

THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

Note Book

The Betsy-Tacy Society

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Newsletter deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15 for the spring, summer, fall, and winter issues respectively. Please send news and articles to **Patty Warhol, 32228 SeaRaven Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274.**

The Betsy-Tacy Society was formed in Mankato, Minnesota in April, 1990. Members, now numbering nearly 1,000, receive the Betsy-Tacy Society newsletter, to which they are invited to contribute articles and information of interest to other members. We are pleased to print excerpts of your letters as space allows, and assume that you will permit us to do so, unless you request otherwise when writing. Illustrations by Lois Lenski and Vera Neville from the original books are used with permission from HarperCollins.

Note From Our President

Greetings from Deep Valley. We have great news for the newsletter; a new Associate Editor in the person of Marney Wilde. Marney is a devoted Betsy-Tacy fan who has a free-lance desktop publishing business, and who lives only a few minutes away from newsletter editor Patty Warhol. You will see Marney's touch on the pages of this issue, and we are delighted to have her on the newsletter staff. Recently she fulfilled a "life-long dream" and visited Deep Valley, where I had the pleasure of meeting her and showing her the sites around Mankato.

On Thursday, September 22 Mankato Area Convention and Visitor Bureau offered a sneak preview of the new Civic Center, scheduled for completion in January, 1995. This will be a wonderful place for Betsy-Tacy events. This building has a large auditorium, exhibit, banquet, ballroom, and meeting facilities. I can just imagine Bette Midler leading the B-T Society in a sing-along. Dreaming...

In the next issue of the newsletter we'll have information on the upcoming First Annual Betsy-Tacy Reunion and Get-together in Mankato scheduled for July 7-9, 1994.

I am very excited about the New York Chapter Walking Tour, held on Saturday, October 15. You can order the official Walking Tour Booklet; see the ad on page 6. And the Greater Chicago Area Chapter will hold "Afternoon Tea at the Melbourne" in Chicago on Sunday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. Sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun. I must go and search for my best hat. Hope to see you there!

Lona Falenczykowski

Note From Michele

It's renewal time for many of you! Please check your mailing label for the expiration date of your membership. Your renewal is due following receipt of the newsletter listed on your label (i.e. 9/94 means your membership expires with this, the fall issue). Don't let this be your last newsletter—renew today! Please note that my address has been changed to Post Office Box 2903, Framingham, MA 01701. Address changes, with phone numbers when known, should be sent to

me promptly, as bulk mail is not forwarded.

I have deeply appreciated the thoughtful notes and cards I received following Lona's mention of my father's death. Many came from members who know me only by name. Thank you all so much for your kindness in reaching out to me. It helped!

Michele Franck

Where To Send It!

The Betsy-Tacy Society
 c/o the Heritage Center
 BECHS
 415 Cherry Street
 Mankato, MN 56001-3741

Anything having to do with the Betsy-Tacy organization, Board Meetings, starting new chapters:

Lona Falenczykowski
 303 Meadow Wood Drive
 Mankato, MN 56001

Anything having to do with membership:

Michele Franck
 Post Office Box 2903
 Framingham, MA 01701
 email: mfranck@delphi.com

"What Are You Reading When You're Not Reading Betsy-Tacy?":

Stephanie Smith
 824 Kirkwood
 Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096

"From Our Mailbox" letters to the Editor, to the B-T Society, to be printed in the newsletter:

Debbie Tranchita
 6221 N. Niagara
 Chicago, IL 60631

Articles, Announcements, Notes, Notices, Features, Drawings, Reports of National and Chapter meetings--anything you'd like to see printed in the newsletter:

Patty Warhol
 32228 SeaRaven Drive
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 Elaine Pappas
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Greater New York Chapter
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 224 East 11th Street #20

One Writer's Betsy-Tacy Story

by Pamela Jane

The first time I opened a BETSY-TACY book I was flabbergasted. Gripping the cover I stared and stared at the words. Here was an author who saw into my deepest self, who knew *exactly* how I felt.

"Going on ten seemed to be exactly the right age for having fun," she wrote. I read the words over and over. The

"Here was an author who saw into my deepest self, who knew exactly how I felt."

book was BETSY AND TACY GO OVER THE BIG HILL, by Maud Hart

Lovelace. The year was 1956. I was nine, going on ten.

Twenty-four years later I rediscovered Betsy, Tacy, and Tib in a small bookstore in a corner of Grand Central Station. It was mid-January and I had just moved to New York from the West Coast. I felt lost and alone in a strange city. Meeting Betsy and Tacy again was like finding old friends. I wasn't alone after all.

For some reason I had never read the Betsy-Tacy high school stories as a child. Perhaps the library in the small mid-western town where I grew up didn't own them. Or maybe I just didn't look far enough. But now, twenty-four years later, I submerged myself in Betsy's high school world, the one I wished had been my own. One book after another unrolled before me like a richly-textured carpet. But when I closed BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD I found myself tottering on the edge of a great void; I couldn't locate the last book in the series, BETSY'S WEDDING. The bookstore said the book was out of stock. The publisher said it was out of print.

One of the many things I love about the Betsy-Tacy books is

how, read consecutively, they convey the shape and texture of a real life with its uneven terrain, its moments of illumination, its struggles. But Betsy's life, so vividly evoked, was unfinished and incomplete for me without the last book! I had to find BETSY'S WEDDING and bring the long story to its intended close.

I turned to the New York Public Library. Eureka! There was one copy of BETSY'S WEDDING—in the Staten Island Branch. I called immediately and reserved it. But I couldn't bear to wait for the machinery of the New York Public Library system to grind into motion. I would take the ferry to Staten Island and get the book myself.

On a gray, misty day in early March I made the trip, watching impatiently as the ferry plowed through the cold, choppy waters. Couldn't the engines go any faster? What if someone else took out my BETSY book first? What if the Staten Island branch burned down before I got there? I might never get to read BETSY'S WEDDING! When we finally docked I ran all the way to the library.

I didn't open the book until I was on the ferry again, headed back across the bay. Even then I hesitated, holding the book tightly in my lap. BETSY'S WEDDING was the last in the series—the end of the line. When I finished it, there would be no more new Betsy-Tacy adventures to discover, no mysterious turnings in the "Winding Hall of Fate." But at last, sitting on the hard ferry bench, my face wet with foam, I began reading.

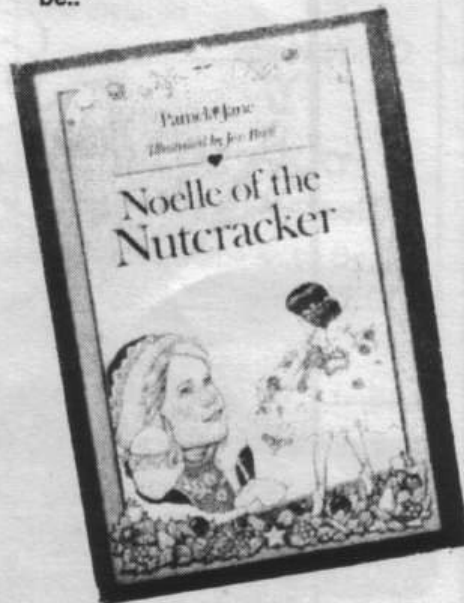
"Almost choked with excitement and joy, Betsy Ray leaned against the

railing as the S.S. Richmond sailed serenely into New York City's inner harbor," I read. "The morning was misty, and since they had passed through the Narrows, she had seen only sky and water—and a gull, now and then..."

I looked up at a gull swooping over the gray water. This was New York, 1980. In a few years my future husband and I would visit Mankato and talk to some of the folks who remembered the real Betsy Ray. But for now the future was unknown and the present rapidly receding. It was 1919, and I was a young woman returning from a long voyage, and anxious for her first glimpse of New York.

I smiled to myself and went on reading.

"My heart is turning home again, and there I long to be..."



Pamela Jane is the author of NOELLE OF THE NUTCRACKER, a Weekly Reader Bookclub selection and American Booksellers "Pick of the Lists," illustrated by Jan Brett (Houghton Mifflin). Pamela's new picture-book, MONSTER MISCHIEF, is forthcoming from Macmillan.

Religion of the Heart

by Karen Hunter
Coldwater, Mississippi

One sign of passage from adolescence into adulthood is acting independently from one's parents. I took my first giant step into the grown-up world in 1974, when I was 17. I approached my father about leaving the Lutheran church in which I was raised, and becoming Catholic.

My desire to become Catholic had been growing during the past three years I had been in a Catholic school. The academy, staffed by Dominican sisters, was my father's choice despite opposition from our pastor.

I wondered how to bring up the subject of my desire to convert. I couldn't just rely on my wits, as I did when I wanted to get my ears pierced and my father wouldn't allow it. Then I had simply pointed to a picture of his beloved grandmother, who was wearing long, dangling pierced earrings.



St. John's Episcopal Church, Mankato, MN. This was the church that Betsy and Julia joined, as recounted in *HEAVEN TO BETSY*.

After that the gold hoops I coveted were as good as in my ears.

But when it came to religious matters, I approached him with some trepidation. My father, although loving, was very stern, and had fixed, rigid ideas about how things should be. Moreover, ours was a family steeped in Lutheran tradition. My great-grandfather, who helped raise my father, had been a Lutheran schoolteacher and organist. He helped found the congregation I grew up in. My father had been a bellringer in his youth and, as an adult, Sunday morning found him in the front pew of the church with his mother and aunt.

Does at least some of this sound familiar to those who have read *HEAVEN TO BETSY*, an account of Betsy and Tacy's first year of high school? As the school year progresses, Betsy and her sister, Julia, who have been singing in the Episcopal church choir, realize they feel more at home in the Episcopal church than in the Baptist church they have attended all their lives.

But how to tell Papa?

Like my own father, Bob Ray was confident in his tradition. But he wasn't a Baptist just because his mother had been. He was a Baptist because it suited him. "I wouldn't be able to stand that getting up and down," he remarked after visiting the Episcopal church with his two oldest daughters.

Betsy and Julia knew they would eventually have to broach the subject, since they wanted to be confirmed in the spring. Relying on Betsy's common sense, they decided to wait until after Christmas. And relying on Julia's courage,

the sisters stayed after church one Sunday to say a special prayer.

And it was Julia who, after Sunday dinner, boldly said, "Papa, Betsy and I want to join the Episcopal church."

Because he trusted his daughters, Bob Ray gave them his blessing. "I hope very much that if you're going to be Episcopalians that you'll be good Episcopalians," he said, adding that the most important thing was treating people with unselfishness, honesty, and kindness.

Then he went into the kitchen and put the coffee pot on.



To my surprise, my father gave his OK, too. He was not as eloquent as Mr. Ray: "Just so you go to church," he said. But I knew, even though he didn't say much, that he trusted me as much as Bob Ray trusted his daughters, and that he, too, knew what religion of the heart was.

Even with my father's blessing, as it turned out that I waited another 13 years to become a Catholic. And it has been the same uplifting experience that joining the Episcopal Church was for Betsy and Julia.

As an avid Betsy-Tacy fan since age 10, I now have to wonder: *were the seeds of courage to approach my father sown during my adolescent readings and re-readings of Betsy's life?*

I like to think so.

Deep Valley is Alive in Philadelphia

by Laura Baldino
Philadelphia, PA

Hello!

I am a 13-year old fan of the wonderful Betsy-Tacy books. I am writing to tell you my innermost thoughts and feelings on my absolute favorite Betsy-Tacy book, *BETSY AND TACY GO DOWNTOWN*. It has a place of honor at the very front of my bookshelf, so that whomever glimpses my irresistible book collection will be sure to take a considerable amount of interest in its eye-catching cover, and therefore will in turn want to borrow it and see for themselves just how wonderful a book it is. And also so that I can easily grab it off of the shelf, and I won't have to waste an extra 15 minutes knocking over books, trying to locate it, when I'm in the mood for an adventure that will lift me out of my comfortable bedroom and into another world — a world of lightfootedness, where everything else around me dissolves into thin air, and before I know it's even happened, I'm in Deep Valley, coasting through all of Betsy and Tacy's wonderful adventures right along with them. I'm bobsledding with them, rosy and glowing, shrieking with delight as the bobsled coasts fervently down the frosty, snow-covered hill, my breath white clouds of steam in the frost night air, my feet frozen blocks of wood. I'm putting on plays with them, eager to make them a grand success. I'm sitting down to Christmas dinner with them, savoring the delicious aroma of turkey and gravy, laughing gaily with them between mouthfuls of pumpkin pie, and just having a plain old good time.

I'm doing all of those heavenly things right in the solitude of my very own bedroom, nevertheless in a different, yet familiar, world. My form is there, slumped in a chair, but my spirit is off some where else sampling freshly baked cinnamon rolls, or gazing in starry-eyed wonder at "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in the Opera House. Yes, all of those wonderful things are going on in Deep Valley, Minnesota, a place where adventure never fails to blossom — a place where all I'll have to do to reach its glorious splendor is grab my dog-eared copy of *BETSY AND TACY GO DOWNTOWN*.



Tacy's House
Front Door View of the Kenny home

A History of this Copy of Betsy— Tacy

by Elaine V. Flathers

"Ila, your house is in fiction!" called Mrs. Lea Wood to my aunt as she walked across the street toward us. Although both Mrs. Woods' and my aunt's houses were numbered on Center Street, they were corner houses separated by Lewis Street.

The time was early autumn in 1940. My aunt was Ila V. Flathers (later Mrs. Fred Marlow) who taught English in nearby Lincoln Junior High School. I was a ninth-grader from rural Stewartville staying with my aunt and grandmother during the school year because there was no rural school bus at home.

On that day I heard the name Maud Hart Lovelace for the first time. Later that fall Mrs. Lovelace (Betsy) and her good friend Mrs. Kirch (Tacy) came to visit their old neighborhood. I remember how thrilled we all were. Aunt Ila photographed the visitors with her home movie camera. (This good but short segment of color film was given to the library in 1977.)

We lived at 332 Center Street (Tacy's house). Frances (Kenny) Kirch pointed to one corner and said, "My cat had kittens there one time." Then the group of visitors trooped across the street to 333 Center Street (Betsy's house) for another tour welcomed by the Oftedahl family who lived there. Merian Lovelace, a young girl at the time, enjoyed walking on the retaining wall there.

My aunt asked "Betsy" and "Tacy" to autograph a slip of paper for me as the book was not available yet. I received this copy of *BETSY-TACY* for Christmas that year, and we pasted in the autographs carefully, not wishing to cover any of the illustrations inside.

The house at 332 Center Street had probably been remodeled somewhat before Ila Flathers purchased it in about 1920. Lois Lenski's illustration is recognizable when you look at the house from the west, except for the part farthest back in the picture. That part is not on the house today.

My aunt enjoyed her home and lived there until her death in 1965. Fred Marlow, whom she married in 1954, had died in 1961. Her mother, Mrs. Rachel Flathers, had lived with her until 1943 when she died there. I have some roots in 332 Center

History, continued on page 6

History, continued from page 5

Street too, as I continued to live there during the school years until 1948 when I graduated from Mankato State University.

Many people young and old have read this copy through the years, but the tattered book jacket has protected the cover. My mother, who was close in age to the author, enjoyed reading it when she was in her eighties. She said she had forgotten many of the little details of daily living that Maud Hart Lovelace pictured so well. I reread it recently and found that I still enjoyed it. This book has certainly stood the test of time.

Now after forty-five years I have brought this copy back to Mankato and am entrusting it to the care of Mrs. Shirley Lieske, who has built such a fine collection of Maud Hart Lovelace memorabilia at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library.

March 8, 1986
Waseca, Minnesota

Celebrate Maud and Delos' Years In Greenwich Village!

"And before we settle down, we might travel a bit. New Orleans, California. Have a fling at New York. Would you like that?"

"I'd love it," Betsy answered. "But we won't stay."

Maud and Delos did a fling at New York but they ended up staying! The Greater New York Chapter is offering a rare glimpse of the Lovelaces' years in Greenwich Village in the 1920's and again in 1949 with the booklet from their recent "Maud and Delos in Manhattan" Walking Tour. It includes:

- ♥ excerpts from Maud's diaries from 1928-1930 and 1949;
- ♥ a short history of Maud & Delos' years in Manhattan -- what they were writing and what they did for fun;
- ♥ press items and portrait of Maud;
- ♥ a self-guided walking tour of Greenwich Village, listing artists' and writers' houses and even a famous speakeasy that Delos and Maud had visited.

Those of you who couldn't join the tour can now take an armchair journey to the 1920's and share Betsy and Joe's New York dreams.

Cost of the booklet is \$7 + \$1 shipping. To order, send check or money order, made out to **Greater NY Chapter of Betsy-Tacy Society**, to Andrea Shaw, 224 E. 11th St., #20, NY, NY 10003.



Of Meat Pie & Other Things

by Beth Hudson



"But Joe, I'm going to learn to cook. It's the very first thing I'm going to do."

"All I ask," he answered, getting out the bacon, "is for you to learn to make two things: rice pudding and lemon pie."

"Rice pudding and lemon pie," Betsy repeated obediently. "I promise."

BETSY'S WEDDING

In real life, Maud was no more domestically inclined than her Betsy, but she did learn to make the lemon pie that Joe/Delos loved. Thanks to Merian Lovelace Kirchner, Maud's lemon pie recipe survives. Tess (a.k.a. Katie, Tacy's sister in the books) gave this recipe to Maud, and Merian has graciously shared it with us.

The recipe calls for a prepared 8" pie crust and as Tacy's never-fail pie crust is lost to the ages, we'll leave that part of the recipe up to you. Also consult your own favorite cookbook for a meringue. Maud simply says to beat the remaining egg whites with some sugar.

LEMON PIE

Mix two tablespoons of flour with one cup of sugar. Beat in one whole egg and two yolks. Reserve the remaining egg whites for the meringue. Stir in one cup cold water. Stir in the juice and rind of one lemon. Add butter the size of a nut. (Merian interpreted this to be about a tablespoon.) Cook and stir in a double boiler until thickened. This filling will be thick and runny, not stiff. Pour filling into a baked 8" pie shell, cover with meringue, and bake in a slow oven until meringue is lightly browned.

If any of you Betsy-Tacy fans have favorite recipes from the era, or want recipes of your favorite foods from the books, I'll look forward to hearing from you and will happily include your "snoggestions" in this column. Write to me at 1020 Bonham Terrace, Austin, TX 78704.

Just As They Once Did

by Nancy Rootland, Highland, California

We have traveled along with Betsy and Joe in BETSY'S WEDDING journey to their secluded cottage in the autumn woods of Lake Minnetonka.

"And they went, laughing, into each other's arms, and caught hands, and ran out of the cottage, a rough, unplastered, lakey-smelling cottage, perched on stilts, and painted green. They ran across the lawn which was sprinkled with fallen leaves, down a steep flight of steps to a dock, stretching out into Lake Minnetonka."

We have shared along with Betsy and Joe their most intimate moments, their joys, their hopes, and their dreams.

"It was the third and last day of their honeymoon. Tonight they would take a streetcar boat to Excelsior where they would catch a streetcar for Minneapolis..."

We have strolled along the road with Betsy and Joe on their early morning walks to the country store and we have dreamed away our afternoons with them as they rested upon the lawn reciting poetry.

We have swam and shivered along with Joe in the icy cold waters of the lake and we have relaxed along with Betsy upon the dock warming our souls in the autumn sunshine.

We have sympathized with Betsy and Joe when it was time for them to leave their golden world.

"It was beautiful sitting on the dock in the sunshine, planning out their lives, but they had to go in. They had to have an early supper, and pack, and row over to the streetcar boat."

We have silently walked beside Betsy and Joe as they left their honeymoon cottage. And we

have empathized with Joe as he nervously chattered to Betsy as they rowed away from their dock.

"I haven't taken one of those streetcar boats for years. They're yellow like the streetcars. They're fun. And the streetcars going in from Minnetonka are fun too. They go like lightning..."

In 1906 the streetcar boats were launched on Lake Minnetonka. A fleet of six steamboats was used to transport summer residents around the 20-mile-long lake, shuttling them between the 27 ports stationed along the 125-mile-long shoreline. Originally the passenger service was used by well-to-do families from St. Louis, Chicago, and Minneapolis who built grand summer mansions on the lake front. Eventually the passenger service was also used by tourists staying at the large hotels or visiting at the Big Island Amusement Park.

In an article titled "*Minnetonka Streetcar Boats Were Major Mode of Transportation*" in the *Star Tribune*, 24 July 1994, Peg Meier writes:

"*Yellow Jackets* is what the six streetcar boats at Lake Minnetonka were called. They were designed to look like Twin City Rapid Transit Company streetcars and were painted from the same buckets of canary-yellow paint.

"Excelsior was the home port and also the place where the boats met streetcars from the Twin Cities. Lake Minnetonka was one of the few places in the world where people could transfer from a streetcar to a steamboat operated by the parent streetcar company. The streetcar line stretched 48 miles from Stillwater to Excelsior. For 50¢ per round trip a rider could board an electric streetcar at Lake

Harriet in Minneapolis and practically fly the 15 miles to Excelsior, with speeds approaching 60 miles an hour.

"World War I brought enormous changes and tourism slumped in the years after. Hotels went out of business. Cars clearly were going to be king, and the streetcar system declined... In 1926, after only 20 years of operation, three of the streetcar steamboats (Minnehaha, Como, and White Bear) were scuttled in the deep water north of Big Island. Hunks of concrete left behind at the amusement park when the metal was removed was used to sink the boats. Two years later, two more boats (Harriet and Stillwater) were deliberately sunk. The last, the Hopkins, went in 1949."

It was in 1979 that a salvage diver discovered the hull of the Minnehaha. The following year a dredging company raised the remains. The hull and keel were in good condition but the boat was left on the shore to rot for another ten years.

In 1990 Leo Meloche began a campaign to restore and refurbish the streetcar boat. He was able to solicit private donations and, along with volunteers, was able to begin the project. The Minnesota Transportation Museum is also involved in restoring a 1907 yellow streetcar to run half a mile to the shoreline. They are also planning on building an authentic main street depot.

So mark your calendars, Betsy-Tacy fans, because in May of 1996, you will be able to retrace Betsy and Joe's honeymoon journey and travel along with them on the Minnehaha streetcar boat to Excelsior where you will be able to board the yellow street car just as they did.



Betsy-Tacy fans will be overjoyed to discover that the Lake Minnetonka ferry boat that transported Betsy and Joe from their honeymoon is now in the process of being restored. Plans are in the works to launch the ferry in May of 1996.

Notes & Notices

Betsy-Tacy Christmas Room Opening in Mankato

The Blue Earth County Historical Society cordially invites you to the grand opening of the Betsy-Tacy Christmas Room. The room will open on November 5, 1994 at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry Street, Mankato, and will remain open through December 31. Hours will be 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (CST) Tuesday through Saturday of each week. In addition to displays of memorabilia of interest to Betsy-Tacy fans, all of the Maud Hart Lovelace books now in print are available for sale. This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain the books written for adults as well as all of the Betsy-Tacy books now in print. Ken Berg's new children's biography of Maud Hart Lovelace is also available. Don't despair if you can't make it to Mankato this Christmas season! The Blue Earth County Historical Society will be glad to arrange purchase and shipment of any books that you desire if you will telephone them at (507) 345-5566 during their business hours. It's not too late to do some holiday book shopping!

Betsy-Tacy in New England

by Janet Hamilton

"If I lived in Boston, I'd wear red, white, and blue costumes and eagle headdresses every day!" Betsy wrote to her family.

BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD

Betsy in Boston! Joe Willard at Harvard! Even though we don't wear eagle headdresses (at least not every day), there are Betsy-Tacy fans in Boston. When I joined the Betsy-Tacy Society and found out that our corresponding secretary, Michele Franck, lived in Boston, I contacted her and we got together for lunch with another member, Susan Radovsky. Since then the three of us have been meeting frequently to do things Betsy-Tacy aficionados enjoy, such as visiting antiquarian book fairs (where, alas, not a Lovelace book could be found), seeing "The Secret Garden," and, of course, stuffing envelopes for the Betsy-Tacy Society.

This winter, after a year of getting to know each other, we decided to invite other New England members of the Society to join us. On Saturday, March 5, nine of us got together at my home for an afternoon of sharing favorite books and eating traditional Betsy-Tacy refreshments. (Michele instructed us in the finer points of onion sandwich making; Mr. Ray would have been proud.) We even had a quick round of Betsy-Tacy Jeopardy, which made Lynne Querzoli the proud owner of a second-hand copy of BETSY, TACY AND TIB.

While we have not yet officially become a chapter, we've had several more meetings, with the group growing in size each time. Our most recent event was a trip to Orchard House, where Louisa May Alcott wrote LITTLE WOMEN, coupled with a picnic lunch near author's Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (complete with unfrosted cake for dessert). New England is a children's book-lover's paradise, and we are already planning trips to Plymouth Plantation (CONSTANCE), and to see a production of "A Little Princess" this fall.

If you live in New England and would like to join us, please contact me, Janet Hamilton, at (508) 264-0987.

Merian's Column

As everybody must know by now, Andrea Shaw and I are sorting Maud's papers. We've been at it for a year now, and we're still coming up with pure gold.

Here's a letter that Maud wrote in 1966 to somebody named Marjorie (probably, from the context, in Mankato) who was working on an unidentified Betsy-Tacy project.

I love this letter because it sounds exactly like my mother, and I'd like to share it with you because she makes such thoughtful comments on two subjects that fascinate Betsy-Tacy people: (1) How much of the books is fact, how much is fiction? and (2) Why, oh, why did Maud destroy the high school diaries?

774 West 8th Street
Claremont, California
June 24, 1966

Dear Marjorie:

It's so nice to hear from you again and to find you involved in such an exciting (to me) project. It has stirred up a lively curiosity around these parts.

There was indeed a deep connection between the B-T books and my own life. As you probably heard me say a hundred times in Mankato, there's a little truth in everything but nothing is all true. The home life is all true; the Ray family was the Hart family. And many of the characters are based on real people who have identified themselves long since. However, some characters are made up of two or three real people; some are given invented adventures, etc. I think you are aware of all this.

I mention it especially on the subject of the diaries. Each one of the high school books was based on the diary for the year it covered. Almost any incident you care to pick: the Halloween party at Carney's, the skating party, the trip to Milwaukee, my first high school dance, the Okto Delta sorority (I still have my pin) etc., etc. The catch is that I used these events as I saw fit...some that happened to me were given to other people; some that happened to other people were given to me, some happenings were expanded out of all recognition, etc., and of course as with the characters above, there was some pure invention.

I loved those diaries...each one, unaware that it was trash, using the title of a Shakespearean play! Merian loved them, too, and Delos chuckled over them. Nevertheless, about a year ago I did copy out a few except for one cover and a few pages. Of course, I did copy out a few choice bits, and some of family interest. Like most writers, I believe, Delos and I are receiving requests these days from colleges and universities for any material that ties up with our writing. There is an especial interest in the Betsy-Tacy books, and, as you probably know, I've sent a good deal of memorabilia pertaining to them to the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota. (They are making very good use of it.) I've promised them more in the future, but I didn't want the diaries to go to them or to anyone, ever. They were too silly, too personal, and so full of names! Hence my drastic action...

own. But without the reality of Mankato, we wouldn't have the magic of Deep Valley.



The letter then goes on for a couple of pages, telling Marjorie about photos and other research materials that Maud will send her if she'd like them.

I hadn't quite realized it myself, but this letter makes it clear that Maud was as sorry to destroy the diaries as we are not to have them (well, almost).

As for the blend of fact and fiction in the stories, whatever the exact proportions, the results are magic. Deep Valley isn't just Mankato by another name,

it has a life of its



Merian Lovelace Kirchner is Maud Hart Lovelace's daughter and a regular contributor to the Betsy-Tacy Society newsletter.

From Our Mailbox



We'd love to hear from you! Address correspondence to:

Debbie Tranchita, 6221 N. Niagara, Chicago, IL 60631

Should you wish to respond to one of the letter-writers below, please address her c/o:

Michele Franck, Post Office Box 2903, Framingham, MA 01701

"I was born on March 10, 1936. My great-grandmother's birthday was September 11 and as the first and somewhat indulged first great-grandchild I always got a half-birthday present (a day late) on her birthday. In September of 1940 (or possibly 1941) it was Betsy-Tacy. I remember having it read to me when I had the measles but from then on I could read to myself. There was a hiatus during the war when books were hard to get and then I got BETSY & TACY GO DOWNTOWN and backtracked to the two interim ones. The high school series came out just before my own high school years and by BETSY'S WEDDING I was at the University of Michigan and smuggled my copy to the only other aficionado I knew on campus so we could keep up with the series. We were far too sophisticated to admit we were reading a "children's" book but far too committed fans to wait to find out "what happened next." My daughters have read my copies to pieces and still reread the whole canon every year when they come home at Christmas. We can all recite whole passages and remark often on how much information we absorbed so painlessly from this wonderful series which has never gotten the praise it deserves."

Winifred Motherwell, Okemos, MI

"Please accept my renewal check for membership. Everyone is doing a wonderful job with the newsletter! I'm THRILLED to report that I recently obtained a beautiful ex-library, dust jacketed edition of CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY - thanks to a book search. I had to pay dearly for it but now my collection is complete, for within the past year I also obtained a copy of WINONA'S PONY CART through a different search. Please tell all of those Betsy-Tacy fans not to give up hope!

Sharon Avinger, Lexington, SC

"I have loved Betsy-Tacy since my early teens and am lucky to own ten of the books (which stay chained on my bookshelf)! I am glad to see Harper-Collins reprinting Lovelace's books. I especially enjoyed Barbara Sproat's article in Issue 14 and have begun my own campaign by giving the books as Christmas gifts to my kid's teachers. I am still hunting for CARNEY, EMILY, and WINONA (isn't everyone) and would like to inform anyone living in Virginia that the Lynchburg Public Library has a copy of CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY and the Rustburg branch of Campbell County has EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY, both of which I've been tempted to steal!! I'd enjoy meeting any Betsy-Tacy fans that live nearby."

Rhonda Whiting, Lynchburg, VA

"Hooray for the Betsy-Tacy Society! I grew up in North Mankato and always felt especially lucky to live near Betsy, Tacy, and Tib. I did hear Maud Hart Lovelace speak at least once."

Janet Knol, Park Forest, IL

"I have read through all of the letters and am struck by how we all say the same thing - "I thought I was the only one." I did, too, of course, since I've been telling people about the books for years and have never yet met anyone who has heard of them. I can't really remember when I found the books although I think it must have been when my family was living in Minnesota. I've only recently discovered how good the earlier ones are - I was only interested in the High School years for a long time - but reading the first books to my seven-year-old Emily (guess where that came from!) has brought back an appreciation for them as well. My favorite is EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY. I was not an only child, but my brother is severely and profoundly retarded and I can identify easily more with Emily than with Betsy and her sisters. What amazes me as I reread these books is how deep an influence they had on me. I've always had a distaste for sororities and fraternities, for prejudice against "foreigners," and a strong tendency to root for the underdog. In fact, I took a survey course in American Studies last year and ended up using the scene with old Bushara talking about how he is an American now as my jumping off point for what America means to me. It has been wonderful to discover a group of people who love what I love."

Judy Durand, Lancaster, PA

"My sisters and I were Betsy-Tacy readers while growing up and have bought the books issued in paperback by Harper Trophy. I have two favorite Betsy-Tacy stories: I got my first Betsy-Tacy book, BETSY & TACY GO DOWNTOWN, when I was in the fourth grade. The school was having a book sale to raise money. I came across the Betsy-Tacy book and quickly snatched it up for 20 cents. It is a Scholastic Book Services copy. The only puzzle is I can't figure out who the illustrator is since there is no illustrator's name anywhere on the book. My next Betsy-Tacy story happened last February. I was visiting my mother-in-law and talking to my sister-in-law about my disappointment with an out-of-print service group who were unable to track down any of the Betsy-Tacy High School books. She mentioned having WINONA'S PONY CART which she had bought for a dollar at a library sale. I told her that was the only book in the series I never read. When my birthday arrived in May I got a nice surprise—the book. My husband called the publishers of the Betsy-Tacy books asking about the books not in print. I was very happy to hear they are now going to be printed."

Susan Sheridan, New York, NY



From Our Mailbox, continued



"My daughter found out about the Society through the letters to the editors in *Victoria* magazine. It was the best birthday present that I have ever received. My daughter, Tracy, sent a box for my birthday telling me I couldn't open it until my birthday. Of course it got here five days early. My husband hid it so that I couldn't open it. He works nights and on March 13 at midnight my birthday began. I searched all over the house for my present, I couldn't find it—I sat on the sofa in the sewing room waiting for my dear husband to come home—steaming, of course! He walked into the room, I had my arms folded and was tapping my toe. "I want my present and I want it now!" It will be forever my best birthday. Tracy had sent me a package full of Betsy-Tacy stuff including several newsletters. I am enclosing some pictures of a steamer trunk that I did for my daughter's birthday this year [Editor's note: *We tried to reproduce the photos of the steamer trunk for the newsletter, but were unable to do it. We can tell you, though, that it's a real work of art.*] To explain where all the pictures came from, I have to go all the way back to the beginning of my love affair with Betsy, Tacy, and Tib. I came from a cold and unloving family, sometimes even violent. In my heart the Rays became my ideal family. I aspired to be a mother like Mrs. Ray. I didn't always succeed, but as I look back, I was a better mother than I ever realized. I have a son and daughter who are kind, decent, successful human beings. Anna Quindlen may have her "feminist icon"; what I took most from those books was a consummate sense of decency. From the way Betsy, Tacy, and Tib helped to rescue Naifi, to the guilt that Betsy felt when she realized how the Okto Deltas had cut her off from other friendships. I was a better human being thanks to Maud's books.

In 1977 I was with my son, Mark, and daughter, Tracy, in the library. We were looking for books for the two of them in the children's section. My eye caught a glimpse of a Betsy-Tacy book pleading with me "pick me, pick me." I explained to Tracy just how I loved those books when I was a girl. We checked the book out and she loved Betsy and Tacy as much as I did—well, almost. The library only had some of the books and I decided that Tracy should read all of them. I called the publisher and ordered all of the books. It cost \$65.00, and I thought it was a real bargain. They were read over and over between 1977 and 1991. In 1991 we had a house fire. I spent three weeks in the hospital. After I got out of the hospital and spent several more weeks getting stronger, I went out to the house to say good-bye before it was bulldozed and rebuilt. In the partially-burnt bookcase were my Betsy-Tacy books—damaged but recognizable. I could not allow them to be thrown away. I didn't know what I would do with them. My husband didn't argue; he went to the car to get a plastic bag to put the books in. They were in the garage until I could decide what to do with them. When I opened my birthday package, I knew just what I could do with those precious books. I ended up making copies of most of the pictures because I couldn't divvy up the pictures between Tracy and me. I am taking the chest to Tracy as a belated birthday present this year.

In answer to the question what character do I most relate to? I relate to Betsy because I like to write. I belong to another club called American Coaster Enthusiasts—ACE. I've written articles for the club magazine appropriately called "RollerCoaster." I'll try every new cream that comes along. I exercise everyday (it

probably saved my life). After the fire I healed faster than the doctors ever imagined. I am also like Tacy; I have red hair and married a man named Harry. I am Irish on my mother's side. Like Tib, I like to sew. I make most of my clothes. I make quilts, curtains, pillows, and a lot of Victorian decorations that adorn our house. I wish I shared Tib's penchant for neatness; right now I'm up to my eyebrows in a mess trying to get some letters out, take care of sick kitties, and get ready to deliver Tracy's trunk and ride some roller coasters along the way at King's Island. Life is an adventure.

Last summer I finally made the trek to Mankato/Deep Valley; what a glorious trip. I met Shirley and she loaned me her copy of *CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY* which I had never found before; she even let me borrow it long enough for Tracy to read it. She and her husband came up to Mankato a few days after I did. I even went to Madison/Murmuring Lake. It was like a dream."

Helen Fluharty, Shawnee OK

"I first read the Betsy-Tacy books in Phoenix, Arizona as an eight year old (1953). I've read the whole set every three years since then. What a thrill when a woman I met on a cruise told me she was from Mankato. We talked about the books and she has graciously sent me all the news from there, postcards, pictures, maps, etc. That was in 1992; yesterday I got the newsletter and I know she sent it—please accept my membership. I've read the newsletter cover to cover. It's great knowing there are so many devoted fans out there. I am a special services librarian and handle Large Print Books. How much joy these stories would bring my clients if I could get them in large print! I think the books have such wide appeal because of the family loyalty, and the value of personal responsibility presented so well!

Jan Zachry, Sheridan, WY



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL NEWS

by Kelly Reuter

The Board of the National Betsy-Tacy Society met on May 28, 1994 for lunch at Marray's and a meeting following. We are excited about the new printing of "THE TREES KNEEL AT CHRISTMAS" by Abdo, Abdo, & Daughters. It will be out this fall and the Society is planning to have a special party celebrating its publication. Ken Berg has also written a basic biography of Maud to be printed by Abdo, Abdo, & Daughters as well. He has said that is it intended to attract children to read it for book report purposes, etc.

It was decided to purchase a copy of "WINONA'S PONY CART" for the Society archives at \$150.00 plus postage. This book is very special because it is inscribed by Maud to Helen's foster grandchild - "for Grandpa and Grandma Foster to read to Timmy from Great Aunt Maud."

There was discussion about future products for the Society to sell as fund raisers. We are in the process of having a special "Deep Valley" afghan custom woven and hope it will be available by Christmas. There is another exciting idea in the works and we will let you know when something develops.

The publication of the newsletter has become a much bigger job than we ever anticipated. Therefore, we discussed various ways to do it more efficiently, keep the cost down, and give everyone the best newsletter possible on our budget.

It was decided that we will try to have a summer event each year, big enough to attract members from around the country, although not as big a production as the convention. It was suggested to have it in July each year and it would be somewhat like a mini-convention with special events and souvenirs. Cheryl Harness, Kay Hocker, and Kelly Reuter will work on this.

The restoration of the Hubbard House will hopefully be finished by December. We think it would be the perfect place for a Betsy-Tacy Christmas event.

A letter of resignation from the board from Kathy Baxter was read. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appoint Dolly Blomquist as our new Vice President. We welcome Dolly to her new position - she has already done so much to help with projects and ideas on the board, we know she will make a great Vice President.

There was some discussion about the future of Mrs. Chubbock's store. We are hoping that the store will have a future that the Betsy-Tacy Society can be a part of.

We are pleased that Louisa Smith will be our speaker at next summer's event. Her theme will be "A Day in Mankato Circa 1900 as Presented in Maud Hart Lovelace's Books." Sounds great!!!

Our special copy of "WINONA'S PONY CART" will go on display at the Historical Society or the Library. The Society has decided to buy a file cabinet for our important papers and memorabilia now that we are acquiring books, etc. It was suggested and agreed that we try to buy the video tapes of the 1992 convention from CCTV for our archives.

There was discussion on the reaction to the new cover artwork on the books. Most people have a very strong opinion about it but we are all very happy to have the books in print again.

The Minnesota Library Association will be having its convention in Mankato in October 1995. We will be planning a display for this event.

The Betsy-Tacy Society has been asked to participate in the annual Victorian Fair in Winona on October 8 and 9. The board decided to have a booth or table to promote the books, sell our merchandise, and have a paperdoll activity for the children. We will all take turns staffing the table that weekend.

New items in the Betsy-Tacy Society Shop will be mugs featuring illustrations from the books. These will make great stocking stuffers.

Dolly has finished revising the chapter handbook and new membership forms. If you are interested in starting a chapter, or have a place for handing out forms, the Society will be happy to send some out to you.

We had an update from Alison and are excited about the new Christmas Ornament from Deep Valley Creations. We are also happy to hear that she has chosen a production company and is moving along with the TV project.

The map committee has met and planned out the new Mankato/Deep Valley maps to be given to tourists. The new map will include more sites than the old one and will be in print soon.

The Betsy-Tacy Society expresses deepest sympathy to Michele Franck on the passing of her father. We have given a memorial in his name to the Franck family to be used in whatever way they choose.

BETSY-TACY CELEBRATE AMERICA

The Minnesota Valley Regional Library, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library, sponsored a children's tea as a special event connected with their summer reading program. The tea was held on Friday, June 17 at 2:00 and was planned by Kelly Reuter. Members of the Betsy-Tacy Society helped to decorate, serve refreshments, help with craft projects, and clean up. Some of them wore costumes and hats reminiscent of the fashions in Betsy's day. Members who helped were Lona Falenczykowski and daughter Emily, Sandy Kleinschmidt and daughter Courtney, Joan Landas, Carlienne Frisch, and Kelly, Shelby and Allie Reuter.

A limit had been set at 60 children (the library didn't think there would be that many) and reservations were filled a few days before the event, with a waiting list started. Over 50 children, including two boys, showed up to enjoy the tea.

Decorations were flags, stars, and "firecrackers." The serving table was centered by a giant firecracker exploding with sparkles, stars, and flags. Sparkling star garland and shredded confetti cascaded down each table along with red, white and blue patriotic tracing shapes and candy bars in shiny red and blue wrappers. Placemats were copies of the "queens parade" in "OVER THE BIG HILL." Favors were sparkling "firecrackers" which "exploded" into toys and bubble gum when the "fuse" was pulled.

Kelly told the children the history and significance of flags, pointing out the meaning of the stars, stripes, and colors in America's flag, as well as those from other countries. She then read portions of "OVER THE BIG HILL", emphasizing the pride in being American that the Syrians felt, along with the account of the coronation of Naifi as "an American Queen."

Everyone enjoyed a sundae bar featuring neapolitan ice cream, bananas, and lots of assorted sauces and toppings. Root beer was the choice for an old-fashioned drink.

Following the refreshments the children made their own flags representing themselves. They each chose a color of felt for the background, cut and glued on felt symbols, embellished with shiny fabric paint, and added a stick. They were supposed to think about colors and symbols that best told the story of who they were.

The children went home happy, with their hands full of favors, goodies from the center of the tables, and a colorful flag to decorate their rooms.

Thank you to the Betsy-Tacy Society members who worked so hard that day!



GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER

By Julie Sheffieck

A Betsy-Tacy Tea is scheduled to be held in October. We plan to use the money raised to buy books for schools and to send to the house fund.

Plans for the November 6 meeting include an ornament and/or cookie exchange and reading aloud from "THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" and the Cratchit's Christmas dinner in "A CHRISTMAS CAROL." For information, contact Elaine Pappas at (219) 942-5563.

GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER

By Merian Lovelace Kirchner

We're launching our fall season with the First Maud and Delos in New York Walking Tour on Saturday, October 15.

Maud and Delos spent almost two years in Manhattan in the early '20's and came back in 1928. At various times they lived uptown, near Columbia University, and downtown on West 26th Street, and farther downtown in Greenwich Village, the traditional home of writers and artists. We've chosen the Village for our tour because it was the neighborhood they knew and loved best - and because it's a nice neighborhood to walk in, with its curving, treelined streets, its friendly rows of brick and brownstone townhouses, its enticing little shops and restaurants.

With chapter president Kate Eberline as our tour guide, we'll find the buildings Maud and Delos lived in, streets they strolled and places they knew, soaking up Village history along the way. We'll have lunch at the Waverly Inn, which has been serving its excellent chicken pot pie since 1920 and was one of the Lovelaces' favorite restaurants.

The Waverly Inn lunch will double as our first chapter meeting of the new season.

Our next big event will be a bookstore party to celebrate the arrival of "HEAVEN TO BETSY" and "BETSY IN SPITE OF HERSELF" in their new Harper Trophy editions.

P.S. We've prepared a booklet for the walking tour that tells just about everything there is to know about Maud and Delos in New York, and a lot about New York as they knew it. There's even a block-by-block description of the route the tour follows, so you can walk it on your own any time you're in the Village. Thanks for a wonderful job go to Andrea Shaw, who wrote the text (with copious quotes from Maud's diaries and letters home); to researchers Linda Duchin, Margaret Evans, Mary Glascock and Virginia Wilhelm; and to Joan Kirschner, our desktop publisher. If you'd like a copy, you'll find order information in this newsletter on page 6.

Check Your Label!

Look at your mailing label on the back cover. If the date printed there is 9/94, it's time to renew. Do it today! There is a membership/renewal form on the inside back cover.

Ideal Is there anyone on your holiday gift list who would like a membership in the Betsy-Tacy Society?

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

"What are you reading...?" is a regular feature of the Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter. Let us know what you're reading and what you love to reread. Send your literary lists and comments to: Stephanie Smith, 824 Kirkwood, Winthrop Harbor IL 60096.

Kim Kadletz
Montrose, CA

The main series books I read growing up were the Bobbsey Twins, Trixie Belden, Cherry Ames, Nancy Drew, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle, and the Wizard of Oz. All of these have been mentioned previously by your other members--isn't it interesting that we all like the same thing? I received an Oz book for every birthday and Christmas for many years, and have quite a collection. Being a graphic designer, I am especially interested in books with good illustrations, and the John R. Neill pen-and-ink drawings in the Oz books are fabulous.

A series that I don't remember seeing mentioned before is The Borrowers by Mary Norton--five in the series and I really suggest you read them in order! They are set in turn-of-the-century England and they, also, have great pen-and-ink illustrations by Beth and Joe Krush. English books have a little twist in language that I love, and other English authors I recommend are Rumer Godden (my favorite is MISS HAPPINESS AND MISS FLOWER) and Miss Read. The Miss Read books are illustrated in pen-and-ink by the prolific John S. Goodall, although some soft-cover editions have truly ghastly cover designs by another artist.

I have enjoyed many of Elizabeth Ogilvie's books, especially BECKY'S ISLAND (hard to find), and I recommend LINNETS AND VALERIANS by Elizabeth Goudge. A book I read over and over when young was LITTLE WITCH by Anna Elizabeth Bennett--I obtained this book through Scholastic Book Services when I was in eighth grade, and through the same company I received my first B-T book, BETSY AND TACY GO DOWNTOWN. These must have been special editions put out for Scholastic, because they are both illustrated by Lisl Weil, and I have never seen these particular soft-cover editions in libraries anywhere.

That same year I read GONE WITH THE WIND for the first time, and waited with bated breath to come to the one part in the

book that my mother had warned me was "racy". I feverishly read about Rhett hoisting Scarlett into his arms and going up, up, up the stairs--and was very disappointed when I turned the page and found out that Margaret Mitchell had skipped the details and continued on with "the morning after".

Another favorite book, and the only one I've ever read by this particular author, is THE SILVER SPOON MYSTERY by Dorothy Sterling--I read this book over and over, especially in the summer. (Ed. note: *I was always fascinated by the unintentional pun caused by the title and the author's name when I was a child*) Rebecca Caudill was a terrific writer of juvenile fiction, and my favorite books by her are SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE WOODS and SCHOOLROOM IN THE PARLOUR. I love the illustrations, too, but I cannot tell you who the artist was because these books are so hard to find!

As an adult, favorite books have been the Kathleen Norris books, especially THE WORLD IS LIKE THAT and DINA CASHMAN. Norris' books are very easy to find in used-book stores and you'll get hooked on them, even though the premise of almost every story is the same--poor girl becomes rich or rich girl encounters problems of being rich. Norris is unparalleled in her ability to describe a scene and really make you feel and see the mood and the setting. I also like the Booth Tarkington books, especially SEVENTEEN (not much like the movie made in the '40's), and my absolute best-loved L.M. Montgomery book is ANNE OF WINDY POPLAR--there is astounding character development of the people Anne meets while the high school principal in Summerside--you'll love Rebecca Dew!

A last word on illustrations--Hilary Knight illustrated the Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle books by Betty MacDonald in pen-and-ink, and he is one of the best, just as Garth Williams is one of the best in pencil. And if you didn't read the Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle books as a child, they will still appeal to you as an adult!

Sonja Werle
Frankfurt, Germany

I have read only five of the Betsy-Tacy books till now, but I'm waiting for more! The Anne of Green Gables books and all others by L.M. Montgomery are books I love, too. I've also read her very interesting journals.

Now for some European children's books: of course Astrid Lindgren from Sweden, not only the well-known PIPPI LONGSTOCKING, but also the Emil series, and best of all RONJA ROBBERS DAUGHTER. One of the best children's books I know is HEIDI, Johanna Spyri's Swiss child, living in the Alps with her grandfather. The books of Erick Kastner show the children's world in 1950's Germany. The best ones are LOTTIE AND LISA and THE FLYING CLASSROOM. The British schoolstories of Enid Blyton, the St. Clares series and the Malory Towers series I've reread many times.

Of adult novels I love best Jane Austen's complete novels. Another favourite of mine is Elizabeth von Arnim. Her books are reprinted now, they are from the first half of the century. They all deal with women who find their own way, but some of them don't realize it. Her novels are all worth reading, not only ENCHANTED APRIL which was made into a film, but also LOVE, VERA, MR. SKEFFINGTON, ELIZABETH AND HER GERMAN GARDEN, and THE SOLITARY SUMMER.

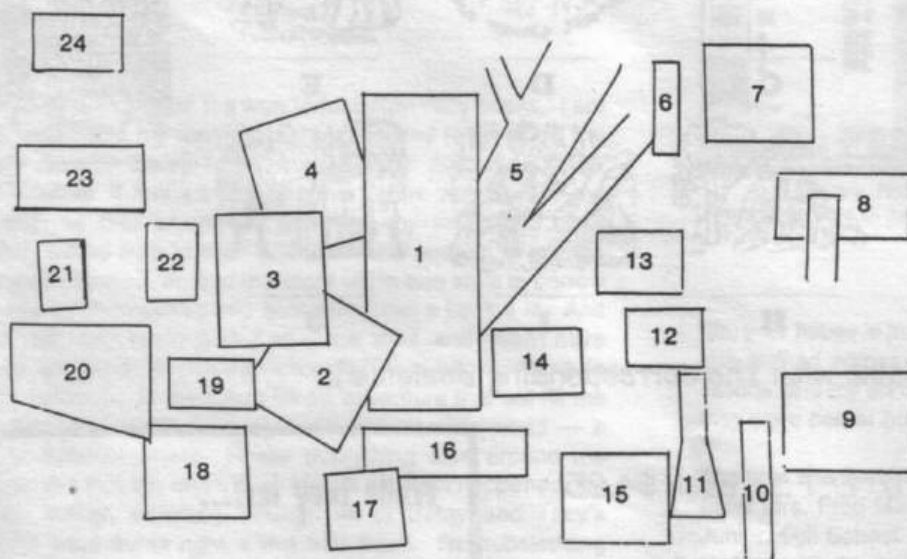


WHAT ARE YOU WRITING WHEN YOU'RE NOT READING BETSY-TACY

BETSY HOLLOWAY

-UNFINISHED HEAVEN: Durham North Carolina--A Story of Two Schools.
Persimmon Press, 1994.

Legend to Accompany MAUD'S DEEP VALLEY



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Maud Hart Lovelace | 14. Pleasant Grove school |
| 2. Maud Hart (Betsy) | 15. Old High School |
| 3. Frances Kenney (Tacy) | 16. "New" Carnegie Library |
| 4. Marjorie Gerlach (Tib) | 17. Maud Hart in front of the library's fireplace |
| 5. Maple tree in Harts' background | 18. Hart home on High Street |
| 6. Mill whistle | 19. Birthplace of Maud Hart |
| 7. Hubbard Milling building | 20. Over the big hill for a picnic |
| 8. Lincoln Elm with soldier statue | 21. Princess Nalfi, Queen of May |
| 9. Opera House | 22. King Alfonso of Spain |
| 10. Maud Hart in her blue traveling suit | 23. Cutting each other's hair to place in lockets |
| 11. Maud Hart in her wedding gown | 24. The pink cloud, the origin of make-believe adventures |
| 12. First Baptist Church attended by the Hart family | |
| 13. St. John's Episcopal Church which Maud and her sister joined | |

The photograph of this mural is on the back cover.

Photograph made available by Friends of the Minnesota Valley Regional Library, Mankato.

New One-of-a-Kind Book Features Maud Hart Lovelace

The Young at Heart series introduces young readers to some of the most famous and important children's writers of our time. Their most recent addition, MAUD HART LOVELACE, was written by former *Mankato Free Press* editor Ken Berg and contains never-before published details and photos about Mrs. Lovelace's childhood in Mankato, her writing career in New York, and the development of the Betsy-Tacy series. The book is 32 pages; price is \$13.99 in hardcover and \$4.95 in softcover. Reading level is Grade 4. Contact Julie Abdo, Abdo & Daughters Publishing, 4940 Viking Drive, Edina, MN 55435; phone (800) 458-8399.

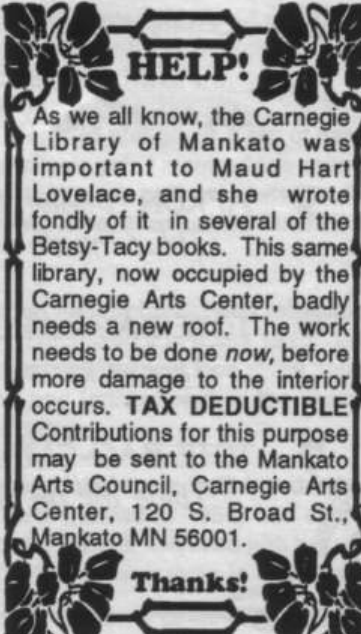
Greater Chicago Tribune Article Features Betsy-Tacy Society

The Betsy-Tacy Society received some wonderful publicity from a July 24, 1994 article in the *Greater Chicago Tribune*. The article was written by Greater Chicago Chapter member Ann Therese Palmer. Excerpts from the article will be printed in an upcoming newsletter.

Calling all Lenora Mattingly Weber fans!

Betsy-Tacy Society member Leslie Croce writes to ask, "Does anybody know if there's a Lenora Mattingly Weber/Beany Malone Society, and if so, what its address is? And if not, *why not*, and is anyone interested in starting one or at least exchanging letters? I'm just starting to re-read them, and if anyone can help me find LEAVE IT TO BEANY, TARRY AWHILE, or SOMETIMES A STRANGER, blessings be upon him or her."

You can reach Leslie at Ramstein Elementary School, PSC 2 Box 9729, APO AE 09012.



HELP!

As we all know, the Carnegie Library of Mankato was important to Maud Hart Lovelace, and she wrote fondly of it in several of the Betsy-Tacy books. This same library, now occupied by the Carnegie Arts Center, badly needs a new roof. The work needs to be done *now*, before more damage to the interior occurs. **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** Contributions for this purpose may be sent to the Mankato Arts Council, Carnegie Arts Center, 120 S. Broad St., Mankato MN 56001.

Thanks!

Betsy - Tacy Society Shop Catalog

Our primary goal is the purchase of Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home in Mankato, Minnesota for use as a museum and visitor center.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.



A



B



C



D



E



K



F



G



H



I



J

The following items are available with the corresponding design(s):

1 RUBBER STAMPS

• Designs: A B C D E F..... each \$4.95

2 T-SHIRT Design: G [raspberry shirt]

Child size M each \$9.95

Adult sizes S, M, L, XL each \$9.95

2A Adult size XXL each \$12.95

3 T-SHIRT Design H [pink shirt]

Child size M each \$9.95

Adult sizes S, M, L, XL each \$9.95

3A Adult size XXL each \$12.95

4 T-SHIRT Design I [aqua shirt]

Adult sizes S, M, L, XL each \$9.95

4A Adult size XXL each \$12.95

5 APRON Design K

[blue ink on white apron] each \$9.95

6 TOTE BAG-LARGE Design J

[green ink on beige bag] each \$9.95

7 TOTE BAG-SMALL Design H

[blue ink on beige bag] each \$6.95

While they last...

10 QUILT SQUARE SET

Ten squares to a set

Pictures are from the Betsy-Tacy series drawings by Lois Lenski and Vera Neville.

Set includes one illustration from each of the ten books

Each square approximately 6" x 6"

Price: \$25 for the set

Order now! Quilt squares won't be available once the ones we have in stock are sold.

All proceeds go to the non-profit Betsy-Tacy Society

Betsy - Tacy Society Shop Catalog



8

From Betsy, Tacy and Tib:
HEINZ RESTAURANT

New!

8 & 9 Coffee Mugs

White Mugs; Dark Green Ink

\$7.50 per mug

Choose from two designs!



9

From Betsy In Spite of Herself:
DREE-EEE-EAMING

Betsy-Tacy Convention
Deep Valley Minnesota
July 10 - 12, 1992



Maud Hart Lovelace
Centennial
The Betsy-Tacy Society
303 Meadow Wood Drive
Mankato MN 56001

10A

*Memories of
Shirley Lieske*

Betsy-Tacy Convention
Deep Valley Minnesota
July 10 - 12, 1992



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10B

*Classic Girls'
Series
Kate Emburg*

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10C

*Women
Who Drew
Deep Valley
Cheryl Harness*

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10D

*Collector's
Hints
Colleen
Timmins*

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10E

*A Heroine
Flourishes
Mary Atwell*

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10F

*Characters &
Counterparts
Sharla Whalen*

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10G

*My Love Affair
Kathy Baxter*

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10H

*Home is Where
Susan Stanfield*

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10I

*Kerlan
Collection
Karen Hoyle*

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10J

*Great World
Revisited
Beth Hudson*

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10K

*History of
Little Syria
Gail Palmer*

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10L

*MN Women
Authors
Lyn Lacy*



BOOKS

11 WINDOWS TO THE PAST

by Rene Ratzlof

A book of games & puzzles
for children

..... each \$5.00

12 THE LAST STORY

by Maud Hart Lovelace

Betsy and Tacy go to Spain

..... each \$2.00

**Please Turn The Page
For Order Form**

10 CONVENTION BOOKMARKS 1 1/2" x 5 1/2"

Set of 12 each set \$6.00 Single bookmark each 50¢

Each of the twelve speakers at the convention chose a Betsy-Tacy illustration to appear on the bookmark given at her presentation.

All proceeds go to the non-profit Betsy-Tacy Society



Betsy - Tacy Society Shop Catalog

ATTENTION: Kay Hocker • 521 10th Street SE • Rochester MN 55904

QTY	CODE	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
___	1A		Rubber Stamp	\$4.95	___
___	1B		Rubber Stamp	4.95	___
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___	1D		Rubber Stamp	4.95	___
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___	2A	XXL	T-Shirt [raspberry]	12.95	___
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___	3A	XXL	T-Shirt [pink]	12.95	___
___	4	___ *	T-Shirt [aqua]	9.95	___
___	4A	XXL	T-Shirt [aqua]	12.95	___
* If additional sizes are desired, please note on separate, attached sheet. Also, please note that the aqua T-shirt is not available in Adult size Small.					
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___	10D		Collector's Hints BkMk50	___
___	10E		A Heroine BkMk50	___
___	10F		Characters BkMk50	___
___	10G		My Love Affair BkMk50	___
___	10H		Home is Where BkMk50	___
___	10I		Kerlan Collection BkMk50	___
___	10J		Great World BkMk50	___
___	10K		History of Syria BkMk50	___
___	10L		Women Authors BkMk50	___
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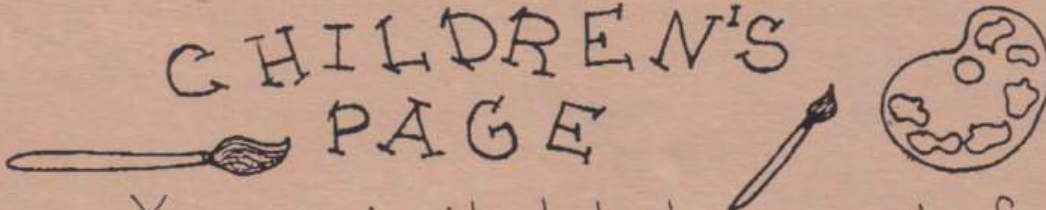
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Home Phone (_____) _____

merchandise sub-totals	delivery charge
"Last Story" only	\$1.50
up to \$30	\$3.45
\$30.01 -- \$65	\$4.35
\$60.01 -- \$95	\$5.65

All proceeds go to the non-profit Betsy-Tacy Society

CHILDREN'S PAGE



You are invited to be a part of the Betsy-Tacy Art Guild.

Who: Anyone who likes to draw - include your name, age and address.

What: A 3x5 picture of Betsy, Tacy or Tib on their first day of school.

When: To be received by December 15 1994

Where: To be published in upcoming newsletters.

RS.V.P. Send all work to: Renea Ratzloff, 2324 Fair Street
Mankato, MN 56001 by December 15, 1994.

Renewal sent 11/20/94
ck # 3104

Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Please check either: Renewal ☒ New Member ☐ Have you received a Newsletter? _____
If so, which number? _____

Membership Levels

____ Sustaining \$100 and up

____ Patron \$25

____ Family \$15

☒ Individual \$10

____ Child \$5

____ Europe or Canada \$15 and up

If you prefer that your name not be given out for future Betsy-Tacy product mailings, check here ☐

Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send, along with this form, to:

Michele Franck, Post Office Box 2903, Framingham, MA 01701



The Mural, MAUD'S DEEP VALLEY, depicts scenes from the Betsy-Tacy books by Maud Hart Lovelace and Mankato, Minnesota, at the turn of the century. Painted by Marian Anderson, the mural hangs in the Minnesota Valley Regional Library in Mankato.

A guide to the mural is on page 15 of this newsletter.

The Betsy - Tacy Society
c/o The Heritage Center
BECHS
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