

“THE NEAR LOOK AT THE FAR VISION” rev2024Dec

A Canadian fisherman
Was always amazed
How his guide knew his fishing
By only his gaze.

He knew how to portage
From lake to lake
And exactly the right
Inlet he needed to take.

The Indian when asked
“How this talent had risen,”
” use the near look
And the far vision.”

And this long ago
“Our founders did, too”
When starting our sisterhood
For me and for you!

As each of us all
Love reminiscing
Let’s do that right now —
I hope you’re all listening.

Now who would have guessed
That in nineteen-o-four
The world’s Fair in St. Louis
Would start the fund’s core?

Now this is a fact
In an indirect way
When our sisters sponsored
A P.E.O. Day.

Financed by our chapters
The day was a success
And when it was over
They had an excess!

Our lovely sisters
In long skirts and high collars

Donated the excess
Which was destined for scholars.

In nineteen-o-seven
The decision was made
At convention Supreme
To give students aid.

This was the vision
That came from afar
A loan fund would be
A ray for our star.

In nineteen-o-eight
The first loan was let
And because of it
Iowa a new teacher did get!

This the near vision
Its action and pride
Is serving fellow women
Always on their side.

In * _____ years
It's really amazing
Volunteer gifts!!
Our only fund raising!

The requests for loans
"Now vary, we know"
In the early forties
They really got low.

But careful with money
As women will be
We kept the extra invested
And interest did see!

In the late nineteen sixties
Requests flew in again
We raised the amount
To the ladies we'd lend.

It was raised to eighteen
Hundred dollars that is

To help our loan woman
Be an intellectual whiz.

We have always been careful
With the loans that we give
To make sure our women
Still have money to live.

Too large a loan
A burden can be
Each woman must have
An end she can see.

Two per cent interest
Is a thing of the past
But in our loans
It's a thing that can last.

The sponsoring chapter
Not only loans money
It helps with women planning
To keep their lives sunny!

We give all our loans
Regardless of race
"All we really need,"
"Is your bright, smiling face."

We've helped all ages
Of females to know
That we're willing to help
To make their minds grow.

The potential to help
*_____ has in their hands
Tell all friends and neighbors
As you rattle your pans.

Many a loan has been made
Just because
A word has been dropped
In a silence or pause.

We should all advertise
The help we can offer

Tell we are anxious
To dig in our coffer.

Our revolving loan fund
Got bigger and bigger
So for women who need help today
25,000 is the maximum figure.

Our vision is far
and yet it is near.
We want and we should
Keep open our ear.

* Fill blank with number of years since 1907.

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