

January 14, 1963

Dear Evalyn and Sisters in Chapter BL,

It has been a good year for Chapter BL. As I look back over the year I am impressed by two things. First, how many of our busy busy members have given most generously of their time and talent to make our year successful. Second, what a pleasure it is to be a P.E.O. and especially, to be an officer and work closely with our chapter and its wonderful officers.

Chapter BL "took time" to celebrate its tenth anniversary in May with a party and guest night. Members of Chapter BW were our special guests. How we enjoyed the summary of our ten years, dramatized in a way that was two parts pure fun to one part nostalgia. Through the spring we followed our theme in other ways as we "took time" to renew our faith, to visit, to laugh, and to walk through the Arboretum.

With convention in Madison last June, we had an excellent chance to participate and attend. We also were alert to pick up some pointers on "how its done", and it was done beautifully, for Chapter BL is to be a hostess chapter in Janesville this year. Our committee headed by Jean Clausen and Betty Land, has been at work since late summer to help make June 18, 19 and 20 memorable days.

Dorothy Leon and Beth Ross were chapter delegates to the Madison convention. Jane Secord was a delegate as chairman of the Welfare Trust fund. Jean Clausen was a guard and Betty Sarig, a page. Dorothy Wimberly and Charlotte King were tellers. BL's triple trio shared their talent in singing for a general session and entertaining at one luncheon. Members and their BIL's attended the banquet at the Memorial Union together as our BIL function of the year. Betty Rennebohm, Mary Heine, Fran and Frank Bright took part in the outstanding musical program that night.

Martha Reynolds and Elizabeth Sarig, yearbook chairmen, chose, "To Cherish Our Freedoms" as our theme for this year. We have had some thought-provoking talks followed by discussions on our rights and duties regarding such basic freedoms as assembly, worship and speech. We used our freedom to share in December when we brought our white elephants for a lively auction sale with our incomparable Jeanette Thomas as auctioneer. Over \$60 was added to the treasury. How we exclaimed over the appropriateness of your Christmas card, Evalyn.

We greatly miss two of our sisters who have moved from Madison. Jane Wilson, a charter member of BL, and her husband, Brian, chose to return to their home state of Kansas for their retirement years. We are pleased that Jane has decided to affiliate with Chapter DA in Independence, Kansas and have granted her a demit. Spokane, Washington benefits from having Virginia Zimmer, husband, Roy, and the four little Zimmers as residents.

We have gained three fine new sisters; Florence Nordholm and Lyn Stewart by initiation and Louise Thompson by demit from Chapter BN. With the demit of Marian Blair to DT, Iowa, we now have 33 resident members and seven non-resident. Marge Hibner will soon be missing, however. Her George is already working at his new job in San Antonio, Texas.

As voted during the preceding year, the chapter sent \$30 to Cottey in memory of Mae Rarick and \$30 in memory of Gail Frazier. As provided by our budget, we have also contributed \$20 to International Peace Scholarships and \$25 to Cottey. Carol Wilson volunteered through Reciprocity to investigate possibilities and arrange for all Madison chapters to have their yearbooks printed together. This was successfully done. Our chapter believes strongly that any money saved on yearbooks can be put to good use supporting our P.E.O. projects. Our saving of \$8.25 went to the Cottey library.

The most exciting part of our year, I think, has been the work of the Education Committee, Ruth Thomas, chairman. It developed from a discussion led by Betty Rennebohm last spring in which we expressed a desire to help some foreign student or students whom we could know personally. The committee decided we should start right at home. Discussions with University officials led us to an interest in wives of students who are often lonely in a strange land, with a language barrier and no special contacts. Our chapter was divided into thirds and each group entertained three wives from South America with an informal coffee. In each case, much fun was had by all. Our conclusions were the same - we had met charming and friendly young women, anxious for friendship more than any material things. Both we and they stand to gain from further acquaintance. It is a good start. We must make time to follow through.

Mildred Wedemeyer is regional chairman for Cottey College. She has handled this important job with a fine blend of efficiency, enthusiasm and hospitality to chapter chairmen of the area. The fall reciprocity function was a luncheon at which the Madison P.E.O.'s who attended Cottey Seminar told of their experiences. Mildred gave a strong summary of the reasons why Cottey deserves our support for her part. Jane Secord planned the place and food for this successful party.

Our founders came together out of true friendship based on a devotion to common ideals. As William Penn defined it, a "union of the Spirits". I believe this is still the prime raison d'etre of P.E.O. . Morton Hunt, writing in the Saturday Evening Post, developed the idea that in this day of rapid transportation and company transfers, friendliness is everywhere, but true friendship is increasingly difficult to cultivate. It takes effort and thought as do most things truly worthwhile. To become a true friend to a person you must know him well - his interests and problems, his talents and desires. It is with something of this in mind that we have what might be called a friendship ladder. Each month we have a different sister to get to know better, over a cup of coffee, over a bridge table, a luncheon table, over a grocery cart, or if worse comes to worse, over the telephone.

My wish for all of us is that we may grow in friendship and understanding in 1963.

Affectionately in P.E.O.,

*Beth Ross*  
(Mrs. John C.)