

# The Key Note

Volume Seven

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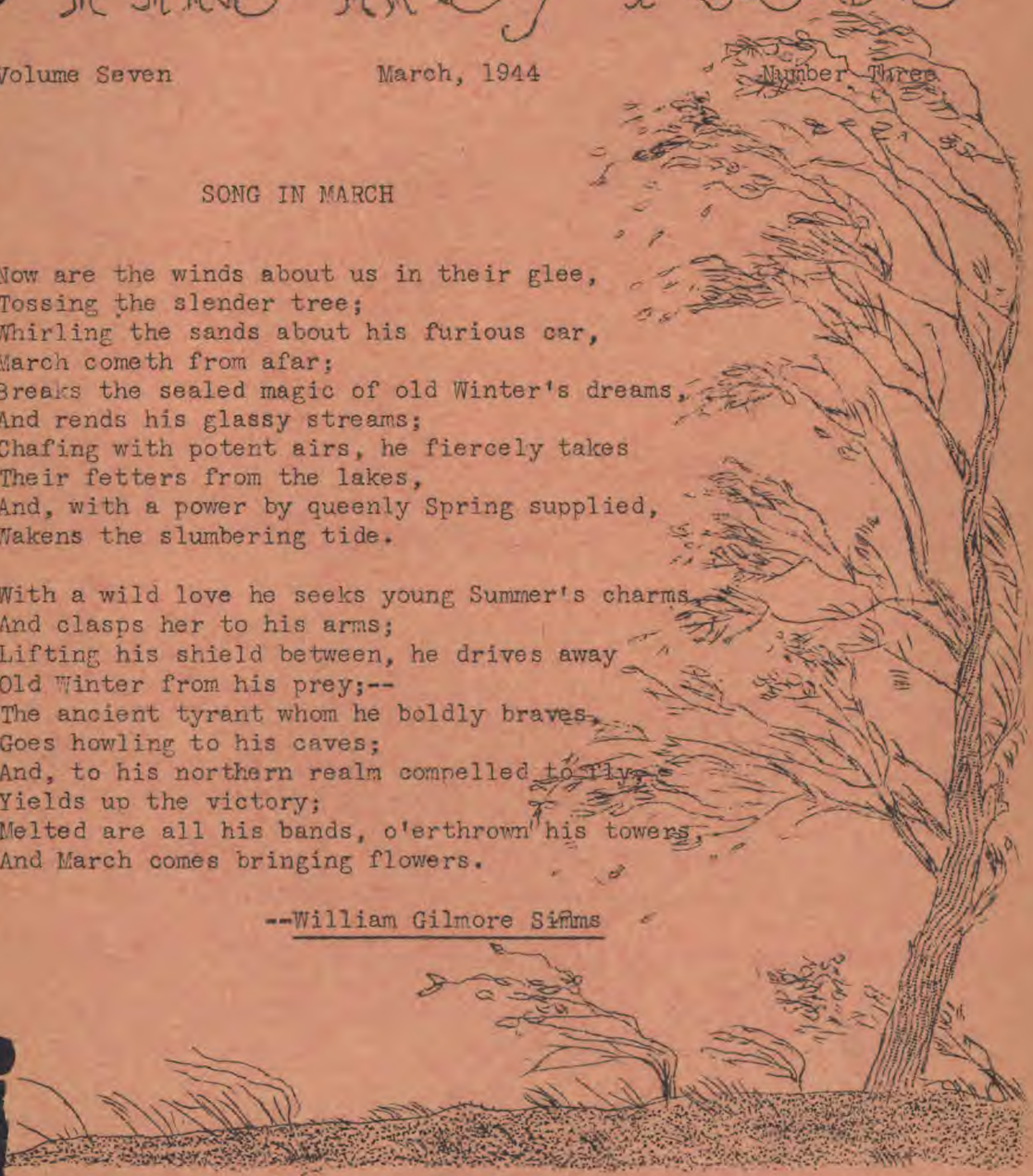
Number Three

## SONG IN MARCH

Now are the winds about us in their glee,  
Tossing the slender tree;  
Whirling the sands about his furious car,  
March cometh from afar;  
Breaks the sealed magic of old Winter's dreams,  
And rends his glassy streams;  
Chafing with potent airs, he fiercely takes  
Their fetters from the lakes,  
And, with a power by queenly Spring supplied,  
Wakens the slumbering tide.

With a wild love he seeks young Summer's charms  
And clasps her to his arms;  
Lifting his shield between, he drives away  
Old Winter from his prey;--  
The ancient tyrant whom he boldly braves,  
Goes howling to his caves;  
And, to his northern realm compelled to fly,  
Yields up the victory;  
Melted are all his bands, o'erthrown his towers,  
And March comes bringing flowers.

--William Gilmore Simms



## MY TASK

Over the hills and the valleys the hand of Winter has swept. The earth has become cold and drear and desolate. Gone are the flowers and birds and laughing waters of Summer. The trees stand stark and naked, beating their gaunt arms together and making the traveler draw his cloak the closer about him. Yet we are not disheartened, for we know that under the ice and snow the little stream is still gurgling, and only biding its time when it will again burst forth and sing its riotous song. The little flowers are not dead; they are only sleeping, and ere long the sun will send forth its shining rays, and the snow and ice will fade away, and the brook will laugh, and the flowers will blossom, and birds will build their nests in the leafy boughs.

There are lives about us, Father, that are cold and drear like a Winter's day; they have been made desolate by the too heavy hand of Fate, but we would not leave them alone, dear Father, beating their arms futilely; we would remember that underneath the little song of love still gurgles and waits to be released; we would not forget that there are flowers to blossom in each life if warmed by the sun of God's love.

Perhaps it is my task to let the light shine on some desolate life, and warm and cheer it, so that darkness and dreariness will fade away. If that be my task, Father, then give me wisdom, and strength, and a resolute purpose. Amen.

--Beulah G. Squires.

## FROM THEN TO NOW

Four decades and one year ago our leaders brought forth in this city a new headquarters for the denomination conceived in faith and dedicated to the proclamation of "this gospel of the kingdom" "in all the world for a witness unto all nations."

With these leaders from the old headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan, came three young girls--Elizabeth Zeidler, Ethel Edwards, and Lela Wilcox. Teen-age Irene Stuart joined them here and, with Harold Cobban, they made up the secretarial staff in the small building down on North Capitol Street which for a time housed both the General Conference offices and the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Gradually we have "enlarged the borders of our habitations," but we are still good neighbors and good friends.

Scores, if not hundreds, of girls have come and gone through the years, but those who have been here longest love it most. Elizabeth and Irene are still with us; and in fact there are at least a dozen of us of the "Old Guard" who have been here twenty-one years or more, and so have "come of age" in General Conference service. Several others almost qualify.

Contrary to the expressed opinion of some, entering the employ of the General Conference is no insurance against Cupid's darts. We've been here a mere twenty-two years, but we've seen over sixty of our girls succumb to the charms of the wily little chap with the sweetened arrows.

Nor do we relinquish the joys and thrills of travel, what with Spring and Autumn Councils every year, and General Conference session every four-to-six years, when from six to twenty of us are sent to wherever the meeting is held. To be sure we give value received in extra long hours of extra hard work; but we do have the trips going and returning by routes of our own choice, with stop-over privileges, and with all expenses paid.

Then there was 1929 when Mrs. Plummer and Kathryn Jensen went to Europe, and Thelma Wellman's pilgrimage to the Old World in 1936. Marion Nyman and Mary Paul spent Christmas in Cuba in 1931 and 1937 respectively. In 1938 also Marian MacNeil spent ten days in Bermuda. Besides, all or most of us have traveled to practically every nook and corner of these United States and parts of Canada for our annual vacations--

before the days of gas and tire rationing and trains crowded with military and government personnel.

And I would not fail to mention that more than twenty of our number have gone out to give one or more terms of foreign service in Europe, Inter-America, South America, China, the Far East, Africa, Australia--either as single girls or with their husbands and families. Some have returned to the homeland, others are still serving overseas.

A few of our members have, by reason of age or ill health, relinquished their posts and are, we hope, enjoying a well-earned "rest from their [official] labors." Of such we may mention Mrs. L. Flora Plummer, Lizzie Gregg, and Mrs. Flora H. Williams.

Time was when we were just one big happy family, and everyone knew everyone else quite well in the then-comparatively-small building. But we grew, and we grew, and we GREW--both the building and the family--till some of us scarcely knew who was who or where she worked; much less where or how she lived. Then a few of our leading spirits felt that we should have a closer bond of fellowship among and of ourselves. To this end we organized in the summer of 1937 the General Conference girls' club which in due time became known as The Keepers of the Keys; complete with officers, sponsors for various projects and activities, and an editorial staff for the monthly KEY NOTE.

In the spring months of 1938 and 1939 the Friendship Friends had a lot of fun and became better friends through "little acts of kindness, little deeds of love." The Hobby Essay contest in 1938 and the search for a theme song and a club prayer in 1940 brought to light hitherto unsuspected literary talent and variety of interests.

The activities of Dan Cupid and Daisy Stork furnish occasion for many delightful social functions. Then when some of us find other pastures greener and leave our midst, we send them away with our blessing and our gifts, so that even "parting is such sweet sorrow." And we "go all out" for Christmas!

Came Pearl Harbor, and the war had an increasingly personal significance for us. We organized and conducted classes in First Aid and Home Nursing--and hoped we'd not have need to demonstrate our proficiency! Now we are doing our bit by

folding surgical dressings for the Red Cross two evenings a week, looking very professional in our white gandy veils with the official red cross on the front. And of course we are all buying bonds, several have donated to the Red Cross blood bank--and letters go out daily to husbands, sons, brothers, nephews "in the service." Besides, we know of at least two Keepers who are working hard and fast on an afghan for the 47th General Hospital--our own S.D.A. unit overseas.

Friendship Friends are again at work, and mysteries fill the air. We have a Needlework and Reading Circle that meets once a month for an evening of informal enjoyment and comparing notes on our current interests in handwork. Oh, there's never a dull moment for the Keepers of the Keys. In fact, individually, our problem often is which of many extra-curricular activities we most want to espouse. But we were unanimous in our wish to have you ladies of the Women's Auxiliary as our guests tonight.

The world will little note nor long remember what we say or do here, but eternity alone will make known the final fruits of our combined efforts--yours and ours--to further the cause of truth which we all serve. It is for us to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which has been thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that none of us shall have labored in vain.

Since the organization of the General Conference Women's Auxiliary, at about the same time as our own club, we Keepers have many times, individually and as a group, been the recipients of your favor and hospitality. We do truly appreciate your generous interest and your warm friendship, and we are happy and honored to be your hostesses this evening.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. And let us here highly resolve that our common aims and interests shall have a new birth of unity, and that these two organizations of the women, by the women, and for the women of the General Conference family shall not perish from our midst. --T. R. C.

[Prepared for and read at the Keepers' party in honor of the Women's Auxiliary, February 22, 1944. Reproduced here by request, which accounts for the over size this month.]

## RETURN ENGAGEMENT

The skies cooperate when Keepers and Women's Auxiliary get together! Remember the picnic last fall? That downpour didn't dampen our enthusiasm, and neither did the one on the evening of February 22, when the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary were our guests in the Review and Herald chapel.

Those who worked hard to make the party a success deserve much credit, for, to this uncritical observer, 'twas as smooth as--frozen custard! The patriotically tied name cards lettered by Mary Paul helped us to get acquainted. Music by Pauline, Jewel, and Viola added much to the program. All thoroughly enjoyed the readings given by Mrs. Clymer, our guest artist, and the informality of the patriotic and musical games. Then we would not forget the "radio program" with its phantom band directed by "Tex" Hight, and the dividing up of the "dollar war bond" by Dorothy Ford. T. Rose "parodized" the Gettysburg Address to give us all a bird's-eye-view of the rise and progress of the Keepers of the Keys.

The food committee surely deserve credit for confirming the suspicions of the ladies that we're as good cooks as they are--almost! Besides, Mrs. Phillips, in her gracious thank-you, almost convinced us that we are more fortunate than the homemakers as we "trip gaily off to work" mornings. But an extra forty winks would be wonderfully nice sometimes! Suffice it to say that if our guests had half as good a time as we, maybe they'll "come up and see us sometime" again. --Mary Jane Dybdahl.

Marjorie Marsh, Jewel Hatcher, Dorothy Greeley, Alice Fagerstrom, T. Rose Curtis, Louise Surface, Elsie Minesinger, Hazel Peter, and Barbara Phipps represented the Keepers at the meeting of the Washington Chapter of E.M.C. Alumni Association, Feb. 27.

Nora Atwell, of the H.S.I. spent a weekend in Baltimore.

According to latest report from Mary, the Red Cross volunteers have folded 1641 surgical dressings. More power to them.

Miss Opal Van de Warker, Commercial teacher at Adelphian Academy, is the guest of Barbara Phipps for a few days.

Our A Capella members sang recently at Dan Harris's "effort" at Chestertown, Maryland.

## THE NEWS IS OUT

Verna Slate spent a recent week in Boston, Melrose, and South Lancaster. We hear she met a Marine en route.

Marie Mooney stood all the way to Baltimore on her way to visit the home folk in New York. But who wouldn't, when she can celebrate the birthdays of two pair of twin sisters all at once?

On a long week-end Zippie Franklin visited her soldier husband who is stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama, but came up to Nashville to meet her. Zippie brings greetings to the Keepers all from Mayme and Cecil Higgins, now in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference office.

Romance in a Christmas package! For details and latest developments, ask Hazel Shadel about her convalescent Corporal.

No "low fog" can stop the Sewing and Reading Circle. An even dozen met at Thelma Wellman's home Saturday evening, where sweaters, fascinators, afghans, and pajamas gradually took shape--not to mention all the hose that were lovingly darned.

Several Keepers were glad to greet Mildred Meyers and small Carol Ann, here recently on vacation from farm life in Ohio.

Edna Helms entertained a group of Keepers on Valentine's Eve.

Myrtle Chrisman and daughter Elizabeth Lemon entertained six couples who formerly attended Southern Junior College and are now students at Washington Missionary College.

The Twins greeted their nephew, Flight Cadet Harold Lickey, briefly in Union Station the evening of Feb. 23. He was en transit from New Hampshire to North Carolina for more training.

Mrs. Halswick has been happily entertaining her daughter, Mrs. Pauline Blumenschein, from Florida.

Those who knew Dale and Marguerite (Perkins) Smith and Mabel Smith Capporalle were glad to greet them on a recent Sunday, together with Father and Mother Smith and Husband Capporalle.



## THE BOOK SHELF

Knowing that some of the Keepers are intrigued by books about doctors and nurses--the heroic men and women who keep us well or restore us when ill--we list here

true stories guaranteed to entertain, educate, and thrill you. Those starred are in the General Conference, Seminary, and/or Review and Herald Libraries.

- Ship's Doctor - Hooker
- Burma Surgeon - Seagrave
- \*Tales of a Waste-basket Surgeon - Seagrave
- A Surgeon's World - Thorek
- Consultation Room - Loomis
- Leaves from a Doctor's Diary - Chiddekel
- \*Leaves from a Surgeon's Notebook - Harpole
- \*Behind the Surgeon's Mask - Harpole
- \*Magic in a Bottle - Silverman
- \*The Mayos - Regli
- \*Doctor in Arabia - Harrison
- \*A Doctor Carries On - Lambie
- \*Ambassadors in White - Wilson
- Miracles of Military Medicine - Maisel
- Mind, Medicine and Man - Zilboorg
- \*Walter Reed, Doctor in Uniform - Wood
- \*I Served on Bataan - Redmond
- Nurses on Horseback - Poole
- Northern Nurse - Merrick
- They Shall Walk - Kenny
- I Begin Again - Bretz
- Born That Way - Carlson
- The Log of the Lame Duck - Brown
- Reluctantly Told - Hillyer
- \*Behind the Doctor - Clendening
- \*Pathfinders of Medicine - Robinson
- \*Medicine in Modern Society - Reisman

--Thelma Wellman, Literary Sponsor



# KEYS TO THE OFFICE

## VISITING OUR STATISTICIANS

"Seventy-four million dollars!" No, this is not the National War Debt, nor the D. C. quota for the Fourth War Loan Drive. It's only one of our statisticians arriving at the total value of denominational investment.

Ask one of the workers if she doesn't get bored with the maze of figures always evident. She will probably reply that figures are fascinating and reveal most interesting stories. Sounds like a fairy tale? Come, and I will show you.

First, here is a copy of the 1944 Year Book just off the press. If you had come a few weeks ago you might not have been noticed, so furiously were we working to keep ahead of the printers on this annual directory so vital to our work. If you look at it as a job with a lot of names and addresses to correct, it would be tiresome; but when you think that we tour the entire world, visiting every mission station, school, and hospital, it takes on meaning; and think of the new friends we make! If you have passed our door and wondered at the strange sounds and tappings, we were probably getting in the mood to visit some jungle mission. Perhaps you've noticed a brogue in our speech--we picked that up in China or the Far East.

See these typewriters with the 32-inch carriage! They'll see plenty of action the next few months, preparing the financial and statistical reports for publication. This calculator works out percentages and per capita. You just touch a few keys, release a lever, and the correct answer appears here! No, it's not magic or sleight of hand, though incomprehensible.

Official records since the beginning of this denomination are preserved in our department. This fire-proof vault contains our current records and those to which we often refer. In a much larger vault in the basement we attempt to keep files of all denominational periodicals,--no small task in itself.

Here is the last record we keep of a worker. The Obituary file contains names and brief life sketches of denominational workers,--but we don't want to list you there for a long time.

--Verna Slate

18,274,131.27  
\$37,527  
per capita 3,500  
1863  
1942 - 535,134  
\$61,174,492.91  
19,611,440.17  
\$74,785,933.08  
23.8%

WE REGRET TO SAY FAREWELL TO --

Doris Davis, who has gone home to Mississippi to care for her mother through an extended illness.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW --

Myrtle McGee, who takes Doris' place in the Insurance Service office, comes to us from the Red Cross offices in the city, tho her home is in North Carolina. She has attended W.M.C., and plans to finish. She likes to collect hankies, read jokes, give readings, and go hiking. And she has a yen for far places--to be specific, South America. But mum's the word; let's keep her!

Esther Gladys Petty, born, reared, and educated in Trenton, New Jersey, where she also worked for two years in the Conference office. Esther began work at the Home Study Institute the first of February, says she likes it a lot, and thinks Washington is fine. Her hobby is sewing.--Another recruit for the Sewing and Reading Circle!

Valeda Carter, from Iowa and Nebraska, and Ruth Williams, sister-in-law to Mr. Cummins, are helping out temporarily in the Treasury Department. Our newest and youngest recruit is Faye Thurston, working part time in the Seminary Library.

Along with Lincoln and Washington, February is the birth month of Dorothy Ford, the Twins, Myrtle Chrisman, Evelyn Wells, Signe Nelson, Tillie Foust, Esther Benton, Marjorie Marsh, and possibly other notables.

#### THE KEY NOTE

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General Conference Office, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

Editor:	T. Rose Curtis	Typists:	Tillie Foust
Associate:	Eva Linscott		Elizabeth Lemon
		Printers:	Pauline Klady
Artist:	Marian MacNeil		Jean Freeman

#### OFFICERS OF THE KEEPERS OF THE KEYS

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