

February 10, 1971

Dear Betty and sisters in chapter BL,

Each of our members this year has been "a woman for all seasons", according to our yearbook. Our resourceful program committee, led by Jean Rennebohm, quoted Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." We are in a different season as a chapter than we were sixteen years ago when I first became a member. Then we seemed to be the chapter whose members were having babies--four that year, I think. Now we are the chapter whose members are always going off on trips to distant lands. At an interesting program last May, members gave capsule reports of their trips to such places as Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, and South Africa. Not to mention frequent interesting letters from our member who has been living in Europe for three years.

An earlier program gave us the word on the ecological crisis, and guest night last April was delightfully presented by Ruth Katz and her husband when they demonstrated the puppets she has made and worked with for many years. We had other programs where members shared their hobbies--such as a lovely collection of wild flower pictures from JoAnne Hedlin's Minnesota cabin--or their professions, such as that of librarian Zo Kussow. Bess Webber's Founders' Day play made the seven original sisters more real to all of us.

We were all thrilled last May to learn that our IPS candidate, Maria Martinez, was accepted. She came as a guest to a meeting in March, so that we had a chance to visit with her informally; she also gave our education program in November, proving to all of us once again that our IPS money is well spent. She has been entertained in the homes of chapter members and at a reciprocity luncheon, in addition.

One of our loveliest programs was a musical one given by Virginia Malmquist, Susan Shaw, and two friends at our Christmas brunch. This was also our main fund-raising event. We also sell brooms and dish cloths to our members, who have grown dependent on these particular products so we can't seem to give them up.

For several years we have been recruiters for Cottey at Stoughton, where Phyllis Norem teaches and watches the junior class for likely prospects. This year, in addition, Mary Simmons and Trudy Bangsberg have taken on the job of recruiting at Middleton and at LaFollette High School in Madison. We gave \$10 each to IPS and the Educational Loan Fund, and \$30 to Cottey College.

Mary Simmons is one of our two new digits, the other being Ann Olsen. Both seem as though they have been part of chapter BL far longer than these few months. We snatched Mary as soon as we received her letter, since she is the sister of our non-resident member and former president, Ruth Thomas. We lost two other sisters, Ruth Katz and Helen Tower, when we regretfully saw them move to Whitewater. Speaking of statistics, membership, and such: of our forty resident members, we have an average attendance of 23 members. Ill health and full time employment prevent several members from being present as often as they would like.

The spirit of cooperation in the chapter was amply demonstrated shortly after the first of the year, when death tragically took the eldest daughter of Jeannette Thomas. The telephone tree functioned as an organizer for meals as long as they were needed, and small acts of friendship are still spontaneously being performed. A special memorial fund of more than

\$100 has been established by chapter members and Jeannette herself, which will probably be sent for a specific purpose at Cottey College.

We were all thrilled to read Mildred Wedemeyer's story in the December Record, "An August Christmas in Stockholm", and to hear of the many letters she has since received from all over the country.

Outside of PEO, members are in general continuing the service described in last year's letter. Mary Simmons has just been elected a deacon in her church, and is secretary of the Women's Association there. Mary Lu Hogan is president this year of the Visiting Nurse Board, and Jane Se-cord has put in many hours as Host Family chairman for the Madison Friends of International Students--an organization concerned with the more than 2000 students from other countries on the Madison campus. Betty Land is the first woman to be elected, with her husband, as lay leader of the congregation of the First Methodist Church.

Our chapter members run the gamut from homemakers who provide the equilibrium so essential to a busy, involved, and happy family, to the career girls, to those who make a career of so many worth-while volunteer activities. For me it is a privilege and inspiration to be president of such a group of sisters!

Lovingly yours in PEO!

Jean
Jean Clausen, president 1970-71