

February 1, 1977

Dear June and Sisters in Chapter B. L.

During the past year as we celebrated our Country's bicentennial birthday we became more appreciative of our roots in America, in Wisconsin, and in P.E.O. These roots were planted deeply in the spirit of working together. To nurture these roots in P.E.O. to further growth the program committee headed by Connie Todd selected as their theme "To Seek Growth Together".

Chapter B.L. did, indeed, grow in the spirit of working together this year. As March approaches, we are busily listing our dependents and assessing our financial worth for Uncle Sam. It is time, also, to give some statistical accounting of our Chapter's year. We can, however, list no dependents. All 49 members are strong, talented individuals, dependable but not dependent. We gained one fine new member, Lois Bauer, daughter of our treasured Hazel Weeden, by demit in November. No demits were granted and no new members were added through initiation this year. Our seven non-resident members, scattered from as far away as Europe and as near as Northern Wisconsin keep in touch through interesting notes. Jean Clausen and her husband Norm visited Mary Alice Rarick in California and Betty Sarig in Arizona this fall. Ruth Thomas, who lives in Belgium, visited Madison briefly this summer.

In June when we gathered for State Convention Report, Florence Nordholm invited the Chapter for a summer luncheon at her home in Stoughton. Later in the summer the aroma of rolls baking in the oven greeted us as we arrived at Jean Clausen's home on the Wisconsin River for a salad luncheon. At our first meeting, after vacation, in October, our wonderful social committee chaired by Mimi Koenig got us off to a grand start with a fun social gathering and luncheon geared to getting to know each other better. What fun!--and they are planning another social event in February. Throughout the year many members shared their talents in programs with Virginia Malmquist and Evelyn Jennings sharing their musical talent in song for all Madison and area P.E.O.'s at the Fall Reciprocity Tea. Bess Weber, our oldest member in age but very young at heart, entertained us in December with readings that left us with a warm chuckle yet a deep respect for the true meaning of Christmas. B.I.L. John Ross, husband of Beth, shared his experience on a mission to Africa for the University of Wisconsin. A lively question and answer period followed, thus we grew in knowledge together.

Together in more than spirit we literally doubled our funds for our P.E.O. projects thanks to the diligent work of last years and this years welfare projects committees headed by Ann Nelson and Sarah Rose respectively. The sum of \$310 was budgeted for P.E.O. projects. In addition, the Chapter voted to give a special gift of \$100 to the "Cottey College 50th Anniversary Fund" making a grand total of \$410 dispersed to the various projects; more than 100% increase. Most successful of our fund raising projects was a silent auction Christmas botique sale, followed by a special shopping project for Sears Store, fun sattelite luncheons and sale of brooms. Bridge and stitch and study groups also provide additional money but more importantly they provide opportunities for strengthening friendships.

Our educational committee was also on the job helping us to seek growth together by reminding us of our educational projects. Jane Stark and Gen Busse made arrangements for us to meet with one of our I.P.S. scholars enrolled at the University of Wisconsin; Mrs. Emma M. Tores of Chili. Some of our members hope to keep in touch with her after February when her husband returns to Chili and she remains until June to complete her advanced degree in food chemistry.

All in all it has been a good year. We think about all of you non-resident members with fond memories and welcome your notes. Seeking growth together we hope has extended to you. No one has felt this spirit more than I since the cooperative, willing, and loving concern of each officer, each committee chairman and each member of Chapter B.L. has made the office of president a joy.

I thank each of you for helping me grow and to you June I can only say, "It's a great Chapter, wonderful friends"

Lovingly in P.E.O.

Martha Reynolds

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1976-1977 - Pres Elect
Chapt. B.L.

*Typed second copy:
by machine print rather light.*