

February 1979

Dear Jo and Chapter BL,

As I sit here rereading past presidents' letters, I wonder at what "literary geniuses" we have had in the past and what a beautiful chapter BL is. Though, I may lack the "wizardry of writing", I shall plunge ahead and give you the annual report of Chapter BL.

Our Chapter has decreased by one member to 48, with the loss of Ruth Thomas to Chapter HJ in Des Moines, Ia. Mari Claire Thomas has become a non-resident member in Lincoln, Nebraska. We hope she will soon become an active PEO in Lincoln and wish her well in the pursuit of law. This raises our non-resident members to 6.

Again this year our Welfare Committee, headed by Betty Land, out did itself with a beautiful dinner at the home of Gen Busse before our first meeting in the Fall, a Harvest Sale in October, our popular bridge group, the efforts of our "Sear's Ladies", and with the sale of brooms and dishclothes. Because of their organization and hard work, we were able to give \$365 to our projects: \$15 to Educational Loan Fund, \$25 to Cottey, \$50 to I.P.S., \$150 to Wisconsin Scholarships, \$75 to Continuing Education, and \$50 to the Cottey Endowment Fund.

Our Social Committee, headed by Mary Lou Hogan, has done nothing to help our waist lines. We have had Satellite luncheons before meetings and on Valentine's Day had a delicious luncheon before our meeting. The luncheons have proven most popular and some of our largest attendance has been on these days. Waist line or not, we may have to resort to more!

Our Program Committee used the theme "Trees" this year. Each program was based on a line from a poem or saying about a tree. "Friendship is a sheltering tree" was our Welfare dinner, "Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees" was an inspiring program by Ann Nelson about the work she and others from Stoughton have done with Cambodian refugees who have come to Stoughton to live. "These trees shall be my books" is the theme for our Education Committee program. This year Chapter BL had a guest night for PEO's and friends with Connie Elvehjem of Chapter ~~XXXXXX~~ H highlighting the evening with a fascinating program on the founding and recent exhibits of the Elvehjem Art Center, which is named in honor of her husband.

We were delighted to have Sally Fleming back from Ann Arbor, Michigan for a day so we could all greet her at a coffee at the home of Beth Ross. Chapter BL also had two of its members graduate from Universities--Paula King from Wisconsin and Mari Claire Thomas from Law School in Lincoln, Nebraska. During the summer a few members met on the porch of Jane Stark and sewed stars for putting our pins on when they are not in use. Each chapter member was given one and as we initiate new members or take new members by demit, they will be given a star.

Chapter BL was also fortunate to be able to take part in the organizing of the new chapter CW. Our own Evelyn Jennings led the opening ode and objects and *et cetera*

and Paula King and Cathy Barker helped with serving the luncheon. Sarah Rose, Mary Lou Hogan and Mimi Koenig contributed coffee cakes. It was a beautiful experience for all who attended.

I look forward to another year as your president and working with the new and old officers--they are great!

Lovingly in PEO,

Jane Stark, Pres. Chapter BL 1978-'79