

THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

Note Book

The Betsy-Tacy Society

President: Lona Falen
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President: Kate Eberline



Newsletter Production

Editor-in-Chief: Patty Warhol
 Columns Coordinator: Wendylee Raun

Extra Layout/Typesetting

Notes, Meetings: Patty Reed
 Music, Cooking: Nancy Cleaveland

Section Editors

Meetings: Sarah Zaino
 Children's Page: Bonnie Lai, Renea Ratzloff
 WAYReading: Stephanie Smith
 Mailbox: Debbie Tranchita
 Botany: Nancy Cleaveland
 Music/Cooking: Beth Hudson

Proofreaders

Marja Moyer, Cecilia Wirth



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Note From Our President

'Tis the season once again, and as we snuggle into Deep Valley, we certainly have many blessings to be thankful for. During 1993 HarperCollins decided to heed our pleas to reprint the Betsy-Tacy books, and the next several years will see the release of at least the next six titles in the series. A New York Chapter was formed, and the Twin Cities and Greater Chicago Chapters each continue to grow and to sponsor very successful and enjoyable events. Among them were the TCC's Betsy, Tacy & Tib Day, at which Anna Quindlen was keynote speaker, and most recently the GCC's Christmas in Milwaukee trip in December. Many people worked extremely hard to organize this event, but special thanks go to Melanie Rigney and her hostesses: Debbie Tranchita, Julie Rasman, and Sue Knorr, who pulled off a trip back in time to Betsy's wonderful holiday in 1907. I'd also like to acknowledge a GCC member who couldn't join in the fun but still participated in making it a wonderful experience: Lupe Johnson handpainted and donated ornaments for the raffle held at the Astor Hotel on Saturday night. She exemplifies the spirit of Betsy-Tacy at its finest.

You hold another wonderful blessing in your hands. Our all-volunteer staff, headed by the incomparable Patty Warhol, spends countless hours making the newsletter a reality. My thanks go to Patty and the rest of her crew, listed on the masthead in the left column. And I can't forget two of our hardest working members: Michele Franck, our corresponding and membership secretary, and Kay Hocker, treasurer and shop proprietor, who perform their awesome responsibilities with good humor and as promptly as they can manage.

I hope you all had a joyous holiday season, and God bless us, every one!

Lona Falen



Newsletter deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 for the spring, summer, fall, and winter issues respectively. Please send news and articles to Wendylee Raun, 4244 Alabama Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Greetings From the Land of Correspondence!

Thanks to everyone for sending in their renewal dues! As mentioned in the last issue, we have changed to a rolling renewal system. Your renewal is due following receipt of the issue which corresponds to the month and year coded on your address label. For some of you, this may mean your renewal dues will be due in less than 12 months (i.e. if your label says 6/94 and you joined in October 1993, you should renew shortly after receipt of the summer 1994 newsletter). This is an unavoidable consequence of our move to this system, and will only happen in your first year of membership. If this is a hardship please write to me and I can work something out with you. If you sent in your renewal but don't see the proper code, it may have been received after the mailing labels went to the printer. Please wait for the next issue before writing to check on this. If there is no code on the label, your renewal is due now.

I found the following exchange in a recent column in the *Boston Globe*:

Q. I would like to write a letter to the King of Spain. Can you give me his address and the proper salutation to use?

A. A spokeswoman for the Spanish Embassy in Washington gave us this address: His royal Highness Juan Carlos, King of Spain, Casa de Su Majestad el Rey, Placio de La Zarzuela, Madrid, Spain. She said your salutation should read: Your Royal Highness. Tablets and pencils ready, everyone?

Best Wishes for joyful holidays!

Michele Franck



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. Address correspondence to Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

Notes & Notices



OUT-OF-PRINT SURVEY

Patricia Pond sent information about a committee of librarians which is collecting recommendations of out-of-print titles which should be reissued. Let's urge them to add EMILY, CARNEY and WINONA to the list (as well as other favorite books you would like to see reprinted). Suggestions are being accepted until February 1, 1994. Send titles (with complete bibliographic information if possible) to:

Floyd C. Dickman
ALSC/ABC Out-of-Print Survey
1786 Larkwood Place
Columbia OH 43229-3634

For a copy of the current list, include a 52¢ stamped, self-addressed 9 x 12 envelope plus \$1.50 to cover copying and handling.



GOOD & NOT-SO-GOOD

Teachers and Librarians take note: The first four Betsy-Tacys will be available in a hardcover school and library edition early in the new year. And a hard-cover trade edition is coming in the spring.

The not-so-good news is that the Betsy-Tacys were conspicuous by their absence from HarperCollins' two-page spread in the annual children's book section of the New York Times Book Review. It's not as though HarperCollins hasn't done anything in the way of promotion. The books got a grand send-off at the American Booksellers' Association convention last summer and we understand that they'll be advertised in SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL after the first of the year. But it does look to us as if the Society had better pitch in to make sure the books get the ongoing active and enthusiastic promotion they deserve and need. We were hugely successful with the letter-writing, petitioning and telephoning that got the books reissued. Now we need a grass-roots campaign to make sure they're stocked and displayed in bookstores.

For openers, start visiting your local bookstores. If the books aren't on the shelves, tell someone about them—the manager if possible, or at least a friendly salesperson.


The New York chapter is working on a flyer to help introduce the books and the Society to bookstore people. They'll let us know when it's ready.



SLJ FEATURES BETSY-TACY

The November issue of SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (SLJ), a magazine for children's librarians, school librarians, and teachers, features Anna Quindlen's speech, BETSY-TACY: FEMINIST ICON, which she presented in St. Paul on June 12. A full-page photo of Maud, Bick, and Midge (Betsy, Tacy, and Tib) opens the article, which features color photos of the dust jackets of the first four books and a commentary by Peggy Sullivan, Executive Director of the American Library Association. Twin Cities Chapter members will be handling the correspondence, which they expect to be heavy!

SLJ has a circulation of 125,000 and its subscribers are the very people we most need to influence so that the books will come back into print and STAY back in print. (NOTE: The November 1 issue of BOOKLIST featured an article on the Betsy-Tacys by Ilene Cooper.)



SUPPORT REISSUING

Let's support the reissuing of Maud's books! GENTLEMEN FROM ENGLAND held a special place in Maud's heart because Delos was a major contributor to the book (a review of this book appeared in the last newsletter). The book is now available from the Minnesota Historical Society for \$12.95 + \$2.50 shipping (Minnesota orders add 6% sales tax). Order by calling (800) 647-7827 or write to:

Mall Order Department
345 Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul MN 55102-1906



NEW STAMPS


A set of four postage stamps recalling books that are popular with young readers was issued in October. The 29¢ stamps feature: THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN, LITTLE WOMEN, REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM, and LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE.



URGE REPLICATION

All members, please note: We've received several calls and letters from people who have seen out-of-print Lovelace titles listed as available in catalogues from reprint publishers. This information is misleading. Reprint houses often try to see if they can garner interest in unavailable books by listing them in their catalogues. When they receive orders, they indicate the books are backlisted or out-of-stock. If they get enough orders, they approach whoever owns the books' rights to see if they can purchase them. There is no plan to relinquish the rights to EMILY, CARNEY or WINONA to any of these companies. The best way to encourage their republication is to continue to let HarperCollins know how you feel! Write your letter to:

Ginee Seo, Editor
Harper Trophy Paperback Books
10 East 53rd Street
New York NY 10022



AN INVITATION FROM THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

The New York Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society will hold a bookstore party on Sunday, February 13. Please join us at the Barnes and Noble Superstore at 82nd and Broadway from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. For more information about this special event contact Constance Martin at (212) 895-4027.





MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

GREATER CHICAGO'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

by Julie Sheffieck



The Schiller Park Library was the site of the September 25 meeting of the Greater Chicago Chapter. We are hopeful that this will be our permanent meeting spot, and plan to meet on the 4th Saturday of alternating months.

Minutes were read from the April 25 Birthday Party and a report on the summer picnic was also given. After the treasurer's report was read and dues discussed, we talked about officers for the upcoming year. Melanie Rigney will be taking over as Chapter President when Diane Gonzales steps down. Thanks for getting us off to such a tremendous start, Diane!

Our own Chapter Newsletter has been started and the next issue should be arriving in early November.

Wendy Gifford is heading a committee to work on the idea of sponsoring an Essay Contest. Working in the library and doing research would be emphasized.

The Chapter's "Christmas in Milwaukee" trip sounds fabulous! We'll leave from Chicago early Saturday, December 4 and return on Sunday afternoon. Debbie Tranchita and Melanie Rigney have wonderful things planned, so everyone is planning to reread *BETSY IN SPITE OF HERSELF* to get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime trip!

TWIN CITIES' OCTOBER BUS TRIP

by Kathy Baxter

Our bus trip to Mankato started reasonably well, much better than last year's trip when one bus went to the wrong place and those of us waiting at the state fairgrounds were abandoned and incommunicado for about 45 minutes. Some of us never really recovered from the stress! We took only one bus this year, with 47 people, and stopped at Betsy and Joe's first apartment and first house on the way out of town.

We arrived to a warm welcome in Mankato from Shirley Lieske, who generously served us rolls and coffee in the Minnesota Valley Regional Library meeting room. There, she described the history of the Betsy-Tacy movement and showed us her excellent slide show. Karen Nolan drove up from Chicago with her toddler and met us there, just to see the sights with us.

Following Shirley's talk, we adjourned to the Maud Hart Lovelace room where Carlienne Frisch graciously autographed copies of her book, *BETSY-TACY IN DEEP VALLEY*. Then we all got in the bus, went to see the bench at the base of the Big Hill, and viewed the sights along the way, to and from downtown.

After a delicious lunch at Meray's, half of us went to see the Carnegie Art Center, formerly the Carnegie Library, and the other half went to Carney's house, which was unexpectedly opened to us. We were honored and delighted to have with us Willard Everett and Louise King, two of Carney's children, as well as Nancy Fifield, who is Hunter's daughter, and her husband. They had not been in the house since 1940! Willard said the rafters in

the attic were the same and so was the smell up there!

Then we switched places and the other half of the group came to Carney's while the rest went to the Carnegie, guided by Hope Cooke. Our bus driver had gotten progressively more interested in Betsy-Tacy as the day wore on. He let me know that he thought the only reason he was taking the group out to Mankato and New Ulm was so that we could get drunk at Oktoberfest in New Ulm, but when he was with us at

the library at 8:30, he decided we did NOT look like we were going to New Ulm to get drunk! He told me he keeps a journal of the trips he takes and he would have a lot to write that day—especially after we drove off from the Carnegie and up the Big Hill without our secretary Janet Grieder! We turned back after coming down the hill, but Shirley and Harlan, her husband, were already on their way to the Gag house with Janet!

That morning, the STAR TRIBUNE told us that the prettiest drive in the state that day was Highway 68 between Mankato and New Ulm, so we took it!

Janet and the Lieskes were at the Gag house, so we toured it, listened to Charlotte Anderson's interesting talk, and nearly cleaned out the souvenir shop located in the kitchen! Our trip back to the cities was, thankfully, uneventful, and we were only 15 minutes late.

We owe so many thanks to Janet Urbanowicz and the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library for doing all the work on this trip. They were great!



NATIONAL BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

by Lona Falenczykowski

The National Betsy-Tacy Society (NBTS) has been busy with holiday decorating led by Kelly Reuter. Betsy-Tacy Society members decorated two homes. The Blue Earth County Historical Society asked us to do a Betsy-Tacy Room at the Hubbard House for their open house gala. Then

Marilyn Curran's house was included in the 3rd Annual Tour of Christmas Homes sponsored by the Lincoln Park Association. Marilyn's house is one and the same that Tacy moved into in 1897, a month before Betsy's fifth birthday. Betsy-Tacy Society members were on hand to talk with people on tour and provide information about the Society and the history of the house at 332 Center as it was when

the Kennys (Tacy's family) lived there. The tour goers enjoyed visiting the little house that was home to such a large family. A big thank you to Kelly for leading us in the decorating and in the discussions about Tacy with the visitors.

NBTS officers discussed a number of concerns at the last Board meeting including working relations with Betsy-Tacy chapters. The Board decided that each new chapter would receive a set of products at no charge to use as they wish. The Board will continue to work on policy regarding chapter sales from the Betsy-Tacy Society Shop at our next meeting. Peggy Bartelt of Janesville, MN is our new Board member. Welcome and best wishes to the new NY Chapter. The official chapter organizational meeting was held at Merian Kerchner's. We hear that it was a great success. The January meeting of the NBTS officers will be Saturday, January 8, 1994 at Kelly Reuter's home in Amboy, MN. It will be a late afternoon hors d'oeuvres/supper party (including onion sandwiches). RSVP to Kelly at home (507) 674-3119 or at work (507) 674-3024 by January 3rd.

There is Now a New York Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society...

...and are we ever having fun!

Our officers are Kate Eberline, President; Linda Duchin, Vice-President; and Andrea Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer. Unlike the Okto Deltas, we do not have a Sergeant-at-Arms. We don't need one, since we are all perfectly orderly on all occasions.

Kate is an actress from Waseca, Minnesota; Linda is a film distributor from Linden, New Jersey; Andrea is a film enthusiast from Pennsylvania. (It is *not* true that all New Yorkers come from somewhere else, but a lot of us do.)

At this writing, we have thirty-something paid-up members, and we're gratified to report that we've raised quite a few extra dollars for the National Society and the Lovelace House Fund. Most of our new chapter members are members of the National Society who responded to a mailing Andrea and I sent out in September, using the National's membership list for the New York area. Several National Society members have brought friends along, and we've also signed up a few fans who found out about us from an article in *Publisher's Weekly* about the repackaging of the first four books.

We launched the chapter on October 2 with an Open House at my apartment in Brooklyn, and it was a beautiful party. The Okto Deltas would have loved it. About 20 sistren attended, and so did one brethren, a member's husband who likes the books, too. Co-hosting with me and Andrea were my friend Brenda, a Betsy-Tacy fan in training, and my first cousin once removed Becca, daughter of Kathleen's (a.k.a. Julia's) flutist son Eugene. Sharla Scannell Whalen, National Society VIP and author of the soon-to-be-published *Betsy-Tacy Companion*, drove in from Pennsylvania.

We talked Betsy-Tacy non-stop, and threw questions at Sharla, who knows more about Betsy-Tacy people and places than anyone. We pored over Maud's photo albums—from High School, from the Great World, from Minneapolis in the years before World War I. And I had the fun of showing off family treasures like the Brass Bowl and Stella Hart's (a.k.a. Mrs. Ray's) china and cut glass, and the Goethe cup that Betsy-Maud brought home from Munich.

We also ate. There were oatmeal cookies from Stella's own recipe, and Everything Bars invented and baked by Sharla. There were grapes and crackers and cheese and pretzels and popcorn and muffins in flavors that Anna never dreamed of, like apple and cranberry, from Andrea's favorite bakery in Greenwich Village. Brenda brought sage bread made with fresh sage from her Brooklyn garden, Jeannette brought a superlative chocolate mousse in its own chocolate bowl, and Linda brought a beautiful fruit tart. We washed it all down with wine and seltzer and cider.

At our first real meeting, on November 6, we elected the aforementioned officers and collected the aforementioned dues. We discussed plans for a Christmas party on December 19 and a bookstore party in January. We then turned our attention to a *very* tough trivia quiz, with 12 written questions to answer and one of my Betsy-Tacy treasures to identify—a white china demitasse with blue and pink and lavender flowers. The best score was 6 out of a possible 13. But the questions were really murder. They follow this column, so you can see if *you* can come up with the name of

the Taggart's married daughter.

We spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the company of Harper Trophy Senior Editor Ginee Seo and Editorial Director Jennifer Brown and, of course, eating.

Once again, we laid on a splendid spread: crackers and cheese and grapes and pretzels and sweet potato muffins and peanut butter cookies and raisin cookies and banana bread and halvah and oatmeal bars with fig filling and a Bee Cake and cider and wine and seltzer.

So we're off and running. We just hope we'll do as well as the Twin Cities and Chicago chapters have.

Wish us luck, everybody!

Merian Lovelace Kirchner

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

Trivia Quiz

From the New York Chapter

1. What is the name of the Rays' hired girl who liked to read paperback romances?
2. What is Tacy's full real name?
3. What is the Taggart's daughter's name?
4. Name as many of Betsy's High School teachers as you can.
5. What did Carney and Bonnie exchange on their birthdays?
6. What were the two dishes that Betsy promised Joe she would learn to make after they were married?
7. In *BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD*, before Betsy finally got to take her bath in Munich, what was the bathtub filled with?
8. What play did Winona have tickets for that Betsy, Tacy and Tib were yearning to see?
9. What did Tib do at the school entertainment in *BETSY AND TACY GO OVER THE BIG HILL*?
10. What was the name of Julia and Katie's secret club in *BETSY, TACY AND TIB*?
11. What noble work did Betsy's class have to read for Mr. Gaston over the summer between their freshman and sophomore years?
12. What did Uncle Keith tell Betsy that Mrs. Ray made so extremely well?
13. Identify a white china demitasse cup decorated with blue, pink and lilac-colored flowers.

Answers can be found on Page 9

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

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

by Linda Larsen
Eden Prairie, MN

Do any Betsy-Tacy fans read the Janet Lambert series of books? She wrote from 1940 into the 1960s. Her books are series about different families, who mostly lived in the Armed Services (since that's how she grew up and also lived her married life). Her heroines include Penny Parrish, Susan Jordan, Carrol Houghton, Josie Campbell, Tippy Parrish, Candy Kane and others, and are delightful stories about teenage girls, following them into young married life. She wrote 53 books, and I have managed to collect 31 of them through book searches and used book stores. Apparently she was very popular in the 1950s, since the beginning of many other books included a letter from her to her young fans.

I also enjoy Lenora Mattingly Weber's books about the Malone and Belford families. These books also detail teenage life in the 1950s and 1960s, mostly following Beany (Catherine) Malone from age 13 to her marriage. Catherine Woolley's Ginnie books are also favorites, about a little girl's adventures with her school friends in the 1940s.

Other favorite authors include Betty Cavanna (Headley), whose book GOING ON SIXTEEN about a motherless girl struggling to fit in at school and find her place in the world never fails to bring tears to my eyes. The Carolyn Haywood books are a great escape--simply written and beautifully illustrated, they make absorbing reading. Rosamond du Jardin's books about Tobey Heydon, Midge Heydon, Pam and Penny Howard and Marcy Rhodes are also wonderful teenage books. Laura Ingalls Wilder is a favorite (of course!). We made the trek to Walnut Grove summer 1991 to see the wonderful pageant they put on in that small town. I also love Edward Eager's magic series, Beverly Cleary's long list of books and Betty MacDonald's Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle series. Mary Stolz's IN A MIRROR and THE SEA GULLS WOKE ME are wonderful classics also.

And there have to be some Betsy-Tacy fans who love the Melendys. Elizabeth Enright's series of THE SATURDAYS, THE FOUR-STORY MISTAKE, THEN THERE WERE FIVE and SPIDERWEB FOR TWO are absolute classics. Ms. Enright also illustrated her books. Authors who can also illustrate are invaluable--it's fascinating to see if your inner picture of what the characters look like matches theirs. All of these series books were introduced to me through my local public library! And my favorite book stores are used book stores--I don't have a lot of interest in new books, with all these old favorites to search for.

More "adult" authors I love include Emily Kimbrough and Cornelia Otis Skinner. Together they wrote OUR HEARTS WERE YOUNG AND GAY about a European trip the two took just out of college in the 1920s. Ms. Kimbrough and Ms. Skinner (separately) wrote dozens of books about travels and theatre life which are bright and absorbing. I also enjoy the Mary Stewart books like GABRIEL HOUNDS and MADAM, WILL YOU TALK? and others. Betty MacDonald also wrote adult books, detailing her life on a chicken ranch in Washington State (THE EGG AND I), her life on an island (ONIONS IN THE STEW) and (amazingly) her life in a tuberculosis sanitarium (THE PLAGUE AND I). She managed to make that entertaining too! Calvin Trillin writes wonderfully entertaining books about food and travel and politics (but I do NOT like his book AMERICAN STORIES--way too depressing). Phyllis Whitney's mysteries are wonderful. Peg Bracken's humor (A WINDOW OVER THE SINK and I HATE TO COOK BOOK) never fails to entertain me. Ms. Bracken's cookbooks are being reprinted--saw them in B. Dalton last week. And I stumbled across the Claudia books by Rose Franken last year when I picked up CLAUDIA AND DAVID at an estate sale. The writing, as I thumbed through it, looked warm and humorous, the type I love and expect from books, thanks to Maud!

My love of the Betsy-Tacy books is also

unusual in one respect--I share them with my husband! Five years ago, when he had the flu and was bored with everything in the house he had read, I gave him BETSY-TACY. He read the entire series through and was immediately hooked! He is also a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society (how many male members are there?), is a published author himself (of science fiction) and loves poking around antique stores looking for Betsy-Tacy era artifacts.



by Linda Sherwood
Calgary, AB (CANADA)

What do I read when I'm not reading Betsy? Of course, number 1 books are the Anne series by L. M. Montgomery, also the Emily series by same author. I also read the Beany Malone series by Lenora Mattingly Weber. In fact I'm looking for some of the books by her--TARRY AWHILE, and WELCOME STRANGER. If anybody knows where I can get these books I would be very grateful. I also like a book called HEAD HIGH, ELLEN BRODY by Elisabeth Hamilton Frierhood. I believe the author was from Minnesota. Again, I am looking for a copy.

I like all of Gladys Taber's books and probably wouldn't have heard about them if I hadn't gone to the B.T. Convention in July as a lot of people recommended them to me. I now subscribe to her newsletter. Through Gladys Taber's books I was introduced to Faith Baldwin who was very good friends with Gladys Taber. Her non-fiction books are very much like Gladys Taber's. I again discovered when I was in Mankato at the B. T. Convention there was a newsletter called "Kindred Spirits" (Anne of Green Gables) which I didn't know existed. So I learned a lot through the convention.

I like the Little House on the Prairie series on T.V. although I haven't read the books. And when I was about 18 I discovered the Claudia books by Rose Franken. Anyone else who has read these books I would be very interested in hearing from.

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

(continued)

I think what I really want to say in a nutshell: if it weren't for B.T. Society I would not have discovered new authors and newsletters pertaining to these authors. I have also wondered why I'm attracted to these books and I realize they all promote family life, friends, and home which are so very important to me.



by Deborah Thomas
Albany, NY

Yes, Patricia Nolan Stein, I remember the Claudia books! Claudia is one of my all-time favorite characters-she's absolutely adorable! And yes, they are extremely hard to find. I looked for over 10 years only finding one, then one autumn day about a year ago, in a dusty old book shop in Cooperstown, I unearthed THE COMPLETE WORKS OF CLAUDIA in one volume. Best find I've had in years!

You know, I can't remember when I didn't like books, (Carolyn Haywood was an early favorite), although for some reason I was a poor reader until I was eight. That Christmas my parents gave me three books, LITTLE WOMEN, TRIXIE BELDEN, and BLACK BEAUTY. Trixie and her wonderful gang immediately became life-long friends. I always felt a special kinship with her, I guess, because we were growing up in the same era and she only lived two hours down the river from me. How I wish the publishers could have stayed true to the characters. The first six are the best and the next six or seven aren't bad but those that came after are dreadful!

From that time on I have never stopped reading, going through all of Louisa May Alcott and saving every penny I earned to buy my beloved Trixie Belden books. Next there was Catherine Woolley (whose books are also impossible to find) and of course Nancy Drew. I really love the old Nancy Drew riding around in her roadster the best!

Around eleven I discovered Betsy-Tacy and Anne of Green Gables, who are tied in my heart as my two all time favorite characters. Incurable romantic that I am, I just loved the time periods they both lived in. Then it was onto the classics and

biographies, becoming quite enamored with Amelia Earhart and Dolley Madison. To this day I still read books about Ms. Earhart.

At thirteen, I read THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL by Anne Frank which made a lasting impression on me for all time. I discovered Rose Wilder Lane (I think I'm the only one in the world who didn't read her mother's books, I have no idea why), the above mentioned Claudia books by Rose Franken, Betty Smith, Edna Ferber, Frank Yerby, Pearl Buck and of course GONE WITH THE WIND!

Then there are the wonderfully inspiring books, KAREN and WITH LOVE FROM KAREN written by her mother, Marie Killilea. Karen was born with cerebral palsy at a time when very little was known about the disease and even less on how to treat it. Karen's faith, incredible courage, indomitable spirit and the loving support of her extraordinary family make these books a joy to read. Another inspirational story of faith and courage is MIRACLE AT CARVELLE. At nineteen this young girl is sent to Carvelle, the National Leprosy Sanitarium. Here for the next twenty-some years she lives her life hoping for a cure, falling in love and marrying another patient. Together they are finally cured and released to start living their life on the outside yet they can never tell because of the stigma attached to having had leprosy.

Reading has been the one constant joy of my life and to discover so many people (or as Anne would say, kindred spirits) who love the same books as I do, is a truly wonderful gift. I love the Society and I love hearing about all the other people who I will most likely never meet but with whom I can still share so many wonderful characters and moments through the newsletter!



by Abby Chandler
Waterville ME

A writer myself, I have a habit of once I have found a writer I like, (Maud Hart Lovelace at the age of six when my mother gave me the first three books for my birthday), collecting every book ever written, everything ever written about that one writer. Finding the Betsy-Tacy Society was wonderful. I keep copies of the newsletter

at college so when life here becomes hectic I can return to Deep Valley, a very comforting feeling! I was fascinated to notice last fall when working on a paper about women's clothes reflecting their status in society that I knew exactly what the fashions were for Betsy's four years in high school. I remember reading down the list while thinking at the back of my mind, "yes, Betsy wore that when she...and Tib made that...and...". I want to write historical fiction, though my time period is the colonial, rather than late Victorian/early Edwardian, and one of the things I try to do is immerse myself totally in a certain period: what people wore, ate, thought, read, were, etc. By describing what she had grown up in, Maud Hart Lovelace did just that, though I think unconsciously. I would like to give my thanks to Patricia Nolan Stein who mentioned the Claudia books. I had never read or heard of them. I have them now, on order from a neighboring library. I also agree with her about L. M. Montgomery's THE BLUE CASTLE, my favorite of all of her books. I recently read an article comparing it to Colleen McCullough's THE LADIES OF MISSALONGHI, and the similarities between the two.

A name I think I've seen mentioned once before who is a definite favorite of mine is Elizabeth Goudge, both her children's and adult novels, especially THE CHILD FROM THE SEA. I love Alice Turner Curtis' Little Maid books, and another series I always link with them, the Twin books. Then Laura Ingalls Wilder, Elizabeth Enright, L. M. Boston, Sidney Taylor, P. L. Travers, anything about King Arthur, anything about the colonial period, anything about the ocean, M. M. Kayes' THE ORDINARY PRINCESS, Robin McKinley in general, but especially BEAUTY, and Tamora Pierce's Alanna series, about a girl who wants to be a knight.



From Our Mailbox



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

Michele Franck, Corresponding Secretary, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130

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

"I have been a fan of Betsy-Tacy books for years. My mother first introduced me to the series when I was eight years old; after that I was hooked! My mother was born and raised in Mankato, Minnesota. I remember visiting Mankato as a child, seeing her old home and also the first home of Maud Hart Lovelace. It was so exciting going to Mankato. I now have two daughters of my own, and have introduced them both to the Betsy-Tacy books. They really enjoy them. I was so excited to hear about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I look forward to getting the newsletter every quarter. I now have a complete set of Betsy-Tacy books and am working on two more sets for each of my daughters."

Jennifer P. Alvarado, San Diego, CA

"I fell in love with the Betsy-Tacy books at about age fifteen. I am now forty-seven, and still adore them. I have never read some of the books because my local library did not carry them. Imagine my delight last week when I walked into the children's section of the library and found a never-before-read BETSY AND JOE. I own the first five books of the series, but would dearly love to own the rest of the Betsy-Tacy books. I will probably join the Betsy-Tacy Society. I am not a joiner, but this would be worth making an exception."

Kathleen McKinney, Hemet, CA

"I read these as a child and have never forgotten the feelings these books gave me. The friendships that I made with Betsy, Tacy, and Tib, the beautiful dresses they wore - I haven't read them in years and feel terribly guilty. I want and need them on hand when my own daughter can read them and fill her world with the wonderful joys of being a child in more innocent times. P. S. I phoned my mother about this, she can hardly wait to find more, either!"

Christine Kraymak, Plymouth, PA

"I read with interest the item in the Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter #11 "Betsy-Tacy Books as Feminist Literature". It is a sad fact that sometimes, when I have reread books I enjoyed as a child to see if they are worth passing on to my children, I am frequently disappointed by the racism and sexism in the books. I guess I have to put the books into the context of their times. Happily, I have found that Betsy-Tacy books pass many of my tests beautifully. Betsy-Tacy holds up in the 90's. I can pass this series along to my two daughters, ages ten and seven, without hesitation."

Jeanette Newman, no city mentioned

"I read your piece in VICTORIA magazine this morning and was thrown immediately into long cherished scenes which only exist in the Maud Hart Lovelace books. I found myself at sunset seated on the bench atop the street on which Betsy and Tacy lived.

As if I were really remembering events that actually happened to me, I once again saw the houses, the hill, and the schoolyard. I remembered all their antics: when they first met, their growing up together, Tacy's gorgeous red ringlets, rushing to press flowers in the oven, so many memories that were mine as well. I thank you for the opportunity to have that precious vein in my childhood resurged and alive again. Please put me on your mailing list so I will keep abreast of any possible events regarding your Society. I am going to the library tonight to once again see all the books on that shelf two rows in, three shelves down. I know exactly where it is, because I must have read each one from the first all through marriage at least six times and will once again renew the spirit of Betsy and Tacy."

Teresa Marie Siembora, Philadelphia, PA

"I had not thought of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib for years, but as soon as I saw the names, all the happy memories came flooding back. All the summers of my childhood were spent in the library as much as possible. Maud Hart Lovelace had always been a favorite author of mine and I regret ever thinking I was "too old" for her books. I am now thirty years old and have never been able to explain my fierce love of anything Victorian. One trip to the children's section of the library has changed all of that and I am so happy to be reacquainted with these books."

Terry Kimbrough, Cabot, AR

"I was looking through some old VICTORIA magazines lately and saw the piece about the Betsy-Tacy Society in last July's issue. Oh, if I had known there was such a group, I would have been a charter member. My set of Betsy-Tacy books is one of my most prized possessions. I'll never forget when I was eleven years old and I devoured each one. I just adored them."

Teresa Gibson, Mesquite, TX

"Please, please send me all info about the Betsy-Tacy Society and the convention (even though it's over). I never knew there was one and I LOVE the books. The author lived down the street when I was little and I never could find the courage to go up and introduce myself. They and the Little House series are such excellent history."

Beth Benjamin, Felton, CA

OX

Remember
to renew your membership!
See Michele's column
on the inside cover
Thank!

From Our Mailbox, continued



"After reading the Autumn newsletter I feel as if a wish of mine has finally been granted. I used to imagine having a friend to talk to about the Betsy-Tacy books, and here in the newsletter are many friends. To read it is like having a wonderful conversation with a dear friend about something I have kept to myself for many years. I am still rereading the newsletter and enjoying each article. I am thirty-four years old. I found Betsy-Tacy books when I was in Jr. High. The library was my favorite place. Upon finding the Betsy-Tacy books I found a whole new meaning to life and to growing up. After I married and had two children I began to think about the books again. So I went to the largest book store in the closest large town, Abilene, TX. They were able to order me all I wanted. I ordered eight books. I remember the total came to seventy-something dollars. I didn't care, I wanted them so much (now it seems like so little). I did not realize that the books were no longer being printed. Can you imagine how thankful I was at having purchased my books when I did?"

Vicki White, Winters, TX

"As soon as I realized we were going to Minnesota I began planning a trip to Mankato. June 26, 1993 my dream came true! Despite the floods, the roads were clear and my husband and I arrived in "Deep Valley". We began at the library where I spent a couple of hours - studying the mural, reading the scrapbook, viewing the slides and wishing I could live in Mankato long enough to have a library card and check out all the Maud Hart Lovelace books (my library doesn't even have BETSY'S WEDDING). I bought the mural postcard and C. Frisch's book and picked up the available Mankato map and walking tour guide. What a thrill to arrive at "Hill Street" and sit on the bench. It was a beautiful sunny day as we walked from site to site, taking pictures. I was sorry the Rays' new house was gone and it was a parking lot instead. I was surprised that Carney's yard wasn't bigger. Lincoln Park was a beautifully landscaped spot now and I insisted on photographing it from the direction Betsy would have viewed it walking from home. We drove around to Little Syria and I viewed it from the base of the Big Hill like Betsy, Tacy and Tib may have. It was wonderful day and I hope next time I'm able to visit, Betsy's Hill Street house will be a museum."

Barbara Livdake, Bainbridge, WA

"I was so excited to find out that there was a Betsy-Tacy Society. I have been looking to purchase a full set of the books. My best friend and I read them over and over while growing up. My mother was the one who introduced me to the wonderful stories!"

Marie Thom, Nashville, TN

"I recently read about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I couldn't believe it existed! When I was in elementary school many years ago my FONDEST memory was immersing myself in that series. I wished to be inside the book with them!"

Linda Jaworski, American Embassy, Helsinki, Finland

SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM THE MAILBOX

Hello all Betsy-Tacy fans,

The mailbox would like to solicit letters every so often on a selected topic or question.

To start things off the first question will be - What character do you best relate to?

The special delivery topic letters can be mailed directly to the Mailbox Editor instead of Michelle. The name and address are as follows:

Debbie Tranchita
6221 N. Niagara Avenue, Apt. 401
Chicago, Illinois 60631

You may also include other questions or themes you would like to see in our Mailbox Section.

Thanks to all.

Debbie T.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Answers to the Trivia Quiz on Page 5

- ☆☆ 1. Rena ☆
- ☆☆ 2. Anna Anastacia ☆
- ☆☆ 3. Mattie ☆
- ☆☆ 4. Miss Clarke, History and Civics ☆
- ☆☆ Miss Fowler, English ☆
- ☆☆ Mr. Gaston, Botany, Physics, and English. ☆
- ☆☆ Mr. Morse, Latin in Freshman year ☆
- ☆☆ Miss O'Rourke, Algebra, Geometry ☆
- ☆☆ Miss Erikson, Latin and German ☆
- ☆☆ Miss Benbow, Domestic Science. ☆
- ☆☆ 5. Spoons in the silver patterns they had chosen for their ☆
- ☆☆ trousseaus ☆
- ☆☆ 6. Rice Pudding and Lemon Meringue Pie ☆
- ☆☆ 7. Boots and swords of the German officers ☆
- ☆☆ 8. Uncle Tom's Cabin ☆
- ☆☆ 9. The Baby Dance ☆
- ☆☆ 10. Big Hill Mystery Club ☆
- ☆☆ 11. Ivanhoe ☆
- ☆☆ 12. Fried potatoes ☆
- ☆☆ 13. It's from Betsy and Joe's wedding china ☆
- ☆☆ ☆

Book Review

"Irvin S. Cobb's *Speaking of Operations* is simply rich. But you have to bring Dreiser or Shaw to the club now, 'Sigrid grumbled."

A member of the Violent Study Club complaining about Rocky in BETSY'S WEDDING.

Speaking of Operations—

by Irvin S. Cobb, Curtis Publishing Company, 1915, 64 pages.

We found Irvin S. Cobb's book in a little antique store in Lanesboro, Minnesota. Rather, my wife Linda found it. She has an ability to scan a musty bookshelf that's crammed with old volumes with uncanny accuracy, looking for a Betsy book, or one of the few Janet Lambert books that has so far eluded her.

"Ah, ha!" she cried triumphantly, grabbing the book and waving it under my nose. I stared at it uncomprehendingly.

She quoted the passage from BETSY'S WEDDING that made her recognize it. I shouldn't have been surprised—it's her favorite Betsy book, and my least favorite, so it stood to reason that I wouldn't place it.

"How can it be your least favorite book?" she demanded.

"It just isn't as much fun," I said. "I mean, the war is looming over everything, and their problems are real, serious problems. It's not 'Will we get to go to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?' or 'Will I have a date for the dance?' It's, 'Will my husband be killed?' or 'Will Tib marry an arrogant and abusive man?'"

"But—but they all get married in this book!" Linda protested. "It's the culmination of the dreams that they've had all their lives!"

"That's another thing," I said. "Most of the fun of the High School books was seeing Betsy and Joe competing as equals. But when they get married, she turns into this subservient wife, and Joe is seen as a wonderful guy because he doesn't beat her when she burns dinner! She never claimed to be able to cook. She was always different from Carney and Bonnie because she wasn't domestic. Why should she feel like a failure now?"

"It was 1915, for crying out loud!" Linda said. "Give her a break!"

"Well, okay, but it just wasn't as much fun."

"You know, the other books had serious parts," she persisted. "What about Baby Bee? What about Cab's father, or Miss Cobb's nephews?"

Of course, there's no way to resolve this kind of argument. We abandoned it quickly, and Linda hurried up to the counter, holding Irvin S. Cobb's book protectively under her arm. It cost a dollar.

She found it. She bought it. But I'm the only one who's read it.

Speaking of Operations—(yes, with a dash at the end of the title) is written as a humorous monologue, about the author's experience in having an operation in 1915. The most interesting thing about the book was that it was a real, live book that I held in my hands

that Betsy and Joe (or Maud and Delos, if you prefer) had really read. The second most interesting thing was that the description of the operation wasn't very different from how you'd describe it today.

Humor, however, has changed over the years. Most parts were mildly clever, and some just missed me completely. The flyleaf before the first chapter reads: "Contents: Mostly my own." Another quote from inside: "Anything doctors do in a mass is ethical. Almost anything they do singly and on individual responsibility is unethical. Being ethical among doctors is practically the same thing as being a Democrat in Texas or a Presbyterian in Scotland."

The humor in *SPEAKING OF OPERATIONS*—hasn't aged real well with time. I noted, somewhat uncharitably, that I had heard of *IVANHOE*, one of Betsy's favorite books, but hadn't heard of this one, and I understood why. It wasn't bad, but compared to modern humorists like Dave Barry or Calvin Trillin, the humor seemed definitely lukewarm. But then, who knows how well Dave and Calvin will be received in eighty years or so?

The attraction in owning the book is in picturing Betsy and Joe, with their friends, laughing riotously at this and other witticisms, and understanding a little more clearly what they laughed at.

"Besides," Linda persisted as we drove away. "We know Joe didn't get killed in the war. He's Delos, and lived for years.

"But what about Cab, or Sam Hutchinson, or Julia's husband, Paige?" I countered. "They enlisted too, and we never find out what happens to them. It just takes some of the fun out of it. And Cab is one of my favorite characters, especially in *EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY*."

"If any of them had been killed in the war, we'd have heard about it," she said.

"I suppose. But in the Battle of Belleau Wood, the American casualties were more than fifty percent. Just thinking about that takes some of the fun out of the book, that's all."

"Only a man could read a Betsy book and think about casualty statistics," Linda retorted.

Whenever we argue about this stuff, I remember Joe inviting Betsy to fight about *LES MISERABLES* versus *VANITY FAIR*. We both love discussions like that, and this one was started by the little book by Irvin S. Cobb.

It was worth the dollar.

Reviewed and Commented on by Doug Larsen, Eden Prairie, Minnesota



A Call to Action!

I can not recall ever going to a bookstore and seeing all of the Betsy-Tacy books on display. I was born in 1953, the year WINONA'S PONY CART was published, and by the time I was twelve and more likely to be visiting bookstores, the books were difficult to find. This was not of huge concern, however, as we relied heavily on our local public library, visiting every three weeks. Better yet, we saw Aunt Marnie (Carney) on a regular basis and heard about her childhood first-hand—hearing about real life as opposed to reading about it.

It did not occur to any of us to make a concerted effort to buy multiple copies of each book as a hedge against a time when they would no longer be available. Realization came too late, when titles were out of print and no longer available even through special orders from the publisher. A brief respite occurred when the first four titles were reprinted in paperback, and then the first two high school stories. I bought multiple copies for myself, nieces, and nephews, and silently willed HarperCollins to get on with it and reprint the remaining titles.

Silently was the operative word. I did not band together with other enthusiasts. I did not storm the portals of HarperCollins. Instead, I stepped up my campaign to find used copies of the books, with only limited success. If it had not been for the generosity of Louise King, who bequeathed me her mother's (Carney's) copies of the books, I would not have the set I have today. As we all know, the books are very difficult to find, especially "Carney," "Winona," and "Emily."

However, it no longer needs to be an impossible quest. We all have the power to implement change and to get those books back on the shelves. Make special note of the article on Page 10 of the *Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter #13*, Fall 1993, and the article by Ilene Cooper on Page 522 of the November 1, 1993 issue of *Booklist*. HarperCollins will be reprinting the first ten titles in the series. The first four are currently available in local bookstores; the remainder will be available in 1994-95. The publisher has not committed itself to reprinting CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY, EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY, or WINONA'S PONY CART, but you have the power to influence them to do so, as well as to reissue all of the books in hardcover.

The method is simple. Buy copies of the books and spread the word of Betsy-Tacy. Continue sending letters and signing petitions, and also ask the publisher to issue the books individually and in boxed gift sets, but get out the vote by purchasing copies of those books! Do you have a secret pal at church or at work? Send copies of the books! With the holidays around the corner, buy multiple copies of "Operation Santa" and other programs that match kids with presents. Make Betsy-Tacy the perfect gift for someone on your list: daughter/son, niece/nephew, neighbor's child. Buy a copy to send to the Brownie troop gift exchange. If you are in the habit of giving your child's teacher a gift, consider giving the gift of Betsy-Tacy. Donate copies to your school library and to your public library. Give a book to the library in your child's name on her/his birthday. Buy copies for your doctor's and dentist's waiting rooms.

Commit your self to buying one set (minimum) of the books and sharing them with at least one other person. Multiply that commitment by the number of people who are members of the Betsy-Tacy Society and its chapters, and HarperCollins will receive

our message loud and clear. Force them to reprint "Carney," "Winona," and "Emily" by buying those paperbacks and sharing them with friends, family, strangers. Make hardcover editions a reality; Vice-President Kathleen Baxter has evidence that this might happen if paperback sales are good enough.

Share creative ways in which you have shared Betsy-Tacy in future newsletters. If the books are unavailable from your local bookseller, the "Tattered Cover Bookstore" in Denver, Colorado and "The Red Balloon" in St. Paul, Minnesota are just two of many bookstores who would send you the books and charge the price, plus shipping and handling, to your credit card. I have had dreams of walking into a bookstore and seeing all thirteen books lined up in a neat row on a shelf. Please join me in making this dream a reality! Excuse me now while I get out my credit card and call my local bookseller...

Barbara Sproat, Garden Grove, California





THE BOTANY OF BETSY

by Nancy Cleaveland

Entering the stately front parlor where a Christmas tree was shining, she received a surprise. It came in the form of two smacks, one on each cheek, one from Cab and one from Herbert who had bounded out from either side of the doorway.

"Why . . . why . . ." sputtered Betsy.

"There's mistletoe over the door," Herbert yelled.

Betsy looked up, forgetting to move away, and Tony dashed over and kissed her.

"Well, for Heaven's sake!" cried Betsy, blushing and rushing away through an uproar of laughter.

HEAVEN TO BETSY



The traditional fir-and-holly Christmas season means snow, frosty air, white pines, hemlocks, and wreaths on front doors. Christmas plants are as basic to the season as Santa Claus and each plant is part of a colorful legend.

Mistletoe legends reach back to Norse mythology and Virgil's ANEID. It was the Druids' golden herb. They believed it was brought from heaven by the missel thrush. Perhaps one of the birds was seen clutching the berries in its toes, and as a result, the new word "mistletoe" was born.

Mistletoe symbolized purity and strength, and was hung in houses to bring happiness, promote romance, and enforce peace. Many people believed that only peace and harmony could exist under the mistletoe, so they pledged their friendship with kisses.

One of the most harmful of parasites, mistletoe is an interesting and attractive plant in its own right but a most undesirable guest on your own trees. It sends its roots directly into the live tissues of the host tree, and draws its nourishment therefrom. Although green and active photosynthetically, it cannot live in the soil. At the point of attack, the tree limb swells and this limb usually atrophies and dies. Small yellow flowers appear March through May, followed by waxy-white berries.

The kissing ball was first popular during Victorian times. Mistletoe was arranged with ribbon, lace, and holly and hung in entryways where friends might meet beneath it. Sometimes, like Betsy, a person could even be surprised with a kiss!

Later, for Betsy and Joe, the hanging of mistletoe (tied to a small Santa Claus) became a family tradition. Hang a sprig in your doorway during the holiday season- and see what happens!



The Music of Betsy and Tacy



By Beth Hudson

Yet Tib wasn't the hit of the show. To everyone's surprise, especially Mr. Maxwell's, that honor went to Tony.

When the music for his song began, he strolled carelessly out on the stage and straddled a chair. He got out his pipe and filled it, tamping down the tobacco as thoughtfully as though he were sitting in the Ray's parlor with all the time in the world. The orchestra kept on playing. Then, holding the pipe in his hand, his arms folded on the top of the chair, he began to sing.

BETSY AND JOE

In Deep Valley's local production of "Up and Down Broadway," Tony sang one of several hit songs from a musical that otherwise failed miserably. "The District Leader," which opened on April 30, 1906, was about a state senate candidate who fell in love with his opponent's daughter. The show produced another song familiar to Betsy-Tacy fans, "Same Old Story," and the popular "What's the Use of Dreaming?" was also Mr. Ray's favorite song. (BETSY AND JOE, page 21) The music was written by Joe Howard, a well-known Chicago showman. Critics panned "The District Leader" and its run was short.

The next year, on August 5, 1907, Howard opened "The Time, The Place, The Girl," which Maud also mentions in HEAVEN TO BETSY. Strange enough, Howard recycled "What's the Use of Dreaming?" and used the following:

Of course you're only dreaming,
Blow the smoke away.
You know you can't win her,
Things don't ever go that way.
Still you keep on dreaming,
Might as well, no doubt.
Then your pipe goes out.

Pipe dreams, Mr. Howard no doubt meant. "The Time, The Place, The Girl" was an enormous success and sealed Joe Howard's reputation.

Howard was one of the most influential and important figures of the emerging theater in America at the turn of the century. He collapsed and died in 1960, at the age of 92, while performing onstage.

If you have a musical instrument, you'll enjoy learning the music so often referred to in Betsy-Tacy books. Look for more music in future issues of the newsletter.

WHAT'S THE USE OF DREAMING

CHORUS.

What's — the use of dreaming, Dreams — of ros-y love —

What's — the use of dreaming, Things that never could come true.

You — are worth a mil - lion, There — is not a doubt —

Then your pipe goes out. out.

by
JOS. E. HOWARD

COMPOSER OF
"THE UMPIRE."
"THE ISLE OF BONG-BONG."
"HIS HIGHNESS THE BEY."

As Sung in

"The
District
Leader"

at WALLACK'S THEATRE
New York City.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

by Renea Ratzloff
Mankato, Minnesota

BETSY ADDS ANOTHER WORD

Each player writes out the entire alphabet with a corresponding number of 1 through 26 written directly underneath it. The challenge is to write down 12 words of three letters on a piece of paper. Choose words that relate to Betsy's life in Deep Valley. Each letter is worth its given number of points, so each word has a total value. For example, "Pin" (16 plus 9 plus 14) is worth 39 points; "Tib" (20 plus 8 plus 2) is worth 30 points. This game can be played alone or with an unlimited number of people. If you are playing this game with friends, the player with the highest 12-word total wins the game. Have fun!!!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

The Piano Box

By Melissa Alvarado age 8.



Young Maud Hart Lovelace fans are invited to send us their Betsy-Tacy artwork for publication on this page
c/o Bonnie Lai, 778-29th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121-3516

Aren't you glad:

- The Kellys moved across the street from the Rays?
- Tacy wasn't too shy to come to Betsy's birthday party and lead the birthday march with her?
- Miss Dalton let Betsy and Tacy share a seat?
- Tacy survived diphtheria?
- Betsy, Tacy and Tib rescued Naifi?
- Betsy and Julia were such good friends as children, in spite of occasional fights?
- We got to go to the Carnegie Library with Betsy?
- Anna found a home with the Rays?
- Joe defended Betsy's "rosy apple blossoms" opening line?
- Okto Delta disbanded and Tony came back to the Crowd?
- Joe came back for a dance with Betsy after Phyllis left?
- The Beidwinkles lived near Butternut Center?
- Betsy FINALLY won the Essay Contest?
- Sam invited Joe to the dance at Murmuring Lake?
- Sam supported Carney's finishing college?
- Cab liked to dance, and Mr. Jed liked old houses?
- Mrs. Fowler and Emily founded the Browning Club, and Mr. Jed found Emily?
- Emily quit thinking about Don?
- Betsy didn't marry Marco (who was a wonderful man but NOT Joe!)?
- Mr. Brown always appeared at the right place and time?
- Joe knew about the Agony column and Mr. Dick saw his ad?
- Tib didn't marry Mr. Bagshaw?

Diane Kipp, Vancouver, Washington

**Betsy-Tacy Society
Membership Form**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

Membership Levels

_____ Sustaining \$100 and up	_____ Individual \$10
_____ Patron \$25	_____ Child \$5
_____ Family \$15	_____ Europe or Canada \$15 and up

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

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

Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Avenue, Boston, MA 02130-4440



Betsy, Tacy and Tib Dolls

I am an avid doll collector as well as a Betsy-Tacy fan. Our doll club in Phoenix sponsors a doll luncheon every June using Sasha dolls. Sasha dolls were created by Swiss doll artist, Sasha Morganthaller. These dolls are wonderfully made, quite poseable, have lovely, thick hair to style, and are great fun to sew for and dress. Our theme this year was "A Storybook for Sasha," and we were to pick our favorite book and dress Sasha accordingly.

Of course, BETSY, TACY AND TIB is my favorite B-T book, so three of my lovely Sasha dolls were transformed into Betsy, Tacy and Tib. With the book, the scene was wonderful; Betsy, Tacy and Tib came to life! They won first place in the "Dress a Sasha" contest, too. The fun, of course, was getting them dressed, finding the right color ribbons, and fixing the hair. Tacy's ringlets were so much fun to do, and I couldn't resist giving Tib ringlets, too. Poor Betsy with her straight hair. But she has thick, beautiful braids. Anyway, I thought maybe our other readers might enjoy the picture.

I would love to hear from other doll collectors out there. Is anyone creating Betsy, Tacy and Tib dolls? Please write.

*Jackie Kraemer
24818 N. 55th Lane
Glendale, Arizona 85310*

CONSEQUENCES OF FOLLY

Please check your mailing label. If there is no renewal code, this will be the last newsletter, unless you renew.

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

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