

February 20, 1973

Evelyn J.

Dear Grace and Members of Chapter 8L,

It hardly seems possible that the first pages in our notebook of presidents' letters were written by Betty Kennebohm twenty years ago. But we did celebrate Chapter 8L's 20th anniversary last May, and were delighted with Charlotte King's program based on our chapter's history, as found in the letters of our ten past presidents. We have grown steadily to our present size: 46 resident members, and 6 non-resident members--triple the size of the original chapter. Considering our large meetings (averaging 27 members) I think a special thank you is due our hostesses. One of our largest groups was Guest Night, held at the home of Jane Secord last April, when we were entertained by a group of Gospel Singers.

We are happy to have added three new members this year. Ruth Hirsch was initiated in May at the lovely country home of Fran Kingery, and Mimi Koenig and Lois Schleuter are additions by dimit. (Mimi came from AF, North Dakota, and Lois from CO, Illinois). Our one loss in membership occurred when Fran Bright became inactive last March.

We really enjoy hearing from our non-resident members, and we, in turn, try to keep them posted on news of 8L. We were thrilled when Ruth Thomas visited us in January, but found it hard to believe that it was five years ago that she had moved to Europe. It was a red-letter night because we also were visited by Lois Schleuter's mother, Esther Hutchison (N, Iowa) and Mildred Wedemeyer's daughter, Mary Beth Engberg (W, Wisconsin). Mary Beth and I were initiated at the same meeting in 1963 when Beth Ross was president.

We are indeed fortunate that talent abounds in 8L, and Dorothy Leon and her program committee had no real difficulty in finding lively programs, which they packaged neatly under the title "Periodicals Enlighten One". In the fall, we enjoyed seeing and hearing about versatile Bess Weber's interesting craft items and techniques. Beth Ross refreshed our memories on by-laws with a quiz, and Ann Olson made our founders seem more real by means of a clever poem. In January, Sue Shaw was our shining star--hostess, guard and pianist. Her rendition of Debussy and Chopin made the afternoon a rare treat. And I certainly want to mention Betty Land's fascinating program last spring when she told us about her work with Graille writing.

An energetic social committee headed by Helen Sivertson has added fun and festivity this past year. We especially enjoyed a family picnic at the Clausen's Wisconsin River retreat in September, and our Valentine's Day meeting was the occasion for a beautiful luncheon at Jane Stark's home.

Financially speaking, we have been blessed with Connie Todd and her enterprising welfare committee. New money-raising projects this year include a bridge marathon and an informal "stitch and study" group. Besides the extra income, these smaller groups also provide a chance for our chapter members to become really better acquainted. With our welfare funds we have contributed to our P.E.O. projects, and we have decided to earmark an additional amount for the Continuing Education for Women program. We were all pleased that our \$150.00 Memorial Fund for Kristine Thomas was used for camping equipment at Cottey, because we know this would have pleased Kris.

Some P.E.O. presidents complain of absent-mindedness due to new grandchildren, but I'll blame my mental lapses on our move in icy December. Thanks to efficient officers and committees, Chapter 8L has come through the year with flying colors, but most of all, with enthusiasm and loving concern for each other. I think our second twenty years is off to a good start!

Lovingly yours in P.E.O.,

Jane M. Rogers, President, Chapter 8L