

The Femme Forum

JANUARY 1972
Volume Two - Number Thirty-Three



The
Journal
of
the
Society
of
the
Friends
of
the
Society

JANUARY 1925
Volume Two - Number Thirty-Three



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Yes dears, we finally changed this newsletter to Volume Two. I had wanted to have a volume two long ago, but also wanted a new cover page to go with it. So as you can plainly see we now have a very lovely new cover page, thanks to Louise 32 B-13 who designed it for us. We appreciate your contribution, Louise, and I am sure that all of you will agree that Louise did a beautiful job. The new cover page allows us to avoid printing information on the first page as before and thus adds a measure of security for anyone who might decide to read through the envelope, which is as thick as we can make it. With the addition of the new cover page, perhaps we can ask for other new ideas from you members in the way of new material, articles or special columns. Thanks much girls for your thoughts and considerations.

MESSAGE FROM FRAN 49 C-1

In previous newsletters I have stated that it was becoming impossible for me to continue on as your Executive Secretary due to increasing commitments in my career. Both Virginia and I have searched for over a year for the answer regarding a replacement and about the future of FPE in this country. We are most concerned that the continuity of all the effort by so many people in past years be made available to future members for years to come. We all want to preserve what we now have and build an even better organization as we strive toward the goals for FPE and its members.

I met with Virginia in California in December and a plan was worked out to shift part of my responsibilities back to the West Coast and the appointment of a new Executive Secretary. Our new Executive Secretary will be Donna 5 Y-1 who lives in Los Angeles, California and will be assuming her duties over the coming months. I had the opportunity to meet with Donna and chat about the affairs of the office of the Executive Secretary in December and feel that she will be a most able replacement. Donna has experience in the type of work demanded by the office and is anxious to do a good job for FPE. Donna has been a member of FPE and Alpha for three years and understands the challenge of working with FP's and helping to the best of her ability. I hope that this brief announcement will serve as an introduction of Donna and that each and every one of you will give Donna your full consideration and cooperation.

I should say here that the job of Executive Secretary is not an easy one in that no matter how hard one tries to please everyone, it just cannot be done. However, with an attitude of helpfulness of the part of the membership, a transition can be made and we can move forward as a very worthwhile organization.

Our new Executive Secretary will start by handling the new members and by taking over the Femme Forum. Several members of Alpha have promised to help Donna with the Forum in order to give it some additional appeal, which is badly needed, starting with the March issue. With this in mind, you should all send your contributions for articles and your letters to FPE in Los Angeles the same as before but to the attention of Donna or Executive Secretary. Copies of chapter information will continue to go to Sheila Miles for her column.

I will continue as Secretary for the time being; also as Treasurer in order to get the dues situation in hand. I wouldn't want to pile that difficult task on Donna right off the bat. So in the transition the only major change for now is that you will have a new person handling the new applications and editing the Femme Forum. Thank you for your understanding.

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED

We are starting the new year with a rather large group of new members who have qualified for FPE status. Let's extend a warm welcome to these ladies and with them a very happy New Year.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Area</u>
60	Janice	21 R-4	016
100	Joanne	32 Y-2	109
100	Fredericka	32 R-12	112
142	Sharon	32 M-13	148
210	Lynn	46 S-1	221
330	Susie	9 W-3	320
330	Jean	9 L-5	328
330	Jan	9 M-3	331
440	Shirley	35 D-3	435
480	Frances	22 M-4	482
480	Dawn	22 O-1	482
550	Evelyn	23 K-1	554
600	Dale	13 H-5	606
600	Elle	13 S-9	606
770	Pam	43 O-1	773
850	Geneva	28 M-1	895
900	Fran	5 D-11	900
900	Patricia	5 H-28	900
900	Betty Sue	5 G-13	902
900	Lisa	5 G-12	900
940	Colleen	5 F-10	945
940	Pat	5 O-5	941



<u>Reinstated</u>			
100	Jean	32 R-11	104
440	Ankie	22 V-1	432
600	June	13 M-12	600

"I'll sure be glad when my wig comes back from the beauty shop!"

NEW INTERVIEWER APPOINTED

We have appointed Stephanie 9 L-4 to help Heather 6 D-3 in Region #330. Stephanie will be doing the interviews for the Miami area and Heather will continue with the Eastern and Northern Florida members. Good luck to both of you gals

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all FPE sisters! As founder and President of FPE it becomes my duty to make an important announcement to you all. As was indirectly indicated by Fran in recent issues of the Forum, she has come to the point where the requirements of her own growing business, plus family responsibilities just do not permit the time necessary for her to carry on with her activities as Exec. Secretary of FPE and she is forced to retire from that post.

While all of us in FPE, any myself particularly, owe her a big debt of appreciation are are very regretful of the decision to step down, we cannot in fairness do anything less than accept it and wish her well. Although I founded the organization, it has largely been built by Fran. And when I say Fran, I am

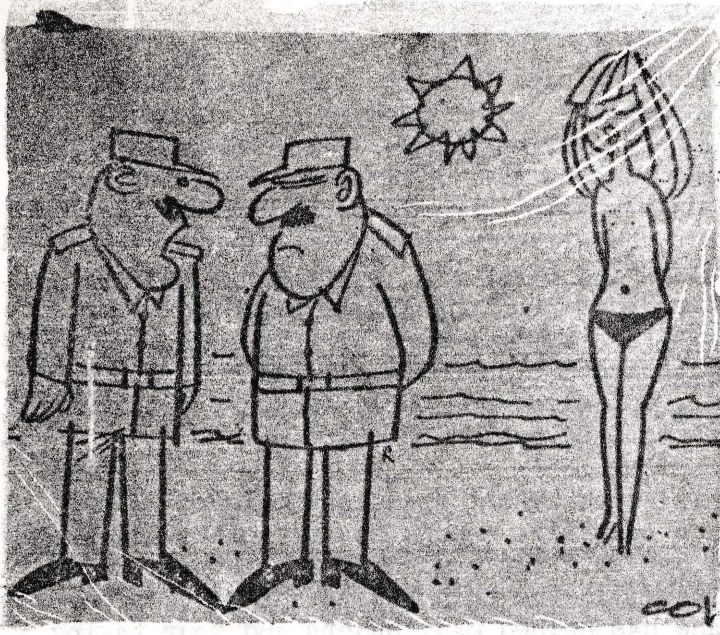
including her loyal, loving and marvelously helpful wife, because she has been right in there all the time helping with mailing, mimeographing and all sorts of other duties. She is an A+ wife if there ever was one. These two really built FPE to what it is today. Naturally someone else will have to take over, but whoever that person might be they could not in the very nature of things have the same dedication and selflessness that Fran has had. Anyone who starts anything and works tirelessly to make something of it and goes through all the birth pangs, frustrations and difficulties that are inherent in new projects of necessity puts more of themselves into it than is ever done by anyone who comes after. I can speak with authority on that score since with all due modesty, the same applies to me. It's relatively easy to follow on a well-broken trail, but it is pretty difficult to stamp out the trail to begin with.

So, with this issue of the Forum and this announcement Fran has resigned as our Executive Secretary. I hope those of you sensitive enough to appreciate all her efforts in the past will write and tell her so. You can send such letters to me for forwarding just as in the past. After all, the only reward she has for her years of effort is the knowledge that she has helped many others and your taking the time to tell her so would be very appropriate.

Where do we go from here? Well, it reverts to Los Angeles. I have asked one of our local girls, Donna 5 Y-1 FPE, a former President of the Alpha Chapter, to take over and help reorganize things. We are going to attempt to simplify the work involved and to make the organization more consonant with the times. This is not to imply in any way that Fran's structure was inadequate or inferior, but simply that (1) taking over a going thing is different than building it in the first place, (2) that as it is much larger and more complicated now we simply will have to simplify things, (3) that the times we live in are much changed from those of ten years ago when FPE was born and we can now afford to update things in certain ways, and (4) that the time of "changing horses" is the best time to change techniques and procedures too where such changes may be desirable.

For example, I think we will change the Forum in a couple of ways. We will try to print it on folded half-sheets instead of the full $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 that Fran used. These were necessary when reproduction was by mimeographing, but we will try to have them done by offset. Thus, it will be about the size of TVia, though naturally not nearly so many pages. In keeping with this change, we would like to ask that each of you submit small items to help make the Forum interesting. By "small items" I mean everything from jokes, short poems, hints and helps in Femme Personation, short articles and commentary and just chatter and gossip-- something on the order of the old Femme Mirror for those of you who remember it. I had to give it up after 45 issues because I just could not keep up with the joint demands of both TVia and the Mirror. But in any case it will be YOUR publication, so please support it. Local chapters are requested that if they publish any sort of newsletter of their own that regular copies be sent to Donna, both to keep her abreast of what is going on elsewhere and to supply bits of material for incorporation in the Forum. If any of you have constructive ideas about the Forum, now is the time to submit them so that we can consider them in the light of the change of editorship.





"It's called an FP; they come down here every winter!"

So that is the way the nylons run, to coin a phrase. This is the last issue of the Forum which Fran will put out. She has collected and recorded all of the annual dues sent in through January and will turn the money and records over to Donna soon. There may be some delays and confusion in affecting the transfer since we will have to set things up from scratch here, while Fran had them nicely organized where she worked. So we solicit your patience, understanding and help. This is not the end, it's merely a new beginning like when we get a new national administration. It's a time for renewed interest participation and help. We have the oldest, the biggest and so far, the only organization dedicated exclusively to heterosexual cross-dressers and we plan to keep it that way.

FPE and myself have both come in for caustic criticism from other groups on the basis of our "exclusiveness" and such other groups consider themselves superior because they open their doors to any male who wears a dress regardless of his reasons, motivations, satisfactions and incidental behavior. Well, that is fine, to each is own, I'm not running down such "open" societies. It is just that such groups would not appeal to me personally either now or ten years ago and thus I created a group which would appeal to me personally on the theory that there were a great number of others "out there" who are pretty much like me in various ways. By this I mean, heterosexual, single and family people with jobs, reputations and responsibilities, etc. This group needs sociability and the sense of belonging but it needs it in a context of security and peace of mind. This is what FPE, Fran and myself have provided in the past and this is the way it will continue in the future. Those who feel no need for such security and peace and who wish to come out in the open and associate with others who have similar non-specific interests are surely free to do so. We do not condemn them nor the groups that operate that way. It's just that FPE was organized to serve one kind of person only and to do it in a context of concern for that persons personal, marital and reputational well-being, and so it shall remain as long as I have anything to do with it. In this connection, may I assure you that the original FPE application forms which Fran has kept in a bank vault will be transferred to me under registry and will be placed in a similar vault here so no one need have any fears for security being continued as in the past.

So, once again, may I express my personal whole-hearted appreciation to Fran for her dedication and accomplishments over the years; I say good-bye to her as our Executive Secretary, but never as a friend; I ask your cooperation, suggestions and contributions to make the change-over easy and effective and to go on from here to continue to build FPE as it has been built by Fran. There are many more "out where you came from" who need the sistership that FPE has to offer just as much as you did. Please do what you can to find them, refer them to TVia, welcome and help them.

Yours for continued growth, personally and organizationally,

Virginia Prince, President

LAST CALL FOR '72 DUES

We would like to express our appreciation for the approximate one-third of you who responded to the dues billing in November. Your attention to this matter is most helpful in establishing a budget for the new year and especially in view of the changes in administration we are experiencing in FPE. Thank you so much ladies. Your 1972 membership card is enclosed in your envelope with this issue and will act as your receipt for payment. As stated in November, this issue and future issues of the Femme Forum will only be sent to those members who have paid their '72 dues. So if you hear any member complain that she hasn't received her January issue of the Forum, please remind her that she has not paid her dues and will be removed from the active list and mailing list until her dues are paid. Thanks again!

LETTERS TO FRAN

I would like to know how much it would cost to get about a dozen pamphlets of "An Introduction to the Subject of Transvestism" - as I would like to pass them around here. I have to keep busy or I get to thinking too much of my wife who passed away last June. I find it lonely to have a family one day and nothing the next. My wife encouraged me to join the Phi Pi Epsilon, so in her memory I will do my best. She knew I would be lonely if she went, that is why she wanted me to join FPE. This club is all I have to keep me going. But enough of my troubles. I would like a few pamphlets to show what the difference is from Thelma and that other side. Thanks again.

Thelma 35 R-6

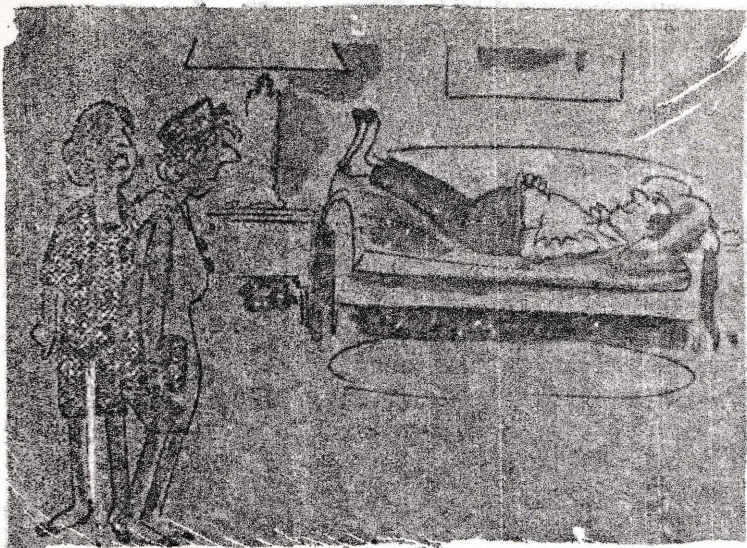
* Dear Thelma, Why not pick some members to correspond with and also try to become active in your chapter? A whole new life can be yours if you work at it. The "Introduction" leaflets are available from Chevalier Publications for 10¢ each.

Fran

Dear Fran,

I have never written to you before, not a word of thanks and appreciation for the wonderful job you and Virginia are doing for all of us. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you have done and are doing. May God watch over you and grant you the strength and help to continue many years. The reason I am writing is because I have just read about Linda 32 K-13 and her problems. She might almost be writing about me for I went through the frustrating times and troubles she is experiencing. I am writing about what I did in these situations, just a few tips for what they are worth. I bought several different kinds of cosmetics, etc. and I have settled on Cover Girl brand of products. They are the best, I believe, and I use them exclusively. I used to be self-conscious when I first started buying make-up of all kinds, but now it doesn't bother me at all. I just go in and purchase what I want, the sales-girl takes my money and sacks my purchases. That is all there is to it. I don't believe the sales people pay much attention. It is just merchandise I have bought. Tell Linda she need not be self-conscious at all to go to the cosmetics counter of her neighborhood super mart or drug store to purchase cosmetics.

Marcia 12 P-1



Dear Fran,

Hate to see you leaving off the wonderful job you have done on the Femme Forum, a truly marvelous piece of work. I have been very active and behind on TV chores. I am doing a three-hour lecture with my social worker at Boston University in November, another at Tufts Medical Center and another at Phillips Center. I will be sitting in on a TS session with Dr. Leo Wollman this weekend and am also scheduled to sit in with Beth

"He just can't relax without wearing pantyhose!" Israel Hospital Sexual Problem Clinic. Am scheduled to go back on TV after the first of the year. That's one hour all by myself. The enclosed article by me appeared a few weeks ago in a Boston newspaper. This newspaper covers the literature and theater and art scenes in Boston. It's not porno. I received 35 inquiries from it, mostly from people just out of their closets... very interesting results. I have referred them to Los Angeles.

Dorothy

SHELLA IN TV-LAND

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you and especial thanks to those who sent me cards. Have faith...by Easter you should have mine. The unopened box sits here beside me - maybe I should give up gracefully and send out Easter cards, saving these for next year! Christmas came and went with no local TV activity. My brother continues to plug along at his "opus" and is now editing the final draft, so we make progress. I'm a better writer than he, so I feel that I have a real, if unsung, stake in it and don't really mind all the hours we've spent. It has reduced correspondence to zero, so this is my public apology to all my patient (I hope) friends. I have enjoyed all your letters and will answer some day.

And now for the news from FP land:

Gamma - Boston had their Christmas party at Eloise's on the 11th with a grab-bag and proper festivities. Their first big party of the Fall at Dot's was a smash. They played charades, talked, ate and generally had fun. They recommend games as a way of getting people up and mixing. Regular get-togethers are also held on Wednesdays in Providence.

Alpha - Plans for their annual Christmas dinner meeting December 11th were made at the November meeting. It is always a gala affair with everyone dressed in her best and they are lucky in finding a motel with an understanding management and facilities which are private and comfortable.

Lambda - Their festive Christmas party, complete with their prettiest dresses and gifts to exchange, was also on December 11th. They meet in a motel, renting two rooms and those who come from afar can arrange to get rooms there too.

Rho - Rho's party was at Jeannette's home in Baltimore with the group turned out in their nicest dresses and some guests from out-of-town to add to the festivities. FPE members in the Washington-Baltimore area who haven't contacted the group are missing a lot of good fellowship.

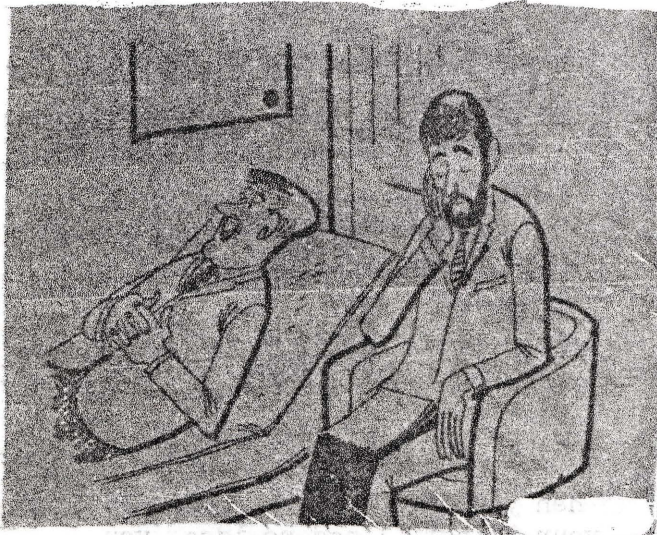
Iota - Janie Frances writes a glowing account of their Halloween festivities. Since Houston is tolerant of dressing on Halloween, the group met at their usual motel and then went out en mass to see the fun. They finally gave up at 3:30, mainly because their feet hurt!

Sigma Phi - The Florida girls had a meeting in October in Orlando with Virginia as special guest. They plan others in a different place each month with one probably in Tampa in November. They have a newsletter which comes out before each meeting and have also developed two forms; one to introduce a new member and the other to use at an evaluation session to rate those girls who request it on dress, poise, personality and suggestions for improvement.

Chi - They are now holding regular meetings in the Chicago area with glowing reports of a Halloween party with wives as special guests and some spectacular costumes. The ten members at the November meeting discussed programs for the Winter meetings. Their Christmas party was planned for December 18th at a motel near the airport.

Tau - Myrtle Ann's meanderings fills in so nicely on the doings in Minneapolis that I feel I know them all well. They had two out-of-state guests at their October meeting - Gerry from North Dakota and Barbara from Wisconsin. Due to conflicts too numerous to resolve, they combined their November meeting with the Christmas party on December 11th. Karen writes in the newsletter nearly a whole page of helpful shopping hints, with names of specific stores where clothes of all kinds can be purchased from understanding sales people and also places for alterations, wigs and electrolysis.

Delta - Delta Diary is in production again and the three issues I've seen have some provocative articles as well as a great idea on making your boy-glasses feminine (put on some Elmer's glue in strategic spots, then sprinkle with glitter, let dry. The glue washes off with warm water when the clock has struck and your outing ends.



Sigma - The Denver girls met at Janice's home in November with five members present and three GG's. Janice and her GG served dinner and then the group talked and elected officers for next year. The December meeting was planned for Elaura's home.

TV ANZ - Our sisters "down under" have 17 girls in the area so far and are making contacts with doctors and community groups much as Dot is doing in Boston, so as to further public education and understanding. They will set up their own separate organization like the Beaumont Society and FPE Northern Europe to better serve their members. Susan in Melbourne is doing the contacting of doctors, etc., and our

"....and I love frilly lace, silk, nylons..."

long-time friend Rosemary is in Sydney. We wish them lots of luck - may they grow as the Beaumont Society has!

That's the news for now. May you all have a happy, happy New Year, particularly Fran as she unwinds from her responsibilities of putting out the Femme Forum and particularly in putting up with correspondents who habitually are barely under the wire for their deadlines. She and her GG have done a fabulous job for which no one can properly thank them.

Sheila 30 B-2

LETTER FROM FRAN 49 C-1

In ending a chapter in ones life many thoughts come to mind. Perhaps the best way for me to close this, my last newsletter, is to share some of these thoughts with you.

One of the most important things that has happened to me is meeting and working with hundreds of FP's throughout the world. In meeting many of you, I found many friends who will continue to be my good friends because we were able to share the joy of something considered unique by most people, but to us it was cherished hours of being "ourselves". Just as important has been the experience of getting to know many members well without ever meeting them in person. It's strange how I have come to feel close to some of our members through occasional letters or perhaps just a note or two from time to time. This relationship was probably built on mutual respect; me for their loyalty and constant support and perhaps for them, for whatever work and contribution I was able to make. I feel that we are all good friends and this is as it should be due to the fact that we all have a common cause, and tried to do whatever we could for each other along the way.

I have seen many people come and sooner or later, go their way. In passing, each one left at least a little bit of themselves, if only in the form of a few words of self-honesty. I believe that this is good and that our organization has served well by providing this vehicle of release for virtual strangers. Many others have come along busting with excitement about their opportunity to meet others and express themselves openly in the groups that have come to be. To watch people withdraw from years of inner conflict and develop into total personalities is really a privileged occasion. For those who have yet to achieve a higher level of maturity, I can only say stick around and keep working; the rewards are worth your efforts.



"When you said you were 'going to do your thing", I had no idea you meant this, Son!"

As an organization, we have experienced many phases of development and gained strength as we progressed. Perhaps we have leveled off a bit in recent months, but new leadership will help to bring new life and further progress to FPE. I feel strongly that the new leadership will have to come from you the members and ask that you rise to meet this challenge. As you well know, it's still your organization, so please make it better than ever before so that my effort and that of many others will prove to be just a beginning for FPE.

I am sorry that my everyday obligations have forced me to drop from the mainstream of activity and responsibility, because I have enjoyed working for you and with you. You have all helped to enrich my life and I hope that my efforts have helped you in some way along the way. I would like to express my appreciation for your support of FPE these past ten years, because this support has been the life-line necessary to continue. I hope that you will continue to support your unique organization and the others who will be working on your behalf.

To each of you I wish you the very best that the good life has to offer. And with this thought: We have indeed traveled a long distance, but let's not stop too long as we reflect, for there is still much ground to cover before we complete our journey. I remain,

Femininely yours,

Fran 49 C-1 FPE



As an organization, we have experienced many phases of development and growth
throughout our history. Perhaps we have leveled off a bit in recent months,
but our leadership will help to bring new life and further progress to WPA. I
feel strongly that the new leadership will have to come from you the members
and ask that you rise to meet this challenge. As you well know, it's still your
organization, so please make it better than ever before to that my effort and
that of many others will prove to be just a beginning for WPA.

I am sorry that my everyday obligations have forced me to drop from the main-
stream of activity and responsibility, because I have enjoyed working for you
and with you. You have all helped to enrich my life and I hope that my efforts
have helped you in some way along the way. I would like to express my apprecia-
tion for your support on this issue and for the support that you have given
the WPA-Ideas necessary to continue. I hope that you will continue to support
your various organizations and the others who will be working on your behalf.

To each of you I wish you the very best that the good life has to offer. I
wish this thought: to have found a long distance, but let's not
too far as we walked for there is still much ground to cover before we can
plate our journey. I remain,

Sincerely yours,

From WPA-C-1 WPA

