

L956-7

B.L.

President's Letter

Dear Adelaide and sisters in Chapter B.L.,

It is a pleasant task to recall the happenings in Chapter B.L. since taking office on March 6, 1956. As I think back on all that I needed to learn at that time, I realize that the officers and committees of our chapter have helped me in every way in conducting the affairs of Chapter B.L. My thanks to all of them are heartfelt.

Our membership has undergone the following changes. Joining our chapter by dimit were Ruth Thomas and Diane Halverson, and we have found them wonderful additions to our chapter. We lost charter member Doris Johnston Riemen to Chapter Q, New Jersey, and although sorry to lose her, we were happy that she found a new chapter so quickly.

In May we initiated Betty Saig. It's hard to realize that Betty has been one of us for so short a time. We wore our new robes for the first time and we were so proud of them, and pleased to have them at last.

In December Alicia Dittberner left for New York where her husband has rejoined the Army. We'll miss her at our meetings.

Now that Virginia Mahmquist has accepted our invitation to rejoin our chapter by dimit, she will soon be officially on our roll.

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All these changes mean that our resident active members number 30, with our non-resident members totaling 3. In January we will regret losing little Diane Halverson when she moves to New York. We have felt privileged to have her with us.

In spite of our total membership our attendance has averaged 18.

Jane S econd, Jo Anne Hedlin, and Martha Reynolds all have new youngsters to keep them busy.

Mary Justice, our talented vice-president, and I had a wonderful experience in getting to attend the State Convention in June at Eau Claire. We came back full of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Maryjory Hibner's fine efforts in planning our programs for the year have the theme "To Seek Growth". Our programs have been not only interesting, but also have enabled us to know and appreciate each member's talents.

We have changed our by-laws in order that they might conform with our constitution, and now we have added some standing rules for the first time. Our by-law change involved stating the alternate date of meetings when a meeting would occur on New Year's day. The standing rules regard suggestions for the courtesy committee to follow in carrying out their duties.

We are sincerely concerned with the large number of unaffiliates now in Madison. Even though we

only have 8 of our charter members still with us. I'm sure we all remember that Chapter BL was formed five years ago next May 3rd with a charter list of 13 dimitts and 4 initiates. With a list of at least 24 unaffiliates in Madison we feel that our responsibility is in getting to know them better, and giving them the chance to know us. We have invited Hazel Murphy to join our chapter by dimit. All unaffiliates were invited to our Christmas Bazaar, and 10 were able to attend. We have worked out a plan whereby our vice-president invites at least two unaffiliates to each meeting. Our guest meeting will be Feb. 5.

January with 3 meetings will be a big month for Chapter BL. At our meeting on January 8th we are getting our picture taken by B.I.L. Omar Kussow. This will go into our chapter's record for the State Convention along with all our other history prepared for us by May Harick. May will be giving our history at our Founder's Day program on Jan. 15. Our third January meeting will be our BIL party, another opportunity to get better acquainted with Chapter BL's "Auxiliary".

Our secret sisters have been a source of pleasure and marvel to us all. Our Christmas party yielded many clever and thoughtful remembrances for all of us. We won't find out who our secret sisters are until our last meeting, May 21st. We end our meetings however with our family picnic in June.

Our financial picture remains bright. Our main money-making project, the Christmas Bazaar, netted

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us \$99.65. We have purchased a \$50 bond which gives us a total of \$275 in bonds. We hope to purchase another bond at the end of the P.E.O. year in order to prepare for our financial responsibilities in entertaining and serving on the State Convention when it is our turn. Our budget also calls for contributions to the P.E.O. Home Fund (\$20) and the International Scholarship Fund. As our treasury has a balance as of now of \$208.25, we should be in good financial order.

We are now at the point in our chapter where we have experienced past officers who are not only willing, but able to help us in our meetings. I feel that not only have we "sought growth" in P.E.O. ideals in our chapter, but also we are finding them.

It is my pleasure, Adelaide, to have met you in my own home when you visited Chapter BL as organizer in the Fall of 1953. After he had met you at that time my BIL told me, "I am glad that you belong to P.E.O., too. Mrs. Hatch in her high office shows that it is an organization of culture and refinement.

The love and best wishes of Chanter BL are sent along with mine at the beginning of 1957.

Affectionately in P.E.O.

Elizabeth Morrison Land
(Mrs. James)
(Betty Land)
Jan. 1957