

BETSY-TACY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER #6



OUR NEXT EVENT - HOLIDAY ON HILL STREET

Step back in time to Betsy's beloved Hill Street to celebrate the holidays. The Lincoln Park Association is sponsoring a Christmas Tour of Homes in the Lincoln Park area on Tuesday, December 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. You may visit the same homes that Betsy and Tacy visited and see them decorated for the holidays with various themes.

Doris Berger's 19th century home at 139 Clark/E.Pleasant will be decorated in the Ray family tradition. Step inside and greet Betsy, Tacy, and Tib. Enjoy caroling around the piano and smell the scent of cookies baking as the Rays and their friends prepare for Christmas. The stockings will be hung by the chimney with care in hopes that Mrs. Ray's old beaux will find them there. Her treasured brass bowl will be resplendent with a fresh poinsettia and Mr. Ray's pipe will be waiting by his chair. Betsy and friends will be decorating the tree with her precious ornaments from past shopping trips with Tacy and Tib while reminiscing about the memories each one recalls. As you leave the "Betsy House" be sure to take a look at 214 Center next door, as this is Maud's birthplace. A special treat after visiting the homes will be a stop at Mrs. Chubbock's Candy Store, which once stood on the same block as Lincoln School (Betsy's Pleasant Grove School). Now a bookstore, the tiny building was moved across to the other side of the street. The bookstore, Our Mother's Gardens, will be playing the part of Chubbock's Store. At Mrs. Chubbock's you can pick up some penny candies for the kids or let them have the fun of choosing their own. During the tour, refreshments will be served at Lincoln School. Spend an enchanting evening celebrating the Holidays on Hill Street.

A DEEP VALLEY CHRISTMAS

Do you long for Christmas all year? Does the sound of sleigh bells make you think of Betsy's old Deep Valley? When you're being shoved and hassled at the Mall, Christmas shopping do you wish you could go on a Christmas shopping trip with Betsy and Tacy? Does the thought of fancy cakes and hot chocolate with whipped cream make you feel all cozy inside? If the answer to all these questions is "yes," put on your furs, bring your dimes, and meet us at the Mankato Holiday Inn next July. "Christmas in Deep Valley" will be one of the workshop programs offered at the 1992 Betsy-Tacy Convention celebrating Maud's 100th birthday. We will combine a Ray family Christmas, a Betsy-Tacy shopping trip, and Mrs. Poppy's holiday party to create a delightful Christmas in July - In Deep Valley ... see you there!

YOUNG HISTORIAN WORKSHOP

The Blue Earth County Historical Society will feature a workshop for the month of January on Maud Hart Lovelace in its Young Historian Program. This workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 25. For further information, call BECHS at 507-345-5566.

Betsy's Home
for the
holidays!



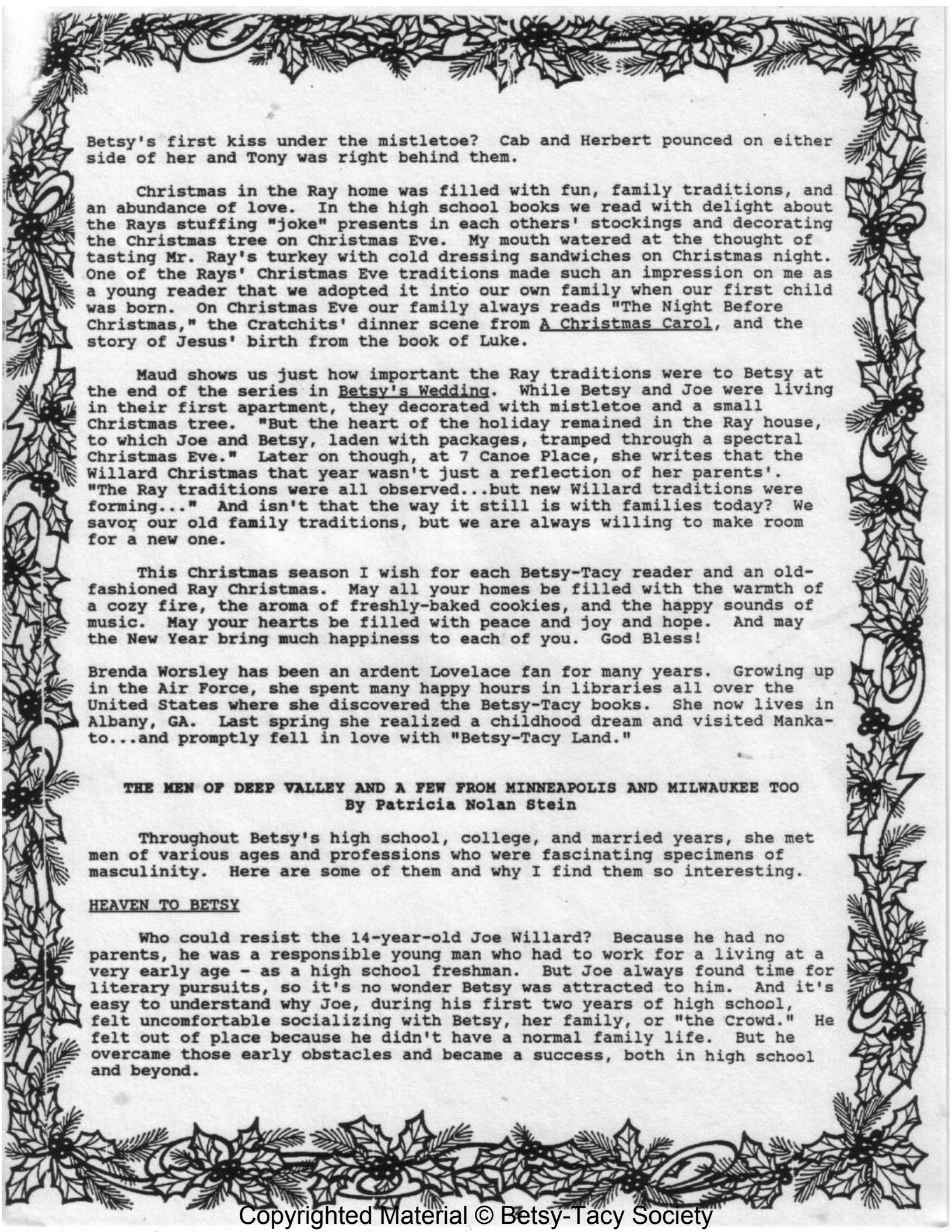
ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY OUR MEMBERS

SEASONS TO BETSY
by Brenda Worsley

"The first snow melted. But the next one stayed on the ground. Another snow came and another, until everyone lost count. Snow loaded the bare arms of the maples; it lodged in the green crevices of firs; it threw sparkling shawls over the bare brown bushes shivering on Hill Street lawns." Maud's description of Deep Valley's winter landscape in Downtown is so pictorial, that I can almost see the children of Hill Street trudging through the snow. With ice skates tossed over their shoulders or dragging sleds behind them, they make their way toward frozen ponds and precipitous hills.

One cannot imagine a true Betsy-Tacy Christmas season without visualizing three little girls, dimes clutched tightly in their fists, peering into the gaily decorated store windows on Front Street. They shopped extensively in each store, choosing skates or pencil sets, dolls, books, buggy robes and games. But they did not spend their dimes until they finally came to the end of their joyful excursion at a long table of "fragile balls of vivid hues...gold and silver balls, tinsel angels, shining harps, trumpets, gleaming stars." Each carefully chose one, knowing "she would see it on the Christmas tree, she would see it year after year if she were lucky and it did not break." Betsy and Tacy, and sometimes Tib, continued to make their annual Christmas shopping expedition all the way through high school.

In the "I Remember Mankato" series, Maud fondly reminisced, "During the Christmas holiday season our crowd of girls used to give progressive dinners, a different course in each house. We would go gaily through the wintry night singing..." She also remembered singing carols around the piano, dances at Schiller Hall and parties in the ballroom of the Saulpaugh Hotel. The crowd certainly had a lot of Christmas spirit! Remember



Betsy's first kiss under the mistletoe? Cab and Herbert pounced on either side of her and Tony was right behind them.

Christmas in the Ray home was filled with fun, family traditions, and an abundance of love. In the high school books we read with delight about the Rays stuffing "joke" presents in each others' stockings and decorating the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. My mouth watered at the thought of tasting Mr. Ray's turkey with cold dressing sandwiches on Christmas night. One of the Rays' Christmas Eve traditions made such an impression on me as a young reader that we adopted it into our own family when our first child was born. On Christmas Eve our family always reads "The Night Before Christmas," the Cratchits' dinner scene from A Christmas Carol, and the story of Jesus' birth from the book of Luke.

Maud shows us just how important the Ray traditions were to Betsy at the end of the series in Betsy's Wedding. While Betsy and Joe were living in their first apartment, they decorated with mistletoe and a small Christmas tree. "But the heart of the holiday remained in the Ray house, to which Joe and Betsy, laden with packages, tramped through a spectral Christmas Eve." Later on though, at 7 Canoe Place, she writes that the Willard Christmas that year wasn't just a reflection of her parents'. "The Ray traditions were all observed...but new Willard traditions were forming..." And isn't that the way it still is with families today? We savor our old family traditions, but we are always willing to make room for a new one.

This Christmas season I wish for each Betsy-Tacy reader and an old-fashioned Ray Christmas. May all your homes be filled with the warmth of a cozy fire, the aroma of freshly-baked cookies, and the happy sounds of music. May your hearts be filled with peace and joy and hope. And may the New Year bring much happiness to each of you. God Bless!

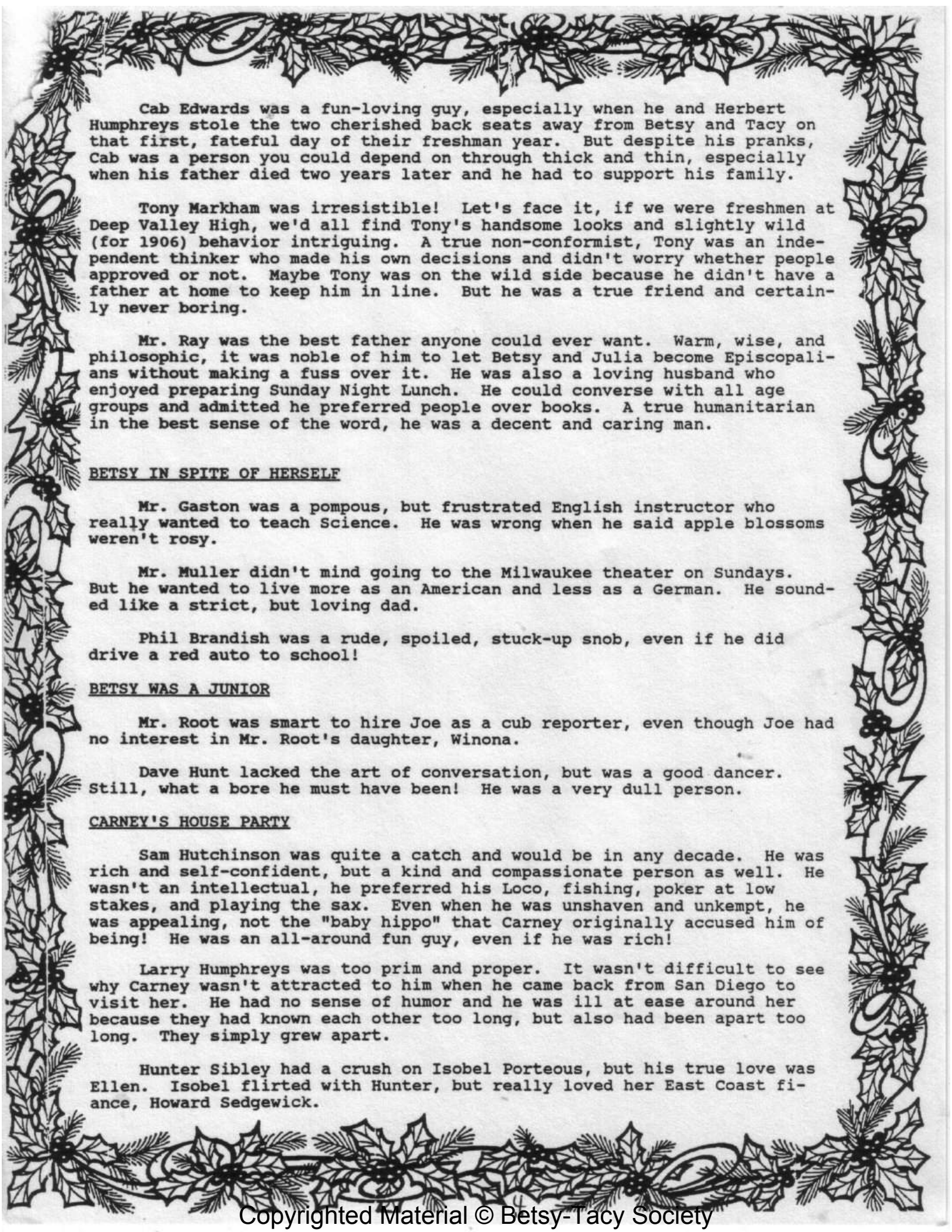
Brenda Worsley has been an ardent Lovelace fan for many years. Growing up in the Air Force, she spent many happy hours in libraries all over the United States where she discovered the Betsy-Tacy books. She now lives in Albany, GA. Last spring she realized a childhood dream and visited Mankato...and promptly fell in love with "Betsy-Tacy Land."

THE MEN OF DEEP VALLEY AND A FEW FROM MINNEAPOLIS AND MILWAUKEE TOO
By Patricia Nolan Stein

Throughout Betsy's high school, college, and married years, she met men of various ages and professions who were fascinating specimens of masculinity. Here are some of them and why I find them so interesting.

HEAVEN TO BETSY

Who could resist the 14-year-old Joe Willard? Because he had no parents, he was a responsible young man who had to work for a living at a very early age - as a high school freshman. But Joe always found time for literary pursuits, so it's no wonder Betsy was attracted to him. And it's easy to understand why Joe, during his first two years of high school, felt uncomfortable socializing with Betsy, her family, or "the Crowd." He felt out of place because he didn't have a normal family life. But he overcame those early obstacles and became a success, both in high school and beyond.



Cab Edwards was a fun-loving guy, especially when he and Herbert Humphreys stole the two cherished back seats away from Betsy and Tacy on that first, fateful day of their freshman year. But despite his pranks, Cab was a person you could depend on through thick and thin, especially when his father died two years later and he had to support his family.

Tony Markham was irresistible! Let's face it, if we were freshmen at Deep Valley High, we'd all find Tony's handsome looks and slightly wild (for 1906) behavior intriguing. A true non-conformist, Tony was an independent thinker who made his own decisions and didn't worry whether people approved or not. Maybe Tony was on the wild side because he didn't have a father at home to keep him in line. But he was a true friend and certainly never boring.

Mr. Ray was the best father anyone could ever want. Warm, wise, and philosophic, it was noble of him to let Betsy and Julia become Episcopalians without making a fuss over it. He was also a loving husband who enjoyed preparing Sunday Night Lunch. He could converse with all age groups and admitted he preferred people over books. A true humanitarian in the best sense of the word, he was a decent and caring man.

BETSY IN SPIITE OF HERSELF

Mr. Gaston was a pompous, but frustrated English instructor who really wanted to teach Science. He was wrong when he said apple blossoms weren't rosy.

Mr. Muller didn't mind going to the Milwaukee theater on Sundays. But he wanted to live more as an American and less as a German. He sounded like a strict, but loving dad.

Phil Brandish was a rude, spoiled, stuck-up snob, even if he did drive a red auto to school!

BETSY WAS A JUNIOR

Mr. Root was smart to hire Joe as a cub reporter, even though Joe had no interest in Mr. Root's daughter, Winona.

Dave Hunt lacked the art of conversation, but was a good dancer. Still, what a bore he must have been! He was a very dull person.

CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY

Sam Hutchinson was quite a catch and would be in any decade. He was rich and self-confident, but a kind and compassionate person as well. He wasn't an intellectual, he preferred his Loco, fishing, poker at low stakes, and playing the sax. Even when he was unshaven and unkempt, he was appealing, not the "baby hippo" that Carney originally accused him of being! He was an all-around fun guy, even if he was rich!

Larry Humphreys was too prim and proper. It wasn't difficult to see why Carney wasn't attracted to him when he came back from San Diego to visit her. He had no sense of humor and he was ill at ease around her because they had known each other too long, but also had been apart too long. They simply grew apart.

Hunter Sibley had a crush on Isobel Porteous, but his true love was Ellen. Isobel flirted with Hunter, but really loved her East Coast fiancé, Howard Sedgewick.

EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY

Grandpa Webster was a real character and a Civil War veteran, too. Grandpa was getting old, but sensed that Emily was lonely and wanted to go to college. He bought her a beautiful watch for graduation and he wasn't as cantankerous as some men in their 80s are. That's because he never lost his sense of humor.

Don Walker was a pompous, arrogant snob who didn't mind discussing poetry with Emily, but didn't think she was good enough to go out on dates with. He and Emily's cousin, Annette, ended up engaged, and they deserved each other!

Jed Wakeman had a lot of Joe Willard's good qualities. He was handsome, hard-working, and interested in the world around him. He wanted to help the Syrian community, just as Emily did. Jed and Emily were like Betsy and Joe: the perfect couple.

BETSY'S WEDDING

Both Joe Willard and Harry Kerr are delightful as married men. Since neither Betsy nor Tacy compared their husbands to each other, everyone got along fine. Wouldn't it be fun to be part of the "Violent Study Club," where Betsy and Joe and their literary-minded friends got together every week and discussed books? Joe was the ideal husband, despite those pessimistic moods he occasionally fell into. He was a great newspaper reporter, loved books and sports, and was someone you could depend on.

Mr. Bagshaw was considered old at "nearly 40," but he reeked of wealth and sophistication. He loved dancing the "lulu-fado" and he loved Tib, too. But she didn't want to live in New York with a rich, older husband, so she rejected his proposal.

Rocky was big, loud, and obnoxious. He was certainly one of the most self-centered men Betsy and her friends had ever known! He loved bragging about the famous people he had met and was a first-class name dropper. He also hated NOT being the center of attention. Tib was smart to drop him as a boyfriend, because she knew she'd never be happy with a selfish man like him. The most interesting thing about Rocky was his career as a newspaper "tramp," going from city to city, newspaper to newspaper.

Mr. Hawthorne was a good newspaper editor to work for, even though he got angry at Joe for losing out on top news stories at the beginning of his job at the Courier. He put Joe on the night shift writing headlines and gave him a raise at the same time. But after Joe sold a story called "Wheat" to the Thursday Magazine, and received \$400 for it (an awful lot of money in those days), Mr. Hawthorne moved him back to reporting again.

Jack Dunhill was the man Tib was waiting for all of her life. He enjoyed dancing, skating, and playing golf and he drove a Ford! He came back to Minneapolis in 1917, after helping General Pershing fight Pancho Villa, and he met Tib while was ice skating. As Tib said, "Jack isn't rich, like Mr. Bagshaw, but he certainly knows how to do things!"

In conclusion, I've always loved the men of the Betsy-Tacy books, no matter where they lived or what their professions were, because they were so much fun to read about! My only regret is that Maud Hart Lovelace didn't write about Betsy, Tacy, and Tib during the 1920s.

Patricia Nolan Stein, thirty-eight years old, has been a Betsy-Tacy fan since age eight. Patricia is a free-lance writer, primarily for magazines. She and her husband, Eliot, run a computerized newswire service called Hollywood Hotline. Patricia is looking forward to her first visit to Mankato.

NEW COLUMN

What other literary tastes have we Betsy-Tacy readers in common? In an effort to compare notes, we are inaugurating a new column in this edition of the Betsy-Tacy Newsletter. Here Michele Franck presents a list of wonderful titles which will hopefully send you promptly to the library to make some new friends or "check out" some old ones! We would like a different member to write this column each issue. You may include both juvenile and adult work, or perhaps focus on one or the other. Share your feelings about your favorite titles, or write up synopses, or simply make a list (as Betsy loved to do). You might include remarks on books you've discovered through this column. If you want to contribute an article, other creative ideas, or drawings to this newsletter, write to Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001.

WHAT ARE YOU READING WHEN YOU'RE NOT READING BETSY-TACY?

By Michele Franck

"I thought I was the only one!" How many of us have used those words upon learning about the Betsy-Tacy Society? Every submission to the Newsletter acknowledging the spell cast by Maud Hart Lovelace is a testament to the fact that, despite differences in age, family background, economic situation, and geography, we are all bound together by our love for Betsy Ray and her family and friends.

The Betsy-Tacy books have always been a part of my life, although I can't remember which I read first or when. I can only recall the depths to which the books touched me and the powerful desire to read more of them. Checking the library shelves for books listed under "L" became a familiar ritual. Many of you are well acquainted with the disappointment of realizing how few are available. It's a rare soul who can attest to actually having seen the entire series in the library. My search to read (let alone to own) each one took me well into adulthood.

The quest for Betsy-Tacy had, for me, some fortunate consequences. I began to find other books which offered equally-compelling comfort and companionship. As I grew up, the Betsy-Tacy books continued to hold a prominent place in my heart, but others now share space there. I was probably not alone in turning to different books as well. Here is my list of Betsy-Tacy alternates, in the hope that you will find some old favorites and make some new friends.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Set in places like the Scottish Highlands, Colonial Boston, or Newgate Prison, these stories all capture the spirit of their age and bring history to life.

Campion Towers by John and Patricia Beatty

Katharine Leslie by Audrey White Beyer

The Innocent Wayfaring by Marchette Chure

Constance by Patricia Clapp

Johnny Tremain by Ester Forbes

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Highland Rebel, Mistress Malapert, Witch of the Glens, Lark, Jade, The

Hornet's Nest, and Linnet by Sally Watson

My True Love Waits by Lenora Mattingly Weber

HISTORICAL FANTASY OR TIME TRAVEL

These books draw their readers, like their protagonists, into an era, or a reality other than their own. Do they truly travel through time, or can a parallel universe exist in the present? Read and decide for yourself.

The Little White Horse by Elizabeth Goudge
Earthfasts by William Mayne
Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce
The Sherwood Ring and The Perilous Gard by Elizabeth Marie Pope
A Traveler in Time by Alison Uttley

THE BEST OF THE CHILDREN'S CLASSICS

Phyllis McGinley said it best in her introduction to A Little Princess, "a Classic is not something, as you may have wrongly believed, which you have to read in school and is very boring. It is a book so entertaining that it pleases people for years and years and readers never get tired of it."

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
A Secret Garden and A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
The Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder

MISCELLANEOUS

These selections can't easily be categorized, but shouldn't be missed!

Wayland's Keep by Angela Bull
A Flute in Mayferry Street by Eileen Dunlop
Miss Happiness and Miss Flower and Little Plum by Rumer Godden
Cecily by Isabelle Holland
Up a Road Slowly by Irene Hunt
Mine for Keeps and Spring Begins in March by Jean Little
Shadow in Hawthorn Bay by Janet Lunn
The Beany Malone and the Belford family series by Lenora Mattingly Weber

There is one more experience I imagine I've probably shared with many of you and that is what occurs when one arrives at the cusp of adolescence and acquires an adult library card. All of a sudden, the children's library is placed off limits, not so much by others as by one's own reluctance to expose an affinity for "childish things." What followed in my own case were surreptitious trips to the children's section, with a prepared-in-advance story about fictitious cousins visiting from out of town and always having that feeling of being "the only one" still reading kid's books. For those of you who just can't think of good enough excuses, here are a few suggestions from the grown-up shelves which will appeal to the young at heart.

Rumer Godden, especially In This House of Brede, China Court, The Diddakoi, The Kitchen Madonna, A Candle for St. Jude, The Battle of the Villa Fiorita, and The River
Elizabeth Goudge, especially The Bird in the Tree, Pilgrim's Inn, The Heart of the Family, The Castle on the Hill, and The Middle Window
Ellis Peters, The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael (all 18 of them)
Elsyth Thane, The Williamsburg Novels

Michele Franck, thirty-five, is a social worker at a Boston hospital. When not reading books, Michele is buying them - or perhaps watching adaptations of them on video (her favorites being Testament of Youth and Pride and Prejudice). Michele has graciously accepted the post of Corresponding Secretary for the Betsy-Tacy Society, so if you write to us, you'll hear from her!

FROM OUR MAILBOX

"Let me belatedly enter the Unfrosted Cake Controversy. I always assumed in my youth that it was yellow cake, since undesignated 'cake' in my world usually meant plain yellow. But later, when I was baking similar snacks for little girls myself, I began to wonder if it wasn't something like this: Applesauce Cake 2 C sifted flour, 2 T cocoa, 3/4 t salt, 1 and 1/2 t cinnamon, 1/4 t cloves, 1/2 t nutmeg, 1/2 t soda, 1/2 t allspice, 1 and 1/2 t baking powder, 1/2 C shortening, 1 and 1/2 C sugar, 2 eggs, 1 and 1/2 C applesauce or pureed rhubarb, 1 C raisins or chopped dates (optional). Sift together dry ingredients, add fruit, and toss to coat. Cream shortening, sugar, and eggs until smooth. Add flour mixture alternately with applesauce. Beat only until blended. Pour into greased and floured 13 x 9 x 2 pan, bake in pre-heated 350 degree oven about 50 minutes." Jo Anne Fatherly, Newburgh, NY

"Thought I would drop you a note and let you know what happened when I did the Tucson doll show. I made up a frame with the cover of Betsy-Tacy and Tib along with some other little pictures and put it on my table. I had a couple ladies come up to me and say that they had read the books when they were children, so I think this is a good idea. Then, a gal walked by that had two little girls, one around 9 or 10, and the other around 6 or 7. The mother pointed to the picture and said, look, there is a Betsy-Tacy story! She then told me that she read the books when she was younger and now her two daughters are reading them and enjoying them a lot. They have even been lucky and found some hardbacks for their own library at a store in Tucson. We started to talk, and this was her first doll show. I gave her the Betsy-Tacy Society's address and they said they were going to join. She also gave me her name and address and phone number for future reference. After talking a little more, I found out that she was from Ohio - in fact, just about 20 miles from where I used to live, so we had a lot in common. About 15 minutes later, another gal, around the same age, along with her two girls, walked by, and again, the mom pointed out to the daughter, look there's a copy of the Betsy-Tacy books. Her daughter is reading the books now, and really enjoying them as well. We started to talk and I told her I just talked to another gal with two daughters. I pulled out the card with her name and address on it, and the second lady was so excited. She said she lived right down the street from her! Can you believe that! Now, I was really excited and told her I thought the first lady was still at the show and I was going to find her. Fortunately for me, her two girls were right up the row from my table, so I asked them to find their mom and introduced them to each other. I had to get back to my table since I was by myself so I don't know what happened after that. I sure hope they will keep in touch. They did live on the same street, but the street is miles long, and they lived on opposite ends of it, but their girls were the same ages and would you believe, the second lady was also from Ohio?" Jackie Kraemer, Phoenix, AZ

"A copy of the Betsy-Tacy Newsletter arrived, which was thrilling. What a wonderful way to be able to reach out to Betsy fans everywhere. I too thought I was the only one who read those books growing up - that was a long time ago and unfortunately I did not own the books. When I remembered them after my son's birth in 1984, I took a chance and asked at a local bookstore if they could be ordered. Amazingly, the last six books, the ones illustrated by Vera Neville were all available and receiving them was a very joyful reunion! Besides the luxury of being able to read them all -- in order, in crisp, colorful dustjacketed editions after almost thirty years, I was struck by how many of the experiences in the books had remained in my memory, and even been incorporated into my life. All the Ray family traditions, the music, hospitality, Sunday night dinners, and especially Betsy with her happy disposition and gift for friendship and adventure - all these memories flooded back like welcome, lost friends as I reread the books. Being a mother with my own family, they are a great source of comfort, reassurance, and inspiration now. I wish I had an interesting story to relate about my introduction to the books, but I am afraid it is merely prosaic. I found them at the library! As a child, perhaps because our family moved so often (my father's career was the army) and I was shy, I was always reading a book. Just as I started to feel comfortable with my new school and make friends, it would be time to move to another post, mostly overseas. When I was ten, we moved to Oberammergau, Germany for a year. In the little American Post library there I discovered Heaven to Betsy and entered her world. Later, at other locations, I would find the other books. I never read Betsy and the Great World though, until much later, and was delighted she had visited Oberammergau. Coincidentally, I spent my high school years, graduated there, in Nurnberg, Germany, another of Betsy's stopovers. I have just reread Betsy's Wedding and was struck with how well-written it is, besides being so enjoyable (thank goodness she married Joe at last). It really has good, sensible advice for starting out married life." Alison Sprules, Darien, CT

"Maud Hart Lovelace was one of the special authors of my childhood. Carolyn Haywood, Lois Lenski, Janet Lambert, Kathryn Worth, and especially Maud Hart Lovelace helped to make a sometimes lonely childhood very happy and enjoyable. I adored the Betsy, Tacy and Tib books. I read these books from the mid 'forties through the early 'fifties." Gloria B. Gray, West Covina, CA

"I have been a fan of Betsy-Tacy and Tib since I was first introduced to these books in 1948, at age 10, by a wonderful librarian in Ortonville, Minnesota. She thought I should read these books as a diversion from all the mystery books I was reading. I am so thankful for her insight. I have also read Early Candlelight many times and look forward to the opportunity to be able to purchase it." Janet Kluxdal, Inver Grove Heights, MN

"Like Diane Kipp (whose letter was quoted in the last newsletter), I met Betsy and Tacy first when I had measles - but I was twelve and the book was Heaven to Betsy. We were halfway through Betsy in Spite of Her-self by the time I was back on my feet, and one of the first things I did was head for the library to track down the rest, including the first four. When I had my first job I made buying my own copies of the high school books one of my priorities, placing an advance order for Betsy's Wedding with the bookstore and getting a copy before the library did! They remained in nearly-new condition until my own daughters were old enough to appreciate them (and my older daughter is a natural force which no dustjacket has ever encountered and lived to tell the tale). I still have the much-battered books, and have refused to let either daughter take them off my hands. I think the main reason I originally liked the Betsy books was that Betsy wanted to be a writer and so did I. I even made several firm attempts to keep my diary in the style of her Journal. My failure may shed some light on why she became a 'real' writer and I didn't! And my main objection to them was that there were very few references to needlework, which was, and is, my other passion. I realize this is probably because Maud shared Betsy's aversion, but the only references I can remember are Mrs. Ray embroidering a Gibson Girl on a cushion (in either B-T or BT&T), Betsy embroidering a jabot for Carney (in Junior, I think) and trying to hem dish towels (in Wedding), and of course Tib's dressmaking skills. Oh well, I can always read L.M. Montgomery for the textile arts (and I do!). Is it fair to sign myself 'C.F.'?" Jo Anne Fatherly, Newburgh, New York Jo Anne forgot the "Don't Worry" motto which Betsy embroidered for her father in Betsy and Joe. Can anyone remember others?

"The copy of the 'Betsy-Tacy Newsletter' was a delight. The Betsy-Tacy stories have been favorites in our family and are now being enjoyed by the grandchildren. Our daughters lived these stories and even had their own 'pink feather tree.' In the fall of 1961, we were living in Minneapolis, and we drove to Mankato for an anniversary celebration of Maud Hart Lovelace. We toured the Betsy-Tacy neighborhood, met some of the characters, and also met Maud Hart Lovelace, who autographed our daughters' books. It was a memorable day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone could produce a movie of these stories like Anne of Green Gables?" Georgia Colli-ton, Springfield, IL

LIGHT A FIRE UNDER HARPERCOLLINS

The Betsy-Tacy Society hopes that an on-going letter-writing campaign may influence HarperCollins to reissue the Betsy-Tacy titles which they have allowed to slide out-of-print. Your letter might mention a title or two by name (none of the last six titles in the series are available in hard-back, none of the last four available at all). To employ a "shotgun" approach, make three copies of your letter and send one each to: Marilyn Kriney, Publisher; Joanna Cotler, Editorial Director; and Lisa Holton, Marketing Director. Address all three c/o HarperCollins, 10 E. 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022. Please make a fourth copy of your letter to send to the Betsy-Tacy Society, for our files!

AVAILABLE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Paperback editions of the first six Betsy-Tacy books (Betsy-Tacy, Betsy-Tacy and Tib, Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill, Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown, Heaven to Betsy, Betsy in Spite of Herself) at \$3.50 each.

Hardcover, library bindings of Betsy-Tacy, Betsy-Tacy and Tib, and Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown at \$13.89 each.

These books may be ordered directly from HarperCollins by calling 1-800-331-3761. They now charge \$2.75 postage and handling for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book. An alternative is to enquire at your local bookstore about special ordering the books (and you might suggest that they consider stocking the Betsy-Tacy books on a regular basis!).

BOOKS FOR SALE

Paperback copies of:

Betsy-Tacy, Harper and Row, 1979

Betsy-Tacy and Tib, Harper and Row, 1979

Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill, Harper and Row, 1979

Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown, Harper and Row, 1979

Betsy-Tacy and Tib, Crowell, 1969 - library discard

\$4.00 each postpaid. Two or more books for \$3.00 each postpaid.

Write to: N. Noonan, 10224 Rich Road, Bloomington, MN 55437

Betsy-Tacy, T.Y. Crowell, hardcover, early printing (dated 1940, but this is not a first edition), rebound library book, very clean copy. \$17.50 postpaid. Write to: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave. #3, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bank balance as of 11/25/91 was \$1,574.04 in the checking account and \$513.57 in our savings account. We have 114 new members and 67 renewed ones. We have sold 25 stories and 11 dolls since our last meeting.

BETSY-TACY ON WCCO

Throughout the holiday season, WCCO radio will be presenting 90-second story-telling spots, including a Christmas story from Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown. Kathy Baxter, Youth Services Coordinator for the Anoka County Library system, and a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society, will be telling the Christmas-shopping story and how Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona spent their dimes. The exact airtimes can't be known in advance, but tune into WCCO Minnesota Lovelace fans!

LOVELACE BIOGRAPHY CELEBRATES HAPPY DELAY

The latest delay in the publication of the Betsy-Tacy Companion was a happy event. To borrow from L.M. Montgomery, a houseguest has arrived at the Whalen home - he didn't bring much luggage, but they think he's planning to stay a while. Little Patrick was born November 18th and weighed 7 lbs. 14 ozs. Congratulations!!!

BETSY-TACY TOUR

The fall colors were at their peak on the beautiful October day when the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library sponsored their first bus trip ever -- a trip to the Betsy-Tacy sites in Mankato. Kathy Baxter, a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society, shared her memories of meeting the real-life inspirations for 'Cab' and 'Carney' with the group of thirty-eight on the drive down, and Shirley Lieske met the tour at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library to present a slide show, followed by a tour around town. A true Betsy-Tacy lunch, including chicken salad and coconut cake, was enjoyed in the elegant surroundings of the Victorian YWCA building (formerly the Judge Lorin Cray house). Riding around the Big Hill on a bus can be a harrowing experience; some of those curves are pretty sharp! Although a few of the tourists had never read a Lovelace book, they vowed to start immediately. The day was a huge success and the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library intend to make it an annual event.

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

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

Membership fees will be due in September for the 1991-1992 year. Anyone who joined the society after May 1 of this year shall receive membership to run through September, 1992. Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Please send your membership form and your check to: Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001. If you are already a member, pass this membership form along to a friend.



Warmest wishes for the holidays
from the Betsy-Tacy Society