

January, 1965

Dear Alice and B L Members,

A year goes quickly when busy happy people work together. This has been a year of standing back and introspectively looking at ourselves. After several polls and the changing of meeting times the past few years, we weighed all the evidence and found that by changing to the second Wednesday afternoon and fourth Wednesday evening, more of us could be present. Our average members present since our change is 24, which gives evidence that we all want to be present at every meeting and our faithful attendance shows the close bond between us.

Spring found us enjoying Betty Iand and Mary Lou Hogan giving travel talks on their respective trips to Thomas Island and Jamaica. Edna Rumen made all of us vow we would take up knitting after seeing all of her beautiful sweaters. Betty Sarig told us about planned summer trip with her husband, daughter and other musicians to tour England. This was followed by the telling of summer trips and plans by all present.

Attending state convention at Carthage College this year in Kenosha were Charlotte King and Ruth Thomas. We learned the lessons of PEO and enjoyed friendships in the beautiful setting on the shores of Lake Michigan. We were proud of Mildred Wedemeyer as she participated in a symposium for second delegates as area Cottley College Chairman. She was at the head table the night of the Projects Dinner and had a wonderful time visiting with state officers and Amy Welch, first vice president of Supreme Chapter. We shared our experiences with our chapter at a lovely brunch on the patio of Martha Reynolds in June.

Jane Secord and her committee started promptly on their work of programs and yearbook by having luncheon meetings. It was so enjoyable we were sorry when our work was through. It was decided on a Shakespearean theme cleverly using quotes as the subjects for meetings.

Our first program was entitled "Your monument shall be my gentle verse" with Zo Kussow and Jane Secord entertaining us with an introduction to the life and works of Shakespear. This took place on a memorably beautiful fall day at the lakeshore home of Lenore Benedict. Next Phyllis Norem gave so much of herself in "Books ... nourish all the world", with thumb nail insights into a varied selection of books she recommended. We were quized on by-laws by two of our newer members, Carol Jochimsen and Iyn Stewart. Mildred Wedemeyer was just the one to show slides and tell us of her families 'living in Caracass, Venz., with "Now spurs the lated traveller space". Our Education and Philanthropic committee, Charlotte King, Iyn Lott and Dorothy Wimberly enlightened us with "Learning is but an edge unto ourself".

Our Welfare Projects Dinner at Gen Busses home was a huge success. The theme, "No profit grows where is no pleasure ta'en" -- proved true as the committee of Jean Clausen, Betty Rennebohm, and Jo Anna Headlin with the help of Jean's A F S student, prepared and served a delicious Austrian dinner for all of us. We netted \$50.00 and memories of Austrian hymns and customs.

Dorothy Leon used candles to exemplify "So hallowed and so gracious is the time". Phil Stark in "The quality of mercy is not strain'd" brought us a timely and informative message from Red Cross.

Beth Ross and Ruth Thomas aided in a fall party for unaffiliates in Madison given by the Reciprocity Board. On Feb. 12 all of the PEO's in Madison are having a B I L Dinner party at the Top Hat. All unaffiliates and state officers are invited. Chapter BL is general chairman.

We have 35 resident and 9 non resident members. Joining the Chapter by demit are Lyn Lott and Shirley Akerstrom, two wonderful additions to our Chapter. Majorie Hibner who moved to San Antonio, Texas is back in Madison and we are delighted to have her back as one of us. We greatly miss Louise Thompson who moved to La Crosse and Dora Shenk who moved to Elmhurst, Illinois. We speak of you often and enjoy letters from all our non resident members.

The officers enjoyed a "Faste and Patter" coffee at Jane Stark's home in December. The social committee has planned a series of small mid-winter coffee parties. Plans are materializing for our guest night in February.

Another year has passed and we realize and enjoy the meaning of true friendship. Happiness and security result from knowing each one of us is undergirded with the love and understanding of all in our chapter.

May you, Alice, and all of us share in this experience of love,

Ruth Thomas