

January 1966

Dear Rachel and Sisters in Chapter BL,

A bright new year is here but before we get caught up in activities of the future let us take time to recall what has happened to BL in 1965. Of this we are sure, it was a busy year and we feel the growth in love and friendship of our chapter and individual members as we count the years we have been sisters. In May we will be fourteen years old.

In February, Jeanette Thomas was hostess at our annual Guest Night. Our program was an especially delightful parody on Jack and Jill given by Alumni of Sigma Alpha Iota Musical Sorority. Betty Land was in charge of the program and also participated in it.

During February and March our social committee headed by Jean Rennebohm, had a most enjoyable series of small coffee parties with these same groups following special interests. We went to antique and import shops, style shows, shopping and art studios.

Following our Shakespearean theme, "As You Like It," Mary Alice Farick with "Tis the breathing time of day with me," gave us a physical fitness program. Carol Jockinsen had the chapter laughing with her readings from "The How Book" published in 1900 to carry out the theme, "Nature's above art in that respect." Jean Rennebohm had as her program, "A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse." We heard about the perils and pleasures of horsemanship and enjoyed the modeling of riding clothes. Nancy Ragatz was responsible for an educational program on Iceland and the slides and costume of our guest made this a real treat.

Jo Anne Hedlin and Shirley Okerstrom were our gay representatives to state convention in Fond du Lac in June. At a lovely luncheon meeting at Jane Secord we shared their experiences at a called meeting with colored slides of the highlights.

Jeanette Thomas had a going away coffee for Betty Rennebohm in August. Betty told us of Bill's new job and progress on their new home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We had a large crowd at our BIL potluck dinner at our house. It is, at an occasion such as this, that we realize how much our B I L's enjoy getting together, too. It was with much regret that we said good-bye to the Rennebohms.

During the summer the Yearbook Committee headed by Betty Land, chose the theme, "Taking Time For the Future." Helen Tower gave our first program of the year on Madison's Civic Symphony. This was doubly interesting, since she plays violin in this organization. We had exemplification of the ritual on Oct. 27th and our organizer, Barbara Oakley, visited our Chapter. All seemed to be in good order evidenced by Barbara asking our chapter to give the model meeting at convention in June.

On Nov. 20 all the chapters in Madison had a Reciprocity Tea at the Cats Club for all unaffiliates in Madison. There was a good attendance and an interesting program. Chapter BL was in charge of invitations and transportation.

Our Education Committee enlightened us in November by giving us, "The Immediate Future of Educational Projects." Jo Anne Hedlin lead us in an inspiring lesson in "Looking Ahead Through Bible Study." Our Christmas meeting was started by enjoying a delicious dinner prepared and served by Mildred Wedesmyer and her Welfare Projects Committee in Mary Alice Farick's home. Following our regular meeting, Sally Fleming read a delightful Christmas story. She lead us in the singing of carols accompanied by piano and three violins. The warmth and joy of singing together with such beautiful background music will be a moment hard to replace in our memories.

It was our pleasure to contribute to the PEO projects in the following manner:
Educational Fund, \$10.00; Cottey College, \$25.00; International Peace Scholarships, \$20.00;

Cottey Library, \$10.00; and State Loan Fund, \$10.00. We have \$242.63 cash on hand and \$150.00 in bonds. We are purchasing necessary equipment for carrying officers parts to and from meetings.

We have 37 resident members and 7 non-resident members. It was our pleasure to welcome by demit Sally Fleming from AB, Illinois and Helen Towers AK, Wisconsin. We initiated Polly Erickson in November. Polly's husband is the University basketball coach and she herself a champion golfer. We lost Phyllis Mmert to a brand new Chapter DO, Minnesota. We wish her well and know what an asset she will be to them. Betty Rennebohm, charter member and first president of Chapter BL and one of our most treasured members moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan in August. She has found a chapter there and we wish her much happiness with her new sisters. Marilyn Anderson, who has been living in Plymouth, Wisconsin, for several years, is moving back to Madison soon and we will be so happy to have Marilyn back with us again.

With our members belonging to National Pen Women, writing articles for national and local publications; serving on the Governor's Physical Fitness Board; having charge of World Day of Prayer; bringing Opera to Madison; participating in musical symphonies and productions; heading organizations at the University and church organizations at the local and state levels; helping husbands in their high offices; getting children married -- in all of this we feel we are using our talents and tasting in full measure of the rich rewards of life. Because of our PEO ideals and inspirations, we are meeting challenges and seeking growth. May our chapter and you aspire to making this a better world.

Affectionately in PEO

Ruth Thomas