

12 Applewood Drive, Route 2
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
February 25, 1970

Dear Margaret and Sisters in Chapter BL:

The Centennial Year 1969 will be long remembered by all P.E.O.'s, I am sure. The monthly centennial editions of the Record, the Centennial National Convention at Des Moines with the dedication of the new Centennial building, the State Centennial at Marinette, and our own Centennial Yearbook theme highlighting historic programs, all made our 100th anniversary significant.

The year 1969 will always have special memories for me because I was privileged to serve my second term as President of Chapter BL. Our Chapter has 40 active members and six non-resident members. We will shortly add one more active member to our role. Ann Olson has been invited to demit from her Minneapolis Chapter. This year two new members, Trudy Bangsberg and Susan Shaw, were initiated into Chapter BL. We regret having lost three non-resident members, but we know they will be happy with their new affiliations. Polly Erickson demited to BZ Milwaukee, Marilyn Anderson to AW Bloomington, Illinois, and Mary Beth Engberg to W Milwaukee. The average attendance at a regular meeting is 22.

Although 1969 has been a year of recollections and traditions, it has also been one of new innovations and experiences. Perhaps the most exciting activity Chapter BL experienced this year was our decision to sponsor an I.P.S. girl. We began earning the necessary sum for a designated sponsorship by having a furniture resale, then a luncheon and a Christmas gift sale. The proceeds from these events plus a savings account netted the required \$400. Vice President Jean Clausen, her Education Committee, and Jane Secord pursued the basic exploring and interviewing before presenting the names of two scholarship candidates to the Chapter. On January 28, we unanimously voted to sponsor Maria Martinez of Santiago, Chile, who is studying for a Ph.D. in English Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as our I.P.S. candidate. We now await the decision of the I.P.S. board to decide whether she will be accepted.

In response to our other P.E.O. projects, we contributed \$10 to the Educational Fund, and \$40 to Cottey College. We also purchased 25 boxes of stationery towards the Wisconsin Cottey College Scholarship Fund.

In October, our new Yearbook came out with P.E.O. ple as its theme and Carl Sandberg's poem "The People, Yes" its inspiration. Our Program Chairman, Carol Wilson, wisely used the talents and the service contributions of our members for the subjects of our programs. All of our programs were presented by our own members. Perhaps this is an easy task because we are a group of "doers"--as they say--practically all Chiefs and no Indians. Talent and service reign supreme.

Leadership in church and hospital work dominate the activities of our members. Trudy Bangsberg, Florence Nordholm, and Dorothy Batt teach Sunday School; Ann Nelson is a Primary Supervisor and JoAnne Hedlin teaches a confirmation class and is also on the State Ecumenical Committee. Jean Rennebohm, Dorothy Wimberley and Dorothy Leon are active in their Women's Associations, Dorothy having just

completed a term as President of the Bethel Lutheran Women's group. Fran Bright is the President of the United Church Women of Madison. Kathy Barker is the church librarian at her church. Jane Secord serves her church on the Wisconsin Synod Planning Board and the Westside Presbyterian Council as well as being very active in the Madison Friends of International Student Association.

Volunteers for hospital services include Virginia Malmquist and Jane Rogers (who is also 2nd Vice President of Republican Women) and Kristen Roethe who is Projects Chairman of the Edgerton Hospital Auxiliary. Helen Sivertson is active in the Medical Auxiliary. Mary Lou Hogan is Vice President of the Visiting Nurse Service Board and Betty Land is recording books for the blind and studying Braille for certification with the Library of Congress. Jean Clausen is editor of the Badger Doctor's Wife Magazine and is also a contributing editor to the National Medical Auxiliary Magazine. Hazel Weeden sews and dresses dolls for the Shriner's Cripple Children's Hospital.

The large families of Jeannette Thomas, Beth Ross and Helen Sivertson and the new babies of Ann Nelson and Kristi Roethe have kept these members busy at home. Busy and happy grandmothers are Florence Nordholm, Phyllis Norem and Nancy Ragatz. Gen Busse was a "mother-of-the-bride" as was Fran Kingery. Carol Wilson and Phyllis Norem saw sons married this year.

In the field of the arts we have puppeteer and weaver Ruth Katz, potter Bess Weber, concert pianist Susan Shaw, and violinist and chorus director Helen Tower.

Martha Reynolds has just completed her year as President of Madison Women's Civic Club; Fran Kingery is Clerk of the Stoughton Board of Education as well as church treasurer; Connie Todd is secretary of the Westside Business Men's Auxiliary and Jane Stark is active at Memorial High P.T.A. I am an officer in my church circle as well as president of an investment group.

Six of our members are employed outside their homes--Charlotte King and Zo Kussow as librarians, Carol Wilson and Marjorie Hibner as secretaries, and Phyllis Norem and Edna Rieman as teachers.

Betty Sarig and Mary Heine try to take things a little easy after their recent illnesses.

I have taken this opportunity to tell you what each of our members has been doing not only because as a state officer or as a chapter sister, I know you are interested in each of us, but also, because this is our Centennial Year and I would like this account to be part of our record and our history.

Socially Chapter BL enjoyed two B.I.L. parties this year--a chuck wagon picnic at the Rennebohm farm and a Valentine Dinner party at the Sivertson home. Chapter BL participated in the Madison Reciprocity Tea at the Governor's Residence in October. On May 14, we celebrated our Chapter's 17th birthday. In June, Jane Secord had a morning coffee party in honor of Ruth Thomas who was visiting in Madison on vacation from Germany. Non-resident member Mary Beth Engberg and baby Sally also attended.

Jane Rogers and Virginia Malmquist were our delegates to the State Convention. On January 14, Grace Miller, State Organizer, visited our Chapter. Her visit had been delayed until then because I was in England in the Fall.

And now as I close my letter to you, may I add a "thank you." Whatever has been your task these past two years--an officer, a chairman, a committee member, a hostess--your cooperation, your kindness, your understanding, and the love that has radiated from you has made these two years unsurpassable and most memorable. We are told: "the benefit you derive will be reflex, as you give so shall you receive. Your devotion will be the measure of your reward." How great has been your devotion, all of you! I thank each of you from the depth of my heart. One thing I would add: I have found that as a President serves her Chapter, her reward is one-hundred fold that of her service. Thank you all for giving me so much.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,

Mildred Wedemeyer
President, Chapter BL, 1969