

January 1962

Dear Frances Vincent and sisters in Chapter BL:

Everywhere you see sign of the inventory taking season is upon us. Our annual chapter letters are evidence of this mania man has for stacking things and categorizing people. But we all know that you cannot measure an idea planted, new depth of friendship, or an outlook refreshed. Yet there is value in recounting what has transpired. The past is never to be discounted for it is the substance of what we have become and if used wisely, can bring vitality to the future.

Chapter BL will be 10 years old in May 1962 and thus an inventory of particular significance. There are 32 of us who are active resident members and we have seven non-residents. Marilyn Anderson left Madison for Black River Falls and with her many talents we know she will bring happiness for those around her. Jane Stark is our new initiate. Carol Jochimsen came to us from a chapter in Ill. and Phyllis Mumert from Milwaukee. Nancy King and Jean Bencriscutto found new chapter homes. We miss our old friends and speak of you often.

Gail Frazier is listed among chapter Eternal after her tragic auto accident, but her vivacious personality has made a mark on each of us. For me it is a heightened awareness of the need to make each moment count--- to fill each day with worth and love.

Spring found us in the midst of learning about Wisconsin; its prose and poetry, its music, its famous men and women, its natural beauty and even its birds. After absorbing this fascinating material, much of it new to us we are ready to start in the fall to "Take Time" We loved hearing Jean Clausen's daughter, Karen, and Fran Bright's son Russ, tell of their trip over seas with a high school group last summer. Their youthful enthusiasm and off beat reaction to some of the standard tourist attractions made a stimulating evening.

In October, we welcomed Dorothy Kleinpell as our state organizer and what a charming person she is. Her graciousness as well as her message exemplified PEO in every way. In November, we heard a wonderful play reading and discovered new handicraft talents among us. "Ye old curiosity shop" was opened for one night stand in December. and was a success in both finance and fun departments. Our Xmas. meeting was a quiet moment in the bustle of the bustle and the warmth of familiar words and lovely music made it memorable. We started 1962 with an unusual peek into the past thru our visitors truly outstanding doll collection. The BIL party this year took at its theme the country fair. Later in the summer we had a family picnic.

our inventory would not be complete without an assessment of our chapter and its goals. I can only do that personally, but I feel that we are at a crucial period in Chapter BL. The earth has been cultivated, the seeds sown and the first seeds have brought forth fruit. now let us carefully nurture our garden and not grow careless of it. For what is more precious than friendship? The depth of meaning PEO has for any one of us depths upon the rest.

With so much that is not right in the world, we have in PEO an opportunity to make the world better. The president of Lawrence Univ college, Douglas M Knight had this verse on his Christmas card which seems particularly meaningful for us in PEO. "May this day reconcile us to our world: May we learn to meet darkness without fear, and counter each evil with a star." May our Chapter be filled with stars.

Affectionately yours,

Jane Secord