

## BETSY-TACY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER #3

The Betsy-Tacy Society will have a business meeting on Monday, March 18, 1991 at 8:00 p. m. at the North Mankato Library.

### COME CELEBRATE MAUD'S 99th BIRTHDAY

Mike Miller of Action Reality in Mankato has generously opened his house to the Betsy-Tacy Society for Maud's 99th Birthday celebration. We will serve cake and ice cream on Saturday, April 27, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p. m. The Betsy-Tacy Society will provide maps for people who want to visit sites mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy books. You can purchase Maud's last story, Betsy-Tacy paper dolls, and the Betsy-Tacy stuffed dolls at this event. Please RSVP to Doris Berger at (507) 388-7549.

### "FOR THE LOVE OF BETSY"

Betsy-Tacy fans had a special Valentine treat on Saturday, February 16 when they attended "For the Love of Betsy" at the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Hubbard House. The house is now in its beginning stages of restoration to its glory days as one of Mankato's Victorian showpiece homes. Everyone was greeted in the entrance by a costumed guide who told a little background information about Maud and the beginnings of the Betsy-Tacy books. Visitors were then ushered into the downstairs bedroom/sitting room where Maud (portrayed by Susan Chambers) told her daughter Merian (portrayed by Susan's daughter Christina) stories of her childhood. She also related adventures of her girlhood friends and told some history of her beloved Deep Valley.

Guests then stepped back into the time of Betsy when they entered the kitchen to witness the actual preparation of "Everything Pudding." Gathered around the old-fashioned stove were Betsy (Shelby Reuter), Tacy (Kathy Hunter), and Tib (Amber Pettis). The girls eagerly added ingredient after ingredient which they found in an old cupboard or on the shelves around the kitchen. After singing the "Everything Pudding" song and actually tasting their concoction, it was put out for Lady Jane Gray.

Guests then journeyed upstairs to Betsy's room for a trip down "The Winding Hall of Fate." Betsy (Kelly Reuter) was seated at her trunk/desk beginning the journal of her sophomore year. She told about her friends in the crowd and their personalities, and also daydreamed about what might lie ahead in this new school year.

After the vignettes, guests could wander the Hubbard House enjoying various displays and activities. A display of "Paper Dolls Cut Through the Years" was a nostalgic look at Betsy and Tacy's favorite playthings in one of the upstairs bedrooms. In the servants quarters, guests were invited to relax and view the video "Tell Me About Betsy, Mama" while the Betsy wedding doll looked on. Downstairs in the dining room, volunteers served refreshments of muffins, fudge, and lemonade (typical Betsy-Tacy fare).

The Betsy-Tacy Society greeted everyone in the front parlor and invited them to become members. They gave each person a complimentary sheet of paper dolls to color and cut. Many of the little girls visiting that day enjoyed doing this activity right on the spot. The Betsy-Tacy Society also had available for sale the new Betsy-Tacy paper doll booklets to color and cut along with the new hand-made Betsy and Tacy dolls. The Betsy/Maud slide show from the library was also there for viewing. Betsy-Tacy newsletters and goals were available in the gift shop along with Betsy-Tacy souvenirs and books. Carlienne Frisch autographed copies of her Betsy-Tacy booklet, Betsy Tacy in Deep Valley, People and Places.

Tickets for the event were sold out ahead of time making for a very successful Betsy-Tacy Day. Proceeds from the sale of tickets went to the Blue Earth County Historical Society. The Blue Earth County Historical Society and the Betsy-Tacy Society wish to thank everyone involved for making this a very special event.

### PLANNING THE 1992 BETSY-TACY CONVENTION

Plans are in the works for the Betsy-Tacy Convention of 1992 celebrating Maud's 100th Birthday. It will be held during the summer and the Betsy-Tacy Society is planning many exciting events and surprises. We tentatively plan to hold this convention the last weekend of June, 1992. If you are interested in clothing of the era, food, crafts, or have any ideas for programs and seminars, or workshops, please contact Kelly Reuter, Box 31, Amboy, MN 56010 (507) 674-0189 or Betsy Tacy Society, P.O. Box 60567 (708) 983-9441.

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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

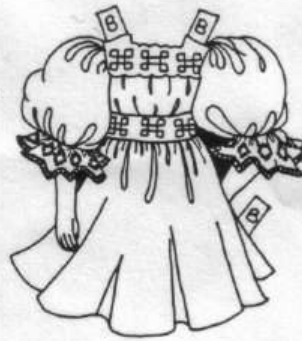
Please send your membership form and your check to: Shirley Lieske, 214 4th St. S., Mankato, MN 56001.  
If you are already a member, pass this membership form along to a friend. No memberships will expire without written notice from the Betsy-Tacy Society.

Paper Dolls to Color and Cut



Quite often, after school Betsy and Tacy went to Betsy's house and played paper dolls. Betsy and Tacy liked paper dolls better than real dolls. They wanted real dolls too, of course. The most important thing to see on Christmas morning, poking out of a stocking or sitting under a tree, was a big china doll...with yellow curls and a blue silk dress and bonnet, or with black curls and a pink silk dress and bonnet... it didn't matter which. But after Christmas they put those dolls away and played with their paper dolls.

from BETSY-TACY



BETSY'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Betsy was excited about the party...she was to wear her first silk dress. It was checked tan and pink, with lace around the neck and sleeves...The silk dress rustled beautifully over two starched petticoats which were buttoned to a muslin undershirt over woolen underwear...Betsy kept waiting for Tacy to come. At last she saw her crossing the street... She handed Betsy a package...The present was a little glass pitcher with a gold painted rim...Betsy was given beautiful presents at that fifth birthday party...But the nicest present she received was not the usual kind of present. It was the present of a friend. It was Tacy.

MEETING TIB  
Betsy and Tacy approached the chocolate-colored house from the rear...On the knoll they saw what looked like a clothes pin standing prongs up. It was a little girl standing on her head. She righted herself when they came near...It was certainly Tib.

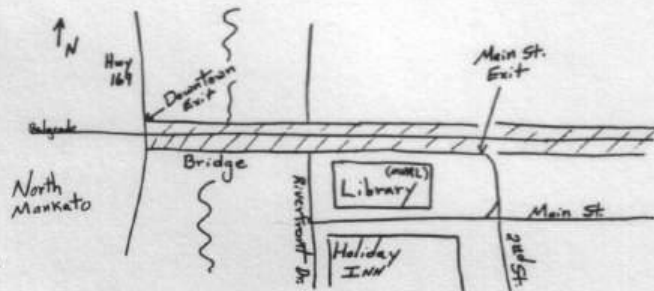
**BETSY-TACY SOUVENIRS**

Kelly Reuter has designed two new Betsy-Tacy items for sale. In honor of the fact that paper dolls were Betsy and Tacy's favorite afterschool toy, the Betsy-Tacy Society has for sale a 7-page booklet featuring Betsy-Tacy and Tib paper dolls to color and cut. These paper dolls are all delightful original designs based in part on clothing from the books, the era, and actual photographs of Betsy's birthday dress. You can order this new and original Betsy-Tacy souvenir from the Society for \$3.00 per booklet plus \$1.00 postage and handling (see address in next paragraph).

The other new Betsy-Tacy items are beautiful 14 inch handmade soft-stuffed Betsy and Tacy dolls. The Betsy Doll has long brown braids and is wearing a replica of Betsy's pink and tan checked birthday dress with lace at the neckline, waist, and sleeves. The Tacy doll has long red ringlets and is wearing a dress of sage and cream stripes with tiny rosebuds and a wide lace collar. These dolls are a very special addition to collectors of Maud Hart Lovelace memorabilia. They are available at \$20 each plus \$2 postage. To order either paper dolls or stuffed dolls, write: Kelly Reuter, Box 31, Amboy, MN 56010. These items will also be available at Betsy-Tacy Society events.

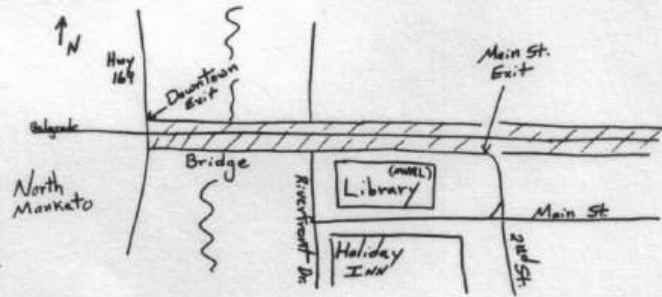
**The Minnesota Valley Regional Library**

Many out of town members have asked for directions to the Minnesota Valley Regional Library (MVRL). The MVRL is located on the corner of Riverfront and Main Streets in Downtown, Mankato. Its phone number is (507) 387-1856. The MVRL has much Maud Hart Lovelace memorabilia that includes scrap books, photos, an autographed book collection, a portrait of Maud, a wall mural of Deep Valley with book characters and locations, a video and slide shows, and the newly-acquired "little glass pitcher" from Maud's Daughter, Merian.



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER**

If anyone would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, such as letters from Maud, pictures, your thoughts regarding her writings, etc., please write to Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001.



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 139 Clark/E. Pleasant  
 Mankato, MN 56001