

Auburn, Alabama
January 15, 1960

Dear Connie and Sisters in Chapter BL,

This letter is being written by someone who would much prefer being with you to writing letters to you. However, I will have to reconcile myself to this fact. As I think of the past year I remember how wonderful it has been, but this is true of each of our 7 years.

Our year started out with a momentous occasion---a B.I.L. Party. The Honorables, Justice, Heine, and Sarig initiated four fine, upstanding new members, Tembrook King, Louis Fuisse, David Anderson, and Maurice Leon. There were forty present to witness this event and a delightful time was had by all at Gen Busse's home.

The next January event was a reciprocity tea for unaffiliates at the home of Margaret Strauss. This was a big event too because we had to follow a snow plow in order to walk through to Margaret's house and had to use a shovel to get back out. Every chapter but one was represented and eight unaffiliates were there so no one can say that Madison isn't friendly to unaffiliates.

Another snowy day came on the one that Mary Alice had planned a party to celebrate May's 80th Birthday. It was postponed a few days but this didn't dampen anyone's spirit. It was a thrill for all to see May reach her 80th year and be so radiant.

In June the weather was better and we had no snow for the tea at Constance Elvehjem's. Connie graciously opened her home for the tea to raise money for the Wisconsin Suite at Cottey College. Our Triple Trio- I use the term loosely as there were 11 people--furnished some of the music for the program. The contributions for the suite came to \$257.00.

June also was convention month. This was a special convention for us because Constance Elvehjem, Chapter H, Madison, became the State President. Our chapter gave a check in her honor at convention. Carol Wilson and I were delegates and gave our report at a dinner meeting at the home of Martha Reynolds. The delicious meal was prepared by Mildred Wedemeyer and Gen Busse and this gave us strength to wrap the twenty favors for Supreme Convention which I deposited in Waukesha on Sept. 1.

Our Triple Trio was highly honored to be asked to sing for Supreme Convention. Since none of us can accomplish anything alone this event was no exception. We borrowed robes from BC, Jane Horswill from V, Virginia Thurman from BW, and moral support from all our BL's. Our chapter is very close knit and even with all the young children who can become ill we average over twenty-five members at each meeting with a total membership of thirty-three. It was called to our attention that the Triple Trio alone represents 30 children.

Jo Anne Hedlin is our yearbook chairman and she used as her theme, "We reach for the Stars", and she and her committee worked it out to perfection.

Now for chapter changes----our meeting time has been changed to 7:30. We welcomed Dorothy Wimberly, a demit from Jackson, Michigan into our chapter. We initiated Isabel Hughes into our chapter in May.

Our membership now stands at 32 active members and 6 non-resident and one Chapter Eternal. Our dear May passed away in August. Many of our chapter attended a memorial service for her at the church. Jane Wilson gave a fine tribute to her at an October meeting. Nancy King had a happy, bouncing baby boy this summer. The chapter had inspection in November and I am happy to report that all was found to be in order. Evalyn Hood stated that our chapter showed the influence of State Officers. We are so blest to have a State President who shows concern for our chapter and its members.

On January 23 Madison will have the installation of a new afternoon chapter. This will give us four afternoon chapters and four evening chapters.

At the last meeting in December Jane Secord was installed as President due to my resignation and Nancy Hagatz was elected Vice President. I know that Jane will be a fine president and Nancy will be a great help for she is unselfish with her time and talent and ever thoughtful.

We are enjoying Alabama very much. The yards are beautiful and homes look like greenhouses. The University Faculty have come from all over the world and are friendly and interesting. The P.E.O. sisters have been bringing me Camellias by the boxes. I'm going to the first meeting next Tuesday which is a joint meeting of Chapters A and E. The children are missing their skating and the snow but enjoy being outside with sweaters on. Jane Beth is behind in school work. She was on 3's in multiplication, they are on 7's here. She was on subtraction and they are on long division. They teach script writing in the third grade and most of all it hurt her that she was printing. I wondered if Hobby were behind too so I asked him if the other children read slower or faster than he did and he said, "Well, Mother, with this accent I can't tell." Enjoy your milk and butter. A half gallon here is 53 cents compared with 41 cents in Madison and butter is 82 cents a pound. One different thing I have noticed is that most every one you meet whether it be a friend at a tea or the milkman or cleaners they all ask you what church you attend. We went to the First Methodist Church downtown and it looked like Easter Sunday. Everyone had on pretty dresses and hats, no coats, and they have two full services each seating 1200 people. This Sunday we are going to the Presbyterian Church. They are without a minister at the moment. I wish the Wimberly's arms could be twisted hard enough to get them here.

It's a busy and exciting life but I certainly miss all of you. No matter how many chapters there are there will never be one like BL to me. As we were moving I came across a poem that my Mother had copied down which expresses my sentiments----

"Remember well and bear in mind
An honest friend is hard to find.
And when you find one good and true
Change not the old one for the new.

So I'm hanging on to each one of you.

Lovingly,

Mary Justice