



BETSY-TACY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER #2



OUR NEXT EVENT - "FOR THE LOVE OF BETSY!"

Mark the afternoon of Saturday, February 16, 1991 on your calendars and join us at the Hubbard House, Blue Earth County Historical Society, 606 South Broad Street, Mankato, Minnesota, 56001 for an afternoon of Betsy-Tacy activities. "For the Love of Betsy" will include vignettes, a slide show, a paper doll exhibit, speaker, Carlianne Frish, crafts, entertainment and refreshments. If you have any ideas for crafts or would like to help at this event, please call Jane Kolars at the Heritage Center 507-345-5566, or Kelly Rueter at 624-3119, or Lona Falen at 345-8103.

HELP SAVE BETSY AND TACY FROM EXTINCTION!

Word has come from Merian Lovelace Kirchner that the situation is now critical at Harper and Row. Betsy-Tacy hardcover books are now going out of print one right after the other. It is time for us to start a letter-writing campaign to save these treasures for ourselves and generations to come. Some books that have gone out of print are not even available in paperback. Anyone wishing to complete your set in hardcover should attempt to do it now since it is becoming difficult to impossible to obtain some titles. We are asking everyone to write to Harper & Row. Tell them in your own words how much you love the books, how important it is to keep them in print and easily available, and how many friends you have that feel this way. Mention your personal concerns such as a specific title you cannot find. You could ask that Harper & Row print all the books in paperback so that they are available in at least some form, affordable to everyone. The address to write to them is: Harper & Row, 10 E. 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022

BETSY-TACY EXCHANGE

If anyone has extra copies of the hardcover Lovelace books that you would be willing to sell or trade, please let me know and I will write up a little "Exchange" section in future newsletters. Maybe we can all work together to help each other complete our sets. Kelly Reuter, Box 31, Anboy, MN 56010 (507-674-3119)

ATTENTION ALL AREA SCHOOLS

If you wish to promote Betsy-Tacy books and reading among your students, you may want to spark their interest with a program on Maud featuring the video "Tell Me About Betsy, Mama." The video depicts a grown Maud telling her daughter, Merian, stories that eventually became the Betsy-Tacy books. Local children act out scenes from the books. This video is available through the Minnesota Valley Regional Library. You are permitted to make a copy for your school library.

MAUD'S "LAST STORY"

A few years before Maud passed away, she wrote her last story for the people of the Deep Valley area for printing in the Mankato Free Press. She told the real story of how Betsy and Tacy grew up and finally went to see the Great World together, including the King of Spain. Ken Berg, former Mankato Free Press editor, and the Betsy Tacy Society have made this story available to everyone for your collection. You can purchase copies through the Society for \$2.00 each.

THE LITTLE GLASS PITCHER

Have you ever wished you could see that precious glass pitcher with the gold rim that Tacy gave Betsy for her fifth birthday? Since this was the day that "started it all," the glass pitcher is one of the most important Betsy-Tacy artifacts. A huge "thank you!" goes out to Merian Lovelace Kirchner for giving us all the opportunity to see that very pitcher. It is now in a place of honor in the Betsy-Tacy showcase in the Lovelace wing of the Mankato library.

MEMBERSHIP WINNER

Jenni Barrie was the winner of the membership from the Bend in the River drawing for 1990. Congratulations and welcome Jenni!

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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.

DREE-EEE-EAMING

Maud Hart Lovelace's birthplace, the house at 214 Center Street, is now on the market, asking price \$29,000. It has been the dream of the Betsy-Tacy Society to have this house as a centerpiece for Betsy-Tacy pilgrimages. The house is in the center of the historic Lincoln Park neighborhood and would be the perfect place for a Betsy-Tacy museum, gift shop, and tourist center. The Society has agreed that we need to preserve this home as Maud's birthplace and use it to further promote her writings. Anyone with any ideas should please contact the Society while the house is still available.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We presently have 92 members in the various Betsy-Tacy membership categories. We have sold 15 copies of "Maud's Last Story." We spent \$28.79 on the Betsy-Tacy ice cream social. We have spent \$71.60 on newsletters. Our balance at this time is \$589.80.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BETSY-TACY

On the very hot and humid Sunday afternoon of August 26, 1990, the Betsy-Tacy Society celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the publication of Betsy-Tacy. Some members wore costumes as we met in Lincoln Park, one of Betsy and Tacy's favorite haunts. The program included reminiscences by Kelly Reuter, a short talk by Ken Berg, and music by Linda Karow and her daughter Kelly who accompanied her on the violin. A special guest, Barbara Carter, brought us the words and led us in singing some of the most fondly-remembered songs from the books. Refreshments followed consisting of lemonade, ice cream, and vanilla wafers. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to tour Betsy's (Maud's) birthplace at 214 Center.

BETSY-TACY SOCIETY MEETINGS

The last two Betsy-Tacy Society meetings have been real treats for Betsy-Tacy fans. Susan Duane spoke at our October 15, 1990 meeting. Although she is a lot younger than the characters from the stories, she shared many memories of the neighborhood in the bygone days. Guests Ruth Schellberg and Eleanor Kudrle also added many interesting comments during the program.

The Betsy-Tacy Society met on Tuesday, December 4, 1990 at the library. Our special guest was Jean Lander who is the niece of Mildred Oleson Cahill (Irma). She shared many stories of her aunt, grandparents, and family. She brought some wonderful pictures of Irma's house and family. Her descriptions of the home were especially interesting as we have read about parties and progressive dinners that Betsy attended there. She talked about spending time in her Aunt Louise's house (previously, Maud's High Street house). We look forward to pictures of the home in former days.

Special thanks to Shirley Liske for answering all the Betsy-Tacy correspondence.

Sharla Whalen reports that publication of the Betsy-Tacy Companion is getting closer. We are all looking forward to reading about Betsy/Maud and all her family and friends. We also eagerly await a look at the photos that will tell us if we really pictured everything just right as we read the books. "Happiest Wishes" to Sharla and family on her continuing endeavor.

Merry Christmas to all and don't forget to go on that shopping trip for a special ornament. Remember "nothing is so much like Christmas as a Christmas tree ornament. It is like holding Christmas in your hands." (from Downtown).



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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