

THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

*Note Book*

## The Betsy-Tacy Society

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Newsletter deadlines are March 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.

## About the Cover

The cover of the *Journal of the Betsy-Tacy Society* may need a little explaining: It's an adaptation of the actual cover of one of Maud Hart Lovelace's personal journals. A copy of the original was provided by Shirley Lieske of Mankato, and the adaptation was done by Trish Hayden of Hayden Design, in Fullerton, California.

## Membership Notes

It wouldn't be a newsletter without the usual reminder from me, would it? Please check your mailing label—if it says FALL 1995, it's time to renew. Memberships which lapsed with the previous issue will say EXPIRED on the label, and this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you renew. Please use or copy the membership form in the back, or send me your name and address along with your check (P. O. Box 2903, Framingham, MA 01701).

Michele Franck

## From the Editor

Those of us who were lucky enough to attend the Great Mankato Get-Together are happy to have a chance to share some of the fun in the reports in this issue by Julie Chuba and Juanita Juarez on pages 3 through 6. The real fun of these events is the opportunity to meet in person people to whom we have related by phone, or mail, or email. Putting faces with the names...what a pleasure it was.

With this issue the newsletter gets a new name. We thought we'd call it the *Journal of the Betsy-Tacy Society* for a while and see how that fits. It is actually becoming more of a journal, as we use more pieces written by our members. We'd like to see it evolve into a journal that publishes articles, fiction, and poetry written by our members--literary descendants, all, of Maud Hart Lovelace. What do you think? Is that something you'd like to see happen? If you have thoughts on the subject, let me know.

Patty Warhol

## Where to Send It!

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## Reports from Deep Valley: The Great Mankato Get-Together of 1995

### Deep Valley Reflections

by Julie Chuba

The 1995 Great Mankato Get-Together, held in Mankato, Minnesota July 7-9, was another superb event staged by the industrious, inventive members of the Betsy-Tacy Society. As I drove into Mankato and glimpsed the hilly streets we all seem to know, my thoughts turned to the triumvirate of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib – the three little girls whose childhood I shared in the pages of Maud Hart Lovelace's stories. Although Mankato is a modern town, and many of the Betsy-Tacy sites have been replaced with new buildings, enough of Deep Valley remains to satisfy most Betsy-Tacy fans. It wasn't hard to imagine the girls picking flowers on the Big Hill, climbing trees and pretending to fly, barreling down a snowy slope on a toboggan, or walking downtown to match ribbons or buy a new Christmas ornament.

On Friday evening the Get-Together began with a delicious dinner of Lebanese specialties (kabobs, pocket bread, baklava) in honor of the Syrian settlement in Deep Valley mentioned in *Betsy-Tacy Go Over the Big Hill* and *Emily of Deep Valley*. Our noble president, Lona Falenczykowski, gave us a warm welcome and introduced some behind-the-scenes workers who helped to make the event so enjoyable. We spent our time meeting, talking to and, in some cases, reuniting with one another, and for those who have been conversing by computer, it was fun to put faces behind those email addresses! There were B-T fans from Chicago, Boston, New York, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Pennsylvania, and even a contingent from California – proving how far-flung our Society has become. Yet I felt as though I

was among friends. There were many mother-daughter teams, a few good-natured spouses, and enough kids to remind us all of modern-day Betsys, Tacs, and Tibs.

Saturday morning we listened to Dr. Louisa Smith, Professor of English at Mankato State University, speak about life in turn-of-the-century Mankato "as presented in the Maud Hart Lovelace books." We saw slides of downtown Mankato, and newspaper articles and advertisements of theater productions, horseless carriages, the arrival of

Chauncey Olcott, and the street fair where the "flying lady" appeared. After that members dispersed to bid on silent auction items, shop, tour Mankato, or to spend time discussing books and characters with one another. Sue Knorr of Milwaukee compiled a great list of discussion topics, but members of our group were plying Louise King (Carney's daughter "Judy" in *Betsy's Wedding*) with questions, so we didn't get to discuss them too much. But how often do you have the chance to question a character from a book?

I made my pilgrimage to the Lovelace Wing of the Minnesota Regional Valley Library to view again the mural of Maud with scenes from the B-T books, to see the little glass pitcher Tacy gave to Betsy at the fifth birthday party, and to see the other articles on display – a poem by young Maud, some Lois Lenski prints, a wonderful scrapbook of Maud memorabilia – although I've seen the items before, I haven't tired of them yet!

Then it was off on a tour of B-T sites, either on foot using the guide provided in our packets, or by bus for a narrated tour by Shirley Lieske, one of the many Maud experts in Mankato. Sites included the Carnegie Library, the Presbyterian Church where Christian Endeavor meetings were held, Little Syria (you had to peer through the foliage of the Big Hill to look down upon where Little Syria used to be, but B-T fans always find a way!), and the houses of Betsy, Tacy (with its "Sold" sign prominently and proudly displayed), Tib, Winona (I could see the wall Winona sat upon swinging her legs in *Winona's Pony Cart*, and Carney (with the sleeping porch in the back). And of course the Betsy-Tacy bench was sat upon by many a fan. In fact, my family was driving by it one time when we noticed a person sitting there by herself pretending to be Betsy (or Tacy). I photographed her as she stood on the bench reaching for the pink

*Please turn the page*



Photo by Patty Warhol

The author, as she appeared at the Saturday night banquet.

### **Betsy-Tacy Sites in Minneapolis: The Great and Unexpected Adventure**

by Juanita Ann Juarez

For those of us Betsy-Tacy fans who opted for the Minneapolis tour by the Minnesota Transportation Museum, a great adventure lay ahead, most of it unplanned and unexpected. Our tour was to consist of a drive past historic Fort Snelling, a visit to Minnehaha Depot and Park, a trip to Minnehaha Falls with a picnic lunch at the Minnehaha Park Pavilion, a tour through the Wedge neighborhood where the Hart and Lovelace home sites are located, and a trip to Lake Harriet where we were to board a streetcar. Then, for those of us who arrived by air, a return trip to the airport to catch transportation to Mankato.

*Continued on page 6*

*Deep Valley Reflections, continued from page 3*

feather in Betsy's story! I also visited Maud's grave for the first time. I saw a simple headstone where someone had placed a bouquet of silk flowers.



Photo by Julie Chuba

Allie Reuter, dressed as Betsy, attended the Saturday night banquet.

Off in the distance I could glimpse the peaceful green valleys of "Deep Valley," and other B-T fans even saw a few deer in the cemetery. It was a nice place for someone who had made so many people happy with her life and stories.

Now, while all the adults were tramping around Mankato gazing at houses and benches (just what do Mankatoans think of all this fuss, anyway?), the children were busy with a special program of their own, orchestrated by Doris Berger, Sandi Kleinschmidt, Evette Ingvalson, Wendi Masters, Kelly Reuter, Jacqui Woodwick, and Mary Jane Hassel. When details of the kids' program were revealed, little sighs of envy were whispered by the adults who wished they could tag along. I thought it was nice to acknowledge that these books are still being read by kids, and perhaps the weekend's activities helped to guarantee future fans and to ensure that the books remain in print. Activities included a pony cart ride and a picnic on the lawn of "Tib's" house. But here's an eyewitness report from one participant, Emily Scott (Lona's daughter):

"The children's program was really fun. Thanks to everyone who put it on. We first all met at Lincoln Park where we had a snack, and then we walked to Doris Berger's house (one of the founding members of the B-T Society). Doris and Kelly Reuter had us all decorate cigar boxes with wallpaper, and then we made Betsy doll necklaces. After our pony cart ride, we made nosegays of flowers from Doris' garden. Then we walked to the Woodwick's house (Tib's house) where we wrote our names in chalk on their sidewalk and drew pictures around our names. I drew Tib's house, but the proportions were sort of off. We had lunch in their yard (not many people liked their eggs, so the egg lovers ended up with three or four eggs), and after that we went back to Doris' house where we were given notebooks and pencils for our boxes, the first B-T book, and a canvas bag with the three girls on the bench. Then we went back to the Holiday Inn, or in my case, I went to the library and read for a little while."

Saturday night was our banquet, billed as a "Victorian Violets Banquet," so all the decorations were in purples, lavenders, and

violets. At each place was a menu card (printed in the style of a dance program with a tiny pencil attached by a purple string) with a bouquet of violets on the cover. Inside was the menu with quotes from Maud's 1910 Junior/Senior Banquet program. Everyone also received favors: a small white crocheted box with silk violets on the cover and sweets inside; a pewter medallion (done by Cheryl Harness) with Betsy, Tacy and Tib etched on it; and a silk flower plucked from the arbor on stage (inside the petals we found our fortunes).

Many of the ladies wore flowered hats and pretty print dresses, and one woman from Cleveland named Juanita wore a beautiful vintage dress with cream lace, tulle, and pearls and long, buttoned gloves. In her hair she wore three cream-colored roses in honor of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib, which she ordered at the same florist where Emily of Deep Valley ordered her own graduation flowers.

The banquet entertainment was delightful. We heard musical selections from the Mankato Suzuki School of Music, but the highlight of the evening was the Silver Moon Vintage Dance Ensemble. This group performs dances from around the 1890s through the 1930s, and they had certainly done their research for the Betsy-Tacy Society. They told a bit about each dance, read excerpts from the B-T books where the dances were mentioned, and accurately represented not only the dances but the costumes of the era. The ladies came out in beautiful white lace dresses and gloves, their hair in lofty pompadours, and the men were in white tie and tails. Later the women changed to more "Dramatic and Mysterious" costumes with sequins, and peacock feathers in their hair.

Having two left feet myself, it was fun to see the Viennese Waltz, the Two-step (the only two dance tunes Mrs. Ray could play), the Cakewalk, the Hesitation Waltz, and the Maxixe (a Tib dance). I found that I had always mispronounced the latter (it sounds like "masheesh"). The group also did the Barn Dance and invited the audience to participate in a quick lesson. Those who didn't dance had to sing, so I finally learned the tune to "Morning Cy!" It was great fun, but after watching the intricate dances Constance Martin remarked, "I would have been a wallflower!"

Sunday was the trip to Murmur-ing Lake (Madison Lake) in our own horseless carriages with a stop at "Pleasant Park," Mrs. Ray's home where she and Mr. Ray were

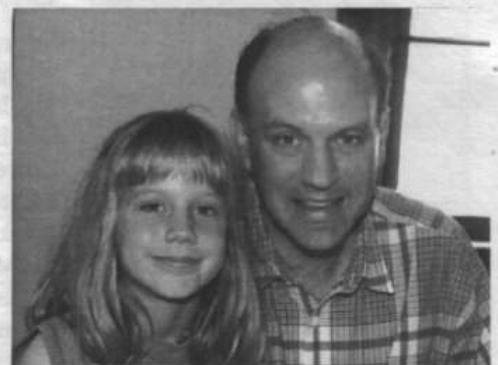


Photo by Jeannette Newman

*Continued  
next page*

Cab's grandson, Peter Steiner, and his daughter Julia at the Sunday lunch

*Continued from preceding page*

married in front of the bay window. As she did in 1992, Violet Hoehn kindly allowed B-T pilgrims to come inside her home to see the window, and to roam her back yard looking for the oak tree under which Mr Ray proposed. There is still an avenue of trees leading up to the house, and it was easy to imagine Jule Warrington waiting for her intended to drive up the lane.

Then it was up the road to Point Pleasant Inn (where the Rays visited each summer) for a delicious chicken lunch. The Inn is a lovely, old-fashioned, low-ceilinged, white building with creaky wooden floors and the smell of wood smoke from campfires outside – a nice, “lakey” smell. Kelly Reuter had decorated the tables with big flowered straw hats and painted wooden figures of the three girls as centerpieces. At each place was a tiny flowered hat (which was actually a lapel pin) with a lollipop in it, and the stem was stuck into a mint patty. Cab’s grandson and great-granddaughter (Peter Steiner and his daughter Julia) joined the party, and everyone relaxed, ate, and talked over the whole event. Although there weren’t four kinds of dessert, everyone left fully sated – both in body and in Betsy spirit!

Many people and a lot of hard work went into this event and it showed. Our Mankato friends contributed their many talents and their time to make the event a success and to help us all celebrate Maud Hart Lovelace’s legacy of writings. Fact and fiction, Mankato and Deep Valley, Maud and Betsy, all blurred together for a while into a happy dream of childhood to which we all love to escape now and then. See you in 1997!

*Julie Chuba lives in Minneapolis and works at the University of Minnesota. If you are a subscriber to the MaudL listserve, then you've met her!*



Photo by Mary Theissen  
Maud's grave in the Glenwood Cemetery, Mankato



Photo by Patty Warhol  
Relaxing at the Sunday picnic at Madison (Murmuring) Lake were left to right, Society President Lona Falenczykowski, Treasurer Kay Hocker, and Corresponding Secretary Michele Franck.

### The Silver Moon Vintage Dance Ensemble

The Silver Moon Vintage Dance Ensemble accurately represented the dances, clothing, and hair styles of Betsy's high school years. The pictures here can only provide a taste of the pleasure these dancers brought to the Saturday Night Banquet attendees; there is no way to portray the grace and style that the dancers brought to the dances.



Photo by Jearnette Newman



Photo by Jearnette Newman

*Unexpected Adventure, continued from page 3*

And now for what *really* transpired that fateful day!

The Chicago and Cleveland planes were met by cheery and hard-working Maryellen Digre-Mueller, our guide for the day. As we left our luggage at the "Land-to-Air" desk (the company that would later transport us to Mankato) we learned that our tour bus had not yet arrived. As the bus had

*Unexpected  
Adventure: The  
Rest of the Story!*

been about to pull out of its terminal, it was discovered that there were no insurance papers, and that the papers had to be FAXed from California before the bus could continue. We were given the option

of taking a city bus to Minnehaha Park, and thus skipping Fort Snelling, or waiting for the bus and dropping some part of the tour along the way. The group was an agreeable one, as Betsy-Tacy fans tend to be, so we were letting Maryellen decide. Just at that moment we learned that the bus was on the way. So, although late, we'd drive to Fort Snelling.

We were pleased to see the bus, but even more pleased to find we'd be riding on a beautifully refurbished 1952 Minneapolis City Bus, one from the Transportation Museum. The group was now swollen with B-T fans who were picked up on the way to the airport, fans who were also delayed and were wondering why the bus wasn't on time for their pick-up.

The bus caused quite a commotion wherever it traversed, and we became instant celebrities by our presence on the bus. At Fort Snelling, we were greeted by our guide. We had an enlightening lecture on Fort Snelling in the parking lot, and we were about to pull out of the lot to continue the tour by bus when the sound of a cranking engine met our ears. Our driver could not get our antiquated bus to start. Never daunted, the group took a walking tour of the fort while a mechanic and tow truck were called. When we returned to the site of the bus, we learned that it was a "no-go." We unloaded the bags of some of the group, foremost among them being Michele Franck, who had a mammoth suitcase. Stranded, we awaited word of other transportation.

Maryellen disappeared, and we presumed she was finding us transportation. We weren't sure. One thing we *were* sure of was that we were hungry. We are still cloudy on this point, but somehow Maryellen's car appeared, without Maryellen, but *with* our lunches. Jeannette and her family from New York were integral in getting our lunches from Minnehaha Falls, and for that we were grateful.

As we ate our delicious lunches picnic-style in an area overlooking the Minnesota River, we were still without transportation, and knew our tour was going to be cut to the bare bone. We had to skip the Falls altogether. But as the lunches were completed, a Minneapolis city bus pulled up and our trip continued. We got a quick look at the Wedge neighborhood: the site of the Hart home, Betsy and Joe's first apartment, and the "Canoe Street" home. The bus driver amazed us with her cunning maneuvers through neighbor-

hoods definitely not meant for a city bus.

The last item on the tour was a streetcar trip on the Como-Harriet Streetcar line. The car was a beautifully refurbished 1915 streetcar and brought back many memories to its B-T riders. At this point we said goodbye to those B-T fans who had parked at the Como-Harriet station near Lake Harriet.

After the tour we boarded the city bus and headed for the airport to catch our bus to Mankato. We discovered we had but five minutes to catch our transportation. The bus approached the airport. Yes, we *were* going to make it! But at that moment the bus stopped. We were about 1/2 mile from our loading point. We quickly debarked, helping Michele with the mammoth suitcase mentioned previously. Maryellen ran into a nearby building to call "Land to Air" to hold the bus, and the six of us, with nary a concern for life or limb, ran across the busy highway to get to the loading area. We almost lost Michele, as her suitcase did not cooperate in crossing the highway, but she and her suitcase were somehow saved and we madly rushed to the airport. We left Michele at the loading area (no bus was there...) and dashed through a construction area to get inside the terminal to retrieve our bags. We were thwarted by a *young* (could he have been older than 16?) and overzealous cop who wouldn't let us pass, but we managed to rush on across, only to find that our bags had already been placed on the bus.

We rushed back to join Michele, and at that point caught our collective breaths and had time to realize that we *really* needed to use the facilities. But we had been assured that the bus had a lav on board, so we waited. We were finally greeted by our driver and led to the "bus" which, of course, turned out to be a van and had no lav. Settling in, we told the driver of our dilemma, and thankfully he made a stop for us half-way to Mankato. We arrived safely at the Holiday Inn, only 45 minutes late, in good humor, if a little tired from our 1/2 mile sprint. What greeted us was a beautiful town, perfect weather, an amazingly well-planned weekend, and lots of wonderful new friends. What a weekend! And what a start to our Great Mankato Get-Together!

*Juanita Ann Juarez, a devoted Betsy-Tacy Society member, teaches special education in Cleveland, Ohio.*



Photo by Patty Warhol

Juanita wore a stunning period costume to the Saturday Night Banquet.

## More Deep Valley News

### News For the Point Pleasant Bus Riders!

The bus-riders out to Point Pleasant, at the Great Mankato Get-Together, did not get to walk up to the two placards at the entrance to Vi Hoehn's place and were very disappointed. I said I would copy what they said and put it in the newsletter. Here it is:

#### Inscription on the left rock:

Maud Hart Lovelace  
1892-1980

The Mankato author spent her summer childhood vacations on this farm by "Murmuring Lake." Her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Chauncy (Palmer) Austin was the wife of Austin, who developed a resort here- Prospect Park. Lovelace's parents, Thomas and Stella (Palmer) Hart, were married in the dining room of this house which Austin had built. Lovelace was the author of the well-known "Betsy-Tacy" stories—memoirs of her Mankato childhood in "Deep Valley." —Ted Roemer

#### Inscription on the right rock:

Prospect Park  
Site of the first Madison Lake  
Post Office  
1881-1885

C. H. Austin, PostMaster

1856 - 1876

Original Owner, Mexican War Veteran Andrew Ulven. The U.S. Govt. Gave Ulven Bounty Land, Patent and Deed on November 6, 1856

1876-1900

C. H. Austin Purchased the Land, Built the House, Store and Developed the Lake Shore

1900- present - Austin Sold the Land to Frank Hoehn who Established the Hoehn Family Farm. Dan and VI Hoehn, Owners since 1945.

Madison Lake Area Historical Society,  
1990

Dolly Blomquist



### From the Pony Cart - A Message from Our President

Greetings from Lona's Pony Cart!

"The Great Mankato Get-Together" was a wonderful success. Julie Chuba and Juanita Juarez captured the essence of the event in their articles "Deep Valley Reflections" and "The Great and Unexpected Adventure" which appear elsewhere in this issue. My heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to put this event together.

To everyone who contributed to the house fund: you now own a piece of Deep Valley. We closed on the Tacy house on July 15. Thanks to everyone who gave. The response from our membership exceeded our wildest expectations and made the dream of purchasing Tacy's house a reality. Your generosity has enabled the Society to preserve one of the most important pieces of Betsy-Tacy history. Wouldn't Maud and Bick be proud!

The purchase price of the Tacy house was \$39,000. Because we are a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a 501 (c)(3), we were able to obtain financing through The Minnesota Non Profits Assistance Fund, a program of The Minneapolis Foundation. We borrowed \$30,000 at 11% interest with a 5 year amortization. We paid \$500 earnest money on May 2, 1995. We paid an additional \$8,770.32 out of our society funds at the closing. Our monthly loan payments are \$500 a month. We have a balloon payment option in 2 years. We could then seek new financing. If we are unable to repay then, the lender may extend the loan to five years. We have no prepayment penalty. We incurred no closing costs.

We had \$2,898.60 in our house fund when we made our initial offer. Our total assets from Society checking, and savings, as of June 30, 1995 were \$20,264.51. I mailed out the fund raising letter about the end of June, 1995. Since that time

*Continued on inside back cover*



Tacy's house at 332 Center Street, Mankato

Photo by Patty Warhel

## Book Review

### The Beany Malone Series by Lenora Mattingly Weber

#### Summer on Barberry Street

Reviewed by Katrine L. Poe

*Editor's Note: The Beany Malone books are so frequently discussed on the MaudL Listserv that we requested a review for those of us who have never heard of them. Beany questions (such as, "who does she end up marrying?") are answered in this review. If you don't want to know the answers, you'd better not read it.*

As an ardent Beany Malone fan, I find myself re-reading the series several times a year. One ritual I never neglect is the summer reading of the three "summer" Beany books: *Beany and the Beckoning Road*, *The More the Merrier*, and *Pick a New Dream*. In each book we see Beany at a sort of crossroads in her life; this appeals to me because I have always felt that summer was a sort of crossroads time, of getting one's mind together before the "new year" rolls around in September.

In *The Beckoning Road*, Beany is bummed. Everyone is going off on holiday and she's stuck on Barberry Street. Her beau, the prickly Norbett Rhodes, has foiled her vacation plans by giving her the brush-off for a big story when she had specifically timed her vacation from Eve Baxter to coincide with Norbett's vacation from the *Trib*. Painting the lawn furniture for outdoor parties with Norbett at her side seems pointless with no Norbett, so Beany shoves the furniture under a tarp and prays for salvation.

Salvation arrives in the form of a letter from big sister Elizabeth McCallin, who has sent money for Beany to bring Little Martie McCallin out to his folks in California by train. Johnny suggests that they drive out instead, making a stop at Fort Bridger so he can do some historical research; he even advertises for passengers to help pay for gas.

The trip becomes more complicated when the passengers arrive: Miss Opal, a motherly spinster out to settle the estate of one of her former charges, who brings with her a potted tomato plant, several fried chickens (this was before salmonella was invented, evidently), and a "Mother's Helper" bag full of every remedy known to woman; Quaker, a roping horse belonging to Mary Fred's beau, Ander, who necessitates that his own traveling quarters be welded to the back of the family sedan. While it seems that all will go off as scheduled, the beckoning road actually involves dodging the law, bartering for meals, keeping a four-year-old occupied, and fending off the intrigues of Norbett and his companion, the snooty Cynthia, who wangles her way into the Malone vehicle. After an exhausting journey, the weary travelers are welcomed by Ander, Elizabeth, and her husband, Don; Beany finds that the beckoning road also has a surprise ending: her reconciliation with Norbett.

Although hot and exhausting, this story is an escape from everyday life and certainly beckons one to hit the road. Knowing, of course, that Beany and Norbett don't end up together in the long run, one can see the clues that foreshadow their breakup; likewise, one can also see that Ander and Mary Fred were clearly meant for each other. As the precursor to the more

interesting books of the series, *The Beckoning Road* offers a glimpse of Beany on the road to really growing up.

*The More the Merrier* is the best of the three summer books, and it takes place almost exclusively on Barberry Street. Once again, Beany is left at home when everyone else is going away. As usual, Beany has a plan; this time, she decides to take in boarders to make enough money to make over the basement wine room (like the butler's pantry, where no butler has ever set foot, the wine room has never held a bottle of wine) into a rumpus room a la Jennifer Reed's. Johnny, unclear on Beany's money-making plans, takes in handsome Ralph Tyson ("Ty") as a board-only boarder; Beany herself is overtaken by her do-gooding instincts and takes in Lisa Hold, an overweight runaway from Wichita. In spite of the lack of room-and-board paying boarders, the summer gets off to a happy start as Beany instigates a romance between Lisa and Andy's Marine pal, Joe "Kansas" Kaswell, and the stay-at-homes entertain nightly in the backyard over Ty's ice cream contributions from the creamery where he works.

Things start to go downhill as Beany wonders why she is such a pariah on the dating scene; with Andy in the Marines and that nice Hank from the School of Mines out on a dig, she has been dateless since school let out. Ty seems to consider her but one of his adoring listeners and not much else. Judge Buell, shocked at the unchaperoned activities next door, takes it upon himself to get Beany not only a real paying boarder, but a sober-minded chaperone as well in timid Miss Rutledge. Beany is horrified to discover that Miss Rutledge is scarily like a foreshadowing of her own spinster-bound future, right down to the prim braids pinned on top of her head. Determined to fight off this image, and maybe nab Ty in the bargain, Beany becomes a little reckless, stealing a highway flare from a road site and refusing to make up with Andy when they had a misunderstanding on the road from Twin Pines. She allows Adrian to make her a more beautiful Beany by hacking off her braids, and allows Dulcie to frou-frou her up for a date with Ty at Acacia Gardens. The flare pot seeps oil into the floor of the scabby rumpus room, ruining any chance of coverage, and likewise, Beany's attempts to seep into a new life ruin the good life she didn't know she had.

The happy conclusion of Beany's scabby summer brings together all of the loose ends and shows Beany how lucky she really is. In effect, this is one of the last truly happy summers for the friends gathered there. By the following winter, Rosellen will be dead, Sydney will be back in England, and Johnny will

*Beany, continued page 12*





Elizabeth Ewing,  
*History of Twentieth Century Fashion*

### What Is That?

by Liz Boardman

Annoyed as she was at Sam, Carney found herself wishing that she was wearing pink. But Isobel was wearing pink. Carney chose a white net with a hobble skirt which she hated. Miss Mix, the dressmaker, had persuaded her to have it because hobbles were the style.

*Carney's House Party*

What is a hobble skirt? The Smithsonian Institution's Division of Costume says it is a long skirt cut so narrowly that the wearer is able to make only the tiniest of steps, thus she was "hobbled." According to the *Encyclopedia of Fashion* by Georgina O'Hara, the narrowed section was between the knee and the ankle. Often the narrowest section was encircled with a band which stretched down from the knee.

The hobble skirt was introduced in Paris by Paul Poiret. The *New York Times* called it a "freak;" the Pope denounced it, and the hobble skirt was a topic of fierce public debate. Madame Paquin, a Paris designer, became famous during this period for modifying new fashions into somewhat more practical and conventional designs. Her hobble skirt included hidden pleats to make walking easier.

Interestingly, while *Carney*, according to the dust jacket, takes place in the summer of 1911, my sources all indicated that the hobble skirt was first introduced in Paris in 1912. Sharla Whalen notes in *The Betsy-Tacy Companion* that the real "Carney/Larry" reunion was in 1912. While it's difficult to imagine Carney wearing something that was so shocking, that is probably the reason for the error. Or perhaps the favored Miss Mix really was ahead of her times!

*Liz Boardman, a Betsy-Tacy fanatic since grade school, is a freelance writer who lives in Rhode Island with her husband, daughter, and golden retriever. She's written for Bride's, Yankee, Juggler's World, Twins, American Careers and several regional parenting newspapers. She's also working on her first novel.*



Ewing



Lester & Kerr, *Historic Costume* (1925), p. 231

1914 styles, showing a revival of 1883 bustle coupled with a narrow hemline.

*Hobble, hobble, little skirt,  
How I wonder what thou wert.  
Perchance, maybe a papa's pant  
Now for him a trifle scant.*

-From a set of parodies  
issued by the Carol Press, Boston

# Merian's Column

## Maud and Delos in California

My mother fell in love with California in 1911 when she went out to spend the winter with her Grandmother Austin. She returned on a Hart family vacation trip in 1915, and after that she didn't make it back for almost 40 years. But she always said she was going back--to the enchanted land of palm trees and bougainvilleas and orange groves and warmth (we all know how Betsy felt about cold weather).

When Delos retired from newspaper work in 1952, it was "California, here we come!" I think he may have suggested in a mild way that there might be other retirement options worth exploring, but if so he was quickly overruled. In the fall of '52, Maud and Delos climbed into their blue Mercury and headed West. They visited the Fosters and Fowlers (Kathleen and Helen, aka Julia and Margaret, had both moved to California with their families a few years earlier) and began looking around for a new home.

One day they drove through Claremont, a college town about 50 miles from Los Angeles. And there, it seems, Delos had his say. Jo Anne Ray, who wrote a lovely essay about Maud that forms part of *Women of Minnesota*, published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1977, quotes her as saying: "Delos declared immediately that this was where he wanted to live. He drove to a real estate office, told the man he wanted to buy a home in Claremont, and that he should look for a place while we continued on to Kathleen's." There's a little bit of hyperbole there. They went back to New York after this visit and didn't move to California and start serious househunting for another year. But never mind. The story sounds exactly like my father at his most ebullient.

Maud and Delos arrived in California to stay on October 23, 1953, and headed for a house outside Orange, surrounded by orange groves, that belonged to Paige and Edna Cavanaugh, friends they'd met through the Fosters. The Cavanaugh's were in Europe and had invited the Lovelaces to move in. Here's how Maud's diary describes her return to the Promised Land:

October 25: It was very cold in the night, and I worried because the house isn't too well heated and I had visions of shivering all day. But when I stepped out on the terrace this morning, I was greeted by sunshiny warmth and sweet smells. After breakfast Delossy and I took a little walk around the estate. I saw the four ducks, and we watered the flowers--some familiar, like roses, asters, petunias. Others exotic. One bush has blossoms like overgrown bleeding hearts. We settled all day, went out to a market for supplies, and drove around Orange--a town of small tinted plaster houses (at least, they predominate), often draped with bougainvillea. Lots of oleander. Boulevards are flowery. Home to nap, and Frank called--asking us over for waffles and television. [Frank is Helen's husband, Frank Fowler. As for those ducks, one gets the impression that the Cavanaugh's had bragged about their web-footed friends and Maud had been looking forward to meeting them.]

October 26: I spent a busy, very busy day settling, but first I watered a bit. You get acquainted with a place through watering. There are three of those "bleeding heart" bushes; they are fuschias. A lane of magnificent roses leads to the garage. Señor Montoya (the gardener) was working on the lawn, companioned by ducks.

October 27: ...a few more errands in Orange. Everywhere the bougainvillea, oleander, roses, and garden flowers. We thought for a little while yesterday that we had lost the ducks, but they came back...I wonder where they go when they're not here? Every morning and evening Delossy hoses fresh water into their drinking pool and little trough and shakes out some seed that looks like cereal.

October 30: Overcast this morning. The sun was a disk of dull silver behind the fog--or maybe dull copper, since the fog was yellowish. It lifted by noon. Delossy and I had coffee in the sun on our front porch again. Paige's man, Mr. Homan, is watering the orange groves. There are little rings in channels running in around the trees.

November 1: Up at 6:30. Fog, grey fog over the orange trees, over the roses, over the pecan trees and camellias. While Delossy and I were having breakfast in the kitchen, the sun came breaking through. We went to church, Trinity Episcopal

in Orange, very crowded (it was women's thank offering day as well as All Saints) and friendly. We liked the rector, Dr. Brady. For some reason, when the procession came singing down the aisle I began to cry.

Monday was a big day...

November 2: Betsy's Wedding--I started it today, with a prayer. [She finished it on March 22, 1955.]

November 3: How grotesque and strange the fall forms of the eucalyptus are in the fog! Delossy up ahead of me to turn up the heat. By nine we can turn it off. While I was on the porch a hummingbird visited all of those red flowers we have in front. I don't know their name; nor the name of the green and white vine which clambers over our porch.

November 4: On our foggy waiting-for-the-mail walk, picked a persimmon from a tree; a fat reddish fruit. Mrs. Klausenmeyer says you peel it and use it mashed in cottage cheese, or for cake and cookies.

November 6: A very cold night and high fog again, but when we were driving to Santa Ana the sun came out and suddenly we saw the mountains! We saw them again above El Modeno when we went there to shop.

November 7: Very cold again at night, but sun pouring in our kitchen windows as we eat breakfast and the radio tells of six inches of snow in New York; snow and sleet and wind across the Middle West. Glad we're here.

There were evenings out at restaurants and movies--they loved "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck--and lots of visiting back and forth with the Fowlers. The Fosters had moved to Salt Lake City earlier in the year. Delos was working on a magazine article about his old friend, moviemaker Merian C. Cooper, who was in the news with a three-dimensional film spectacular called Cinerama. He finished it on November 16. Then...

November 17: A very nice day, sunshiny and not too cool. With the article off our minds, we took a day off and drove up through villages and beautiful naked mounts to Claremont. Lunched there and looked around. It's as much our style as we remember it, but not much real estate available.

They went back on...

November 20: The ride is up through a canyon, past the towering oil towers of Brea, and along a canyon road. The foothills so beautiful; covered with a soft greyish-brown. And today--because it is clear--approaching foothills, higher mountains gleamed behind.

Over the next month they checked out houses in several towns--LaVerne, Upland, Whittier, Covina, Santa Ana. They had Thanksgiving dinner with the Fowlers at Knott's Berry Farm, and celebrated Delos' birthday on December 4 with a visit--the first of many--to the restaurant and theater at Padua Hills. They watched the Christmas lights go on in the plaza at Orange, mailed their cards and packages, decorated their Christmas tree with the Cavanaugh's ornaments. They made another trip to Claremont and got an early Christmas present on...

December 19: Just when we most wanted it, we found a home! A little grey cottage (within the town) with a big big garden and a redwood fence. Belongs to W. Bayard Taylor, Dean of Faculty at Claremont Men's College. He now lives a block or two away and renters are in the house. The colors of the house--grey outside and grey-and-scarlet inside--aren't what we have usually had, but they can be changed when we want to. The important thing is that the arrangement meets our needs, two baths, room for Merian, and a magnificent view from jutting front windows of the mountains, including Old Baldy...all the people around Claremont--in bookstores, the Yale Cafe where we go for coffee, on the street--look like our kind...The number of our house--774--makes a nine. (*Editor's Note: She's using a mathematical convention known as "Sum of Digits" where the values of all digits, regardless of place value, are added together until there is only one digit left. Here,  $7 + 7 + 4 = 18$ ;  $1 + 8 = 9$ .*)

This observation pleased her because the house they'd left in Garden City was 63 Wyatt Road. And of course, there was 333 Centre Street way back when.

So that's how the story of Maud and Delos in California begins. In case anybody's wondering, I was in Europe in 1953, and by the time I got to Claremont I was married. I loved it, and I still do--in a funny way it's like an extra home town.

The Southern California Chapter of the Society is starting a research project on Maud's California years, all the way from San Diego in 1910 to Claremont between 1954 and 1980, and on the California branch of the Hart family. Maybe they'll find me some cousins a zillion times removed. I hope they have as much fun as we did here in New York with Maud and Delos in Manhattan.

Merian Lovelace Kirchner is Maud Hart Lovelace's daughter and a regular contributor to this Journal.



*Summer on Barberry Street, continued from page 8*

suffer his first broken heart. It is nice, then, to read that happy ending, when Beany truly realizes the happiness of her life, and how lucky she is to have her family and friends.

By the time the next summer rolls around, however, Beany has set herself up for yet another fall. Having just graduated from Harkness, she has envisioned an exciting, glamorous career for herself at the *Call*, working under, and eventually taking over for Eve Baxter. Dressed for success, Beany goes down to the *Call*, only to find that Eve is resigning and moving to England, without a thought to the hopes of the hapless Beany. She tries to console Beany by telling her that perhaps a career in journalism was not in the cards for the youngest Malone, but this only serves to crush Beany rather than wake her out of her dreamworld.

Carlton Buell spies Beany crying on a park bench and takes her home; over a sandwich, he suggests that she work with him at the Lilac Way community center where he is program director. Still nursing her wounded pride, Beany halfheartedly begins working at Lilac Way, only to discover herself drawn into her true calling and true love. As Carl transforms from "good old Carl" to "Mr. Bull" and finally to "Carl, my love," Beany herself is transformed from teenager to adult. Just as Andy finds the irresistible call to join the priesthood, Beany finds herself listening for her own calling. She sees for the first time the realities of poverty and how she can help more than she ever could have as Eve Baxter, Jr. Giving up her dreamworld for real life is not as painful as she thought it would be, and sharing it with the fellow she loves makes it all that much sweeter.

All three of these books bring home the theme of "to thine own self be true" that is a central theme of the entire series. While Beany will continue to struggle with her pride and temper, she does grow up a lot in these three summers, and it serves as a comforting note to her readers. Although we will all have setbacks, we can still make it through the struggle of each summer to the brave new world of September.

*Katrine L. Poe is "the other Poe!"*



*Should your renewal be on Michele's desk right now?  
See the note next to your address label on the back cover!*

## The Music of Betsy-Tacy

by Elizabeth Hudson



"I've been thinking," (Miss Clarke) said, "how sad it is that Julia is going to graduate...this is the last year I'll have you both. I've been wondering what you could do for rhetorical together...I want Betsy to write a song that Julia can sing... We'll take the music of some popular song. I'd thought of that 'Same Old Story' everybody's singing."

"Just new words? That's a cinch!"

"Listen to her," Miss Clarke said to Julia. "I suppose she could do it overnight."

"Why yes," said Betsy. She was surprised at such a to-do about something so easy. Julia was delighted with the plan, so Betsy went home and wrote new words for "Same Old Story."

*Betsy in Spite of Herself*

"Same Old Story" was one of a string of musical hits from an otherwise forgettable play in 1906, "The District Leader." Another crowd favorite, "What's the Use of Dreaming?" was also from this play (see *B-T Newsletter* #14, Winter 1993). The music was written by Joe Howard, lyrics by Arthur Gillespie.

Maud really did rewrite "Same Old Story" for a school performance, just as she described it in *Betsy in Spite of Herself*. Her original creation, penned in her precise, back-slanted handwriting, survives in her scrapbook, now part of the Lovelace Collection at the Blue Earth County Historical Society in Mankato. Betsy, and Maud, wrote of Deep Valley ("Kato") High School girls—a verse for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, always followed by the chorus:

*Same old story, same old high,  
Same old bunch of gigglers  
As the years go by.  
She's a hummer, a shining light.  
For she's Deep Valley's High School girl  
And she's all right!*

And, despite Mr. Gaston's infuriating humiliation the following day, Betsy's song was a hit throughout the school.

*More Deep Valley News*

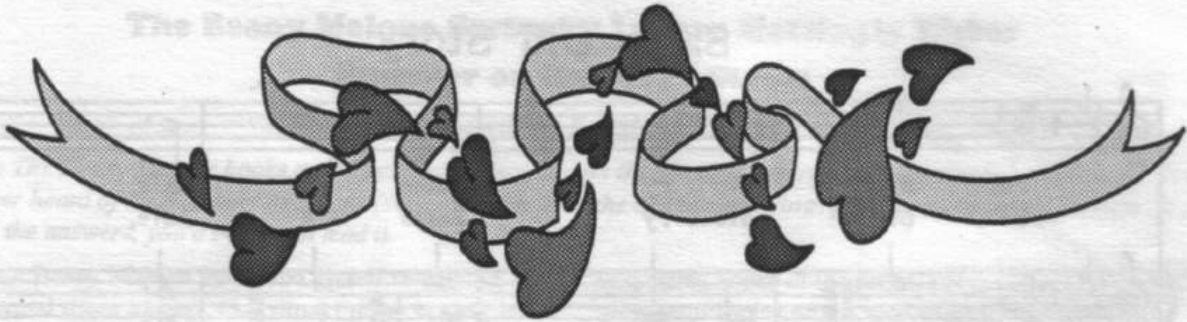
Same Old Story.

Same old sto - ry      Same old tale,  
 Same old sto - ry      Same old tale,

Same old stroll to - geth - er in the moon - light pale,  
 Same old load of peach - es in the moon - light pale,

Same old o - cean      Same old roar,  
 Same old key - hole      Same old door,

Just the same old lov - ers since the days of yore.      yore.  
 Just the same old jag - let since the days of yore.      yore.



## National Society News and Chapter Reports

### National Society News

The National Board of Directors met on August 12 at Tacy's house at 332 Center Street. You wouldn't believe the progress made in rehabilitating the house! We met in the parlor, drank lemonade, and ate chocolate brownies. Thanks go to Wendi Masters, Sandi Kleinschmidt, Dolly Blomquist, and Lona Falencykowski for all their hard work and redecorating efforts.

We looked at photocopies of photographs of Tacy's house as it appeared in the 1920s. These pictures will be extremely useful as we try to restore it to its original appearance. We were reminded that beginning August 15 we will have monthly mortgage payments of \$500. Wendi Masters agreed to serve as House Coordinator, with Lona Falencykowski, Sandi Kleinschmidt, and Jacqui Woodwick as her committee. Bids and repairs will be funneled through the House Committee.

The board decided it was time to buy a computer, and we will look into purchasing one. We'll use it for our bookkeeping and for handling Shop sales.

We are considering several merchandising products such as bags, calendars, and even a Betsy-Tacy mouse pad.

Shirley Lieske asked to be allowed to resign from the Board, and her resignation was regrettably accepted.

Our next meeting will be held on September 9, again at Tacy's house.

*Louisa Smith*

### Chapter Reports

#### Washington, D.C.

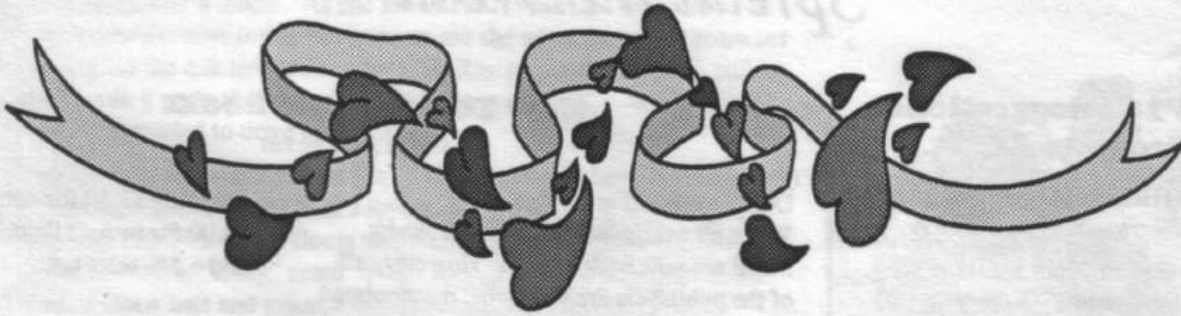
The Washington, D.C. chapter held an organizing meeting on July 15. We're actively seeking area sistren (and brethren); for information, write or call Julie Christian at P. O. Box 2267, Springfield, VA 22152 (703) 698-5948; or call Betsy Sherman at (703) 968-3505.

#### Betsy Birthday Brunch in San Francisco

The Grand Olde Underground Betsy-Tacy Birdwatching and Singing Society (GOUBTBSS, pronounced "Goob-Tibs"), an "underground" (i.e. unofficial) Betsy/Tacy Society in San Francisco, had its first annual get-together on Sunday, April 23. It



First Annual GOUBTBSS Betsy Birthday Brunch. L-R Toba (as young Betsy), Shelley (Margaret, with bobbed hair), Silma, Ruth, Donna, Carla, Susan.



was a Betsy Birthday Brunch/Sunday Lunch party, and we all had a gay old time.

The seven participants dressed in B-T outfits (I was pleased to be sporting antique garnet earrings and a brooch, and my grandmother's engagement locket – she and my grandfather married just three months after Betsy and Joe), and the only rule for the pot-luck brunch was the food had to be mentioned in a B-T book. I put on the coffee pot, and we also had fresh lemonade, molded salads (I named mine "tuna jiggle," after the shrimp wiggle mentioned in *Emily*), deviled eggs, gingerbread, yummy meat pies, onion sandwiches, and a rice pudding that would have made Joe swoon. There was also a chocolate birthday cake, decorated with green candles and sprinkles.

We played a parlor game, and we sang songs. Shelley (in the middy blouse) played "What's the Use of Dreaming?" and we sang along.

All the B-T lovers had a lovely time. Several pored over my copy of *The Betsy-Tacy Companion*, and a couple decided they had to have their own copies. We welcome other B-T lovers in the San Francisco Bay Area to join us next year. Who knows – we may even go legit.

Carla Kozak  
"chichild@sfpl.lib.ca.us"

### Southern California Chapter

Our second official chapter meeting was held on July 22 at the South Pasadena Public Library. We had a great turnout, and we elected officers. They are: President, Alston Ahern; Vice-President, Suzanne Nezin; Secretary, Beverly Khosh; Treasurer, Mary Thiessen. We decided to hold quarterly meetings on the fourth Saturdays of January, April, July, and October, which means our next meeting will be on October 28th. For information about the meeting, call President Alston Ahern at (213) 344-7123 or Secretary Beverly Khosh at (714) 974-8070.

We decided to have a Christmas tea party on December 2, to which those of us who have them will wear velvet frocks. We also decided on a Chapter Project, which is described in Merian's column in this issue. We're very excited about it, and will keep the membership informed of its progress on the pages of future issues of this journal.

Our fledgling chapter has already had several events, occurring when Sharla Whalen came to town to do some book signings. Three

signings were held, one in Santa Monica, one in Ventura, and one in Santa Ana. Chapter people showed up at each of them to give Sharla support. Sharla presented a slide show at the Santa Monica signing, which was delightful, and we had an impromptu Maud/book/BTS discussion group at the Barnes & Noble in Santa Ana. One astonished B-T fan found us sitting in a circle at the back of the bookstore; she had seen the sign for the event earlier in the week, had come to get a signed *Companion*, and had no idea there was a B-T Society. She looked at us with amazement and said, (you guessed it!) "I thought I was the only one!" We're scheduling another event in early September. One of our members, Leana Tarczynski is an actress, and is appearing in a production of "Wuthering Heights" at the Pasadena Playhouse. We're going as a group to sit up in front and applaud. Our President, by the way, is also an actress; you saw her in "Private Benjamin," among some other films. This is, after all, Southern California!

Patty Warhol

### Greater New York Chapter

Four of us went to Mankato for the Get-Together in July: President Jeannette Newman, Vice President Angela White, Patricia Huie, and Constance Martin. They loved every minute, and we're resolved to send a bigger delegation in 1997!

The first happening of our 1995-96 season will be a welcome for Sharla and the *Betsy-Tacy Companion* at the Borders bookstore in Westbury on Long Island. (Nice for our members in Nassau and Suffolk Counties to have an event on their own turf for a change.) The autographing party at Borders will be followed by festivities at Jeannette's home in Floral Park.

Next on the chapter's calendar: our annual holiday party, with snapshots and souvenirs from the Get-Together on display.

Looking ahead to the new year, we're investigating the possibility of mounting a first-time-ever exhibition of Lenski and Neville Betsy-Tacy drawings.

Merian Kirchner

*Editor's Note: If you live in an area where there is a chapter and would like to join the chapter, contact the chapter president listed on page two. If you're interested in starting a chapter, contact Lona Falenczykowski; her address is on page two.*

## Spread the Word!

### The Top 10 Snoggestions to Promote B-T

by Beth (Bethye) Davidson

- 10 Order a set from your local (or several local, while you're at it) bookstore, then neglect to pick them up. (Most bookstores put unclaimed special orders out on the shelves for others to find.)
  - 9 Storm bookstores in various disguises demanding loudly and angrily (a Bronx accent may help) to know "why theah ah no Betsay Tacay books heah."
  - 8 Buy sets to donate to your local and school libraries.
  - 7 Sneak "Morning Cy" onto the turntable at high school dances.
  - 6 Buy sets of the books as gifts for loved ones.
  - 5 Hide all of the "Anne of Green Gables" books behind the Betsy-Tacy books in your area bookstore.
  - 4 Talk up B-T on your other listservs/newsgroups.
  - 3 Try not to smile so much. Laugh low. Wear green. Wear lavish amounts of Jockey Club. Take two baths a day. Start signing your name with an "e" at the end.
  - 2 Suggest to teachers of friends/children that they should assign B-T books for book reports.
- And the number one way to promote B-T books:
- 1 Find two pals, dress up as the beloved three, and stage sit-ins at Borders or B. Daltons.

### How To Order the Books

by Terrie A. Koczur

Dear Lovelace Fans:

We're all overjoyed that many books by Maud are now back in print. However, all of the publishers are somewhat disappointed by sales of those that are. All the letters in the world won't change the fact that unless we're buying Maud's books, the publishers aren't making any money and are probably not going to take the risk of printing any more titles. I urge you to buy at least one copy of all of the available books. We can also do our part by recommending them to others, giving them as gifts, etc. The best way to get more Maud books in print is to buy what's available now! Abdo is discussing printing more of the children's books, but sales of *Trees* must improve. Similarly, Minnesota Historical Society Press is discussing printing *One Stayed at Welcome*, but sales of *Gentlemen* must improve. And we all know that to see *Carney, Emily*, and *Winona*, sales of all the BTs must improve. Please help get all of Maud's books back in print!

**Ordering Information:** In addition to ordering directly from the publishers or distributors listed here, most books should be available for special ordering through your local bookstore, particularly large chains such as Borders and Barnes & Noble.

**Abdo & Daughters Publishing**  
4940 Viking Drive  
Edina, MN 55435  
(800) 458-8399

*The Trees Kneel at Christmas*, ISBN 1-56239-999-3 \$15.95 hardcover  
*Maud Hart Lovelace*, a biography by Ken Berg, \$13.99 hardcover, \$4.95 paperback.  
Shipping: \$3.50 per book

**Minnesota Historical Society Press**  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906  
(800) 647-7827

*Gentlemen from England*, ISBN 0-87351-287-1 \$12.95 paperback  
*Early Candlelight* ISBN 0-87351-269-3 \$12.95 paperback.

Shipping \$2.50 for one book, \$3.00 for two, MN delivery add 6.5% sales tax

#### Portalington Press

Distributor: Fitzwilliam Books  
P. O. Box 3216  
Allentown, PA 18106-0216  
(610) 481-9253

*The Betsy-Tacy Companion* by Sharla Scannell Whalen ISBN 0-96307830-5 \$39.95 hardcover.

Shipping \$4.90, PA delivery add 6% sales tax

#### HarperCollins Children's Books

10 E. 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(800) 331-3761  
childrens@harpercollins.com

\* Available in paperback, \$3.95-\$4.95:

*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*, *Betsy Was a Junior*, *Betsy and Joe*

\* Available in hardcover, \$9.95: *Betsy-Tacy*, *Betsy-Tacy and Tib*, *The Betsy-Tacy Treasury* (a \$12.95 omnibus of the first four books)

\* Available in hardcover library editions, \$14.89: *Betsy-Tacy*, *Betsy-Tacy and Tib*, *Betsy- and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill*, *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*

\* Coming soon in hardcover: *Betsy-Tacy Go Over the Big Hill* *Betsy-Tacy Go Downtown*

\* Available in bookstores in February, 1996, \$4.95: *Betsy and the Great World*, *Betsy's Wedding*





*Thanks!*

*The Great Mankato Get-Together was made possible by the efforts of many people. Among those deserving our heart-felt thanks are:*

### **Betsy-Tacy Society Officers**

Dolly Blomquist  
Lona Falenczykowski  
Michele Franck  
Kay Hocker  
Kelly Reuter

### **Board Members**

Peggy Bartelt  
Doris Berger  
Linda Karow  
Sandi Kleinschmidt  
Shirley Lieske  
Renea Ratzloff  
Louisa Smith  
Jacqui Woodwick

### **Conference Coordinator**

Cheryl Harness

*Thanks also go to the following:*

Marcia Baer  
Barbara Carter  
Michelle Coughlan  
Kendra Daniel  
Maryellen Digre-Mueller  
Susan Knorr  
Wendi Masters

Linda Henry and the Blue Earth County  
Historical Society

Mankato Area Chamber of Commerce  
and Convention Bureau

The New York, Chicago, and Southern  
California Chapters

Merian Lovelace Kirchner

and all of those who contributed items for  
the auction.

## **Notes and Notices**

### **For Sale**

*Betsy-Tacy and Tib* T.Y. Crowell, hardcover. 30th printing, with dust jacket. Brand-new copy, excellent condition. For more information write to R. Whiting, 142 Acres Court, Lynchburg, VA 24502.

### **Invitation**

Lovelace fans in the New York area are invited to a Betsy-Tacy party on Long Island at the Borders Books & Music in Westbury. The party will be Saturday, October 21, from 3:00 to 5:00. I haven't heard back from Merian yet, but assume she will be there!

*Sharla Whalen*

### **BTS in the News**

An excellent, in-depth article about the Society, written by Peggie Autin Schommer, appeared in the June 28-July 11 issue of *Minnesota Women's Press*.

### **Catalogs Available**

The Minnesota Historical Society's press catalog can be ordered by calling (800) 647-7827. Also, a catalog called "Just Girls," listing books that celebrate girls, can be ordered by calling (800) 465-5445. They list the BT books, as well as hundreds of others.

### **Getting on the Maud-L Listserv**

If you have access to email and haven't yet signed up on the Maud-L Listserv, we invite you to join the cyberspace Crowd! To subscribe, send an email to "listserv@mitvma.mit.edu." Leave the subject heading blank, and type this in the message space:

Subscribe maud-l  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

The message will look like this:

Subscribe maud-l  
Betsy Warrington Ray

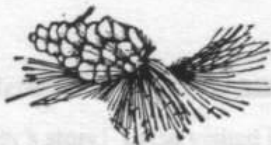
Do not sign your note. To post a note to the listserv, address it to "maud-l@mitvma.mit.edu" and it will be sent to all listserv subscribers.

### **In Memory of Irene Garson**

Irene Garson, a Philadelphia Betsy-Tacy Society member, lost a four-month battle with cancer in August. As a girl, Irene had written Maud Hart Lovelace and received a letter back, which she happily shared with her fellow convention-goers in Mankato in 1992. In her own quiet, pleasant way, she did all she could to promote MHL books, especially through her job as a school librarian in Philly. "I managed to hook a couple of middle school girls on Lovelace this year, so we have a new generation of converts," she said in a 1993 letter. In a letter written just before she died, Irene wrote, "I am sorry I couldn't be at the BT reunion—I remember the first one with such fond memories...Please keep me in your thoughts. I'm going to beat this cancer and live as long as MHL!" It is a loss to us all that she didn't.

*Melanie Rigney*

*Members who wish to send cards to Irene's husband should mail them to Michele Franck, P. O. Box 2903, Framingham, MA 01701 and she will forward them to him.*



## It's not too soon to think about Christmas...in Milwaukee!

The Betsy-Tacy Society's Greater Chicago Chapter invites you to experience Milwaukee the *Betsy in Spite of Herself* way Saturday, December 2 and Sunday December 3. If you didn't come to Milwaukee for our 1993 tour, don't miss this one! If you came in 1993, you know how much fun we had...and there are plenty of new surprises planned this time!

Our host hotel again will be the Astor, a lovely hotel on the National Register of Historic Places located near Lake Michigan. For those who fly or drive in Friday, there will be an outing to an authentic Wisconsin fish fry (not included in the registration price). We also anticipate the Pabst Theater, where Betsy and Tib saw "Reitterattacke," will be playing "A Christmas Carol"; if you're interested in ticket information, please check below.

The fun really gets started Saturday morning about 9:30 when the bus makes a pickup at the Astor. From there, we'll go to the Amtrak station and pick up the Chicago contingent coming to Milwaukee the Betsy way (check below if you want information about taking the train; roundtrip from Chicago is about \$30). The tour will be led by two of the four co-hostesses, Sue Knorr and Julie Rasman, both lifelong Milwaukee residents. They'll lead us on a delightful tour of many of the sights Betsy saw at Christmastime in 1907, including Browner Sem, the Pabst Theatre, the statue of Milwaukee founder Solomon Juneau, the Deutscher Club, and the areas where the Davidson Theater and Schlitz Palm Garten once stood.

Tentatively we plan to lunch will beat Turner Hall, where one of Tib's aunts took the girls to hear the "Messiah." The hall is currently under renovation but is slated to reopen in October.

We'll have a menu of options for the afternoon, ranging from visits to the Milwaukee Historical Society, the Milwaukee County Museum, Pabst Mansion, or shopping on your own. Dinner will be at John Ernst, Milwaukee's oldest family-owned restaurant, with your choice of sauerbraten or fish (check below). We're hoping to have some Milwaukee-style entertainment as well. Then it's back to the Astor, for games, a silent auction (items for bidding will include a copy of *Betsy Was a Junior* with dustjacket and sheet music of the era (yes, you must come to Milwaukee to bid!), a raffle of non-Betsy books and time for chatting and carol singing. Of course, given that it's the holiday season, Maud Hart Lovelace-related merchandise will also be on sale. Before you leave for the night, be sure to leave your stocking with the tour organizers!

On Sunday morning, we'll have breakfast, open stockings and make resolutions for the coming year, just Betsy did. Then it's time to return to 1995.

The registration fee for Saturday only (bus tour, lunch, afternoon transportation downtown, dinner) is \$60. For Saturday and Sunday (breakfast included), the charge will be \$68. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE HOTEL CHARGE OR TRANSPORTA-



TION TO MILWAUKEE. If you fly into Milwaukee or Chicago, we can arrange to have you picked up at the airport by a chapter member; please call Melanie Rigney before making flight arrangements. The Astor's rate is one bed, single or double occupancy, \$59; two beds, single or double occupancy, \$64 plus an \$8 additional person charge and sales tax. Make reservations directly at (800) 558-0200 [Wisconsin, (800) 242-0355]. The reservation deadline is October 30, and payment in full must be made at that time, with checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society. We have a limit of 47 people, first come, first served. THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Sue Knorr, Julie Rasman, Debbie Tranchita and Melanie Rigney all hope to see you in Milwaukee. If you can't come, how about a copy of the 60-minute videotape from 1993? See below for details.

### REGISTRATION

To register, please mail a copy of this form to Melanie Rigney, 5000 N. Delphia, Chicago, IL 60656, with payment in full by October 30. Questions? Call (312) 625-2430.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't wait! Please find my check attached for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ for Saturday and Sunday in Milwaukee (\$68 per person). I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ sauerbraten or \_\_\_\_\_ fish for dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't wait either, but I'm only coming for Saturday. Attached is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people (\$60 per person). I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ sauerbraten or \_\_\_\_\_ fish.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about tickets to the Pabst on Friday night.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about taking the train from Chicago.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me a copy of the 1993 video. I have attached a check, made payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society, for \$12, which includes postage and handling.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*President's letter, continued from page 7*

we have received \$11,606.00 in cash donations. The silent auction at the Get-Together raised \$1,734.50. Convention give-aways raised \$911.00.

For the last many weeks, a few Mankato BTS members have been hard at work in Tacy's house - painting, removing carpet, and cleaning to make the house rentable for the short term. Thanks to Board member Wendi Masters who has volunteered to be the house project manager. Special thanks also to Sandi Kleinschmidt and Dolly Blomquist who have put in many hours doing the work.

The house is still in need of many repairs including plumbing, heating, and the roof. We've thought about selling dust bunnies from Tacy's house as a fund raiser. Better yet, come pick your own. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for continuing fund raising efforts, please contact me.

**We may have to beg**

"It was fun mussing each other up. It was such fun that they almost forgot they were hungry. They loosened Betsy's braids and tangled Tacy's ringlets and ruffled Tib's fluffy hair until she looked like a dandelion gone to seed. Then they put mud on one another. Mud on cheeks and noses, and mud on arms and legs. There was plenty of mud besides the brook and they put on plenty. They put it on their dresses and smooched it down with their hands."

*Betsy-Tacy & Tib*

**Get out and smooch that mud!**

**Betsy-Tacy Society Financial Report**

**Statement of Income and Expense:  
For Period Ending 12/31/94**

Income:	\$15,661.59	
Expense:	9,275.26	
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$6,386.33</b>
<b>Society Savings, July 1995</b>		<b>5,525.36</b>
<b>Shop Savings</b>		<b>5,759.88</b>
<b>Great Mankato Get-Together, July 1995</b>		
Income	\$6,712.00	
Expense	6,822.01	
<b>Net loss</b>		<b>- 110.01</b>
<b>House Fund</b>		
Premium table	\$ 911.00	
Silent Auction	1,734.50	
Bus Rides	17.00	
<b>Total House Fund Income</b>		<b>2,662.50</b>

**Betsy-Tacy Society  
Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check either: Renewal  New Member  If new, 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
- \_\_\_\_ Extra donation for Tacy's House Fund in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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**



Artist and Betsy-Tacy fan Cheryl Harness has created this wonderful winter scene featuring the girls, dressed for a cold Deep Valley day, on Hill Street. You'll be seeing this illustration often; you can have it on a mug in time for enjoying your favorite hot winter beverage over the holidays, and on a set of holiday greeting cards! The order form for both is on the insert in this issue. You might want to take a look at some of Cheryl's other books – they'd make wonderful gifts or holiday reading treats for lucky kids that you know! Ask your bookstore or library for *Glow-In-the-Dark Christmas Ornament* (Random House), *Three Young Pilgrims* (Bradbury Press), *Young John Quincy* (MacMillan), *The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal* (MacMillan), *Papa's Christmas Gift* (Simon and Schuster) and *The Night Before Christmas* (Random House). Due out in Spring of 1996 is *Young Abe Lincoln* (National Geographic Press).

**The Betsy - Tacy Society**  
**c/o The Heritage Center**  
**Blue Earth County Historical Society**  
**415 Cherry Street**  
**Mankato, MN 56001-3741**

Bulk Rate  
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 Mankato, MN

### Check Your Label!

If your label includes a

Fall, 1995

designation, then

**IT'S TIME  
 TO RENEW!**

Do it today!

Don't miss any issues!  
 Renewal information  
 on page 19.

To: