

Sign history 1972 to 1977

In early 1972 Jean Clausen gave her 1971-1972 report - when we numbered 44 active and 5 non-resident members, averaging 25 at a meeting - Sarah Rose came by dimit while Josephine hosman, Naomi Reed and Janet Costello were initiated.

We contributed to Cottey direct and also sent \$200 to the Wisconsin Cottey College Scholarship Fund. Various fund raising projects including the continuing broom and dishcloth sales, paper back book exchange and a Christmas luncheon swelled our coffers.

State officer Edith Churchill with her visit, gave us inspiration as well as commendation for the conduct of our chapter - Lois Dick, another state officer, sang for us, providing a beautiful guest night program. The year's programs, with the theme "Participation Enriches One", were meaningful and informative.

Coffees were held for two brides-to-be. Altogether it was a quiet year with a growing feeling of sisterhood and helpfulness to each other.

1973 - We now have 46 active and 6 non-resident members averaging 27 at a meeting. (We have one daytime and one evening meeting monthly to accommodate all members). At a large guest night early in the year, we were entertained by a group of gospel singers.

Ruth Hirsch was initiated, while Mimi Koenig and Lois Schleuter came by dimit. One member became inactive.

The programs included showing of ceramics and craft items, a by-laws quiz, the seven founders coming alive in clever verse, and unforgettable afternoon of piano magic from Susan Young - Debussy and Chopin - and Betty Land's explanation of her work in Braille writing and teaching.

This year, Connie Todd's energetic Welfare committee added the bridge marathon and Stitch and Study groups as money getters. Contributions to Cottey were enlarged and an additional amount was ear-marked for Continuing Education for Women. We were pleased that the memorial fund of \$150 for Kristine Thomas was used for camping equipment at Cottey. The Social committee headed by Helen Sivertson was most active in adding fun and festive occasions.

1974 - During the previous summer we lost Betty Sarig and Mary Sommons who moved to Arizona, and Isabel Hughes, long on the non-resident list, became inactive. However, we gained Jane Secord's mother, Emma Kresge by dimit. In Madison there is much "coming and going" but we seem to keep the membership on an even keel.

More talented musicians gave programs this year - Virginia Malmquist and Evelyn Jennings - not yet a member - blended their beautiful voices - and Betty Land and Mary Lou Hogan played superb piano duets. Phyllis Norem's

poetry selections for Christmas were beautifully interpreted. Marian Wolfe of the State chapter was a visitor who gave us generous praise and an inspiring message.

Our usual money-raising continued, but Jean Clausen's garage sale, a major effort, netted well over \$100 for the chapter, or 50% of the proceeds. \$150 went for P.E.O. projects - and our newest interest was the Continuing Education for Women program for which Carol Wilson's committee has \$250 and is screening applicants.

1975 - As Florence phrased it, Chapter BL uses its heart and mind to evaluate and carry out our various concerns. We contributed \$165 to our P.E.O. projects, and \$150 was given to a blind girl for her continuing education.

At this time we initiated Evelyn Jennings and Joan Borgwardt and received Donna Hudson by dimit. Joanne Hedlin and Ann Olson moved to St. Paul and Ashland, WI respectively, but we keep in close touch - as with other non-resident members.

Here I must speak of honors that have come to our members. Jean Clausen has for seven years been editor of the magazine "Badger Doctor's Wives" writing also for that and other periodicals. Beth Ross has had several articles published in the Madison papers. Dorothy Leon was a delegate to the National Convention of the American Lutheran Church and Betty Land was given \$1,000 by the First National Bank for use of the volunteer Brailist group. Cathy Barker was president of AAUW and Martha Reynolds served as head of the Madison Civics Club. Jane Rogers, now our Reciprocity representative, was responsible for the new Reciprocity supplement. We were proud to read Mildred Wedemeyer's story "Christmas in Stockholm" in the P.E.O. Record.

For two years we have added \$75 each to our treasury by means of shopping surveys at Sears. Other generous additions have been made to our funds by Hazel Weeden who makes handsome doll clothes, largely for the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital.

This year's programs, with a Wisconsin theme, included the story of Daniel Webster's interests in Dane County, a display of handsome old-fashioned quilts and box social.

1976 - Every year we review our contribution goals and act according to the needs. This year \$165 went to P.E.O. projects. Our membership is 48 active and 7 non-resident. These latter are scattered widely in the U.S. and abroad. Ruth Thomas lives in Belgium and is president of her overseas P.E.O. group.

Two special initiates were daughters, Mariclare Thomas and Paula King, both continuing their education and attending meetings whenever possible. We welcomed Ida Crain as a dimit from Rhinelander, WI.

Betty Land was one of two Madison delegates to Supreme Chapter Convention in Boston. She gave us a fine report, full of humorous comments yet giving

full attention to current changes affecting all P.E.O.'s. Another visit from Lois Dick, as an official of State Chapter, was as friendly and inspirational as we have come to expect.

During this year all of the birthdays have been faithfully remembered with clever handmade gifts by Kristin Roethe showing her love for us though she is unable to attend regularly because of teaching commitments.

Continued
1976 In this bicentennial year we have taken note of our roots, our beginnings in America, and have carried out the theme of seeking growth together. Our growth included another daughter, Lois Bowers, Hazel Weeden's daughter, came by dimit from Lancaster, WI. Thus we have six mother-daughter combinations and eight daughters. That is, as far as we know, a record, at least in Wisconsin. In March Martha Reynolds took over as President in time to welcome Lois into our chapter.

1976 to date is a year of special social gatherings along with our regular meetins as well as summer luncheons with Florence and Jean Clausen.

Growth was evident in the finance department for we increased our contributions about one hundred percent to \$310. In addition, a special gift of \$100 was given to the Cottey College Endowment Fund. \$50 was budgeted for a P.E.O. project in honor of Lois Dick when she takes over the State presidency. All of this was due to the diligence of our recent Welfare Chairmen, Ann Nelson, Jane Stark, and Sarah Rose. A silent auction at Christmas time was the most successful effort. Our IPS scholar, Mrs. Emma Torres from Chile, came to a meeting when she discussed her national customs and her work in food chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. She expects to return to Chile after getting her advance degree in June.

This concluded the 5 year statistical report, which falls short of expressing the unique quality of our sisterhood.

Copy of report sent to Stat Historian
- Karen Solis on April 29, 1977. Report has been
written by Elizabeth Weeden historian for Chapt B.L.
1976-1977 with extremely minor changes by Martha
Reynolds, pres. Chapt B.L. 196-77. It is truly the writing
of our dear "Bess" Weeden.