

FIVE YEAR HISTORY REPORT

Chapter BL, Madison, Wisconsin, will be 15 years old in May, 1967. The following is a resume of events of the chapter. Starting in the early months of 1962, thirty-two active and seven non-resident members made up the enrollment. Gail Frazier, one of our beloved charter members, joined Chapter Eternal after a tragic car accident. Her vivacious personality made a mark on each of us and heightened our awareness of the need to make each moment count--to fill each day with worth and love.

There were worthwhile programs about our "State of Wisconsin." Karen Clausen and Russ Bright gave us a program about their trip to Europe. Their youthful enthusiasm and off-key reaction to some of the standard tourist attractions made a stimulating evening. Dorothy Kleinpell, as our state organizer and our inspector that year, exemplified PEO to us in a model way.

1963 found Dorothy Leon and Beth Ross as delegates to the Madison convention. Jane Secord was a delegate as chairman of the Welfare and Trust Fund. Jean Clausen was a guard, and Betty Sarig, a page. Dorothy Wimberly and Charlotte King were tellers. BL's triple trio shared their talent at the convention.

"To Cherish Our Freedoms" was the program theme for 1963. We had thought-provoking talks followed by discussions on our rights and duties regarding basic freedoms such as assembly, worship and speech. An auction sale of white elephants in December netted the chapter \$60.00.

Jane Wilson, a charter member, and her husband retired and moved to Kansas. Lyn Stewart and Florence Nordholm were initiated. \$30.00 was sent to Cottey in memory of our beloved Mae Rarick and a like amount in memory of Gail Frazier. \$20.00 was contributed to IPS.

The Educational Committee arranged a party and discussion entertaining wives of foreign students on the University of Wisconsin campus. Our conclusions were that we had met a charming group of women who were more anxious for friendship than material things. Mildred Wedemeyer served as regional chairman for Cottey. She gave a strong summary at the Reciprocity Luncheon of why Cottey deserves our support after attending a Seminar there.

BL was assisting hostess chapter for the convention at Janesville. Betty Land had charge of all music for the convention and led the singing. Jean Clausen was chairman of invitations and of the friendship

hour which was held around the pool of the Holiday Inn. Jane Stark was First Aid Chairman; Charlotte King was Properties Chairman. The cost to each hostess chapter was approximately \$100.00.

Virginia Trowbridge, as Organizer, was our inspector that year. Jane Secord served as president of the Reciprocity Board to help celebrate its 25th anniversary. BL singers gave part of the program. Welfare Committee served a delicious dinner at our Christmas party. With each of us paying \$2.00, our treasury was fattened by \$57.00.

The 1963-64 year book had the theme "A BL Medley." Each program had the title of a song. IPS program was strongly reinforced by talks from two Chinese girls, Amiya Shetty and Joy Cheng. We admired their courage to break away from old Chinese traditions and seek an education to carry back to China to benefit others. Guest night found us entertaining our daughters and telling them about Cottey.

In 1964, we had 34 resident and eight non-resident members. Phyllis Mumert and Marjorie Hibner moved away. May Beth Engberg, Jane Rogers, Mary Lou Hogan, and Lenore Benedict were initiated. Diane Halvorson was granted a dimit, and Joyce Bull joined Chapter Eternal.

In 1965, our meeting dates were changed to an afternoon meeting the second Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., and the fourth Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., so more of our members could come. Outstanding travel talks were given by Betty Land on "Thomas Island" and Mary Lou Hogan on "Jamaica." Programs for 1965 were carried out in the "Shakespearean Theme." Mildred Wedemeyer highlighted the first program with "Now spurs the lated traveller space" with life and slides of her family's year in Caracas, Venezuela.

Education Committee, Charlotte King, Lyn Lott and Dorothy Wimberly, enlightened us with "Learning is but an edge unto itself." The Welfare Projects dinner was prepared under the direction of an Austrian AFS student staying with Jean Clausen. The menu consisted of beef roulade, rice with peas, dark bread, hot red cabbage, tossed salad, chocolate glazed torte, and coffee. It netted the treasury \$50.00. The program centered around Austrian Christmas, customs, songs and traditions. Dorothy Leon used candles to exemplify "So hallowed and so gracious is the time." Phil Stark brought us up-to-date on the history and doings of the American Red Cross. 1965 found us with 35 resident and nine non-resident members. Lyn Lott and Shirley Okerstrom joined by dimit, Marjorie Hibner moved to San Antonio, Louise Thompson to La Crosse, and Dora Shenk to Elmhurst, Illinois.

1966 found Jeanette Thomas as hostess for the annual guest night. For the program, Betty Land arranged to have the alumni of Sigma Alpha Iota musical sorority give a delightful parody on "Jack and Jill." Members that year numbered off in groups of four and enjoyed coffee parties, visited antique shops, style shows, art galleries, and shopping all to get better acquainted with each other and cement the bond of friendship between us. Nancy Ragatz was responsible for the educational program by having a student in native dress talk and show slides on "Iceland." Joan Hedlin and Shirley Okerstrom gave the report in an unusual way by showing slides and pictures of everything that went on at the convention at Fond du Lac, in June. Betty Rennebohm, one of our charter members, was honored at a going away party. She moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Take Time for the Future" was the year book theme for 1966. Barbara Oakley, Organizer, showed she approved of the efficiency of our officers and their work by inviting them to put on the model meeting that year at the state convention. It was not accepted for various reasons. The 1966 inventory showed \$243.63 in the treasury and \$150.00 in bonds. Necessary equipment was purchased for officers to carry their parts back and forth to meetings. We had 37 resident and seven non-resident members. We welcomed Sally Fleming and Helen Tower by dimit and initiated Polly Erickson. Polly's husband is basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin and she, herself, is a state champion golfer. We lost Phyllis Mumert to DO at Minnesota. Lenore Benedict was elected to National Pen Women. Polly Erickson was elected to the Governor Knowles Council on Physical Fitness.

Our programs for the year 1966-67 are using the theme "Our Year of Concern" in which hobbies of individual members are highlighted. As I draw this summary to a close, in February, 1967, BL has 39 resident and eight non-resident busy, civic-minded members. The chapter increased its support of PEO projects by 80%, \$35.00 to IPS, \$60.00 to Cottey, \$20.00 to Cottey Library, and \$20.00 to the Educational Fund. May we keep growing in the spirit and worthwhile projects of PEO in the future as we have in the past.

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Historian