

THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

Note Book

The Betsy-Tacy Society

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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.

Journal 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 90275.

The Betsy-Tacy Society was formed in Mankato, Minnesota in April, 1990. Members, now numbering nearly 1,000, receive the *Betsy-Tacy Society Journal*, 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.

Membership Notes

Hello, everyone! Let me get the business stuff out of the way first.

Due to increased costs, we are making a few changes to the membership dues structure. Foreign subscription dues are now \$20, and we are eliminating the Child membership category. If your renewal is due with this issue (your label will say Renewal Due), you can do so at the old rate. Starting with the next issue, old fees will be eliminated. We are continuing all other dues rates at the same level. However, in the interest of the sanity of our editor and her volunteer staff, we're changing to three issues a year: Fall, Spring/Summer double issue, and Winter. A surprise bonus will be mailed to everyone (we're not sure when yet-watch your mailboxes!) to make up for the fourth issue this year.

I wish you could all have a glimpse of my B-T mailbox. Many of your renewal checks arrive with beautiful cards or in envelopes decorated with wonderful rubber stampings. How I love your personal notes, and the "Hi, Michele" many of you write on the renewal forms. I am also witness to the generosity of so many of you who have added a contribution to Tacy's House to your dues. How very much this is appreciated! We hope that many of you will come to Mankato in 1997, and see what we could never have done without you.

Michele Blake

Where to Send it!

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

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Personality Plus:

What Made Betsy, Tacy, and Tib "Tick"

by Kathleen Waldron

Although there are many reasons to love the Betsy-Tacy books, one that especially intrigued me was the depth of character Maud was able to convey. Each character was so well-rounded—and so consistent—that I felt (as have so many BTS members!) that I *knew* Betsy and Tacy and all the others. I also found the differences in personalities fascinating:

Tib and Tacy seem to have little in common, and I wonder whether they would even have been friends except through Betsy. Carney and Winona are almost polar opposites, as are Julia and Katie—yet somehow they all clicked, and not in an artificial way.

My intrigue with how differing personality types interact is certainly not unique. Over 50 years ago a mother-daughter team created the first version of a personality indicator that is now known (and widely used) as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Katharine Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers took years of their own observations of people's behaviors, likes, and dislikes, and combined their findings with some of the theories of Carl Jung to form a theory of *personality preferences*.

According to the Myers-Briggs theory, each person is born with certain preferences that are either strengthened or discouraged by the environment he or she is raised in. The preferences fall in each of four areas: where a person *receives and focuses energy*; how a person *gathers information*; how a person *makes decisions*; and one's general *attitude toward life*. It is interesting to examine the main characters in the Betsy-Tacy books and determine

where each falls on the Myers-Briggs continuum.

For instance, the first preference examines where you receive and focus energy. Some people prefer companionship over solitude, have lots of friends rather than a few very close friends, and like to talk rather than listen. Those kinds of people are called "extroverts" by Briggs and Myers, while their complement types are called "introverts." What extroverts find energizing (a loud party, for example) introverts typically find draining, and what energizes introverts (a quiet evening with a book, perhaps), is draining to an extrovert.

In examining some of the Betsy-Tacy characters, it seems pretty obvious that Julia, Tib, Mrs. Ray, and Winona are extroverts and Tacy, Mr. Ray, Alice, Joe, and Carney are introverts. But what is Betsy? As a child she is perpetually surrounded by friends; as an adolescent she belongs to a pretty large crowd. But she cherishes her time alone with her writing, and finds as she gets older that she increasingly enjoys solitude. Betsy is more difficult to type, but perhaps her very "middle-of-the-roadness" enables her to reach out equally to Tacy and Tib.

The second personality prefer-

ence examines how you gather information (which you later use to make decisions). Some people rely on factual and verifiable information they receive from their senses—things they can actually see, hear, touch, and so forth. Other people start there, but then begin "playing" with the possibilities of the real world and wondering what it "could be if." People with the former preference are called sensors, because they rely on their senses. People with the latter are called intuitive, because they often seem to use a "sixth sense" in making sense of the world. Sensing types tend to be practical, literal, realistic people who value details and learning things step-by-step. They enjoy working with their hands on things that have an immediate, practical value. When they cook, they follow the recipe exactly, measuring carefully. Intuitive types tend to focus on how to improve things, on creativity and imagination, and the relationships and connections between ideas. They tend to like to weave stories around information, thus making it personally meaningful. When they cook, they throw in a little of this, some more of that, and rarely ever measure precisely.

Personality Plus, continued on page 21

Chicago's Pullman District

by
Melanie Rigney

A good friend once observed we can't all be lucky enough to live in the shadow of the Big Hill. But if you don't live in Mankato, you can still find plenty of places right in your own backyard that Maud Hart Lovelace, with her passion for history, would have loved to have visited.

With that in mind, about 30 Greater Chicago Chapter members and friends celebrated the anniversary of Maud's birth on Sunday, April 29, in Chicago's Pullman Historic District.

You've probably noticed through this journal, the Maud-L listserv, national conventions, or just chats with other Lovelace fans that most of us have more than a love of the Betsy-Tacy books in common. For example, many of the active GCC members also are interested in the Victorian and Edwardian era, local history, and architecture. That made our destination for the birthday celebration perfect.

Our day started with a 20-minute video on the community's history, followed by a walking tour of the area by a resident of the community and a visit to a restored Pullman mansion. Then we dined on a sumptuous buffet at the Hotel Florence, and sang "Happy Birthday, Dear Maud," with others in the dining room joining in!

So, what's special about Pullman? A lot. What's it got to do with Maud? Undoubtedly, it was a topic of conversation for her parents and their friends in the years after Maud was born and before she met and became lifelong friends with Bick Kenney. This area has a rich past that Maud could have easily put to use in one of her adult historical novels.

The Pullman community is located on Chicago's far, far South Side, about 15 miles south of the Loop. It is named for the man who founded it: George Pullman, who designed the luxurious (for those days) train cars that took President Lincoln's body from Washington back to its final resting place in Illinois. There turned out to be quite a few people who were willing to pay extravagant amounts for comfortable train travel, and the Pullman Palace Car Works was born. Mr. Pullman wanted his plant to be near enough to Chicago to have quick access to the rail lines, but far enough away to keep his workers away from the evil temptations of the big city. So the company bought land near Lake Calumet, and architect Solon S. Beman and landscaper Nathan Barrett were put to work, designing 1,800 buildings between 1880 and 1885 for the nation's first planned industrial community.

The houses closest to the plant were occupied by executives and the town doctor. The Pullman family did not live in the town, preferring the then-punier (as Anna would say) Prairie Avenue neighborhood, located just south of Chicago's Loop. However, Mr. Pullman kept a suite of rooms at the Hotel Florence, named for his favorite daughter.

While the workers may not have had the big homes of the executives, their houses were still far better than anything they could have afforded elsewhere. After the big homes came the houses of the factory foremen, then the skilled workers. Smaller "honeymoon" cottages, rowhouses and apartment buildings followed for the laborers, single or married. The home farthest from the factory was less than a mile, an important consideration since few workers of the day could afford to own and stable a horse. The houses were made from brick, primarily made from clay from Lake Calumet, and were trimmed in green. Every single residence had its own indoor plumbing, a real rarity for that time.

The community had a single church (which all denominations were encouraged to rent, although some did not). There was also a single tavern, in the Hotel Florence, with prices designed to keep the workers away. The Queen Anne-style Florence, with 51 guest rooms and Eastlake furniture, surely was the South Side's version of Mankato's luxurious Saulpaugh (Melborn) Hotel, built in 1889. A market hall and an arcade building complete with a library, bank, theater, and businesses served the town's shopping needs, although everyone was paid in cash rather than script (another rarity for the time) and had the option of making purchases elsewhere. There also were parks, health services, and athletic facilities. While the venture was calculated as a paying proposition, the town was also designed as a social experiment. Mr. Pullman believed a superior working environment would result in happier, healthier employees, which in turn would mean greater productivity for the company. Skilled laborers from elsewhere in the U.S. and in Europe heard about Pullman, and came by the hundreds.

For a while it worked beautifully. But while Stella Palmer Hart and Thomas Hart were celebrating the birth of their second daughter in April 1892, Pullman was in its final days as what the Prague International Hygienic & Pharmaceutical Exposition called the "most perfect" town in the world.

Later that same year a major economic

depression hit the country and the following year Mr. Pullman cut wages to ensure the desired rate of return to the company's shareholders. However, he didn't lower rents. The Pullman strike followed in 1894; Mr. Pullman died in 1897; and in 1898 the Illinois Supreme Court forced the company to sell all its non-industrial properties.

The community deteriorated in the next several decades, and in 1960 Pullman was cited as a "blighted area." A study recommended that the area be razed, a plan that brought local residents to their feet and resulted in formation of the Pullman Civic Organization. The threat struck at the very heart of Pullman, where many residents' roots now go back three or four generations. All that hard work paid off, with the designation of Pullman in 1971 as a National Historic Landmark. Other designations have followed, including that of State Historic Site and City Landmark District.

Thanks to the volunteers' efforts, about 80% of the buildings still stand today and Pullman looks much as it did when Maud was born. Fundraising activities include an annual house tour in October, with visits inside eight to ten homes; a quarterly Victorian dinner; Halloween masquerade ball; New Year's Eve gala; group tours; merchandise sales. The Visitors Center, owned by the foundation, sells paver bricks for \$100, with dedications that are visible even when the center is closed; the Greater Chicago Chapter is among those who have purchased a brick. The foundation also operates the Hotel Florence Restaurant and Museum. Lunch is served on weekdays, with breakfast or brunch on the weekends. The Visitors Center is open year-round on Sundays and is also open on Saturdays part of the year.

The Pullman area still has its problems, but the restoration efforts, low housing prices, and the area's easy rail access to almost anywhere in the Chicago area has begun drawing people of all economic levels to the community. There are still plenty of residents, however, whose great-grandparents were among those who worked for Mr. Pullman.

There are places all over this country outside Minnesota that are historically significant to Maud's era. Milwaukee, New York, Boston, and California are lucky in that we know precise dates Maud visited and what she did there. But there are plenty of other locations that must have provided fodder for the Hart dinner table while Maud was growing up. Find out what those places are in your area, and visit them with other fans, whether it's a special event or just a group outing. You're sure to turn up some kindred spirits along the way.

"Who saves a landmark?" visitors are asked in the Pullman video presentation. "We all do." It's a thought Lovelace fans should remember as they consider donating to the Tacy house fund or to restoration efforts in their own communities.

Melanie Rigney is a past President of the Greater Chicago Chapter, and lives in Chicago.

A Companion to Betsy's Trip to Paris

by Julia A. Nephew



Chapter Nineteen of *Betsy and the Great World* begins with Betsy unsuccessfully trying out her college French on a hack driver in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The readers immediately realize that there has been an ellipse; we seem to have missed something. Chapter Eighteen ends with Betsy's departure from Venice and from Marco, headed for Switzerland, and then suddenly we are in Paris.

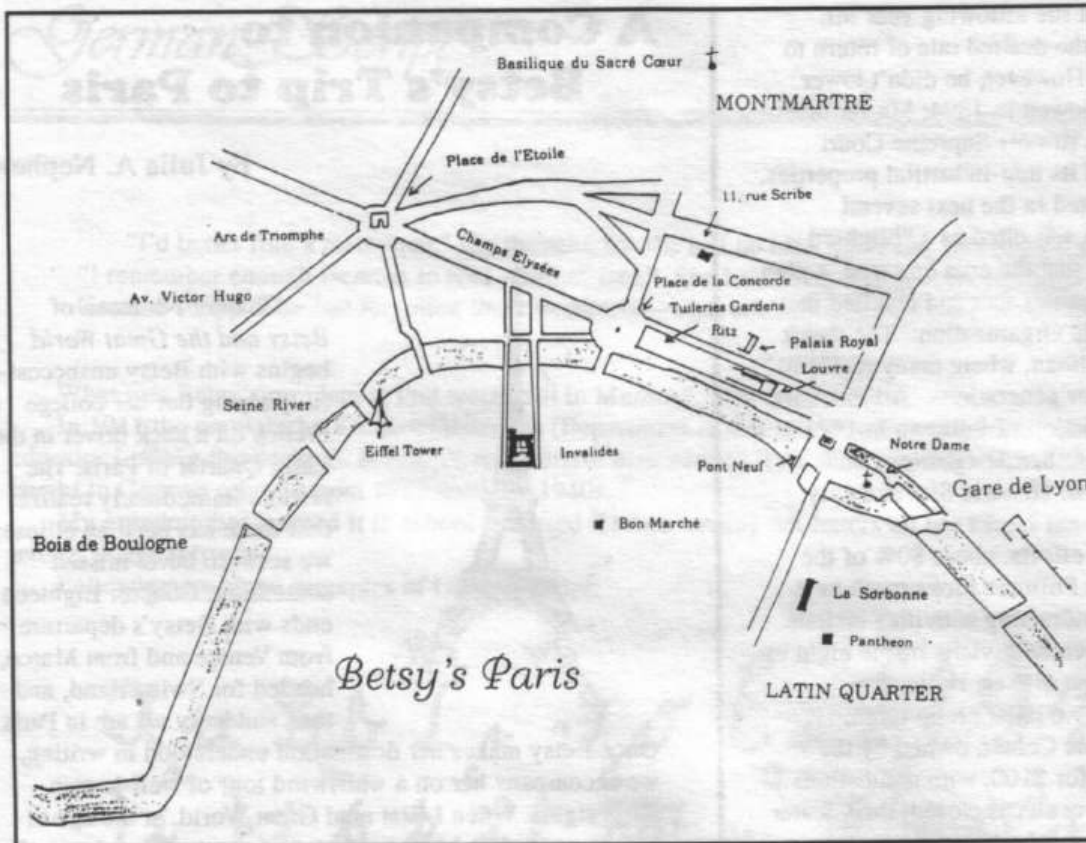
Once Betsy makes her destination understood in writing, we accompany her on a whirlwind tour of well-known Paris sights. When I first read *Great World*, at the age of eleven or twelve, I had not heard of most of the places she mentions, but I certainly found the whole description enticing. The whole book made Europe and world travel sound so attractive that I also dreamed of my first trip into the *Great World*. I wonder how many Betsy-Tacy fans were inspired by this book to learn about other cultures and languages and to go on travel adventures?

Chapter Nineteen is pivotal to the story because Betsy's encounter with Mrs. Main-Whittaker gave Betsy the excuse she needed to write to Joe, ending their quarrel. In fact, Betsy has persistent thoughts about Joe throughout the chapter, especially near the end before she writes to him.

In this companion to Chapter Nineteen I will detail the Parisian monuments and historical figures mentioned. I hope you will enjoy referring to it as you read, reread, and dream of fulfilling your own travel fantasies.



Map of Paris and notes follow on the next two pages



1914 and at present reflects the Renaissance and Classical periods in particular. Besides the *Vénus de Milo* that Betsy mentions, the Louvre also contains the *Mona Lisa*, French royal jewels, and *Victory at Samathrace*, or *Winged Victory*. [A copy of it was in the Melborn Hotel: "The statue on the landing had no head. It was the statue of a woman, or an angel... 'It's called the Winged Victory. It's Greek,' said Mrs. Poppy. 'Greek!' said Betsy. 'It's probably a goddess then.' She walked around it, staring." (*Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*, Chap. 8; see also Chapter 9.)] The part of the Louvre open to the public in 1914 was considerably smaller than the overwhelming and fascinating *Grand Louvre* that reopened in 1989.

* denotes a cross reference in the list

Unless otherwise noted, all citations are from Chapter 19, *Betsy and the Great World*.

Latin Quarter, (*Quartier latin*) on the Left Bank south of the Seine River, is the university neighborhood where the Sorbonne and numerous other schools, libraries, and bookstores are located. It is called the Latin Quarter because in the Middle Ages the university students spoke to each other in Latin, the scholarly language of the era. It is famous for its "animation" created by the thousands of students that frequent it daily.

Pont Neuf, ("new bridge") constructed 1578-1604, links the two banks of the Seine to the *île de la Cité*, the main island in the Seine. The Seine is still lined with open-air book stalls. "As she crossed over the bridge, she leaned out of the hack impulsively and waved to Henri Quatre."

Henri Quatre, Henry IV, (1553-1610, King of France and of Navarre)

is remembered for the Edict of Nantes that gave Protestants the legal right to worship. Betsy is drawn to his equestrian statue on the Pont Neuf because of the reference to it in her "dear love among books that was not a classic," (*Betsy and the Great World*, Chap. 3), the *Beloved Vagabond*. Please refer to Sharla Scannell Whalen's, *The Betsy-Tacy Companion*, page 381, for a photo. Sharla also tells us that Merian Lovelace Kirchner actually wrote Chapter Nineteen, using Maud's outline. Betsy asks the statue's advice about how to get in touch with Joe, but she doesn't receive her answer until later that day.

Gare de Lyon is one of many train stations in Paris; this one is for trains arriving from and departing for the south of France and Switzerland. Betsy and the Wilsons most likely arrived there.

Louvre is a museum located in the former royal palace. Originally built in 1204, it has had many remodelings, most recently the pyramid by Pei, completed in 1989. The exterior in

Victor Hugo (1802-1885) is the author of *Les Misérables*, (Joe told Betsy he thought it was the greatest novel ever written), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame**, and numerous other works. Betsy, always a voracious reader, considers him a friend. He is perhaps the most prolific and versatile French writer. He published novels, poetry, plays and political tracts. He was a theoretician and leader of Romanticism, a literary movement. His funeral was a national event which the French consider one of the saddest days of the nineteenth century. He wrote: "Art must no longer only search for the Beautiful, but also the Good."

Notre Dame de Paris is a gothic church constructed from 1163 to 1345. It is located on the *île de la Cité*, an island in the center of Paris. Although the steeples were never completed, you can climb the towers and visit the bells that Quasimodo would have rung.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1831) is a novel by Victor Hugo*, set

in the late Middle Ages. Hugo uses local color to animate the gothic setting. The church is the main character, a "living Bible." Other characters are Quasimodo, (meaning half-formed), the hunchback bellringer who Betsy sees "lurking in the shadows," and Esmeralda, the "little dancing girl among the bells."

Panthéon, a monument in the heart of the Latin Quarter*, has a mixture of gothic and Greek architecture, and was originally planned as a church. Since Victor Hugo's* funeral in 1885, it has been dedicated to the remembrance of great men (and women?). Betsy thought, "it seemed sad for such a lover of life to be shut up in musty obscurity."

Napoléon Bonaparte, Napoleon the First, (1769-1821) was a French general and emperor. He emerged first as a military leader after the French Revolution of 1789, and twice led his armies to victory over a large part of Europe before his final defeat at Waterloo in 1814. Napoleon was exiled twice, first to the island of Elba near Corsica, from which he escaped, and then finally to St. Helena, where he died. He is buried at the Invalides, formerly a military hospital, and now a military museum. Betsy is "unexpectedly stirred by the sight of his last resting place."

Tuileries Gardens are located between the vast Louvre* Palace and remaining pavilions of the Tuileries Palace (the Queen's palace) and the Place de la Concorde.* Designed by Le Nôtre in 1664, they are perhaps the most elegant gardens anywhere. Betsy reminisces about the ill-fated Marie Antoinette (1755-1793) and the Empress Eugenie* as she drives past.

Impératrice Eugénie (1826-1920) was the wife of Emperor Napoleon III (nephew of Napoleon I*) and a Spanish countess. She is featured in Maud's novel, *Petticoat Court*. She was still alive when Betsy visited Paris, but she had left France in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian war.

Place de la Concorde, one of the

largest "squares" in Paris, is located between the Tuileries Gardens* and the Champs Elysées*. It is octagonal with eight pavilions and eight statues at its sides, two fountains, and the *Louxor Obelisk* in the center. It was called the Place de la Révolution from 1792 to 1795 when the guillotine was set up there.

Champs Elysées, the most famous avenue in Paris and probably in all of Europe, is over two miles in length between the Place de la Concorde* and the Place de l'Etoile where eight avenues meet and the Arc de Triomphe* is located. Its name, the Elysian Fields, refers to heaven. Not only does it have many bank, newspaper, and couture house headquarters, but also many cinemas, restaurants, cafés, and hotels.

Arc de Triomphe (Arch of Triumph) monument at the end of the Champs Elysées* and the center of the Place de L'Etoile was commissioned by Napoleon to commemorate his military victories.

Eiffel Tower, symbol of Paris, was constructed for the 1889 World's Fair to be the tallest building in the world at that time. It was only fifteen years old when Betsy saw it! Named for its engineer, Gustave Eiffel, it is 320 meters tall, (1,050 feet) including the antennas. It has three levels, with restaurants and shops on the first two and an observation deck on the top. It is still used as a radio and television transmission tower.

Bon Marché, a huge department store where Betsy bought her blue suit, is still in Paris at 22, rue de Sèvres. I have not been able to locate Paquin's or Worth's.

Longchamps Promenade was in the huge (2,000 acres) Bois de Boulogne. I am still searching for this fashion promenade, but no one I have asked in Paris can remember it. Maybe the trousers were too risqué? It was probably located at or near the Longchamps Hippodrome in the park, which was inaugurated in 1857 and refurbished in 1959 and 1966. It is

used for horse racing. "The sun was setting behind the tall trees of the Bois de Boulogne when the parade ended."

Herald, or *International Herald Tribune*, is still a very popular newspaper printed in English with American as well as European news, and published in various cities all over Europe.

Ritz, or *Ritz-Espadon*, near the Tuileries, is still a favorite restaurant for the rich and elegant. It's decor, garden, and people watching create an extravagant ambiance. Dinner prices start at \$100 per person. Certainly a meal Betsy would remember! "Mrs. Main-Whittaker seemed to know everybody. She waved and called greetings in every direction."

Comédie Française, the royal theater located near the Palais Royal not far from the Louvre, was constructed in the seventeenth century for Molière's productions presented to the Court. Today it is a theater for classical French plays and the tickets are affordable.

Montmartre is the highest hill in Paris and a bohemian neighborhood, as it was in 1914. The white marble basilica, the *Sacré-Cœur*, is on the highest part, with a marvelous view of the city. On some days, especially at dawn or dusk, it is the color of rosy apple blossoms. Tourists (without chaperones like Miss Wilson) go to Montmartre to experience the night life.

Isn't it wonderful that in addition to visiting many of the Minnesota locations mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy books, we can retrace her steps in the Great World?

Julia Nephew is a French instructor and graduate student at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. Inspired by the fictitious journey of another Minnesota native named Betsy Ray, she lived and studied in France for two years. She is presently writing her Ph.D. dissertation on French women writers of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

If

Betsy Grew Up in the 1950s . . .

by
Jennifer Davis-Kay,
in consultation with Marney Wilde

It's a game I love: If Betsy lived in a different time or a different place or under a different set of circumstances, which book character might she resemble? For example, Francie Nolan (*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*) is a fitting "working-class Betsy." And if Betsy grew up in the 1950s I think she would be Henrietta Snow, the title character of *The Cheerleader*, by Ruth Doan MacDougall.

At first glance the books may seem very different. *The Cheerleader* is solidly rooted in the 1950s—the years of ponytails, proms, Noxema facials, parking, and the anguished question of "going all the way," according to the cover blurb. Snowy is an atheist and very shy. An only child, she is not particularly close to either of her parents; they love her but are somewhat bewildered by her. Another, and perhaps more significant, difference is that sexuality is far more present in *The Cheerleader* than in Betsy-Tacy (and many B-T fans dislike this book for that reason).

But when I read and reread *The Cheerleader*, I'm invariably struck by the many parallels.

The *Detroit Free Press* describes *The Cheerleader* as "One of the truest portraits of an American girl ever written." The book is set in the mid-1950s. Henrietta Snow, nicknamed "Snowy," is a fifteen-year-old Junior Varsity cheerleader, one of the popular crowd, best friends with Bev Colby and Jean

"Puddles" Pond. Snowy yearns to be popular, to achieve school success, to find love and, someday, to be a writer (specifically, a poet).

The areas of B-T overlap are numerous and varied. Snowy is Class Secretary. Her best friend, Bev—tall, redhaired, beautiful—acts in school plays. Puddles, who came late to their triumvirate, is small, curly-haired, practical, and the best dancer ("Puddles and Jack were the ones everyone stopped dancing to watch"). As Betsy's Waterloo is sewing, Snowy's is P.E.; she hates it but she joins the Girls' Athletic Association because "it was the thing to do." Intriguingly, Snowy's most important role model and source of support (Bev's mother) is named Julia!

Teenagers are teenagers, whether it's 1910 or 1955. Snowy and Bev are as dependent on Noxema as Betsy is on Magic Wavers ("Aren't you sleeping over at Snowy's?" Puddles asked Bev. "What'll you do without your Noxema?"). Other parallels are shown in the accompanying sidebar.

And, like most teenage girls, both dream of love. Betsy vows, "I'm going to go with Joe Willard!" Snowy's goal is Tom Forbes, a junior and "big wheel" at Gunthwaite High School. *The Cheerleader* follows Snowy from sophomore to senior year and Tom is very much present throughout—though, just as for Betsy and Joe, the course of true love seldom runs smoothly. Most of the sexual references in the book are in the

The High School Scene 1900s and 1950s

	<i>Betsy's Day</i>	<i>Snowy's Day</i>
<i>They are</i>	The Crowd	The Gang
<i>a.k.a.</i>	Philos and Zets	College Prep and General
<i>Their hangout is</i>	Heinz's	Hooper's Dairy Bar
<i>They watch</i>	Chauncey Olcott's Play	Mary Martin's "Peter Pan"
<i>Their song is</i>	"The Merry Widow Waltz"	"Since I Lost My Baby"
<i>They wear</i>	Skirts and waists	Dungarees and sweat shirts
<i>They say</i>	"Ain't it awful, Mabel?"	"Ughy-pew"

context of Snowy's developing relationship with Tom. Snowy, like Betsy, operates within a moral structure appropriate to her peer group and time frame.

Betsy and Snowy share an ability to focus on a goal and strive to attain it, even at a young age. Tacy and Bev, despite their artistic talents, have fairly prosaic plans for their futures: Tacy is the first to marry and have children; Bev expects to be a secretary and marry her boss. Snowy's dream defies the 1950s norm of early marriage. Her ambition "was a sun shining through mist; beyond the goal of a glamorous women's college was the goal of fame." Snowy's vision of the Great World involves college ("Snowy had a strictly pragmatic view of things: they had to be learned so she could get into college") and becoming a famous poet "so she would live forever." But, like Betsy, she is in no rush; for now, school is her world. (Snowy dutifully reads *Time* and *U.S. News and World Report* for her history class, but she finds them "very boring—none of it so important as the affairs of Gunthwaite High School!")

The Cheerleader, as Betsy would say, is a perfectly grand book. As a portrait of adolescent life, every note rings true. We feel such empathy with Snowy, with her yearning—and we applaud her bravery. Betsy had the courage to say no to Marco, to leave college, to reach out to Joe at the expense of her pride. Snowy, goal-oriented and focused throughout the book, ultimately makes a heartbreaking choice of great courage and personal vision; she knows who she is and she is true to herself.

Loyal to her friends, focused on her writing goals, and full of the D—, Henrietta Snow is my nominee for "Betsy Ray, 1955."

Author's Note: A new B-T fan is born; Ruth Doan MacDougall is now a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society. Look for her latest book, set in the ice cream industry, coming soon to a bookstore near you.

Copies of *The Cheerleader* are not easy to find. If your library cannot locate a copy for you, we can suggest an alternative. Ruth has kindly donated a copy to the Betsy-Tacy Society so we would have one to loan. This book is circulating now; to be added to the list write to Marney Wilde at 24402 Broadwell Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710 or email her at MarneyW@aol.com.

Also, don't miss *Snowy*, the sequel to *The Cheerleader*. Because this book is quite recent, most libraries will be able to provide a copy.

Jennifer Davis-Kay (jdavis@edc.org) lives in Newton, Massachusetts, with her beloved husband and cats, and dreams of waking up one morning to look like either Tacy or Bev.

Of Meat Pie and Other Things

by Teresa Gibson, Guest Columnist

"[Emily] fried bacon for herself and Jed, and made tea, and opened choke-cherry jelly. They ate in the bay window. The sky was colored by the afterglow."

Emily of Deep Valley, Chapter 21

Emily and Jed have a simple meal to end this romantic chapter. Deceptively simple, for choke-cherry jelly is a real treat. Since Emily was a fabulous cook, it's easy to imagine her picking the wild choke-cherries as they ripened in the summertime around the Big Hill, bringing them home in a bucket, and then canning jars of jelly in her kitchen.



Betsy-Tacy members who live in northern, cool climates may be familiar with choke-cherry jelly, a dark red, syrupy concoction with a taste that's not cherry, not plum, not apple, but something in-between all these flavors. Those of us who live in the southern part of the country are unlikely to have had the pleasure of this treat. I first became acquainted with choke-cherry jelly one summer in northern New Mexico. Choke-cherries ripen in the summer and by August all the craft fairs have jars of jelly to sell. It's wonderful on bread, pancakes, waffles, most anything. And it was surprisings to me, as I re-read *Emily*, to find choke-cherry jelly mentioned by Maud Hart Lovelace.

The following recipe appears in *Mormon Cooking: Authentic Recipes* published by Great Mountain West Supply, 3777 S. 500 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84115, © 1985.

Chokecherry Jelly

To prepare fruit:

Wash berries. It is not necessary to remove stems from fruit. To 1 gallon of berries add 10 cups water, bring to boil, and boil for 15 minutes. Drain juice off through colander or strainer. Add 10 more cups water, mash berries well, and boil for 5 to 10 minutes. Press through colander, working through all pulp possible, but not seeds or skins.

To make Jelly:

Place 5 cups chokecherry juice in a large kettle, add a 2 ounce package of powdered pectin, and bring to a boil. Add 7 cups sugar. Bring to boil, and boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, pour into hot sterilized jelly glasses, and seal with hot paraffin wax. Note: by substituting 1 cup unsweetened apple juice for 1 cup berry juice, jelly will be more firm.

To make waffle or pancake syrup:

Use double amount of both juice and sugar in above recipe, but only one package of pectin, boiling for 5-7 minutes, depending on how thick you want the syrup.

Teresa Gibson, of Mesquite, Texas, is filling in for Beth Hudson, who usually writes "Of Meat Pie."

Merian's Column

by Mary Theissen
Guest Author

Editor's Note: Merian Lovelace Kirchner is Maud Hart Lovelace's daughter and a regular contributor to this Journal. Because of a recent illness, she was unable to write her column for this issue. Our thanks to Mary Theissen for guest-authoring until Merian is well again.

Lessons from Maud

Last summer was the beginning of a remarkable journey. Armed with newly sharpened pencils and a bursting curiosity, I was joined by two Betsy-Tacy friends for an adventure I had not imagined. Patty Warhol, Suzanne Nezin, and I took it upon ourselves to research the life of Maud and Delos in Claremont, California, for this charming couple had chosen to retire in our beautiful state to enjoy their sunset years.

This journey has taken the three of us into the homes and memories of the Lovelace's family and friends. And what stories! Best of all, we discovered one indisputable fact: Maud and Delos truly were "Betsy and Joe." Knowing this, the time has come to assemble what we have learned into a publication for all of the Betsy-Tacy Society to enjoy. Yet before that can be done, I must share with you what I have come to know as true.

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I'VE LEARNED FROM MAUD

1. ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES

As a teenager, Betsy always worried about her shirtwaists coming loose. But as an adult, Maud was the quintessential "Edwardian lady," according to her daughter Merian Lovelace Kirchner. In a charming story told by Georgenia Irwin, a longtime Claremont neighbor, the Lovelace's were often guests in their home for dessert. Although it was the 50s and 60s, and life was becoming more casual each year, Maud always arrived for dessert dressed in her fur wrap and gloves. So in these days of questionable etiquette, I have learned that *propriety and grace never go out of style.*

2. LIBRARIES ARE BETTER THAN DISNEYLAND

As a young girl, Betsy could hardly contain her excitement on her first trip to the library. In *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*, Maud wrote, "She tried to act as though it were nothing to go to the library alone. But her happiness betrayed her. Her smile could not be restrained, and it spread from her tightly pressed mouth, to her round cheeks, almost to the hair ribbons tied in perky bows over her ears."

Clearly, Maud's love for libraries did not diminish over the years. In the first few months of the Lovelace's stay in California, Maud visited no less than six different libraries. Some visits were to meet the children who had read her books, some were to conduct research on *Betsy's Wedding*, and some were simply meeting places for her new "Crowd." In February 1954, Maud wrote excitedly, "This morning I started work at the Claremont College Library. It is wonderful! We can walk through stacks, and work at tables set amongst them, in blissful solitude." From this I have learned that *if it gave you a thrill that first time, then it must be good for a lifetime.*

3. ALWAYS MARRY A "JOE"

The romantic Joe of our dreams has always been of a faithful, attentive, entertaining, and driven man. Delos was all of this and more. According to Maud's diaries, Delos cooked, gardened, brought her breakfast in bed, took strolls with her, went to church with her, accompanied her on her talks, even joined her at the library. But more than this, Delos was her soulmate. The Irwins profess to admiring the Lovelace's as a couple, while Merian delightfully insists that they were *always* in love.

It comes as no surprise then that Maud's very own "Joe" would read to her nightly from literature or poetry. Or that he would join her in bird watching while eating breakfast in their garden. Or that he would debate with her how best to describe the gray California rain (Delos insisted the rain looked like "weeping skies" while Maud thought it was not sad enough for that). From this I have learned that *to marry a "Joe" is not merely a wise choice, but a rich blessing that will last longer than life.*

4. FATHER KNOWS BEST

Mr. Ray was often known for his sage advice, usually sprinkled with a bit of horse sense and gentle teasing. Such was the case when Betsy and Julia decided to join the Episcopalian church. With great conviction, Mr. Ray told the girls "If you're going to join a church, you want to be prepared to support it, both with money and time."

Maud took this advice to heart. Her commitment to her church was lifelong. When Maud and Delos moved to Claremont, they took with them that commitment, out of which grew a founding membership in the newly formed Episcopalian church. The Lovelace's involvement in St. Ambrose's Church in Claremont was a tremendous part of their lives. Maud's diaries reflect not only how the community struggled to establish the new church, but also how the sermons touched her, sparking discussions and debates with Delos and their friends. Mr. Ray may have planted the seed, but Betsy cultivated it until it grew and multiplied. Good for her!

5. OBSERVE THE WORLD LIKE A POET

Everyday life can, at times, become mundane, gray, and predictable. Perhaps this was so for Maud, but in reading her diaries, one would never suspect as much. Ever fascinated with nature, Maud spent the better part of her diaries describing the world around her. In several diary entries from 1954, Maud writes:

"Rains continue. We've been breakfasting and reading the Sunday paper in the beautiful, big dining. room. We look out on a giant eucalyptus, bare and polished-looking trunk, and drooping peppers."

"As we drove we kept glimpsing those big mountains dusted with snow. It seems strange to find them 3-dimensional. We are used to seeing them only flat on postcards or in pictures, I suppose. They rise up like giant people."

In another entry, describing an evening walk with Delos, Maud writes

"There was a sickle moon and the dark world smelled sweet. The wide windows in these new houses are covered with curtains at night, glowing softly."

The lesson here--*when one walks with nature, one's soul is calm and pure.*

And so from all of this I have learned that the thoughtful, dear Betsy I came to love as a girl did in fact grow into a sweet, wise, and calm woman. Maud gave us the gift of her words. I have learned she also gave us the gift of a lovely soul.



A Note From Lona's Pony Cart



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Deep Valley! This summer I've had the pleasure of visiting with many members from all over the U.S. and touring Deep Valley with them.

If any of you are planning a trip to Mankato, please do not hesitate to call me to arrange a guided tour. Although Tacy's House is not currently open to the public on a regular basis, I would be happy to schedule a private visit for you. My telephone number is (507) 345-8103.

My daughter Emily and I enjoyed a trip to the banks of Plum Creek. This trip was instigated by Linda Duchin, a member of the Greater New York Chapter. We got to be pioneers from the 1870s for a night by sleeping in a sod house on the prairie! For information about this unusual bed and breakfast call (507) 723-5138.

Merian Lovelace Kirchner is recovering from a bout of pneumonia. Well wishes may be sent to her c/o Andrea Shaw, 224 E. 11th Street #20, New York, NY 10003. Merian has recently sent us many wonderful treasures, such as a clock from 1876, a silver coffeepot engraved with birds, Mr. Hart's own personal footstool, magazines containing articles by Maud and Delos, and many books from her parents' personal collection. We hardly know how to thank her for these generous gifts.

The last National Board meeting was a brunch held in "Tib's House." Betsy-Tacy Society Board Member Jacqui Woodwick and her husband, John, are lovingly restoring this beautiful house. It has been returned to its wonderful original chocolate color. Society members had fun exploring the "Mirror Palace."

"Tib led them down the hall. There were front stairs as well as back stairs! They went down the front stairs, and just as the steps turned at a little landing, they came in view of the pane of colored glass. The afternoon sunlight, streaming through it, turned it to ruby red."

Betsy-Tacy

Once again I would like to thank those of you (and how many there are!) who have made donations to the fund for Tacy's House. Your efforts will be

Pony Cart continues on page 22

From Our Photo Album

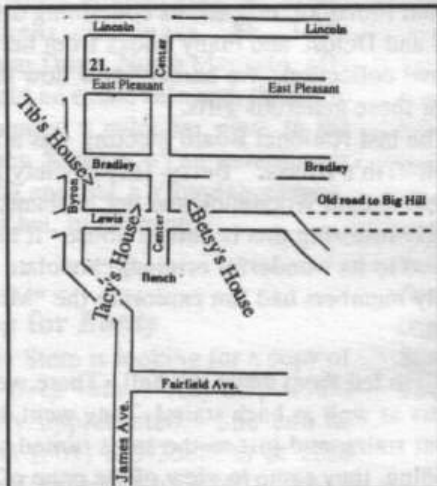
Childhood homes in Mankato



Betsy's House at 333 Center Street
The home is privately owned.



Tacy's House 332 Center Street,
owned by the Betsy-Tacy Society



The Cyberspace Crowd has been reading *Betsy-Tacy* together, and questions about the relative locations of the girls' childhood homes have been raised. Recent photographs of all three are shown here, with a small Mankato map to help in visualizing them.



"Tib's House" at 503 Byron
is owned by BTS Board Member
Jacqui Woodwick and her husband, John.

OF

La de da

AND OTHER THINGS

by
Katrine Poe

*M*y supply of lily-of-the-valley has run out. Cats! Just when I had finally hit on the scent that would help me to fascinate men and influence people! A quick dash to my favorite scent emporium revealed a greater disaster: the scent has been discontinued. So here I am, high and dry, completely lacking in "la de da." What to do?

In *Betsy in Spite of Herself*, Betsy finds that "la de da" has a lot less to do with the scent of Jockey Club, a smattering of foreign phrases,

and a dramatic and mysterious persona than the honing of her own self as a woman. Fascinated as always by the siren-like ways of her sister Julia, Betsy believes that the best way for her to become a siren as well is to re-invent herself as "Betsye," the dramatic and

mysterious. With this new persona and its dazzling assortment of accoutrements, Betsy succeeds in landing the Deep Valley High School's biggest catch, Phil Brandish; when the real Betsy emerges, of course, the affair crumbles.

Discussing the Phil-Betsye romance with Julia, Betsy is surprised to hear Julia defend her use of "la de da."

"Don't be scornful of 'la de da,' Bettina. You may want to use it sometime with someone you really like."

"But then," cried Betsy, "surely I wouldn't have to use it! Not with my own kind!"

"Oh...wouldn't you?" asked Julia, and smiled inscrutably, and began to shake her hair again.

Not only does this exchange point out the basic difference between the sisters, but it is also one of the many times Lovelace indicates a certain division between those girls who "la de da" and those who don't. Throughout the high school books, we hear tale after tale of Julia's conquests, following them with the same sort of fascination that Betsy does, but there is no doubt that although Betsy admires Julia's prowess, she fails every time she herself tries to imitate it. Julia is forever the actress, able to assume whatever role she needs to achieve her

goal. Betsy, on the other hand, is, by her own description, too orthodox, too honest to play-act.

The Phil-Betsye affair is the best example of this; it was a lot of fun to create the persona, to spin the web, and to trap the handsome Phil, but, as Julia pointed out, Betsy didn't really want to keep him. Whereas Julia seems to think nothing of tossing aside one devoted swain after another, Betsy does not toss as easily. What is to Julia just another role is to Betsy a distinct form of dishonesty, if only to herself.

Part of this stems, no doubt, from the natural need for conformity; when she first begins to go around with the Crowd, Betsy pretends to enjoy whatever the crowd enjoys, particularly Carney and Bonnie. Carney and Bonnie, however, aren't pretending; they honestly say what they want to do and do it. Betsy seems to shift from wanting to be as honest and practical as Carney and Bonnie to yearning after the excitement that Julia's play-acting provides. It is interesting to note that over the course of the next four books of the series, and even into *Carney's House Party* and *Emily of Deep Valley*, it is the designing, "la de da" females who are portrayed as being not quite nice or worth knowing. Phyllis Brandish, with her sly, snobbish ways, is definitely not part of the Crowd; Isobel Porteous, a little less snobbish but no less sly than Phyllis, is also regarded with suspicion. The empty-headed Annette, who uses Emily's lack of popularity to bolster her own ego, is someone the reader is all too glad to see disappear to the U.

By the end of that thrilling and strangely unsettling sophomore year, Betsy has learned a bit more about herself than she had bargained for. Some of the "la de da" lingers, like the scent of Jockey Club, throughout the rest of the series. By the time she hits the Great World, Betsy has even developed a "technique for fascination"; overall, she retains her rather romantic outlook on life. But what remains as well is the lesson Betsy learned that sophomore year: to thine own self be true. In her writing, and in her love for Joe, her family, and friends, Betsy is her true self, foibles and all.

So I may be without my fascinating scent, and I may indeed be lacking more than a little "la de da," yet I know that, like Betsy, it's not just that "la de da" that counts, but rather the person behind it.

Katrine Poe (the "other" Poe) lives in Chicago where she is working on her Ph.D. in English Literature. She is President of the Greater Chicago Chapter.

Omaha Chapter?

Sally Fink is interested in getting a Betsy-Tacy Society Chapter started in Omaha, Nebraska. Anyone in that area who would like to join should contact Sally at (402) 393-5444, or at P. O. Box 24334, Omaha, Nebraska.



Thank You

Thank you to Rhonda Whiting of Lynchburg, Virginia. She has sent the Betsy-Tacy Society three early edition copies of *The Black Angels*, *Early Candlelight*, and *Petticoat Court*. They are beautiful books, and will be a wonderful addition to the collection.



Betsy-Tacy Video

Cel Video Productions of Mankato is seeking a grant to do a Betsy-Tacy video. If anyone has videos of past B-T events or photos they would be willing to lend, please send them to Lona Falenczykowski, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001.



1910 Calendar Donation

Cherished Possessions, an estate management business at 1620 Nottingham Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003, held an estate sale and, thanks to Lona, donated a calendar plate to the Betsy-Tacy Society. The calendar is from 1910 and has a Victorian woman, wearing a hat, in the center.



Looking for Emily

Diane Stern is looking for a copy of *Emily of Deep Valley*. Any help would be greatly appreciated. She can be reached at (801) 399-3588, or at 1280 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401.



Pacific Northwest Chapter?

Do you like to have some Betsy-Tacy with your double tall latte? Come in out of the rain to meet members of the Betsy-Tacy Society in the Pacific Northwest. We would like to meet, get to know each other, and talk about forming a

Puget Sound Chapter, with adventures to rival Betsy's. Contact Jill or Laurie in Seattle if you're interested.

Laurie Amster-Burton
910 10th Avenue E. #202
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 322-8984
lburton@seattleu.edu

Jill Yamagiwa
3029 NE 97th
Seattle, WA 98115jj
(206) 524-9450
mochicat@u.washington.edu



Judy Bolton Companion

The Society of Phantom Friends has almost finished its biography of Margaret Sutton/Companion to the Judy Bolton books. *A Guide To Judy Bolton Country* will be a great source of information about the Judy Bolton books; the real-life sites and events that influenced the books; and Margaret Sutton herself. We'd like to get an idea of how many people might be interested in purchasing this book. If you are interested in *A Guide To Judy Bolton Country* please contact Rosemarie DiCristo, 2225 Holland Avenue #3G, Bronx, New York 10467.



Announcing the Arrival of...

We are delighted to announce the birth of Niall Scannell Whalen on April 20, 1996. Niall weighed in at 8 pounds, and 21 inches. Niall's mother is Sharla Scannell Whalen, author of *The Betsy-Tacy Companion*. We send our heartfelt congratulations to Sharla, her husband Shaun, and Niall's older siblings Paul, Emily, and Patrick.



Another Betsy-Tacy Paper

Betsy-Tacy scholarship is growing! BTS member Abby Chandler has written a paper that uses Betsy-Tacy as an example of how historical fiction can be used as a source of information about women's daily lives. It looks especially at Betsy's schooling in both high school and college, athletics, clothing, and

Notes &

work. The paper is entitled "The Women of Deep Valley: Maud Hart Lovelace's Portrayal of Women in Turn-Of-The-Century America. If you would like a copy, contact Abby c/o Homeplace 1850, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, Kentucky, 42211. Cost per copy is \$5.



B-T Party in Wisconsin

There will be a B-T party at Pooh Corner Bookstore on Thierer Drive in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, January 25. I have volunteered to talk about the Betsy-Tacy Society, and read Chapter One from *Betsy-Tacy*. We hope to see lots of BTS members there!

Also, The University Bookstore For Kids in Madison will celebrate the centennial of Maud and Betsy's Fifth Birthday on Saturday, April 26, 1997, at the Hilldale Children's Store. Events planned include a birthday cake, costumes, desserts based on recipes from the 1890s, children's games that were played at Betsy's party, and a reading of appropriate chapter from *Betsy-Tacy*.

The Society has been invited to have an information table, so anyone in the Madison area who would like to help please contact Julia Nephew at (608) 255-1627. The store address is 702 Midvale Boulevard. (608) 238-3332. Email: kids@univbkst.com.

I would like to urge each of you to encourage your neighborhood bookstores to have a party for Maud in April. It's best to go in person with a copy of the Journal and a membership form, and speak to the manager and/or promoter of children's books.

Julia A. Nephew



Trade

Betsy's Wedding in very good condition. Glossy, library-like binding, but has always been privately owned. Would like to trade for any of the first five books in the series. Contact Kim Anderson at (206) 325-6698.



Notices

Martha's Kidlit Newsletter

Martha's Kidlit Newsletter is a monthly publication devoted to collectors of out-of-print children's books. It contains in-depth articles about authors, illustrators, and children's books, as well as sales and wanted lists, book dealer advertisements, and other information of interest to readers and collectors. Subscriptions are \$30 for twelve issues. An index and back issues are also available. Contact *Martha's Kidlit Newsletter*, P. O. Box 1488, Ames, IA 50014.

Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award

The Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award was established in 1980 to honor Mrs. Lovelace. Students in grades three through eight will read the nominated books; they will vote for the winner of the 1997 Award in March so that the winner's name can be announced on April 25, Maud Hart Lovelace's birthday. Past winners of the Award include *Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls; *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen; *Night of the Twisters* by Ivy Ruckman; *Stone Fox* by John Gardiner; *Wait Till Helen Comes* by Mary Hahn; and *Nightmare Mountain* and *Cages* by Peg Kehret.

There is now a website for the Maud Hart Lovelace Award. The address is: <http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/hovelace/mhl.html>. If you have any questions about the award please contact Sally Baringer, Media Generalist; Roosevelt Elementary School; 600 Owatonna Street, Mankato, MN 56001. (507) 345-6784. Email: sbarin1@roosevelt.isd77.k12.mn.us.

Sewing Circle

Is anyone interested in starting a "Sewing Circle"? The National Board has quilt square patterns and will pay for supplies towards making a quilt to be raffled at the 1997 convention. Any takers? Get in touch with Lona (address on inside cover)

New Items in the Heritage Center Museum Gift Shop

Thank you for supporting the Heritage Center Museum in Mankato. The museum houses several valuable artifacts of importance to Betsy-Tacy Society members, including Maud's high school scrapbook. The Heritage Center Museum offers many items other than the ones mentioned here, including some of Maud Hart Lovelace's adult books. You may write for a catalog at the address given below. In the meantime, take a look at what's new at the museum!

• *Blue Earth County 1700-1900*, by Anna M. Wiecking. A 29-page book of History of Blue Earth County written for upper grade school children, grades 3-6. Price: \$3.00

• *The House of Hiram*, by Mae Buckeye. This hard-cover edition contains the life and memories of Mae Buckeye and her family. It will give those who read the book a greater appreciation of the conveniences they have today. Proceeds also benefit the Girl Scout organization. Price \$14.95

• *Souvenir of Mankato*, a reproduction of an 1897 souvenir book of Mankato. This 15-page book includes pictures of various sites that were in Mankato at this time, such as churches, schools, businesses, and street scenes. Price: \$8.95

• *1997 Calendar* of many historic Mankato sites is available. Price: \$8.00.

To order, please include the item name(s), quantity, and your name and address, along with a check or money order made payable to the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Include \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Minnesota residents must also include 6.5% sales tax. No COD orders can be accepted. Send your order, with check or money order, to BECHS, 415 Cherry St., Mankato, MN 56001. For further information, please call (507) 345-5566.

National News

The National BTS held its annual meeting April 27, 1996 at Tacy's House.

Special guests were Elaine Flathers and her friend Carol Mahler. Elaine's Aunt Ila Flathers bought Tacy's house in the 1920's. Elaine and Carol shared many memories of the time spent there.

Elaine has given us pictures of the past as well as good descriptions of the original floor plan. These will be very helpful with the restoration. Thank you very much Elaine! *Editor's Note: Read more about Ila in the Letter to the Editor on page 22.*

The board also discussed convention possibilities and came up with this tentative schedule

• Thursday (July 10): Tours of Minneopa, Rapidan Dam, and other sites around Deep Valley.

• Friday (July 11): Registration. Sibley Park picnic at noon, possibly with Cab's grandson as a guest. Evening dinner at the Holiday Inn or Civic Center, with Meray's catering.

• Saturday July 12): Breakfast, children's program, workshops, bus tours of Mankato, keynote speaker and the evening banquet with a birthday party theme.

• Sunday (July 13) is Bick's birthday, so an Irish theme will be used for the dinner at Murmuring Lake. Sunday night lunch is planned.

• Everyone expressed an interest in seeing the Silver Moon Dancers perform again. Maybe they would be able to do a workshop, too.

Linda Michael is also continuing to work on workshops for the convention, fashion show, etc. If anyone has ideas you may contact her at 610 College Ave., St. Peter, MN 56082. (507)931-2435, or e-mail her at lmichael@gac.edu.

The Society received many wonderful treasures from Merian including a clock from 1879, a silver coffee pot engraved with birds, Mr. Hart's footstool, magazines containing articles by Maud and Delos, and many books from her parents' personal library. We are working

National News, continued on page 19

Chapter

New England Un-Chapter

Here in New England we're not a formal chapter, but there's a group of Betsy-Tacy fans that likes to get together. In addition to our informal gatherings, mostly organized via the Internet, we've picked out four dates during the year to meet. Our first "official" outing was a group yard sale at Janet Hamilton's house in Stow, Massachusetts on Saturday, April 27. Eight of us pooled our castoffs and managed to raise \$175 for Tacy's house. Deb Holland convinced one little girl to buy her extra B-T paperbacks by telling her that there was a group of thousands of Betsy-Tacy fans worldwide that included Bette Midler!

A small group of New Englanders met at Alice Stern's home in Boston for a fabulous ice cream social in July. Rumor has it that Alice outdid Mr Heinz in her offerings. The next scheduled event is Saturday, October 19. There are no definite plans yet, but there has been some talk of snapping apples and walking down a set of cellar stairs backwards while looking in a mirror. If you'd like to join us, please contact Janet Hamilton at 508-461-0099 or hamilton@al.mos.org

Janet Hamilton

Washington, D.C. Chapter

The Washington, D.C. chapter met June 23 in D.C.'s Union Station. We gathered in the grand Main Hall, overlooked by 36 carved stone Roman legionnaires, a.k.a. Helmus Andrews, a.k.a. Herbert Humphreys. As you may know from *The Betsy-Tacy Companion*, Helmus posed as a model for the statue's sculptor in 1910, while a freshman in college. He was chosen for his above-average physique, and if it weren't for the anticipated modesty of elderly lady passengers, Herbert's knees would be in full view for all the world: tourists, passengers, Betsy-Tacy fans and otherwise. As it turned out, shields were added before the statues were lifted into place.

Betsy Sherman

Cyberspace Crowd

Has it ever bothered you that the character of Tib in the Betsy-Tacy (and Tib!) stories is sometimes a bit neglected in discussions about the books? We don't meet Tib until after Betsy and Tacy have become inseparable friends. At the end of *Betsy-Tacy*, Tib moves into the glamorous chocolate-colored house, and Betsy and Tacy come to inspect this new child who has moved into their neighborhood. It doesn't take them long to welcome Tib into their friendship, and Tib is happy to join them: "[She] held their hands

tightly. She sighed deeply with content. 'I'm glad I came here,' she said. 'I like this better than Milwaukee.'"

After that the three certainly have fun together, but then Tib moves back to Milwaukee and we don't see her back in Deep Valley until her junior year in high school. One of the MHL listserv members, Marsha Qualey, mentioned a B-T conversation she had at a class reunion this summer. One of her classmates said "Betsy-Tacy Society? Never heard of it, but I think it's awful how poor Tib always gets ignored."

So Marsha reported this statement to the list and threw down the gauntlet by proposing a "Salute to Tib." What follows are some of the comments gathered from the resulting discussion:

"I think it's neat that when [Betsy and Tacy] meet Tib, she is standing on her head. For me, that sums up Tib. She always has a slightly different perspective on things and it is her unique talents (like having practical cooking and sewing skills, being able to stand on her head) that allows her this altered perspective."

Kathleen Hohenleitner

"I have always loved little Tib—so atypical of the era. Her refusal to capitalize on the 'dumb blonde' image is a tribute to Maud's diverse portrayal of women in the series. She's independent, a working woman, drives (wants to own her own auto), cooks with ease, dances the night away, recreates her clothing overnight...always the feisty little girl who bravely came to Naifi's defense in Over the Big Hill. I think Maud made Tib the Gibson Girl of the series."

Sharon Thonen

"Yes, Tib does get left out a bit, doesn't she? I like her, though. I like her independence, her bluntness (although it can be a bit deflating at times!), her artistic talents, her love of fun and friends, and the way she was able to adapt to just



Washington, D.C. Crowd at Union Station in Washington

Notes

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[Below] The New England UnChapter welcomed Elizabeth Kuzina to Boston with a tea at the Four Seasons in Boston. Pictured, left to right are Elizabeth Kuzina, Deb Holland, Jen Davis-Kay, Ann Reilly, Susan Radovsky, Liz & Emily Boardma, Michele Blake (behind Liz & Emily), Pam McCuen, Janet Hamilton, Mary & Harry Johnson.



about any situation. But I also like her inner core of seriousness; the way she understood what was important to her in a relationship, and the way she evaluated the war and how it affected her as a German-American. In some ways Tib reminds me a bit of Carney, who was also frank, fun-loving, and practical."

Julie Chuba

"I like Tib a lot. She brings Betsy and Tacy (especially Betsy) down to earth. And she is practical, and a feminist in her way. She speaks her mind. And that waist!"

Sharyn November

"Though Tib seems like 'a baby,' she actually is impressively skillful, and really more mature than the others. She is able to cook, sew, etc., but never flaunts these abilities. The contrast is delightful! Where Betsy's vivid imagination makes a drama out of the mundane, and Tacy also is quite imaginative if more down to earth, Tib takes life as it comes, without gloss. It's interesting that, when the girls first realize Little Syria is just over the hill, Betsy and Tacy see it as a new trip, on a par with visiting the Great World. Distressingly frank Tib is the one to tell them that it was nearby all the time...but notice that, while the others are greater 'talkers,' Tib alone wants to be the 'doer,' and is quite ready to explore."

Elizabeth Mellilo

"I always wondered idly how/why Betsy stayed hooked up with Tib when she was such an "idea-killer" (a phrase from my days of being creative in advertising) and seemed to lack any imagination whatsoever. The recent discussion, though, suddenly made me turn to myself for an answer. Here I am seen as the imaginative one, the writer (a la Betsy, of course!) and yet many, many of my friends that I have doggedly made and

brought through life with me from high school, college, other jobs, etc. are total TIBS!"

Kim Moon

Marsha then proposed an interesting scenario which spurred more Tib talk: "I can picture Emily and Jed (from *Emily of Deep Valley*) living in Greenwich Village, both teaching at some university, perhaps, and hosting a salon. And one day a Deep Valley refugee would show up at their door. Who would it be?"

"Tib!...She has a rebellious streak, I think. The aspirations of her childhood are to go and become an architect, an actress. Of course her father doesn't take her architectural overtures seriously. Her parents are pretty strict. Tib's got a lot simmering under her little blonde lid. I say she runs off to be a chorus girl in the Greenwich Village Follies, meets Martha Graham, and becomes one of Martha's trailblazing dancers in the 1920s."

Elizabeth Wells

"Tib would definitely be my pick for the one who would go Bohemian—after all, she was the one who wanted to get her own automobile and drive around by herself. Tib strikes me as a really interesting mixture of things—in the early books she was the practical one and the one being most clearly trained in housekeeping skills, but in the later books we see her using those traditional skills to do things her own way—the clothes she made for herself were beautiful, but different. Also, even though she didn't have the European tour, she did have the experience of living in Milwaukee which might have made an ethnically diverse city like New York interesting for her."

Jillian Anderson

I thought a lot about Tib while browsing through the books and thinking of my "salute" to her character. When Betsy, Tacy, and Tib first met they weren't too sure whether they'd like each other. But there was some chemistry between the three which made them all accept one another, warts and all. Neither Tacy's shyness, Betsy's extravagant plans or stubbornness, nor Tib's literalness were enough to divide the three. They all understood one another perfectly and made allowances for one another. Betsy and Tacy were always saying "Isn't that just like Tib?" when Tib bluntly pointed out a fact the other two would have

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preferred to ignore. Tacy tactfully overlooked some of Betsy's failings, such as when Betsy was too scared to jump off the maple tree and made up a story and climbed down instead. Betsy and Tib helped Tacy with her shyness, and while they were perplexed over Tacy's indifference to boys, beyond a bit of chiding, they didn't criticize her.

Tib was in awe of her two friends, and she especially worshipped Betsy. But though Tib might not have been as imaginative as Betsy and Tacy, she was certainly brave and kind, levelheaded, truthful, and always willing to do the disagreeable tasks no one else wanted to do. Even though Tib continued to use her "silly" persona to attract the opposite sex, she has her head on straight in *Betsy's Wedding* when she confesses that she and Rocky are through as a couple. She wants the equal respect and love that Betsy and Joe share, and she realizes that Rocky would only condescend to her and eventually tire of her. We really got a more in-depth look at Tib's character in *Betsy's Wedding*—her work, her good spirits, her loyalty, her worries over the war and her family, the way she enjoyed being with her family and friends and sharing in their joys and tears. Everyone needs a Tib in their lives!

Julie Chuba

Note: The Maud Hart Lovelace (MHL listserv, or "Cyber Crowd") has been busily exchanging muffin recipes lately in honor of the Ray family's custom of muffins on the first day of school. Once school begins, list members plan to read the Betsy-Tacy canon together this fall and discuss the books online. Proposed date to start the great re-reading is September 16th. So get out your B-TT books and join us!

Greater New York Area Chapter

"Today the picture was a fantasy called *The Astronomer's Dream*.

That was the kind Betsy liked best. She sat on the hard chair in the dim stuffy show house and

watched the flickering scenes is an enchanted silence. After the main picture there was an illustrated song. The girl who played the piano sang, as colored slides were flashed on the screen."

Heaven to Betsy

On Saturday, April 27th, The Greater New York sistren celebrated Maud Hart Lovelace's 104th birthday in a way our beloved authoress would have heartily enjoyed. "Saturday Afternoon at the Majestic" was a silent movie party complete with the kinds of films Betsy and her friends would have seen, followed by birthday cake from chapter president Jeannette Newmann's favorite bakery, popcorn, and ice cream sundaes *a la* Heinz's. Festivities were held at Linda Duchin's October Films office, located in the Bayard-Conduit building at 65 Bleecker Street...New York City's only Louis Sullivan building, built in 1899 and on the National Register of Historic Places.

In most of the little storefront theaters at the turn of the century, a pianist improvised musical accompaniment to the film, heightening the excitement of a shoot-out or chase, the magic of a dream sequence or the tenderness of a love scene. That's what member Carol Denker did during an hour program of such silent movie classics as D. W. Griffith's *The Great Train Robbery* (which Mr. Ray took the family to see at Deep Valley's Majestic Theater: ("a High Class Place of Amusement, with Up-To-Date Moving Picture Entertainment, Especially For Ladies and Children"); *A Trip to the Moon* (directed by George Melies); a 1910 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, directed by Otis Tumer; and Edwin S. Porter's *Dream of a Rarebit Fiend*. These 16mm movies were checked out



The Southern California Chapter met recently at Larkin Park in Claremont, California.

of the marvelous film and video collection of the New York Public Library's Donnell Media Center, available

Chapter Notes continue on page 19

to anyone with a library card. Merian Lovelace Kirchner did a beautiful job on a program for the event. Happy Birthday, Maud!

Linda Duchin

Chicago Chapter

The Greater Chicago Chapter held a Betsy-Tacy picnic August 11 at Cantigny Park in Winfield. This wonderful park, the former home of newspaper publisher Robert McCormick, is not only a great place to picnic, but also to tour McCormick's stately mansion, the WWI museum that honors the service of McCormick and his fellow countrymen, the lovely gardens and grounds, and to relax while listening to the bandshell concert.

Upcoming events for the chapter include an informal jaunt to the Historic Pullman House Walk, a Halloween party, and our traditional holiday ornament-making party in early December.

Katrine Poe

Southern California Chapter

In July Southern California chapter members capped off a year's worth of planning and research when they toured the lovely Claremont home of Maud and Delos. Within the next few months, this planning and research will take the form of a published booklet which describes the many wonderful years the Lovelaces enjoyed in California. Thanks to the generosity of their daughter, Merian Lovelace Kirchner, Maud's diaries have been made available so that we may follow their dreams of settling here. The booklet will include photographs of the Lovelaces in their home, as well as cherished visits from Maud's "Crowd." With luck and timing, the Southern California Chapter will proudly have this booklet available for all to enjoy by next summer's convention. We'll keep you posted.

Our next meeting will be a Halloween Get-Together on Saturday, October 26 at Mt. San Antonio College in Pomona. As might be expected, there will be food a'plenty, as well as fun times. We'll be snapping apples (find out your true love's name!) and walking downstairs backwards. All members in southern California are welcome.

Mary Theissen

In The Naughty Chair . . .

The magazine editor smiled meaningfully at the frail MacTavish. "We might hear a poem that one of our colleagues has just sold . . ."

"The Naughty Chair! The Naughty Chair!" everyone cried at once . . . everyone except Tib who asked wildly, "Was ist los? Who's been naughty?"

Marbeth tried to explain. "We call it the Naughty Chair because Jimmy Junior has to sit there when he's naughty."

"But Jimmy Junior has gone to bed!"

"Yes, but when any member [of the Violent Study Club] makes a sale he has to sit in the Naughty Chair."

"Lieber Gott! What's naughty about a sale?" Tib laughed until she almost choked

. . . MacTavish was pushed jubilantly into the place of honor.

Betsy's Wedding

Kathleen Waldron. *Mothers In Their Own Words: The First Years.* Contains 300 essays by 50 women addressing topics such as the initial adjustment, decisions regarding work, and the baby's effect on the marriage. \$15 plus \$2 for shipping. Family-Focussed Workshops, 5315 W. Brown Street, Glendale, Arizona 85302.

Louise Smith, co-editor. *The Lion and the Unicorn: A Critical Journal of Children's Literature.* To order call (800) 548-1784.

Suzanne Bunker. "In Search of Susanna" Suzanne, who is a professor of English at Mankato State University and a board member of the Betsy-Tacy Society, describes her search for information about her paternal great-great-grandmother, Susanna Simmer, in this enlightening book. If you can't find it in your local bookstore, you can order it; the ISBN is 0-87745-538-4.

National News, continued from page 15

on preserving and cataloging our collection. THANK YOU MERIAN! Thanks to all who have donated items to the Society. Special thanks to Ken Garson for donating his wife Irene's book collection and to Dianne Figlewicz Latteman for donating the sheet music *The Merry Widow Waltz*. Now we are looking for a piano.

Doris Berger, our founding President of the BTS, gave a letter of resignation. She will continue to work on projects with the society and bring her delicious homemade treats to our meetings. Thank you, Doris, for all your hard work.

We will hold a Christmas open house at Tacy's House, 332 Center Street on November 30, 1996 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. We will serve refreshments and provide entertainment and activities for the children. Shop items will be available and you will have the opportunity to purchase a glass Christmas ornament for ten cents.

"You get a lot for ten cents," said Tib.

Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown

And so they did.

German Script

by Sonja Werle, Frankfurt, Germany

"I'd better find a restaurant," she thought, for she had no idea where she was or how to get back to the pension. "I remember enough German to read a bill of fare." She found one and went in, but to her dismay the menu was in German script. She had forgotten that completely—what she ever knew of it—and was floored for a moment."

Betsy and the Great World

What was Betsy's problem at that restaurant in Munich? What was this German script?

In 1911 the preussische Kultusministerium (Department of Education in Prussia) entrusted the graphic designer and educator Ludwig Suetterlin to develop a new cursive handwriting style. This script, called German Script or Suetterlin, was taught in German schools from 1912 until the 1940s.

My grandmother learned it in school and used it when writing her letters all her life. I learned it, in order to read her letters, at age thirteen.

Following are some examples of German script:

A a B b L l J j E e f f G g H h
 I i J j K k L l M m N n O o P p
 Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w
 X x Y y Z z

Luftzug Rung Rang Kullig

Fib Müllens

Spinat mit Ei

Sonja is a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society who lives in Germany.

Personality Plus, continued from page 3

It is pretty clear that Tib has a sensing preference and that Betsy and Tacy have intuitive preferences: for one thing, it is they who usually dream up their "schemes," and Tib who usually carries them out! And how many times in the early books does Maud write that Tib didn't quite understand the subtleties of what Betsy and Tacy were trying to do (or insisted on the literal truth), "but Betsy and Tacy liked her just the same"?

Other examples: Joe and Julia are intuitives (remember how Julia compared geometry to music?), as is Tony. Carney and Bonnie are probably sensors.

The third preference examines how people make decisions. Some people emphasize analytical, impersonal logic. Others base decisions on the values they hold and/or how a decision might affect other people. People who belong to the first group are called "thinkers," and those in the second group are called "feelers." Those terms have unfortunate secondary meanings in everyday English, but they are the terms Carl Jung used and Briggs and Myers felt obligated to respect his choices. Do not think that only "thinkers" can use logic, or that "feelers" are emotional basket-cases! You might mentally substitute "analysis" and "values" for the two terms to help clarify them.

Other attributes of thinking types include a liking for competition and challenge, an ability to focus on issues and not become personally involved, an enjoyment of intellectual argument, and an understanding of action and consequences. Feeling types tend to value harmony and avoid conflict, to empathize well with others, and to easily employ tact and diplomacy.

It's a little harder to type the main characters on these attributes. Mr. Ray is probably a feeling type—consider his concern for the "little Barrett girl" who didn't get into a sorority, or as Joe describes him, "always thinking of some widow across the Slough with a houseful kids." Julia, with her "hard-hearted" casting away of beaux, may have a thinking preference. Tacy is clearly feeling, and Tib clearly thinking. But what of Betsy, again? I would argue thinking, but what do *you* think?

The last preference examines your attitude toward life. Some people like life to be predictable, structured, and decisive. They are called "judgers" (another of Carl Jung's terms!) because they tend to prefer decision ("judgment") over data-gathering ("perception"). Others prefer spontaneity, flexibility, and variety; they are called "perceivers," because they would rather continue to data-gather, or "wait and see." Judging types tend to be responsible and orderly, to like closure and routine, and to plan ahead; they also can be somewhat rigid and intolerant. Perceiving types tend to work well under pressure, to put off decisions until they know more, to enjoy the process more than the outcome, to be easily distracted, and to view judgers' beloved "routines" as ruts or even straightjackets!

Tib is clearly judging, as are Margaret and Joe. Winona and Tony are clearly perceiving. But again, what

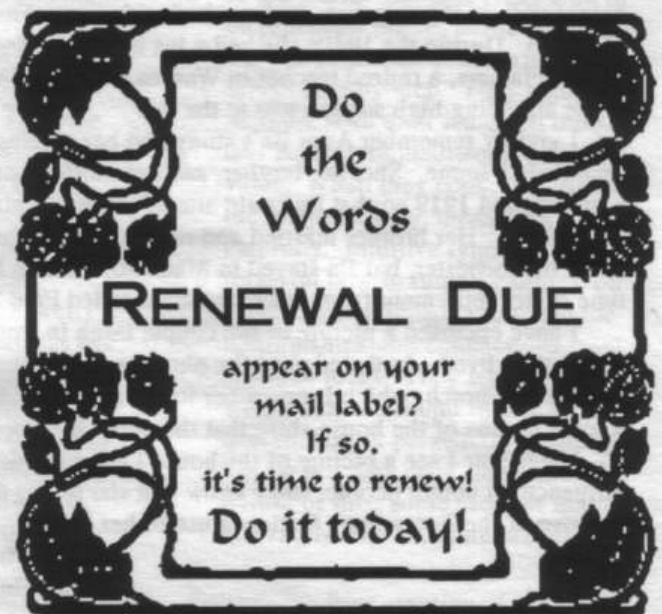
is Betsy? Or Tacy? Or Mr. and Mrs. Ray? Julia, with her disregard for time and her messy room, seems to be perceiving, but in some areas of her life, most notably music, she has definite ideas about how things "should" be. ("Should" and "ought" are two words judging types sometimes overuse!)

On the MBTI, each person has four personality preferences: either an Extravert (E) or an Introvert (I), a Sensor (S) or an iNtuitive (N) ("N" is used since the I stands for Introvert), a Thinker (T) or a Feeler (F), a Judger (J) or a Perceiver (P). One person can be extreme on one dimension (a strong E, for instance) but only weak or moderate on others. Thus, I am an INTJ, and have many similarities to other Is, other Ns, other Ts, and other Js, and yet I am not *just like* any other INTJ because of the variability within each preference.

The personality preferences of the Myers-Briggs have been used to help people relate better to others by *understanding and appreciating* personality differences, rather than ridiculing or dismissing different ways of being. It is used in work settings, marriage counseling and enrichment, parent-child relationships, education, and many other applications. For more information, I highly recommend reading *Type Talk* by Otto Kroeger and Janet Theusen.

If anyone would like to argue my "typing" of B-T characters (and as a Thinking type, I love to argue!), or figure out some of the lesser-known characters, please let me know! Perhaps we could devote a small portion of each *B-T Journal* to discussions of type!

Kathleen Waldron is a faculty associate at ASU West in Phoenix, Arizona. She teaches in the Family Studies Department. She is qualified to administer and interpret the MBTI by the Center for the Application of Psychological Type and has done so for numerous groups in diverse areas.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Whenever I see an announcement of an event at Tacy's House, and I see the familiar address of 332 Center Street in Mankato, I remember and appreciate Aunt Ila. I thought you might be interested in Ila Flathers who lived at 332 Center street from 1919 until her death in 1965.

When I was a child on a farm south of Rochester, visiting Great Aunt Ila in Mankato was an exciting event. There were sidewalks outside her home! And lots of books inside! It was Aunt Ila who gave us our first books and continually encouraged us to read. She, of course, told us all about Betsy and Tacy when we stayed at 332 Center Street. Some credit for my career as a chemistry teacher belongs to the early influence of Aunt Ila. Our family left Minnesota in the 1950s, but we continued to correspond and visit whenever possible. She died while I was a graduate student at Yale.

Miss Flathers taught English to junior high students in Mankato for her entire career. She was quite the independent woman for her time. She went to Columbia in New York to earn an M.A., traveled extensively in the summers, and worked with Camp Fire Girls in Mankato. During the 1940s she had a tea for Maud Hart Lovelace. Elaine Flathers, a retired teacher in Waseca, who lived with Aunt Ila while attending high school, was at the tea.

I vividly remember Aunt Ila's study and her nicely furnished, immaculate home. She, her brother, and her mother purchased that home around 1919 so that Ila could attend college at Mankato Teachers College. Her brother married and returned to the family farm south of Rochester, but Ila stayed in Mankato. Late in life, near the time of her retirement from teaching, she married Fred Marlow.

I have enclosed a picture of the couple taken in front of her home, where they lived. At the edge of the photo is visible the lovely screened-in porch, which I remember for its array of African violets. Recent photos of the house show that the porch has been enclosed.

Whenever I see a picture of the house I am reminded of Aunt Ila's influence on young people, and I know that she would definitely approve of the Betsy-Tacy Society's use of her home

Kathleen E. Turner
Pacific Grove, CA 93950.



Betsy-Tacy in Cyberspace

Betsy-Tacy Homepage!

Betsy-Tacy now has a presence on the multimedia World Wide Web portion of the Internet! Nava Cohen, with the help of members of the maud-l internet discussion list, has created the Betsy-Tacy Homepage. The Homepage contains information about Maud's life, the Betsy-Tacy books, and Maud's other works; information on how to join the society, and a Betsy-Tacy trivia section. If you have access to the World Wide Web, all you need to do to see the Betsy-Tacy Homepage is point your webbrowser to:

<http://virtumall.com/homepages/navaho/Betsy-Tacy>

Please spread the word of this new publicity effort!

Editor's Note: Should you ever have problems finding the B-T Homepage, check the Maud-L listserv (below) for help.

Getting On the Maud-L Listserv

If you have access to email, we invite you to join the cyberspace Crowd! To subscribe, send an email to listserv@mitvma.mit.edu. 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.

Pony Cart, continued from page 11

receiving even more support: Dean Johnson, from the PBS television show "Hometime" tells me that they are making plans to help with the Tacy House renovation in the spring of 1997. It turns out that Dean grew up in Mankato. When he was young a teacher introduced him to the Betsy-Tacy books, and he shares our enthusiasm. We send our collective thanks to that unknown teacher, and as always, my thanks to you!

Lona Falenczykowski

A Glimpse Inside "Tib's House"



The National Board of the Betsy-Tacy Society recently met at "Tib's House" – now the home of Betsy-Tacy Society Board Member Jacqui Woodwick and her husband, John.

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

____ Individual \$10

____ Patron \$25

____ Europe or Canada \$20 and up

____ Family \$15

____ Extra donation for Tacy's House Fund in the amount of \$ _____

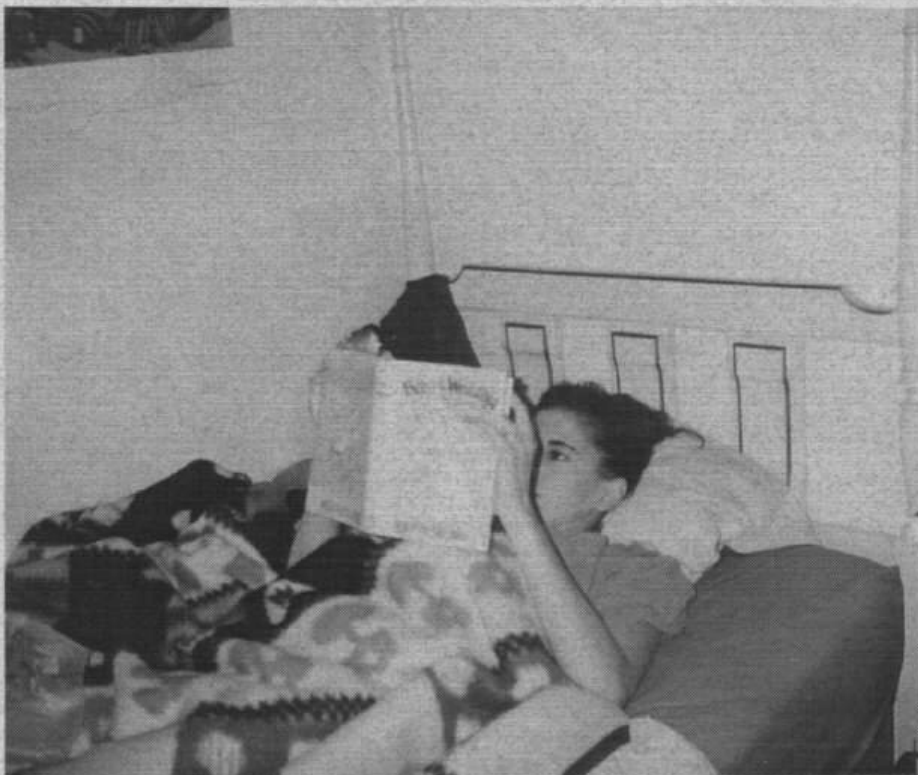
If you prefer that your name not be given out for future Betsy-Tacy product mailings, check here

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

Michele Blake, Post Office Box 206, North Easton, MA 02356

The Best Approach to Those Wedding Day Jitters!

Betsy-Tacy Society member Andrea Martin of Newton, MA relaxes on her wedding morning (September 1, 1996) with a rereading of *Betsy's Wedding*. Andrea's sister, Constance Martin, sent us the photograph.



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