

We're 100 Years Old

Skit by Becky Arnett

CHARACTERS: Susie* enters wearing a hat, carrying luggage, stuffed shopping bag, shoulder bag, Mosaic magazine, "Facets of a Diamond" (history of Illinois WMU), egg carton and other memorabilia.

Peg* meets her from the other direction.

Peg: Hey, (Susie), where in the world are you going with all that stuff?

Susie: Haven't you heard? The first weekend in May, I'm going to Marion to the WMU convention!

Peg: Nothing like getting prepared ahead of time, right? So is there anything special about that meeting?

Susie: Oh, my goodness yes! It is our centennial celebration!! We're 100 years old. Women were involved in missions long before we were organized, but in 1908 Baptist women in Illinois united with an intentional purpose of missions education and involvement.

Peg: Then there is a lot to celebrate. I wonder what will be happening at the convention?

Susie: Well now, you never know what all will happen when women get together, but I've heard some "grown-up-in-Illinois" missionaries will be there. I am looking forward to that, but also to seeing some **OLD** friends from camp staff and mission trips that I have been on.

Peg: (Susie), OLD? OLD? It isn't nice to call people OLD—Are you really admitting you are OLD??

Susie: Well it has been a good many years since I was on the GA and Acteen camp staff. I remember putting wood under the cabin to keep it dry for the cookout (and secretly hoping it would be rained out altogether). Those lakeside candlelight ceremonies and standing around the campfire singing 'Sallateeska How we Love Thee' were special times. At the time I didn't relish sitting on the ground during meditation time, but I did grow as a Christian during those times. I met so many people there; I remember meeting a real-live-missionary for the first time. The friendships made there are priceless.

Peg: What wonderful memories!! In fact, I am sure lots of the women here have many memories of their experiences in WMU through the years. Maybe someone

who influenced them toward getting involved, special times they had on mission trips. Experiences they had as a Sunbeam or GA. Meetings they attended. Missionaries they met. Or just knowing someone who has been a consistent example of faithfulness through the organization.

Susie: And, (Peggy), they can share those memories with others. The theme for the centennial is "Weave a Story". EVERYONE has a story to tell. It's amazing how those stories have interwoven to add to our WMU history. In fact, each one of us should write down some of those memories and turn them in so we can send them to the state office. Excerpts from these little sketches will be shared with others in the months to come.

Peg: That sounds like a good idea. (Susie), I can't help but notice what you are carrying. WHY the egg carton??

Susie: Don't you remember that story about our ancestors? Sale of eggs was the only income most of those women had. In 1910 they were encouraged to send their egg money to support the organization and the spreading of missions through the state. And they did it!! In fact, one husband complained that the hens laid more eggs on Sunday than any other day of the week. I'm saving money in my egg carton to continue that tradition. The money will be given to "Touch Tomorrow Today" at the national WMU Foundation. Our goal is \$100,000 by our 100th anniversary.

Peg: Well, sounds like it will be an exciting year for us. I think I will register for that meeting, too. But is the HAT really a requirement?

Susie: It was at one time in our history and believe me, it was important to have a new one each year. But no, the only requirement for participation is a grateful heart for our WMU history and an expectation of greater things to come.

(As they exit)

Peg: I can hardly wait. Where's the registration form??

**Substitute actual names of presenters*