luther King on January 15. Having mentioned the Bill of Rights, above, this seems one holiday deserving of more recognition, particularly in view of recent publicity.

February offers us National Freedom Day on the first, and Ground Hog Day on the second. These concepts are poles apart, for the one is serious and the other frivolous.

Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, is given less attention than it once was, unfortunately. Time seems to erode this man's importance — to our loss.

St. Valentine's Day on the 14th is a time for letting those we love know we do love them. With all the aspects of our complex lives, perhaps this day is more important than any other in the year.

Emotions, more than wealth, success, creature comforts, even more than health, are basic to us. A person who loves and is loved enjoys living, regardless of his financial, physical or social status. Next to life itself is love.

The following day, the 15th, is Women's Liberation Day. Many people enthusiastically support this cause. I don't consider the movement a joke; if we were to apply broadly our Bill of Rights to assure all Americans enjoy the freedoms set forth therein, there'd be no Women's Libbers. There'd be no need.

Washington's birthday will arrive on February 16th in 1976. The Father of our Country is better known for a myth about chopping down a cherry tree than for his leadership during the years of our nation's struggle to be born. That's a strange thing, isn't it?

Only two special seasonal days worthy of note fall in March. St.

Patrick's day, on the 17th and on the 21st spring arrives.

Easter holidays, celebrated by Christians around the world, come in mid-April, '76, preceded by All Fools Day, the first, a day beloved by the practical joksters and children.

During the third week of April, National Secretaries' Day honors the hundreds of thousands who, with nothing more than pen, paper and typewriters help keep the wheels of industry turning, the postal service busy losing money, their bosses' appointments straight, and perform most of the same kinds of tasks in the business world that housewives do on the domestic scene.

Arbor Day which falls on the last Friday in April is tree-planting time. Trees live longer than people, provide people with life-sustaining oxygen, give us fuel to burn in cold weather, shade us from searing rays of the sun in hot weather. Trees supply all the wood we use.

From wood we build shelter, furniture, art objects; we make paper of it, and pencils, chairs, desks, beds, bookcases, cabinets, tables, and even fabric. We make jewelry and sculpture from it, and bowls, forks, spoons, and handles. We use it for fences and signs; the first wheel was of wood, and the first clock. Among other things, cork, turpentine, maple syrup, fruits and nuts all come from trees.

The same day is designated as Bird Day. What kind of a holiday is that? Do we think how the world might be without birds? We'd be over-run with insects. Seeds would fail to be distributed. The idea of man, flying, might never have been developed had not the birds shown us how.

The simple joy of watching the birds, flashing through tree limbs, building nests, setting their eggs, feeding the fledglings, teaching their young self-sufficiency, even escaping winter storms by going south, have set mankind examples for good living.

From birds we obtain pillow feathers, food, eggs for breakfast, and for centuries, quills for pens with which to produce the written word.

Bird Day and Arbor Day have true significance in our lives although most of us allow them to come and go without notice.

Two holidays fall on May first. May Day is a romantic holiday. The girl who washes her face in the dew of May Day morning will enjoy an improved complexion, so the story goes. And who remembers the May Pole, all strung with ribbons, and the dancing maidens weaving the ribbons over and under to wrap the tall pole in pastel color?

And who remembers the May Baskets? The surprise love-gifts of May first were baskets filled with flowers or good things to eat. If you'd like to hang one, the procedure is to place your gift without being seen, knock or ring loudly, then run and hide. The recipient comes to the door, finds the basket, and comes looking for the donor, in this fanciful game of hide-and-seek.

The other celebration is of Loyalty Day. It's worth noting how many patriotic holidays have lost whatever importance they may once have had. This day, like National Maritime Day, May 22, receives little or no attention; Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday, however, receives plenty of publicity.

Sometimes it seems a paradox that days set aside for counting blessings of freedom, loyalty, forefathers, and such, are overshadowed by accolades to the Armed Forces, important though they, too, may be.

And the leaves of the calendar drop one by one. Mother's Day on May's second Sunday, and Father's Day on June's third, sandwich Memorial Day on May's last Monday and Flag Day, June 14; the 21st is summer's first day.

July 4th, Independence Day, has always received its due attention, and in 1976 will culminate in celebrations of our nation's two hundredth birthday.

In August we have Coast Guard Day on the 4th, Ecology Day, and National Aviation Day on the 19th. In September comes Labor Day, the first Monday, Citizenship Day on the 17th, the beginning of Autumn on the 21st, and American Indian Day on the fourth Friday.

October is rich in holidays, including, I find, Child Health, Poetry, Sweetest, and Youth Honor Days, as well as Columbus, Veterans' or Armistice, United Nations Days, and Halloween.

Election Day and Thanksgiving, both November holidays, round off the year.

Some holidays are noteworthy but are almost totally ignored; some receive the meaningful attention they so richly deserve. This doesn't begin to be a complete list of them, but gives you an idea, in this final month of 1975, of where our priorities — as a nation — appear to lie.