

Chapter BL
Madison, Wis.
Jan. 20, 1959

Dear Cleo and Sisters in Chapter BL,

As the new year begins and our P.E.O. year ends, it is nice to recall the past year and our pleasures together in P.E.O. We have gained four wonderful sisters--Nancy King, a demit from Chapter CP, Kansas, Marilyn Anderson and Dorothy Leon, two new initiates, and Phyllis Norem, a demit from Chapter DW, Iowa. The only sad part of my letter concerns the four sisters who have moved from Madison. They are Jean Bencriscutto, who moved to Rochester, New York, Barbara Cook to Green Bay, Wisconsin, June Larson to Los Angeles, Cal., and Virginia Malmquist to Clayton, Missouri. We miss all of these girls so much but have enjoyed their letters and know how much they are contributing in their new communities. We have enjoyed hearing from Diana Halverson, Mary Hobba and Alicia Dittberner. Our membership now stands at 32 resident active members and our faithful attendance at meetings shows the close bond between us.

Our theme for the year is "Windows". When this title was suggested one committee member had the interesting title come to her of "Peeping P.E.O.'s" but was voted down and the theme "Windows" remained. Seriously, we have looked through many windows due to the fine efforts of our yearbook committee with Mary Heine as chairman. It has been especially interesting looking through the windows of our husbands professions.

Last May, Helen Thomson invited all Madison P.E.O.s and her Richland Center Chapter to a tea at the Governors Mansion. Our chapter had the responsibility of name tags which were beautifully made by Nancy Ragatz' committee. It was a lovely afternoon and well attended.

The following Saturday was another big P.E.O. event and one in which BL especially can take pride for it was our Betty Land who instigated the chartering of a new chapter in Madison. Due to her efforts we now have Chapter BW. It was an impressive service and it was inspirational to have so many state officers and see the initiation so beautifully done. The new BW officers were installed by Laura Storms Knapp, a past Supreme President. We were very proud of Mary Heine and Betty Rennebohm who provided the music. In spite of a new chapter we still have 28 unaffiliates in Madison and in the near future there will be the chartering of a new afternoon chapter.

Next came convention at Racine and due to family illness I could not attend so Jean Claussen graciously went as first delegate and Jane Secord as second delegate. The convention report by these two was enjoyed by everyone.

Looking ahead convention-wise--Supreme Convention will be held in Milwaukee in September of '59. Many plans are underway for that event now. In June of '62 the State Convention will be held in Madison. In June of '63 Chapter BL will be an assisting hostess for the convention in Janesville.

Our Fall Reciprocity meeting was held at the First Congregational Church and Leone Schroeder was the guest speaker and gave a fine talk on Cottey College.

Our chapters' duty on the Reciprocity Board was Editor this year which meant the compiling of a new Madison P.E.O. Directory. We found there are 273 P.E.O.s in our Madison Chapters and 28 unaffiliates.

I wish you all could have tasted the cookies at our Christmas Cookie party and one would know "the talents we possess" if they could have seen the doll clothes made by our generous Hazel Weeden. Our triple trio has certainly had an active year. We will have sung for 6 events this year. While it takes practice and work our greatest joy is in being together. It was decided that there should be less coffee time and more rehearsal time.

This year we have not had secret sisters but at Jean Clausens's suggestion we have had one member give a complete biography of another member at each meeting. This has been quite revealing and an excellent way to get better acquainted.

Two of our members had little ones this year. Zo Kussow had a daughter and Jeanette Thomas a son.

Jeanette also came to our rescue financially and it was decided to raise dues to 10.00 dollars. The State Chapter added a convention expense of 1.00 dollar so we really are raising local dues only \$1.50. Our chapter also shared in the "double the dollar" campaign for Cottey.

Our chapter was given a white guest book by Betty Rennebohm and now we can say "Be my guest--and sign our book".

We received such a sincere and inspirational letter from Cleo Boernef, our state president, who took as her theme "Concern for others is love in action."

If there is anything nicer than being a P.E.O. it is being an officer and getting to know everyone better. I imagine, Cleo, that you feel quite strongly that "devotion is the measure of your reward."

Our B.I.L. Party will be Sunday evening and promises to be a huge success. Wish you could all be with us.

Lovingly in P.E.O.,

Mary E. Justice