



Sunday,
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Currents

Review: LeBron makes sure
ex-teammates share the spotlight

TRAVEL, PAGE E7

Essential tips for your next flight

THE SIDEBAR

TV2Nite

"The Simpsons"
7 p.m. on FOX

Season 21 opener: Homer gets the lead in a movie about a superhero who can take on the powers of any comic book he touches. To whip Homer into superhero shape, the studio hires a celebrity fitness trainer (Seth Rogen does voice).



On this day ...

1954 — The "Tonight!" show made its debut on NBC-TV with Steve Allen as host.
1983 — Larry Bird signed a seven-year contract with the Boston Celtics worth \$15 million. The contract made him the highest paid Celtic in history.
1994 — More than 350 Republican congressional candidates signed the Contract with America. It was a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.
1995 — The U.S. government unveiled the redesigned \$100 bill. The bill featured a larger, off-center portrait of Benjamin Franklin.
1998 — Mark McGwire (St. Louis Cardinals) set a major league baseball record when he hit his 70th home run of the season.
2001 — In Zug, Switzerland, an armed man killed 14 people and himself after entering the local parliament.
2004 — North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Su Hon announced that North Korea had turned plutonium from 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods into nuclear weapons.



Larry Bird

Born today

- Director Arthur Penn is 87.
- Actor Wilford Brimley is 75.
- Producer Don Cornelius ("Soul Train") is 73.
- Singer-guitarist Randy Bachman of Bachman-Turner Overdrive is 66.
- Singer-actor Meat Loaf is 62.
- Actress Liz Torres is 62.
- Actor A Martinez ("LA Law," "Santa Barbara") is 61.
- Singer-actor-director Shaun Cassidy is 51.
- Actress Gwyneth Paltrow is 37.
- Rapper Lil' Wayne is 27.
- Singer Avril Lavigne is 25.



Gwyneth Paltrow

— Free Press Staff and news services

Betsy's back!

Harper Collins re-releases six favorite Betsy-Tacy titles

By Sara Gilbert Frederick
Special to The Free Press

'Black Angels' back, too

The timing, Julie Schrader says, is entirely coincidental. The Betsy-Tacy Society started planning for the re-release of "The Black Angels," Maud Hart Lovelace's first published novel which has been out of print for several years, long before they were aware of Harper Perennial's release of six Betsy-Tacy titles.

But there are certainly benefits to pairing the releases this fall, says Schrader, the executive director of the Betsy-Tacy Society.

"I think it definitely helps," Schrader said. "We can tag on to the publicity for the Betsy-Tacy release, which will be good for us."

Lovelace wrote "The Black Angels" in 1924. The story is based on a family legend about her uncle, Frank, who had run away from home to join a touring opera group. Like her later Betsy-Tacy books, it is also set in and around Mankato — which she calls Cloudman in the book.

"It's a local story based on real people and real places," Schrader said. "There are many people who probably haven't even heard of it, because it hasn't been mentioned since I don't know when. But we think there are people around here who will be interested in it."

"Black Angels" was first published in 1926 by the John Day Company of New York. On Oct. 17, it will be re-released in a limited edition of 2,000, published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing and the Betsy-Tacy Society.

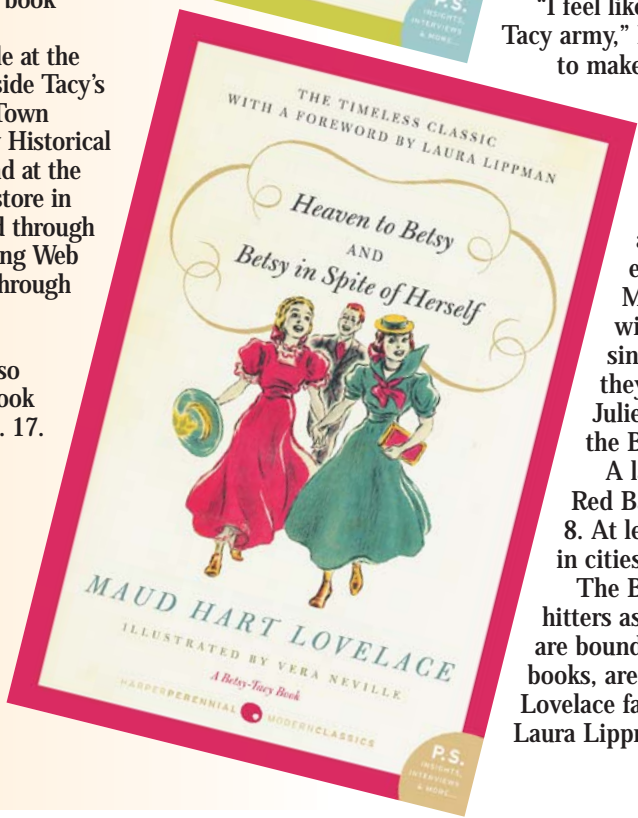
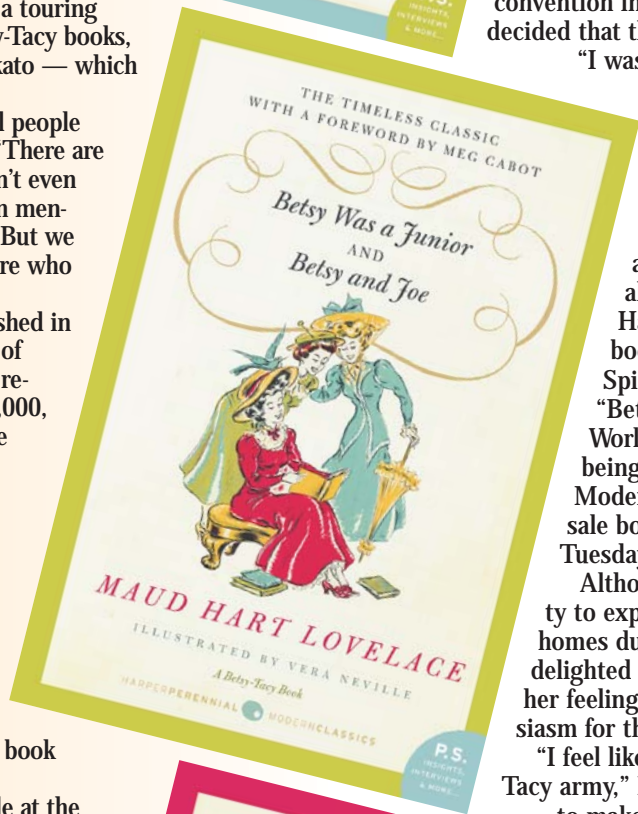
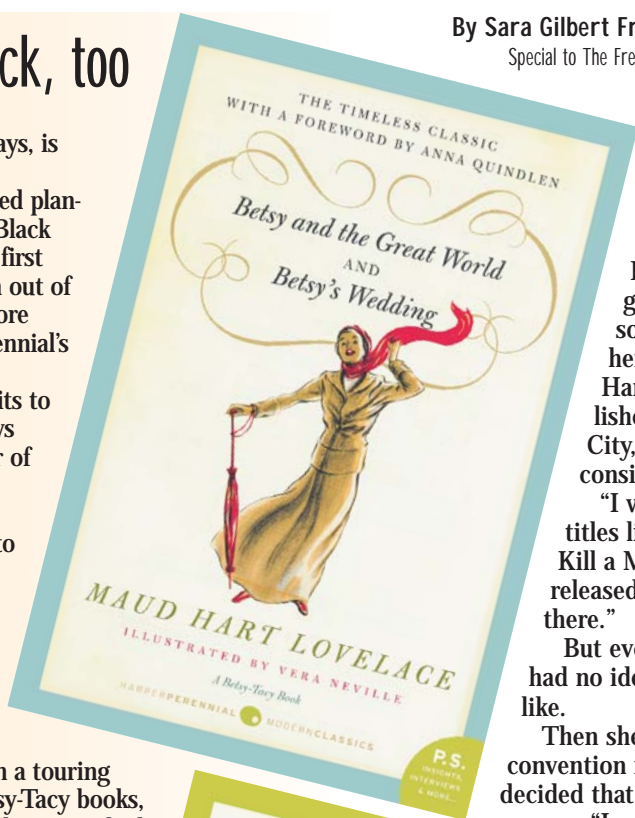
Schrader had hoped to have "The Black Angels" printed and ready to sell at the Betsy-Tacy Society's convention this summer. Although that didn't happen, she did promote the book there and received a lot of positive feedback from Lovelace fans, many of whom ordered the book in advance.

"Black Angels" will be available at the Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop, located inside Tacy's house at 332 Center St., at Old Town Antiques and Blue Earth County Historical Society Gift Shop in Mankato and at the Minnesota History Center bookstore in St. Paul. It can also be purchased through the Minnesota Heritage Publishing Web site (www.mnheritage.com) or through the Betsy-Tacy Society Web site (www.betsy-tacysociety.org).

The Betsy-Tacy Society has also planned a release party for the book at Tacy's House at 1 p.m. on Oct. 17. Re-enactors will be on hand to recreate the scene on the book cover, Schrader said, and local singers will be performing some of the music mentioned as well.

The party will also include a campfire, in which the society will burn the mortgage to Betsy's house, which was purchased in 2001 and paid off earlier this year.

— Sara Gilbert Frederick



Jennifer Hart was a little worried that Mankato wouldn't live up to her Deep Valley expectations.

Hart read all of Maud Hart Lovelace's Betsy-Tacy books as a young girl growing up on the East Coast. She so loved the series that when it came to her attention that they were out of print, Hart, a vice president and assistant publisher with Harper Perennial in New York City, suggested that her publishing house consider re-releasing some of them.

"I wanted to put these books alongside titles like 'A Tree Grows in Brooklyn' and 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' which have also been re-released," Hart said. "They deserve a place there."

But even as she spearheaded that project, she had no idea what Deep Valley actually looked like.

Then she heard about the Betsy-Tacy Society's convention in Mankato this summer. And she decided that the time was right for a trip.

"I was nervous that it wouldn't fit with the mental image I had," Hart admitted. "I had overly prepared myself for it to not look anything like I expected it to, but I was pleasantly surprised when I got there."

Many of the approximately 200 attendees at that conference were also pleasantly surprised by the news Hart shared with them: Six Betsy-Tacy books — "Heaven to Betsy," "Betsy in Spite of Herself," "Betsy was a Junior," "Betsy and Joe," "Betsy and the Great World" and "Betsy's Wedding" — are being re-released by Harper Perennial Modern Classics and will be available for sale both locally and nationwide starting Tuesday.

Although Hart appreciated the opportunity to explore one of her favorite author's homes during the convention, she was also delighted to meet so many people who share her feelings about the books — and her enthusiasm for the re-release.

"I feel like I was able to meet an entire Betsy-Tacy army," Hart said. "We can all work together to make things happen."

Hart and Harper Perennial are relying heavily on that army to help promote the new books.

Fans are hosting "Betsy-Tacy Parties" at homes and bookstores around the country — including an event at the Betsy-Tacy houses in Mankato at 1 p.m. Saturday. The party will include re-enactors in costume singing songs around the piano just as they did in the Betsy-Tacy books, said Julie Schrader, the executive director of the Betsy-Tacy Society.

A launch party is also planned at the Red Balloon Bookstore in St. Paul on Nov. 8. At least seven other events are scheduled in cities in California, New York and Texas.

The Betsy-Tacy army includes some heavy-hitters as well. The re-released titles, which are bound together into a series of three books, are endorsed with forewords by famous Lovelace fans: Anna Quindlen, Meg Cabot and Laura Lippman.

Please see BETSY-TACY, Page E3

Only a couple degrees of separation to 'The Informant!'

An odd movie based on one of the largest price-fixing schemes at one of the world's biggest companies has ties to one of Mankato's most prominent names — the Andreas family.

"The Informant!," starring Matt Damon, is a dark comedy getting mixed reviews as it opens in theaters.

Damon plays Mark Whitacre, a former executive of Archer Daniels Midland, who in 1992 told the FBI that he and other ADM executives routinely met with competitors to fix the price of lysine, a food additive.

The plot of the movie centers on the bizarre actions of Whitacre, who was bipolar and sunk deeper into delusion during his undercover work.

At the helm of ADM at the time was Dwayne Andreas, who along with his brother, Lowell, got their business start in Mankato. Together, they would

turn the small, regional ADM business into one of the world's largest corporations with sales of \$70 billion last year.

While Dwayne never returned to Mankato, Lowell returned here in 1972, where he lived until his death last spring.

And while Dwayne's legacy was marred by the price-fixing scandal, Lowell and his wife, Nadine, who died in 2005, left a rich local legacy, donating millions of dollars to universities, the arts and most visibly, the new Andreas Cancer Center at the ISJ Hospital campus.

In 1947 the Andreas brothers, natives of Iowa, bought a little soybean processing plant on the banks of the Blue Earth River in Mankato, renaming it Honeymead (now owned by CHS).

After growing Honeymead into a major soybean oil crushing plant, they sold it in the 1960s

and started National City Bank in Minneapolis.

They soon joined ADM and purchased a large block of its stock. Lowell became president.

The brothers moved the ADM headquarters from Minneapolis to Decatur, Ill.

Lowell was president just a few years, retiring from ADM at age 50. He stayed on the company's board and maintained an office at ADM's Mankato soybean processing plant, coming to the office every day until shortly before his death.

(Between the CHS and ADM plants, Mankato is the largest soybean oil processing city in North America.)

In the meantime, Dwayne led ADM for 25 years until retiring in 1999.

But Dwayne's dreams of passing the company's leadership onto his son, Michael, were shattered when Whitacre blew the whistle on the price-fixing scheme.

According to the book that the movie is based on, Whitacre



Matt Damon stars as Mark Whitacre in the offbeat comedy "The Informant!," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

The Associated Press

became extremely manic while working undercover: He stopped sleeping most nights and was seen using a gas leaf blower on his driveway during a thunderstorm at 3 o'clock in the morning.

As the FBI, armed with hundreds of hours of audio and video evidence, were preparing to indict ADM officials, the story got stranger. Whitacre had embezzled \$9 million from ADM over the three years he was an undercover informant.

In the end, Whitacre, Michael Andreas and another executive were convicted and sent to prison for three years for price-fixing and other crimes.

ADM paid the largest civil fine in history — \$100 million — as well as hundreds of millions to settle lawsuits filed by customers.

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