

# 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 90274.

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**

Please note that I have a new address for memberships, renewals, etc. Send all correspondence to me at P. O. Box 206, North Easton, MA 02356. Along with my new address comes a new last name--I'm now Michele Blake, thanks to my marriage on October 29th. I knew Roger was worth keeping when, on our third date, he mentioned having gone to a bookstore to look for "those Betsy-Tacy books you told me about." I received a fabulous wedding present from Merian and many of my B-T friends--an original Vera Neville illustration from *Betsy Was a Junior*. What an incredible thrill!

If you've recently sent in a renewal or other correspondence to my old address in Framingham, don't worry. The forwarding system seems to be working fine. Please note that it takes us several months to cash checks, since there is a two (or even three) person chain through whom they need to go before they are deposited.

And now for the usual reminders; please check your mailing label. If it says "Winter 95" your renewal is due. If it reads "Expired" this is the last issue we can send you, so please renew now. Send address changes as soon as you know them; bulk mail is not forwarded.

Have a wonderful 1996!

Michele Blake

**Where to Send it!**

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

Lona Falenczykowski  
 303 Meadow Wood Drive  
 Mankato, MN 56001  
 507/345-8103

email: lona@ic.mankato.mn.us

*If you are interested in joining a local group, please contact the person listed in the area nearest you.*

**Where To Send It! (cont)****Membership information:**

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## Resolutions, Reflections, and the Lost Art of Journal-Keeping

As the New Year looms before us, many take the time to reflect over the past year and make resolutions for the year to come. Betsy, as we know, was a great one for resolutions, but did not reserve them for the New Year alone.

We first hear of resolutions in Betsy's life in *Downtown*, when, through Mr. Ray's inspired "snoggestion," Betsy begins her jaunts to the Carnegie Library. Guided by her parents, Betsy makes a first step toward adulthood by pursuing an interest and treating it with respect; Julia, of course, had already been involved with her interests for quite some time. By considering their daughters' interests to be as important as their own, the Rays fostered not only a strong familial bond, but also independence. The managing of the interests was not left to their parents, but to the girls themselves; we do not hear Mrs. Ray nagging Julia to practice or Betsy to write. By the time *Heaven to Betsy* rolls around, Betsy has already developed the beginnings of her writing career.

In that first "T-R-O-U-B-L-E - some" year of high school, Betsy resolves to be a belle, like Julia. What she doesn't realize is that resolving does not necessarily make it so. Juggling the demands of the Deep Valley teen-age social whirl gets to be a bit much for her, and Betsy learns to protect and nurture her writing, realizing how much she needs to express herself. Like most young people, Betsy is constantly defining and redefining herself; unlike most young people, Betsy learns that writing and reflecting help the process along.

In *Heaven to Betsy*, Betsy and Tacy spend a "quiet hour alone" making their resolutions, which Betsy writes down when she gets home. Some of them are serious, such as the talk with Mr. Ray about becoming an Episcopalian, while others, such as the brushing of her hair one hundred strokes each night, are of the typical self-improvement vein and not likely to be kept up. The interesting thing about Betsy is that though she usually doesn't keep up the self-improvement schemes (could you keep doing calisthenics before an open window for very long?), she does tend to stick to the more serious resolutions. The make-



by Katrine Poe

over resolutions in *Betsy in Spite of Herself* led to her being "better groomed, more poised," but since the entire idea was not a particularly good one, Betsy knows that she cannot maintain the facade of Betsy. The resolutions made after that dismal first dinner in Munich not only make Betsy less homesick, but also help her to assimilate into German culture and to really work on her writing.

Since most of Betsy's resolutions and reflections can be tied to her journal-writing, Maud Hart Lovelace's books can be seen as a testament to the benefits of keeping a journal. As we know from Sharla Scannell Whalen's *The Betsy-Tacy Companion*, Maud was not only a great letter writer, but also used her

journals as sources for the Betsy-Tacy books. Certainly, the Hart family shared much through correspondence, and writing was most certainly valued; while this was part of a time period in which correspondence was the standard form of communication, the Harts seemed more than normally dedicated to it. In our modern times, however, the written word plays a distant role in communication at best. Yet, who doesn't feel a bit of a thrill upon receiving an actual, handwritten letter among the day's bills? And if letters are rarely written, keeping a journal is even farther removed from normal society. (When TV's "Doogie Howser" would pithily sum up his day in a sentence or two, did you ever wonder why he didn't have more to say?)

It seems sad that the good mental and emotional exercise of journal-keeping is but a relic of Betsy's era. From reading the Betsy-Tacy books, we can see just how much writing meant to Maud, and how the mere practice of keeping a journal helped her to reflect, resolve, and act in her life. If you have kept a journal in your own life, you know just how important that bit of self-expression is, even if you are the only one who will ever read it. If you haven't, give it a try; it is a resolution worth keeping.

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

## Rediscovering Heaven to Betsy



Twenty-five years ago, an 11-year-old girl read *Heaven to Betsy* for the first time. A big fan of the first four Betsy-Tacys, she was disappointed in the longer work. What happened to the Lenski illustrations? Who are those people in the cover art? (I'd still like to know.) Why had Tib moved to Milwaukee, and for that matter, why are Winona and Tacy barely mentioned in the new story? Everything was different; everything had changed.

But that is the point. *Heaven to Betsy* is about change – both inward and outward. For that reason, *Heaven to Betsy* is probably one of, if not the best books in the series. After a careful re-reading twenty-five years later, the girl, now a woman, discovered how true, how remarkable, Maud Hart Lovelace's fifth Betsy book is.

Maud's writing style shifts dramatically from *Downtown* to *Heaven to Betsy*. In the earlier books, a benevolent narrator looks down upon the children's activities and reports them with a gentle, nostalgic voice. But in *Heaven to Betsy* the slant is all Betsy. Her entire freshman year (and the rest of her young adult life in the remaining five books) is seen through her eyes only, and the reader can then share Betsy's feelings as she makes her way through the treacherous teenage years.

No longer a happy, chubby child with braids, Betsy is now a thin, moody teenager. It's a new Betsy, a teenage Betsy, and thanks to Maud, we know that in some ways teenagers haven't changed all that much through the years. Betsy likes to talk on the phone, pass notes in class, worry about her hair, eat lots of chocolate, worry about her freckles, party instead of study, and she's boy crazy—a very typical teenager. And although Betsy mourns her lost love in typical teenage fashion (staying in bed all day), she

does show maturity in that she continues to be friends with Bonnie, even though Bonnie took her sweetheart away. Most teenagers wouldn't speak to each other after an episode like that.

And there's change throughout the book. The reader is bombarded with so many changes she sometimes wonders if, in fact, she is reading about the same people who appeared in the first four books. Betsy has a new house, new school, new house-keeper, new friends, new church, even a new relationship with her sister Julia. Instead of being teasing adversaries, as in the earlier books, Betsy and Julia become closer, confidantes, and soul-mates in a way, as they discover a religion that truly speaks to them.

But, thanks to Maud, the reader is reassured in Chapter 16. Maybe Maud realized that it was a difficult task for the reader to undertake so many changes that she steps aside to state the reader's feelings through Betsy's eyes: "It was growing up; it was leaving Hill Street and having someone else light a lamp in the beloved yellow cottage. She felt like crying, and yet there was nothing to cry about."

By the end of the book, the reader has acquired a fondness for the new Lovelace style and looks forward eagerly to the next book. *Heaven to Betsy* performed the great task of winning a reader over from the children's side to a "young adult" style. The reader may have mourned, like Betsy, the moving away from Hill Street and the childhood memories, but in the last chapter both Betsy and her reader have come to terms with the changes and are ready to move on.

Teresa Gibson lives in Mesquite, Texas.



*Heaven to Betsy* is about change – both inward and outward. For that reason, *Heaven to Betsy* is probably one of, if not the, best books in the series.

by Teresa Gibson



## What Is That?

by Liz Boardman

They began the time-honored game of snapping apples. One girl snapped another's apple while saying the name of a future husband. The owner ate the apple and then counted the seeds to the accompaniment of the magic rhyme. "Hi girls! Betsy loves Tony with all her heart."

*Heaven to Betsy*

There are several versions of the game "Snapping Apples." *Early Pleasures and Pastimes*, by Bobbie Kalman says, "Snap Apples was played by suspending an apple from a string and trying to bite it as it swung. Snap Apple was also played by attaching an apple to one end of a stick and a lighted candle to the other end. The stick was hung from the ceiling by a string tied to its middle and twirled."

A 91-year-old grandmother says she played a different version of Snapping Apples. It was similar to bobbing for apples, except the participants snapped their jaws in the water like turtles!

*Early Pleasures* also lists a game called "Fortune-telling Seeds." In this game the apples used were eaten and the seeds saved. "When two boys were both fond of the same girl, they asked her to stick an apple seed on each of her cheeks. John chose the seed on the right cheek. Bill hoped for the seed on the girl's left cheek. If John's seed fell off first, he was miserable. He had lost his girl to Bill!"

From Lovelace's text, it seems like the girls twisted the stems, saying "A, B, C..." with each twist. Whatever the letter when the stem broke was the first letter of the future husband's name. Then the girl ate the apple, counting the seeds and saying the rhyme "One I love, Two I love, Three I love I say; Four I love with all my heart, Five I cast away. Six he loves, Seven he loves, Eight they both love, Nine he comes, Ten he tarries, Eleven he courts and Twelve he marries."

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

## An Ode to Betsy & Tacy

by Elizabeth Daniels

Books were dull and boring to me,  
Till I read about Tib, Betsy, and Tacy.

It started at a party when Betsy turned five,  
Those two little girls sure knew how to jive!

The next one happened when they were eight,  
Tib came along, it was really great.

They met a Syrian princess when  
They went over the Big Hill in the year they turned ten.

They performed in a play, Betsy published a poem,  
Uncle Keith came along, and Betsy got to know him.

"High School is heaven!" Betsy said,  
But when Tony didn't love her, she was filled with dread.  
She got over it and found him more like a brother,  
Though unromantic, they still loved each other.

Tacy warned, "Betsy don't change who you are,"  
To capture Phil Brandish, a boy with a car.  
She did anyway, to dramatic, mysterious,  
But she's always Betsy, no matter who she is.

All wrapped up in Dave Hunt, and Greek letter conquests,  
Betsy loses her place in the essay contest.  
Distressed, the Crowd drops the Sorority game,  
Tib's back from Milwaukee, they're so glad she came!

Going with Joe Willard crowns her senior year,  
But over him Betsy shed many a tear.  
For he's mad when Tony loves Betsy (he's a little too late!)  
Can Betsy decide which one to date?

After a year at the "U" and a fight with Joe,  
Betsy's heart is full of woe.  
She's off to the Great World to forget her troubles,  
And breaks Mark Regali's heart like it is a bubble.  
For he asked her to marry him,  
She said no,  
Because she knew she still loved Joe.

In the final and greatest book,  
Betsy deals with learning to cook.  
But her husband is patient and loving you know,  
Because she married her wonderful Joe.  
Tacy's married to Harry Kerr,  
She met him in High School, but he's ten years older than her.  
Tib gets married to a man named Jack,  
And to these books I'll keep coming back

To read them over again and again,  
Betsy, Tacy, and Tib are my dearest friends.

*Elizabeth Daniels is a middle-school student in Downers Grove, IL. This poem was submitted to the Betsy-Tacy Journal by her teacher, Jeanne Topic, who herself read the Betsy-Tacy books "countless times" growing up. Jeanne has encouraged her students to read the B-T books, and this poem was in Elizabeth's writing portfolio when she turned it in.*



## From Our Mailbox

by Debbie Tranchita



"I was thrilled to re-discover Betsy-Tacy upon rummaging through my parents' basement. I felt as though I had found a treasure to see the autographed copies (Maud Hart Lovelace was a friend of my great-grandmother, Viva Theilman). I decided to order "new" copies of all the books but couldn't get them all so I called the Historical Society and was so excited to find out about the Betsy-Tacy Society. Although my daughter is just five years old she has all of my "new" Betsy-Tacy books on her shelves and I've started to read them to her, as they begin just before Betsy's fifth birthday."

*Ann Hiedeman, Fresno, CA*



"I can't tell you how much I enjoy the newsletters. I feel like I'm retreating back to my girlhood each time I receive one. Thank you so much."

*Judith Bragg, Los Altos Hills, CA*



"I began reading my mother's hard cover editions of the Betsy-Tacy series at about the age of eight; needless to say, they are well worn by now. I really enjoyed the high school books and when I began to read *Carney's House Party* I immediately fell in love with Carney's description of Vassar College. The Daisy Chain, Sunset Hill, the professors and the camaraderie between Carney and her college friends made me vow as a little girl to go to Vassar. Little did I know that this little girl's dream would become a reality. I attended

Vassar for two years, and although the college has grown and become coed since Carney graduated, I can still pick out the bench on Sunset Hill and her room in the north tower of Main. The Daisy Chain still exists but now Bock Florists puts the chain together instead of the sophomore class. One day during finals week of my freshman year I even went up to the Alumni House, where all of the alumni records are kept, and found out about my mentor. I was able to get permission to see Marney Everett's (Carney Sibley) file. It was such a good feeling to break away from finals' stress and get back into the life of the Betsy-Tacy characters. I only hope some day I will be able to attend one of the Betsy-Tacy events and have the chance to speak to Marney's daughter or granddaughter. What is even more wonderful is I now reside in Mankato. I chose to move to Betsy's Deep Valley after getting a job offer to work with seventh and eighth grade students in the local school district. Upon becoming a resident I immediately joined the Betsy-Tacy Society, bought a memorabilia cup, bought a long-desired hard cover copy of *Winona's Pony Cart*, and settled down to enjoy all the wonders of Deep Valley almost one hundred years later. To say that Betsy-Tacy had an impact on my life seems to be an understatement. If it were not for these stories I would not have taken the opportunity to attend Vassar College, and my appreciation for my new home would not be as great. My life has clearly been influenced by the Betsy-Tacy legacy."

*Shannon Landwehr, Mankato, MN*



"I always enjoy all the newsletters, but I really enjoyed the Fall '95

newsletter! I was surprised to learn (via Marti Paskal's story) that Maud lived in Claremont, CA in the late seventies, while I was only about 25 miles away living in Escondido, CA, where I lived for two years. How I would have loved to have known that, but like Gail Rucker (From our Mailbox) I would never have thought to write a letter to one of my favorite authors. More's the pity!"

*Deb Thomas, Albany, GA*



"I received my copy of Sharla Whalen's *The Betsy-Tacy Companion* last week and spent many happy hours totally engrossed in it. (I'm only about halfway through it; I'm savoring it a little at a time!) I realized what a wonderful gift Maud has given all of us by preserving a way of life that is gone forever. As I reread the first two high school books, I felt a link with my own past. I caught glimpses of the girl I was when I read them for the first time. Certain passages brought back such strong memories, almost like hearing an old song that can transport me back to a special time and place."

*Connie Corley, Lawrenceville, GA*



"Raised on Betsy-Tacy, I thought only my mother and I knew about Mrs. Lovelace. In 1990 when we first learned of the Betsy-Tacy Society, mother and I were beside ourselves. Like all Betsy-Tacy aficionados, our home was filled with the phrases of Betsy-Tacy. Not a day has gone by in our lives that there hasn't been a mention of Mrs. Poppy or Sunday night lunch or the Great World."

*Barbara Rosene, Richfield, OH*



*Reader's Review***Norma Johnston**

by Katie Watts

I suspect I'm not the only one who checks the Lovelace shelf in the library periodically, hoping to discover a new Betsy-Tacy book, one that has been miraculously overlooked all these years. So far I haven't found one, nor have Rick and Ilsa gotten on the plane in "Casablanca" together. But, a true romantic, I keep hoping.

Although I haven't found any new Betsy-Tacys, my discovery of Norma Johnston has been in many ways as good. I look on Norma, a prolific lady who also publishes under three or four pseudonyms, as Maud's most direct descendant. What I believe is her first book, *The Wishing Star*, is dedicated to Maud. In all the books, devoted Betsy-Tacy readers will catch phrases and word combinations straight out of Deep Valley. The most obvious is a horse named, what else: Old Mag!

The Johnston books are worldly. Shocking, upsetting things happen; traumas we in the 90s can relate to. One of the things we cherish so deeply in the Lovelace books is the tender, naive innocence of days long past. Most of the Johnston books are set in the past but we are presented with problems that could happen today. Therefore, we can relate to her characters as both representatives of the past and residents of the present.

A chief charm of the books is that most of the characters are distantly related. Allison Standish's son-in-law is a descendant of the *Of Time and Of Seasons* Vandeveres. His daughter Jenetta marries Douglas Carlisle; Doug's mother is Katie Sterling. These facts aren't pointed out to the reader, you have to read carefully to catch it; a wonderful in-joke.

Johnston brings characters to life. The deepening romance between Tish Sterling and Kenneth Latham is real, is true. You know them, maybe you are or were them. What they feel for

each other is so strong it is almost tangible. Occasionally on television or in movies the chemistry between actors transcends the two-dimensional screen and reaches the viewer. The sexual antagonism between Joel and Maggie of "Northern Exposure"; the "is you is or is you ain't" relationship of "Moonlighting"; Bogie and Bacall; Tracy and Hepburn. That delicious tension leaps off the screen and transmits itself to us. These are no longer actors playing roles, these are real people. In Johnston's books the same magic happens.

Since I can't bear reviewers who feel a review isn't complete unless it tells the entire story, I'm not going to get into specific plots, but just give you a list of the major Johnston books I've read with an indication of time period and locale. Unfortunately, our library system seems to have cracked down on inter-library loans. When I first gorged myself on these books the library had many and was able to get all the major ones it didn't have. Now some are missing, and most of my requests are returned stamped UNABLE TO FILL. I hope you have better luck. Some of the books, most prominently *The Carlisle Chronicles*, are published in paperback. The four books in *The Keeping Days* series seem to be in paperback as well..

*The Wishing Star*: Most Betsy-Tacy-like in feeling and time period. Set in New England.

*The Keeping Days, Glory in the Flower, A Mustard Seed of Magic, The Sanctuary Tree*: Probably her best.

*A Nice Girl Like You and Myself and I*: dealing with younger members of the Sterling-Albright clan as they become teens, set in the Bronx, turn-of-the-century to the 1920s.

*The Swallow's Song and If You Love Me, Let Me Go.*: New Jersey, mid-1920s.

*Of Time and Of Seasons* and *A Striving After Wind*: New Jersey again, featuring the multi-talented Vandever family and set during the Civil War.

*Ready or Not*: related to the two above, same area and time period with many of the same minor characters.

*The Carlisle Chronicles*: Enjoyable but to me the weakest of the series. I suspect it's because they deal with present-day teens and I don't enjoy reading about them as much. Johnston's skill at communicating feelings and thoughts is never weak, however. One of the books has genealogy as its main theme and I defy anyone with any interest in the subject not to dig out her own family charts and start researching again.

Johnston has also written modern teen romance-mysteries, light gothic types, and some adult books. For a complete listing of her pseudonyms, check her listing in *Something About the Author*, a fascinating multi-volumed reference work focusing on children's authors, which will have you looking up all your favorite authors and becoming most enlightened. Since she's a prolific author, a number of her books have been written since the *Something About* listing was published, so you'll have to cross-reference her various noms de plume with your library card-catalog or computer to see what you can come up with.

Good luck and happy reading!

*Katie Watts is a reporter for a small newspaper in Northern California. She spends her spare time bringing up three sons and a husband, is a collection-aholic, and thinks the Betsy-Tacy Society is one of the greatest things to have happened to her in the last 15 years. She's a frequent contributor to the maud-I listserv postings.*



## Of Meat Pie and Other Things

Beth Hudson, Cooking Editor

After school they went to Tacy's house because Mrs. Kelly was baking. It was a sight to see the plump loaves of golden brown bread pulled from the oven and buttered....Betsy and Tacy and Tib began to feel better when they had buttered their bread and spread honey on it.

A hundred years later and still there is no simpler or more perfect pleasure than, like Betsy and Tacy, enjoying fresh, hot bread. Today's microwaves and bread machines all too often dilute that thrill but, despite our busy lives, old-fashioned breadbaking is still with us. At the least, consider buying a loaf of frozen bread dough and popping it in the oven, just for the delight of handing your child a piece of soft, warm bread slathered with honey. For the rest of you, consider this recipe from Lowney's Cookbook, 1907, by Maria Willett Howard.

Beth Hudson

### Bread

2 cups scalded milk	2 tsp salt
1 Tbsp lard	1/2 env. yeast or
1 Tbsp butter	1/2 yeast cake
1 Tbsp sugar	6 cups flour

Put butter, lard, sugar, and salt in mixing bowl. Add scalded milk. Dissolve yeast cake in one-fourth cup lukewarm water. Add to milk mixture when lukewarm. Add flour, knead until smooth. Cover tightly and let rise until double its bulk. Knead, shape into loaves; let rise in pans until double its bulk. Bake in 350 degree oven for 60 minutes.

In her circa 1915 *Practical Recipes and Suggestions for the Housewife*, Mrs. Kate Vaughn also recommends greasing the tops of loaves to prevent crusting while rising and to use as little flour as possible while kneading. And don't forget the honey!

This is an unfrosted cake which is delicious. Of course it makes me think of Mrs. Kelly's famous cake.

Submitted by Lynne Hoehamer, Des Moines, IA

### Hot Milk Cake

4 eggs	1 tsp vanilla extract
2 cups sugar	1 1/4 cups milk
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour	10 Tbsp butter
2 1/4 tsp baking powder	

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs at high speed until thick, about 5 minutes. Gradually add sugar, beating until mixture is light and fluffy. Combine flour and baking powder; add to batter with vanilla and beat at low speed until smooth. In a saucepan, heat milk and butter just until the butter melts, stirring occasionally. Add to batter, beating until combined. Pour into a greased 13" x 9" x 2" baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool on a wire rack. Makes 12-16 servings.

Heaven to Betsy



I seem to recollect a mention of Anna making a "Lady Baltimore Cake" and then someone asking in the newsletter for a recipe. I bought a cookbook at an antique show copyrighted 1924 by the Igleheart Bros, Evansville, Indiana (makers of Swan's Down Cake Flour). I am sure you could substitute any cake flour for the Swan's Down flour—now if we could just find a substitute for all the calories and fat grams that are in it!

Submitted by Melissa Gajewski, Cleveland, Ohio

### Lady Baltimore Cake

1/2 cup butter	3 cups cake flour
1 1/2 cups sugar	1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup cold water	1/4 tsp almond extract
4 tsp baking powder	4 egg whites

Cream the butter, add sugar gradually, creaming mixture thoroughly. Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder and sift again three times. Add the flour and water alternately to the first mixture, beating hard after each addition. Add flavorings. Fold in the egg whites, stiffly beaten, and bake in two layers in a moderate oven. Put together with the following filling and icing:

#### Lady Baltimore Filling and Icing

##### Filling

1/4 pound figs
1/2 pound raisins
1/2 pound pecans or English walnuts

##### Icing

2 cups sugar	2 egg whites
3/4 cup water	1 tsp vanilla

Using a coarse grinder, grind together the figs, raisins, and nuts.

Make the icing by cooking sugar and water until it forms a soft ball in water, 240 degrees. Pour the syrup slowly over the stiffly-beaten whites of eggs, beating until stiff enough to spread. Add flavoring. Into 2/3 of the icing stir the fruit and nuts. Spread between the layers and on top of cake.

Cover the whole cake with the remaining 1/3 plain icing.



# Merian's Column

Just some bits and pieces this time, starting with greetings from Brooklyn and a very happy 1996 to everybody!

Most important, I want to apologize to all the people to whom I owe letters. I was a terrible correspondent in 1995. (I hope and believe that you will all have heard from me before you get this journal, but just in case....) Special apologies go to everyone who wrote me, sending recipes and even vintage cookbooks of their own, about the *Betsy-Tacy Cookbook*. It's all wonderful stuff, and I thank you very much.

The Cookbook is coming right along, although not as fast as Brenda and I had thought it would, and I'll do an update for newsletter readers later this year.

I also want to do more columns based on Maud's diaries – another one from California for sure, and one from an especially happy summer that Maud and Delos spent in Minneapolis in 1953.

And I'd love to devote some space to answering Lovelace and Hart family trivia questions (or serious questions, for that matter). Send them along to 130 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217, and I'll do my best. (I don't have a memory like my mother's, and I sometimes have to admit that I can't answer a question about family history because I never thought to ask.)

Our Greater New York Chapter of the BTS always reads a suitably Christmassy chapter from one of the books aloud at our holiday party. This year it was the brass bowl chapter from *Heaven to Betsy*, and of course I couldn't put the book back on the shelf afterwards until I'd read the whole thing. And then, of course, I couldn't stop until I'd read all four of the high school stories. They are awfully good, aren't they?

There are two moments – one in *Heaven to Betsy*, the other in *Betsy and Joe* – when I simply can't bear what's going to happen next. Every single time, I tell myself that maybe *this time*.... The first, of course, is when Betsy sleeps over at Bonnie's in the middle of Christmas vacation. We know why Bonnie, who is a really nice person, is so insistent in asking Betsy whether she has a crush on anyone. Why doesn't Betsy know? Or why doesn't she confide in Bonnie just because she feels like confiding? Or *something*? But no, she tells Bonnie all the boys are alike to her, and the next thing we know Bonnie and Tony are skating round and round and Betsy's heart is breaking.

The other moment comes when Tony asks Betsy to the New Year's Eve dance at the Melbourne. "Oh, come on," I exhort her. "Just take a deep breath and tell him you're booked." But she doesn't and the next thing we know, Joe is handing her his Christmas present with icy formality and telling her that now he's going to play the field.

I know perfectly well that Betsy and Tony simply *can't* start going steady in the middle of *Heaven to Betsy*, and that Betsy and Joe have to quarrel in the middle of *Betsy and Joe*. And I know that Betsy *wouldn't* confide in Bonnie and *couldn't* find a cool way to get out of going to the dance with Tony. But I keep on hoping...and that, I think, is what really splendid story-telling does to you.

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







## National News

### *A Note From Lona's Pony Cart*

Greetings from the icy hills of Deep Valley:

The past year, 1995, has been a busy and exciting year for the BTS, starting with the success of the Great Mankato Get-Together in July. We now are looking forward to the fifth birthday centennial bash in 1997. July also found us reaching one of our long-range goals with the purchase of the Tacy (Kenney) house at 332 Center Street. In October and December we held open houses at Tacy's house for the public, and a good time was had by all. Articles about both events appear elsewhere in this issue.

Thank you to all B-T Society members who responded so quickly and generously to our request for money and made the dream of owning Tacy's (Bick Kenney's) house a reality. After the down payment and some costly repairs we have about \$8,000 left in the house fund. (If anyone would like a full financial report, please send a SASE to Kay Hocker, 521 10th Street S.E., Rochester, MN 55904. It will also be printed in the next newsletter.) With the balloon payment due on the mortgage in July of 1997, we will have to continue fundraising.

A big thank you goes out to Maryellen Digre-Mueller, chair person of the Tacy house revenue committee, for *handwriting* thank yous to all who contributed to the house fund. She tells me she is changing her name to Jo Ek.

Special thanks to Merian Lovelace Kirchner for opening her home on January 6, 1996 to the 3rd Annual Holiday Open House of the New York Chapter of the B-T Society. My daughter Emily and I were fortunate to be able to make the trip to New York and join in the festivities. What a thrill! Seems like a dream come true and I can honestly say it was the best one-day trip of my life. (And we did make it out and back before the Big Snow.) Thank you, also, to hostess Kelly Reuter for opening her home on January 13, 1996 for the wonderful B-T Society Christmas party. Kelly is truly our own Martha Stewart of Deep Valley.

At the February B-T Society meeting we will be discussing strategic planning.

"Cheshire Puss," she (Alice) began..."Would you please tell me which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends on where you want to get to," said the cat.

*Lewis Carroll*

If anyone has any ideas or thoughts about our mission and long range goals, please send them along. Now is the time to start working on our plans for the 1997 convention. Any volunteers? Help!

The BTS has achieved another long range goal. By the time you receive this newsletter, *Betsy and the Great World* and *Betsy's Wedding* should be available in paperback. Now let's work on getting *Carney's House Party*, *Winona's Pony Cart*, *Emily of Deep Valley* and other works of Maud Hart Lovelace back in print.

Thanks always to all who contribute to the newsletter/journal. Thanks also to the national board, all chapters, and to you—the members.

Lona Falencykowski  
303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001  
(507) 345-8103 lona@mankato.mn.us

### • Fall Fun at Tacy's House

Following some very hard work cleaning and painting by some members of our board, we decided to welcome Betsy-Tacy fans to the home with a Fall Open House. Saturday October 14th was a brisk but beautiful fall day in Deep Valley. Guests were welcomed at the back porch of Tacy's house by dolls overseeing a guest book, and each guest received a BTS button to wear. In the kitchen Dolly Blomquist and Lona Falencykowski were working over the stove, just as Mrs. Kelly did, to warm up hot cocoa and cider. A table was spread with an array of goodies including fudge (of course), "fresh unfrosted cake," and baklava (in honor of Little Syria) especially made up on the Big Hill by Michelle Coughlin and Sandi Kleinschmidt. Large wooden Betsy, Tacy, and Tib dolls greeted visitors in the dining room where tables were set up with books that could be purchased and premium items given out for donations to the House Fund. In the parlor, Wendi Masters helped the kids frost and decorate pumpkin cookies. Kelly and Allie Reuter assisted them in making Halloween black cats or Lady Jane Grays out of bump-chenille and ribbon. In the back parlor were piles of maple leaves and Doris Berger and Jacqui Woodwick taught guests the old-fashioned way of weaving them into crowns. (These must have been the maple leaf hats from Betsy-Tacy that they sold in their piano box store.) In the front porch room, stories from the books were read aloud. Fall Fun at Tacy's House was considered a great success, especially by the many happy kids, fans, and potential new fans. That afternoon, Barnes & Noble hosted a book fair with a percentage of proceeds going to the Society. We thank Barnes & Noble for their generosity and interest.

### • Mankato Festival of Trees

This fall a new annual event was planned for the Mankato area and

*More National News on page 14*



## From Our Photo Album

On October 14, 1995 a Fall Open House was held at "Tacy's House." At right, Kelly and daughter Allie Reuter assist three guests with some of the craft projects available to visitors that day.



Above, Betsy-Tacy Society members get ready for the Fall Open House; at left, Tacy Masters proudly wears the maple leaf crown she made at the Open House.

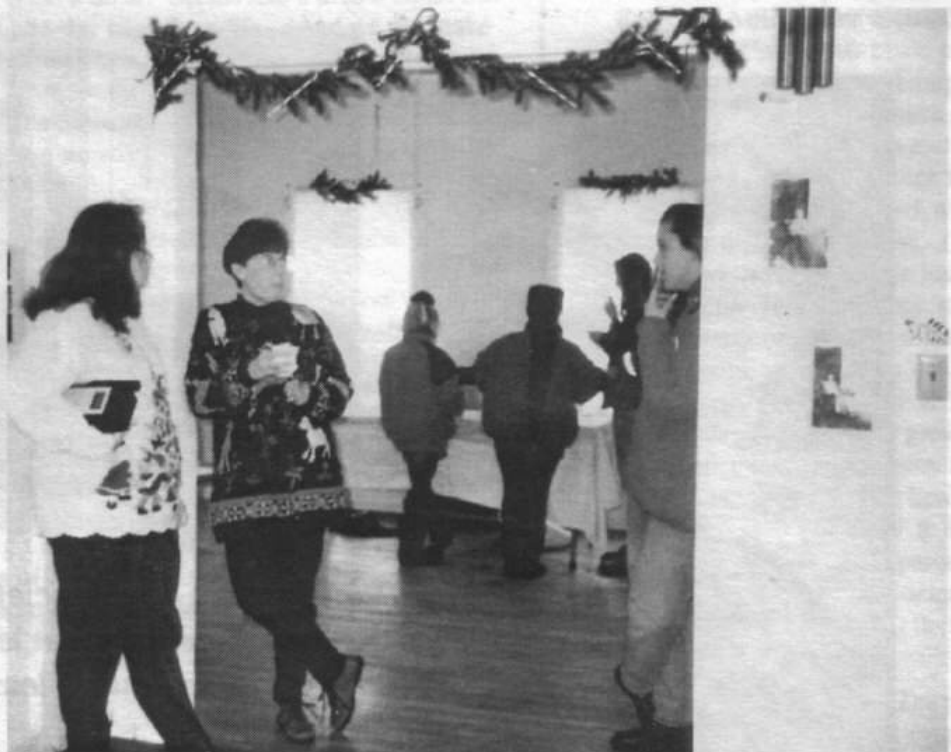
Album photos by Lona Falencykowski





Our three girls (three-foot tall soft-sculptured Betsy, Tacy, and Tib dolls) presided over the Betsy-Tacy Society's turn-of-the-century tree at Mankato's First Annual Festival of Trees, held at Mankato's Civic Center. Dressed in velour coats and hats, they look as if they were on their way to Heinz's after making their special ornament choices. The display received many wonderful compliments and recognition for looking so Betsy-Tacyish.

The Betsy-Tacy Society's first Christmas in Tacy's house! Society members in the Mankato area worked diligently to decorate "our" house for the holiday season. At right, Society members take a well-earned break in their "hanging of the greens" work party. Note the beautiful hardwood floors.







We're ready to go caroling! "Betsy, Tacy, and Tib" (Tib is just out of camera range) have returned from their trip Downtown and are waiting for the visitors who will attend the Christmas Open House. Look carefully and you'll see the snowdrifts right outside the windows! At the Open House, visitors sang Christmas carols, sampled some very Betsy-Tacy-ish holiday food, and posed with the very obliging Betsy, Tacy, and Tib for some memorable pictures.

Meanwhile, the New York Crowd gathered at Merian Kirchner's home to visit, feast on holiday goodies, and to continue a Chapter holiday tradition – reading a Christmassy selection from one of the Betsy-Tacy books. At right, Sharyn November takes her turn in reading this year's selection - the story of the brass bowl from *Heaven to Betsy*. (The bowl is pictured on the back cover.)





*Continued from page 10*

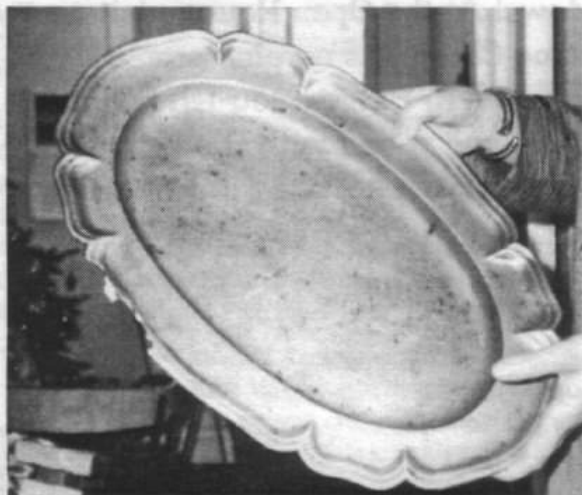
### National News

held at the Civic Center. The Festival of Trees was held the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday following Thanksgiving. This event included a children's activity area, tea room, live entertainment, and boutique as well as a forest of wonderfully decorated trees in many unique themes. The Betsy-Tacy Society was asked to participate and was given the generous donation of a tree and money to purchase ornaments. We would like to thank Charles W. Cantale and Kenneth C. Pengelly for the gift of the tree, which will be enjoyed in Tacy's bay window at Christmastime for many years to come. We decided that the tree should look as much like a typical turn-of-the-century Ray/Kelly tree as possible. Wendi and Kelly set out on an expedition to purchase the adornments, and chose lights which looked like candles, garlands of shiny gold and silver beads, and dozens of glass ornaments reminiscent of those chosen on Deep Valley shopping trips many years ago. We met at the Civic Center on the day before Thanksgiving to decorate the tree. To insure that people would know the significance of this particular tree, we added three-foot tall soft-sculptured Betsy, Tacy, and Tib dolls dressed in velour coats and hats. They looked just as if they were on their way to Heinz's after making their special choices. Our tree received many wonderful compliments and recognition for looking so Betsy-Tacyish.

### Caroling at Tacy's House

After the Festival of Trees, we moved our tree to Tacy's and planned a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 10. Despite an icy weekend, we had a very nice crowd. Guests received special Christmas buttons featuring Cheryl's new "Center St. Christmas" design. Dolly and Lona again presided over the cocoa, along with baskets of Christmas cookies, candy, and donuts (remember the milkman's magic horse?) In the dining room Peggi Bartelts played Christmas carols while Tacy Masters and Allie Reuter passed out beribboned candy canes. Kids posed for pictures with the big BT&T dolls in front of Tacy's tree. In the back parlor Sandi and Courtney Kleinschmidt had set up tables of Betsy-Tacy Christmas gift ideas, including baskets filled with a book, ornament, bookmark, etc. In the front parlor, children were invited to decorate Christmas cookies made by Wendi Masters. Shelby and Kelly Reuter helped the kids to make beaded candy cane ornaments to take home for their own trees. Throughout the afternoon, ornament door prizes were given out. Caroling at Tacy's House certainly filled everyone with holiday spirit.

*Pictures taken at the Fall Open House, Festival of Trees and Christmas Open House are displayed on pages 11 - 14.*



According to the members of the Greater New York Chapter, one of the best things about meeting at Merian Kirchner's house is being able to actually look at so many things that are familiar to us through Maud's books. Above, top, is THE Goethe cup mentioned in *Betsy and the Great World*; bottom, is the pewter platter that Maud bought in Germany.

## Notes and Notices

### • Maud and the Minnesota Historical Society

On March 10, 1996, Maud Hart Lovelace will again be seen walking the halls of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, just as she did when she researched *Early Candlelight* and many of her other adult novels. Maud will come to life through the popular History Players program at the History Center. In this program a costumed historic interpreter portrays a person from Minnesota's past in conjunction with a certain exhibit. The interpreter gives short formal dramatic performances and also interacts informally with visitors to the History Center. The Maud Hart Lovelace History Player will be performed in conjunction with the History Center's new, celebrated "Families" exhibit, which explores aspects of family life such as "coming together," "finding a place," "getting along," "surviving change," and "making memories."

All Maud Hart Lovelace fans are invited to attend her premiere on March 10. It promises to be an exciting day, with Maud's appearance (in the stylish green suit she wore for her military review and honor at Fort Snelling in 1929) and a "Maud-themed" History Hijinks family program in which children will be able to write their own stories and create their own books. Snippets of Betsy-Tacy books also will be read during the day, and there will be tree branches and park benches set up for writing and storytelling inspiration. In between time in the gallery, the Maud History Player will drop by the activity area to visit with the children and tell about her own writing experiences.

If for some reason you cannot get to St. Paul on that particular Sunday, do not despair: The Maud Hart Lovelace History Player, like all of the History Players, is a long-term program and will continue for quite some time. The program will not be playing every day, however, so if you are planning a special trip to the History Center just to see Maud, it is a good idea to call ahead to find out which days the program will be running.

Any questions or comments about the opening day, the History Players program, or the History Center? Contact Ang Johnson of the Minnesota Historical Society's Education Department. Ang can be reached by phone at 612/296-1187, by mail at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906, or email at john0310@maroon.tc.umn.edu.

See you in St. Paul!

Ang Johnson

### • L. M. Montgomery and Canadian Culture: An International Conference June 27-30, 1996

The L. M. Montgomery Institute will host an international conference entitled "L. M. Montgomery and Canadian Culture" at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from June 27-30, 1996. Montgomery's journals and letters as well as her fiction and poetry reflect and comment on the literature, events, ideas, and discoveries from the 1890s to the 1930s. Topics to be covered during the conference include: Canadian Ethnic Minorities in the Writings of L. M. Montgomery; L.M. Montgomery and the Politics of Female Pleasure in Canada; Canadian Women's Sport and Health through the Fiction of L.M. Montgomery; Women, War, and the Canadian Home Front in the Writings of L.M. Montgomery; L.M. Montgomery and the Female Canadian Bestseller Tradition; Fashion in L.M. Montgomery's Life and Writing; L.M. Montgomery and Canada through the eyes of Hollywood; L.M. Montgomery's Influence on Japanese Images of Canada. For information about program and registration details, please contact the L.M. Montgomery Institute, ATTN: Anna MacDonald, University of Prince Edward Island, 550 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3. Telephone: 902/628-4346; FAX: 902/566-0420; email: lminst@upe.ca.

Anna MacDonald

### • Student Needs Ideas!

I am a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society, and as a Senior Project have managed to convince one of the professors at my college that the Betsy-Tacy books are of historical/literary importance and are worth studying (though of course my own firm belief that there could be no doubt of this fact may have had something to do with it!).

The primary focus of my research is to compare Betsy, Tacy, Carney, etc. to the ideal "New Woman" of the period, to see how like and unlike the ideal they were. If anyone has any thoughts on this matter, would you please contact me at 7710 Mayflower Hill, Waterville, ME 04901. Also, if anyone has a copy of *Carney's House Party* or *Winona's Pony Cart* that she would be willing to lend me—or I would be willing to make arrangements for a xeroxed copy—as I have been unable to find either one, I would be very appreciative.

Thank you so very much!

Abby Chandler

Notes and Notices continues on page 18



## Chapter

### Washington, D.C. Chapter

The Washington, D.C. chapter held a Sunday night lunch on September 17. Menu items included the obligatory onion sandwiches, constructed before an admiring audience, and chocolate cake. The Bearer of the fruit salad, demonstrating extraordinary unstoppableness, braved a fender-bender en route. A Betsy-Tacy trivia quiz was given (sample stumbers: What was the name of Betsy and Tacy's kindergarten teacher? Who is the author of the quote appearing on the frontispiece?) and the winner took home as booty one *Betsy-Tacy Treasury*, donated for the occasion. Afterward we watched "Meet Me in St. Louis," smiling knowingly at the mention of Welsh rarebit.

Our planned holiday outing is a December 2 breakfast and shopping trip in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. We're proud to report the addition of our first member under 20 years of age, but the aggressive search for area B-T devotees is still on. For information, write or call Julie Christian at P. O. Box 2267, Springfield, VA 22152 (703/698-5948), or call Betsy Sherman at 703/968-3505.

### Bay Area Group

The Grand Olde Underground Betsy-Tacy Birdwatching and Singing Society, otherwise known as GOUBTBSS (pronounced "Goob-Tibs") will hold a skating party on January 28. Carla Kozak is organizing the event, which will be held at the Embarcadero Skating Rink in San Francisco. Following skating there will be chocolate: fudge and cocoa.

### Greater Chicago Chapter

The Greater Chicago Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society had its first meeting of the fall season in September at the home of president Melanie Rigney. Those assembled were regaled with tales of the Mankato convention, and photographic evidence was supplied as well for chapter perusal. It was decided that the chapter would participate in the book donation to libraries, and future events were discussed, including the "Christmas in Milwaukee" trip and the upcoming holiday party for children.

In October, chapter members Melanie Rigney, Elaine Pappas, Sally Moore, Katrine Poe, and Milwaukee's own Julie Rasman attended the Historic Pullman House Walk. In this historic district, once home to Pullman train workers, they were entranced by the many lovely and unique homes on display, as well as the many yard sales. Laden with their purchases, they enjoyed a leisurely luncheon at the magnificent Hotel Florence, and inspected the hotel's dining rooms for possible sites for future B-T teas. Convinced at last of the superior quality of this district, they vowed to make the walk again next year.

November brought the annual holiday ornament party at the Schiller Park Public Library. Children attending

were invited to partake in the many ornament-making stations, capably overseen by Mary Ellen Connelly. Delicious refreshments were served, followed by a lively book auction and an ornament and cookie exchange. A good time was had by all.

The second "Christmas in Milwaukee" followed shortly thereafter, and it was once again a tremendous success.

After a busy 1995, the Greater Chicago Chapter is looking forward to an exciting 1996 and wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

### New York Chapter

We welcomed the New Year with our third annual Holiday Open House at Merian Kirchner's apartment on Saturday, January 6 – the day before the Blizzard of '96 struck the city. It was a wonderful party, with good food and drink, good cheer, old friends and new (several of the new friends had found us via the Internet).

National Betsy-Tacy Society President Lona Falencykowski and her daughter Emily Scott were our guests of honor.

Our next event will be Sunday Night Lunch at Joan Kirchner's on February 25, complete with onion sandwiches.

Looking ahead to spring, we're making plans for Saturday Afternoon at the Majestic – a program of silent movies from the very early 1900's, the kind Betsy and The Crowd enjoyed, like "Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman," and "The Astronomer's Dream." (Yes, these oldies really are available!) We're hoping to find a church hall or similar space, with plans for musical interludes. And while we can't conjure up a Heinz's down the street, we figure we can provide the fixings for Deep Valley Specials and banana splits.

### Southern California Chapter

The Southern California Chapter's "Christmas" Party will be held on Saturday, January 27 at the home of the chapter president, Suzanne Nezin. We're exchanging ornaments and welcoming some new members. Look for us online on the listserv that day because after lunch, we'll all have a turn at Suzanne's computer to post our thought to all Maud-lins online!

In April, we'll be having "Sunday Night" lunch (on Saturday) complete with all of the correct fixings. In July, a picnic (cocoa, unfrosted cake, dinner in the tin buckets) will be featured. The October meeting will find us walking backwards down the stairs and snapping apples, now that we've learned how to do it from Liz Boardman's article in this issue.

New members are always welcome at our quarterly meetings. Contact Suzanne Nezin at (714) 770-8236 to join in on the fun!

# News

## Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter held its inaugural meeting on November 12 at Borders Books and Music in Phoenix. We had nine people in attendance, and several others who wanted to come but were unable to make that date.

We achieved two things at this meeting: We found out why everyone liked the books and, in some cases, how they had affected the person's life (the phrase "To thine own self be true" was cited by several, as was the active role Mr. and Mrs. Ray played in their daughters' lives).

Our second accomplishment was more important: We agreed to make our chapter's "mission" to spread the Betsy-Tacy books as far and wide as we can. Thus, we agreed as individuals to donate books on a regular basis to school classrooms, to give them as birthday and holiday gifts to children (and adults), and to give them as charitable donations as, for instance, at Christmas when we take children's names

from mall Christmas trees, or at church. We hope other BTS members are already doing this, or will consider it! The books have to sell if they're going to stay in print, and unless they get exposed to a large number of "new generation" readers, they won't.

At this meeting we were also privileged to have TWO former Mankatoans attending: Joan Brown and Mary Harty (Mary is a niece of "Dennie" and "Winona"! ). Mary generously brought to videotapes she has of Mankato meetings, and we will watch them at the next two meetings.

We will have our next meeting on Sunday, January 28. Kathleen Waldron is going to lead a discussion tying in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator to the characters in the books. If anyone else is interested in the MBTI and Betsy-Tacy, Kathleen would love to hear from you at 5315 W. Brown Street, Glendale, AZ 85302. Call Kathleen Waldron at 602/939-4462 if you are interested in attending our meetings.

## Betsy-Tacy Crossword Puzzle

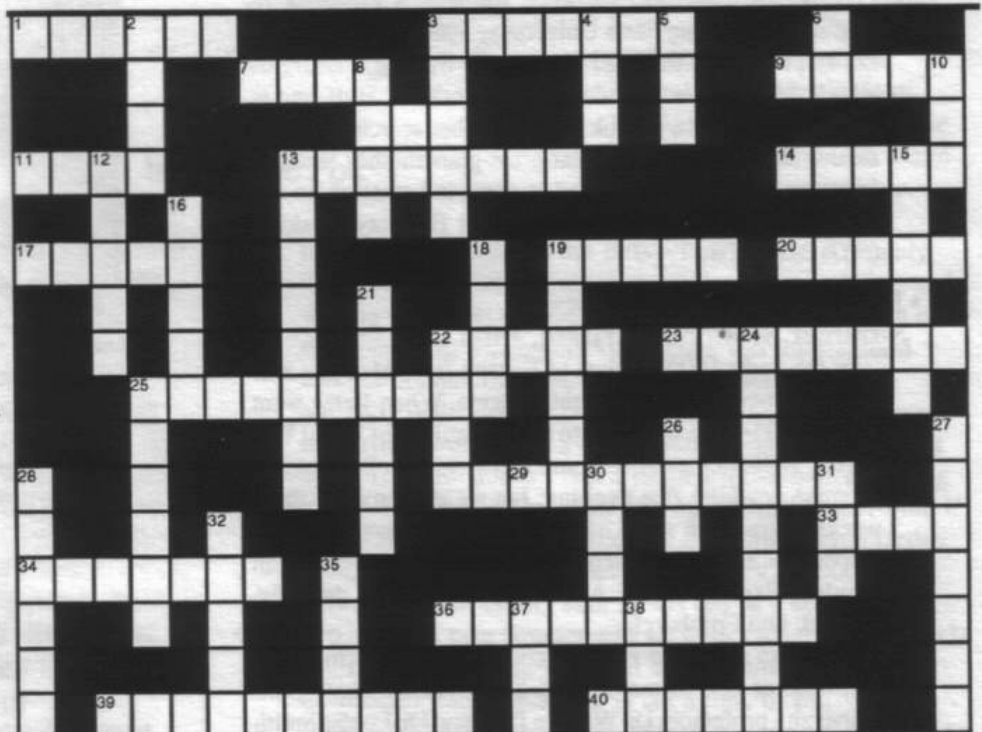
The Betsy-Tacy Crossword Puzzle was developed by Kathleen Waldron of the new Arizona B-T group. At their recent meeting they attempted to work it, but had some problems. Can you do it? Answers will appear in our next issue.

### ACROSS

- 1 When she dropped her cards, there was great consternation in class.
- 3 Joe stood her up for a dance
- 7 She gave Joe the idea for "Wheat"
- 9 His first initial was E and his last initial was H
- 11 Who Joe took to the New Year's Eve dance senior year
- 13 Betsy felt sorry for high schools that didn't have her
- 14 Joe's favorite pie flavor
- 17 His brother was Betsy's "CF"
- 19 Betsy's friend in Munich
- 20 Grandma \_\_\_'s stories about early Deep Valley days enthralled Betsy
- 22 The real name of Jean's husband
- 23 "Up and Down \_\_\_" brought Tony a little too close to Betsy
- 25 Jule's maiden name
- 29 She played the piano at most high school dances
- 33 "Dreaming, dreaming, of your red \_\_\_ I'm dreaming"
- 34 Miss \_\_\_ was Charlie the barkeep's girl
- 36 Betsy wrote about him and his railroad during the sophomore year essay contest
- 39 Margaret's devoted boyfriend
- 40 Betsy felt guilty for not writing to him about #23A

### DOWN

- 2 She provided dime novels for Betsy to read
- 3 Betsy and the other girls took an imaginary visit to this Sound
- 4 Katie's husband
- 5 Judy's dad's first name
- 6 Football star Larson
- 8 Betsy opened box after box, and found this message
- 10 Emily pined for him, but he devoted most of his attention to Annette
- 12 Betsy could have married him and lived in Venice
- 13 The author Emily studied her first winter after



- high school
- 15 All the Rays' horses' names
- 16 Naifi was from this country
- 18 He competed against Joe for the junior year essay contest.
- 19 Elizabeth and Anastasia often played with \_\_\_
- 21 "Hills were \_\_\_ then." (Inscription in *B-T Go Over the Big Hill*)
- 22 She always started with Middle-C
- 24 "Eight Devils"
- 25 She wanted to have the first ride in Deep Valley's first auto, but Tib got it instead

- 26 When she died, Betsy and Tacy had a serious discussion about God and heaven
- 27 She was the Philomathian advisor
- 28 Betsy disagreed with him about apple blossoms
- 30 Julia's room was usually a \_\_\_
- 31 What Joe called his father-in-law
- 32 She encouraged Julia in her singing
- 35 Dorothy's last name
- 37 She made most of Betsy's clothes
- 38 Uncle Alvin's nephew



*Notes and Notices continued from page 15*

- **Historic Calendar**

The Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries is raising funds by selling a 1996 calendar with vintage photos from the University Archives. The photos are mainly of students, with comment on the fashions of the day, plus descriptions of student life. The calendar is available for \$5.95 plus \$3 for shipping. Make your check out to "University of Minnesota" and mail it to The Friends of the Library, 499 Wilson Library, 309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

- **New Video Available**

A 30-minute video about Maud Hart Lovelace and Mankato (Deep Valley) is now available. Part of a series called "History of the Heartland," it features an interview with our President, Lona Falencykowski. It was filmed in the historic Lincoln Park district, and in other significant Mankato locations. You can order it by sending \$10 to the Betsy-Tacy Society, c/o the Heritage Center, BECHS, 415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001-3741.

- **New Books by BTS Board Member**

BTS Board member Suzanne Bunkers, a Professor of English at Mankato State University, has recently had two books published: *Critical Essays on Women's Diaries*, which she has co-edited along with Cynthia A. Huff, and *In Search of Susanna*, a book describing her search for information about her paternal great-great-grandmother, Susanna Simmer. Members interested in more information on obtaining these books can contact Lona Falencykowski at (507) 345-8103.

- **Mankato State University's Summer Session in Britain, 1996**

In the early 1900's, travel to Europe from Mankato was more frequent than you might imagine. When Betsy went in 1913/1914, she walked into the beginnings of World War I. The English Department's summer session in Britain can't promise anything that exciting, but we can promise three weeks of travel in some of the most historic and beautiful places. We have scheduled short university residencies in London, Exeter, Oxford, Aberystwyth in Wales, the Lake District, and Edinburgh.

Travelers may take either a course in British children's literature or one in major British authors. Mankato State University professors Dr. William Dyer and Dr. Louisa Smith will conduct the classes which emphasize place as text. All materials read will relate to the sites visited. You can walk the same streets in London that Betsy did.

Dates for the course are July 15th through August 7th. The cost, approximately \$2800, includes the flight to London from Minneapolis, breakfast, dinner, and lodging, entry fees, play tickets, guided tours, and guest speakers. For information, contact Louisa Smith at (507) 389-2117 or Box 53 MSU, Mankato, MN 56001; Steve Peer, Group Travel, at (612) 881-7811; or nationwide call (800) 222-7907.

- **Michele Franck is Married**

The Betsy-Tacy Society's Corresponding Secretary, Michele Franck, was married in Boston on October 29, 1995 to Roger Blake. Society President Lona Falencykowski took this picture at Michele's wedding.



*Michele Blake*

### *"Alarming News" From the Past*

*Reprinted from the  
Mankato Free Press  
January 12, 1899*

#### **DIED OF HEART TROUBLE**

Miss Mary L. Schabert died at the residence of T.W. Hart, 333 Center street, at noon today, of heart disease, after an illness of but a few days. She was twenty five years of age, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Schabert, of St. Peter, but had resided in Mankato for several years, working as a domestic in the family of Mr. Hart. The deceased was a niece of Martin Waiser. The remains were taken to St. Peter this afternoon and will be interred Saturday.



# 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-1 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!

## 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](mailto:listserv@mitvma.mit.edu). Type this in the message space:

Subscribe maud-1  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

The message will look like this:

Subscribe maud-1  
Betsy Warrington Ray

Do not sign your note. To post a note to the listserv, address it to [maud-1@mitvma.edu](mailto:maud-1@mitvma.edu) and it will be sent to all listserv subscribers.

## Last Minute News....

The Friends of the Minnesota Vally Regional Library, based in Mankato, is auctioning off two ex-library MHL books.

1. *Winona's Pony Cart*. Crowell, 1953 First Printing. Illus. by Vera Neville. Ex-library, no dustjacket. Some pages smudged, worn at several cover edge points. Cover: dark grey with white and brown lettering & illustration. **Minimum bid \$40.00**

2. *Betsy in Spite of Herself*. Crowell, 1946, appears to be a first printing. Illus. by Vera Neville. Ex-library, no dust jacket. Smudged pages, some torn page edges, worn cover points. Cover: rose with brown lettering, white/brown illustration. **Minimum bid \$25.00**

PHONE AUCTION WILL BE HELD THURSDAY MARCH 21 6:00-9:00 CST. Bids will be taken until the phone has not rung for at least 10 minutes. Carlienne Frisch (President of the Friends of MN Valley Regional Library) will take the calls at **507-726-2053**.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE MINNESOTA VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY!!!!

### Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_ Family \$15

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\_\_\_\_ 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

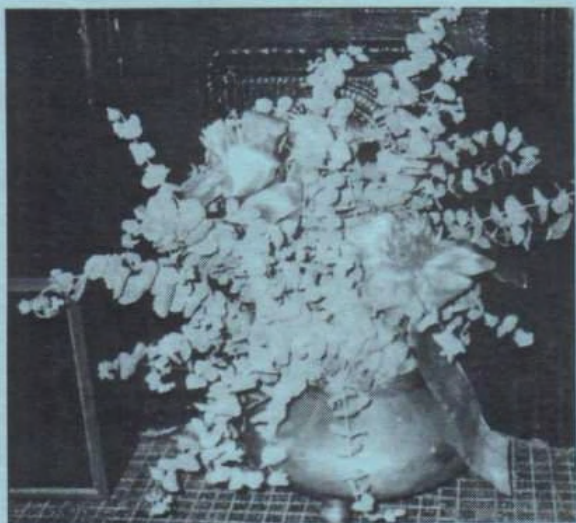
Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send, along with this form, to:

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



## Treasures from the Past

Lona Falenczykowski, President of the Betsy-Tacy Society, took these pictures when she attended the Greater New York Chapter's 1995 holiday party, held at Merian Kirchner's home. (Merian is Maud Hart Lovelace's daughter.) At right is the bowl Mr. Hart gave Mrs. Hart for their anniversary in *Betsy in Spite of Herself*.



Pictured at left is the brass bowl that Mrs. Hart received for Christmas in *Heaven to Betsy*.

**The Betsy - Tacy Society  
c/o The Heritage Center  
Blue Earth County Historical Society  
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