

**Katie Courage**  
**Chapter BB Savannah, GA**  
**January 17, 2009**

**The premise of using newscasters and some wording for the script came from a program by Chapter AU in Minneapolis, MN. It was changed and expanded by Jacqy Soderberg of Chapter BB. All facts were taken directly from Out of the Heart.**

Narrator: Welcoming remarks. A thank you to Chapter BB Sisters who practiced diligently . . . twice!

The information presented today was excerpted (plagiarized!) from the book OUT OF THE HEART which is located in each chapter's President's Box. Our program is a brief description of the founding of P.E.O with a TWIST! We are going back to the very day and moment of P.E.O.'s founding in 1869 with the modern communication and technology that is available today! Let me adjust the very large, wide screen TV (a stage prompt to open the curtains). We are picking up THE VIEW on screen and a sideline visual and audio of Katie Courage with *Breaking News*.

Katie Courage: Good afternoon, this is Katie Courage reporting for the IPS Broadcasting Co. in New York. We are interrupting this broadcast of THE VIEW to bring you breaking news from Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. We go now to Campbell Brownish, with IPS's affiliate station, BIL in Mt. Pleasant for the latest . . . Campbell - -

Campbell Brownish: Katie, we have learned that today, January 21, 1869 in the music room of this building, Main Hall, here at Iowa Wesleyan College, seven students --all women--have organized a new women's organization which they are calling P.E.O. --- AND all is secret!

Katie Courage: Campbell, I don't mean to interrupt, but what is the REASON and why IOWA? Isn't this a bit, well, -- revolutionary?

Campbell Brownish: Well Katie, many pioneer families were lured to the free lands in this vast prairie. They DIDN'T leave their interest in education or their social graces in the East. In fact, Mt. Pleasant has been promoted as a cultural center and has been referred to as the "Athens of Iowa." These are sturdy people, unafraid of hardships or hard work. They know they can reach for greater things. This campus, in fact has TWO well established buildings on its campus!

Katie Courage: Do you think these seven girls hastily conceived this idea?

Campbell Brownish: No, I think it is a trend that's been in the making; you know, -- with the end of "WAR-RA" in the south, the Feminist Movement, western expansion; plus, their strong beliefs in Christianity and in education. It is really a response to their needs and it IS a revolutionary idea -- a secret society of women.

Katie: Has anyone checked their BACKGROUNDS. . . I mean their parents, grandparents, great grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, twice-removed cousins, friends, former friends, neighbors etc.?

Campbell: Well let me ask these two students walking by what they know? Girls, what are your names and what do you know about these seven young women on campus who just started a secret society?

Lena Olson: Oooh, I can't believe it is Campbell Brownish and the NATION is watching us.

Edla Torgonson: Oooh My Heart Be Still! Campbell Brownish, I am Edla Torgenson. We are both from Dacootah Territory. Lena, I hope da folks back in Dacootah are vatching us.

Lena, YOU tell her first about the gurls. Lena: Vell, I am Lena Ooolson and yew NOOOO, deeze girlz are real gud friendz yew NOOOO. Dey are campus leederz. Ya can't fine nizer gurls and they are soooo relig-jus.

Edla: Yeah, I saw da gurls comin' out of da musak rum. They vas lookin' wery lovely -- like Elpine flowerz bloomin' in da snoow. Dey vere dressed up in gud materials with vide flowing sleeves, clean vite collars and BIG breast pins.

Lena: Yeah. it ain't surprzen dey vas in da musak rum. Da've all participated in muzacal events on dis here campus. But, I tink it must have been crowded for dem in their big hoopz around da table in da corner. I wonder vhy they choose the musak room?

Edla: Oooh Lena, there are only TWO buildings on da campus. Where else would they gooo! I tink it's all a gude ting. Dey fokused on the Bible I am told, and education for wimin. Let's go and find da gurlz and see if we can find out more.

Lena: Yah, maybe dey vill ask us to join? Then WE could become sisters!

Edla: Ooooh offda! Lena: This is sooooo exciting.

Campbell: Thank you girls. That was VERY enlightening. Katie, back to you until I learn more.

Katie: Thank you Campbell. We will take our viewers now back to THE VIEW. Barbara Withers, this is Katie Courage, "What do you think of this secret society we've been reporting?"

Barbara Withers: Their names just come across the AP, Katie. I can tell you they are: Franc Roads, Alice Coffin, Sue Pearson, Mary Allen, Ella Stewart, Hattie Briggs and Alice Bird. I can tell you also these women are symbolic of the kind of families who settled Mt. Pleasant and made it a cultural center in Iowa. It is being reported they are deeply rooted in religion and place a high emphasis on education. Whoozy Goldbark, any thoughts?

Whoozy Goldbark: I like the revolutionary part. I say GO Girls! But . . . does it have to be a secret? There needs to be a little political correctness here. . . it should be open to everyone and there should be NOsecrets. We need to be concerned about everyone's RIGHTS! Hey, Lizzie Hassled, I'm sure you have an opinion. You always do!

Lizzie Hassled: Yes, Whoozy, I DO have an opinion. The report I see describes the girls: Franc-- artistic enough for a painting and full of energy; Alice – like a goddess, stately and dignified; Suela-- lovely as a primrose or a wood violet; Mary—wholesome and gracious; Ella—vivacious and interested in all good works; Hattie—calm, serene and useful; and Alice—sleeves rolled up, and ready to work. They sound like the epitome of women to me. Joy Bayhardehar-har-har, what do you think?

Joy Bayhardehar-har-har: They sound like they've created a unique and joyous experience. I mean, they are women who sound like they THINK. It says here they are recognized leaders on their campus. My question is what are their plans and hopes? Seems a bit vague to me. Can't we find out what their secret is? Come ON girls!

Narrator: And so. . . Four important decisions were made before the meeting ended that day.

- 1) The society was named P.E.O.
- 2) The star was chosen for the emblem as suggested by Alice Coffin
- 3) Alice Bird was designated to prepare a constitution and bring it to the next meeting.
- 4) Mary Allen was set to hostess the next meeting the following Saturday evening, January 23 at her home.

True to their heritage and the destiny toward which they moved, they set their creative powers to work. Hattie Briggs' key statement was: "Let's have a society of our own." Ella Stewart read the first oath to Alice Bird, who in turn read it to each of the other six. Thus, they commemorated their cherished friendship by starting a society with significant goals and emphasis on education. They weaved magic by working together for the advancement of women.

Each founder brought a rare gift to P.E.O. Their abilities might be summarized as follows:

From Mary Allen—P.E.O. gets its poise (Barbara Withers)

From Alice Bird, its literary bent (Whoozy Goldbark)

From Hattie Briggs, its home making tendencies (Lizzie Hassled)

From Alice Coffin, its interest in education (Joy Bayhardehar-har-har)

From Suela Peason, gaiety (Lena Olson) and charming soooooooooociability (Edla Torgenson)

From Franc Roads, its vision and progressiveness (Narrator)

And from Ella Stewart, its desire for social service (Campbell Brownish)

Narrator: "As a haunting bit of melody sometimes runs through a musical composition, so the Christian ethic touches P.E.O. in every phase of its endeavor. Within that Christian ethic, P.E.O.'s found the dynamic purpose of living for others."

All cast: THE REST. . . REMAINS. . . A SECRET!

Applause!

Introduction of cast Lena and Edla: hand out from baskets, scrolls tied in yellow and white ribbon with stars, showing the photographs of the seven founding sisters as taken from OUT OF THE HEART.

Props:

Two microphones to be passed

Two microphones made with wooden spoons and covered in tin foil with IPS card on one and a BIL card on the other.

Long table for The View, table cloth, 4 chairs, 4 coffee mugs that say The View, poster for table with The View logo, two plants for the floor to soften the set.

Podium for the narrator.

Costumes: Whoozy Goldbark – black braided wig with baseball cap on backwards, tennis shoes, sweatshirt

Lizzie Hassled – long blonde wig

Lena and Edla: long skirts (Lena with a hoop), shawls, parasol, boots, detachable collar, pearls, Edla with large chest and big breast pins (knee socks stuffed into a 40 D bra), old leather notebooks, old fashioned purses.