

BETSY-TACY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER #1

The Betsy-Tacy Society will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 13, 1990, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Doris Berger, 139 Clark / E. Pleasant, Mankato, Minnesota.

Step back in time with Betsy and Tacy and visit Deep Valley at the turn of the century. The Betsy-Tacy Society will sponsor a Golden Anniversary Celebration of the publication of Betsy-Tacy, the first in the series. The Society will hold an old-time ice cream social from 2:00 - 4:00 pm on Sunday, August 26, 1990 at Lincoln Park in the heart of Betsy-Tacy territory. We will have entertainment, give tours, and play games of the era. We encourage you to wear costumes. So dress for the good old summertime and join us for an afternoon of old fashioned fun.

The August showcase in the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing of the Minnesota Valley Library features Maud Hart memorabilia, photos, drawings, and writings. Please check it out. The Betsy-Tacy Society is trying to collect old pictures of homes and places featured in the books, the Lincoln Park area, 5th Street, Downtown Mankato, and Madison Lake. If you have any pre-1918 photos you think might be of interest, contact Doris Berger at 388-7549.

Coming Soon: The Betsy-Tacy Companion by Sharla Scanell Whalen. This is an in-depth review of the Betsy-Tacy series covering characters, events, with many pictures and much more.

FIRST FUNCTION OF BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

April 25, 1990 was the first READ BESIDE THE ROCK event sponsored by the Minnesota Valley Regional Library. This was the 13th Anniversary of when the library first opened for patrons, on Maud Hart Lovelace's Birthday in 1977.

Molly Buckmeister, Kristin Statham, Angela Roden, and Katie Statham represented the Betsy-Tacy Society. The girls each read chapters from the Betsy-Tacy books. The selections were: "Betsy meets Tacy," "Birthday Party," "First Day of School," and "The New Library."

Shirley Lieske also read selections from a book of poetry written by Maud Hart Lovelace.

MANKATO AREA TOURISM SHOWCASE - 1990

On May 15, The Betsy-Tacy Society had a booth at the first showcase to show the importance of tourism in this area. Shirley Lieske set up the slide and tape show. Shirley and Joan Landas set up other items of interest on our table. Joan, Kathryn Hanson, and Lona Falenczykowski manned the booth from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and told visitors about our new organization.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The red silk tulips bought by the Betsy-Tacy Memorial Bench Committee and placed them on Maud Hart Lovelace's grave on her Birthday and Memorial Day in 1989, and again for Memorial Day in 1990.

WE WERE THERE!

Betsy-Tacy Society members celebrated the rededication of Lincoln Park on June 30, 1990. Children and adults came dressed in Betsy-Tacy era costumes. Members gave tours of houses mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy books.

FORERUNNERS

For many years, Maud Hart Lovelace fans have recognized the value to the Mankato community from being the "Deep Valley" of the Betsy-Tacy Series of books. We have planned and enjoyed many events to show appreciation and interest. If anyone would like to add to the list, we would appreciate hearing from them. The ones we remember are:

"OTAKNEM" YEARBOOK	1953	Mankato High School	MEMORIES & MELODIES	1986	Ad Hoc Committee
BETSY-TACY DAY	1961	AAUW	VIDEO: "TELL ME ABOUT BETSY, MAMA"	1988	Kathleen Dorn, Carlienne Frisch, & City of Mankato
DEDICATION OF "MAUD HART LOVELACE WING"	MVRL 1977	Ad Hoc Committee	BETSY-TACY MEMORIAL BENCH	1989	Mankato Camp Fire & Women of Today
BETSY-TACY FESTIVAL	1980	Friends of the Library and Sweet Adelines	BETSY, TACY & TIB BALLET	1989	Mankato Ballet
BETSY-TACY VOLKSMARCH	1985	Riverbend Striders			

The goals of the newly-founded Betsy-Tacy Society are:

1. to meet on a regular basis.
2. to become more aware of Maud Hart Lovelace and the Betsy-Tacy series.
3. to learn more about Mankato's history.
4. to hold workshops for all ages based on MHL's writing.
5. to find volunteers to help visitors and tourists see sites mentioned in the MHL books.
6. to promote the publication of some of the MHL books that are out of print.
7. to plan membership drives and fund-raising events.
8. to provide plaques for the houses and places that figured in the stories.
9. to have an annual Betsy-Tacy celebration.

Long-Range Objectives

1. To commemorate Maud Hart Lovelace's 100th birthday in 1992. We want to hold a convention for Betsy-Tacy fans featuring work shops, cuisine of the era, history of the area, costumes and crafts.
2. To purchase a house to use as a visitor center, gift shop, and a place from which to conduct tours.

Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____

Street City State Zip

Membership Levels

_____ Patron \$25.00 & up _____ Family \$10.00
 _____ Individual \$5.00 _____ Student \$2.00

Please send your membership form and your check to: Shirley Lieske, 214 4th St. S., Mankato, MN 56001.
 If you are already a member, pass this membership form along to a friend.

Betsy-Tacy Society
 139 Clark/E. Pleasant
 Mankato, MN 56001