

# THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER #9

AUTUMN, 1992

"On a golden hilltop overlooking Deep Valley, Betsy, Tacy, and Tib founded their sorority. They sat in a grove of small maples, all the same color and ridiculously bright. Below them autumn flowed like spilled wine." from *Betsy Was a Junior*, p. 82

### A Letter from Merian Lovelace Kirchner



*I want to say thank you to the Betsy-Tacy Society for making the convention happen, and to everybody who attended, for being there and being such good company.*

*It was just super. Every detail was so beautifully and lovingly and imaginatively designed, from the first bus ride on Friday morning to Sunday Night Lunch at the Y. And in between, the picnic in Sibley Park, the Trivia Bee, the Birthday Party, the Saturday meetings, the Tasting Tea, the Banquet, Christmas in Deep Valley, lunch at Murmuring Lake. The hospitality suite, the gift shop, the poolside buffets. In short, everything.*

*I know how hard a lot of people worked (and I'm not going to start naming names, for fear of leaving somebody out!). But those same people were so relaxed, friendly and cheerful and seemed to be having so much fun that you'd never have guessed.*

*Thanks, everybody. Thank you very, very much, from me and my mother.*

*Shall we do it again in five years, for the 100th anniversary of the Fifth Birthday Party?*

### CONVENTION REUNION

With over 350 in attendance from 34 states, the convention was a success. Plans are being laid for a reunion of the kindred spirits who met in Mankato. This would be an informal gathering ... not another convention, yet! Stay tuned to future issues of the BTS Newsletter for reunion details.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

IT'S TIME TO RESUBSCRIBE ✓

Membership in the Betsy-Tacy Society runs from September to September, with a choice of membership levels. Members receive the quarterly newsletter, to which they are invited to contribute articles and information of interest to other members. We enjoy printing excerpts of your letters as space allows, and assume that you will permit us to do so, unless you request otherwise when writing. Members also receive notification of Betsy-Tacy related products which are available through the Society.

#### MEMBERSHIP PREMIUMS

All members contributing \$10 or more will receive a Betsy-Tacy bumper sticker with a Lois Lenski drawing of the immortal trio on their bench. Members contributing \$100 or more will receive a signed and numbered, limited edition color photograph of the Lincoln Elm (mentioned in the B-T books) by P.R. Homby.



### BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER

Back issues are available for \$1.00 each or \$8.00 for the complete back issue set, postage paid. Send a check payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society to Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

### BETSY-TACY BOOKS REPRINTED

The good news & the bad news!

According to "Publishers Weekly," July 20, 1992: "Thanks to a recent petition and letter-writing campaign, Harper is repackaging all of the Betsy-Tacy books." The bad news is, this does not mean that all ten Betsy-Tacys will be released at once! The books will be reissued in paperback, possibly with new cover art, a few at a time - beginning in the fall of 1993. If the response is good, HarperCollins may print the books in hardcover as well. It would behoove us to continue to remind HarperCollins how anxiously we are awaiting the arrival of ALL the Betsy-Tacy books. Write to Marilyn Kriney, HarperCollins, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022.

### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Should you wish to present a friend with a gift membership in the Betsy-Tacy Society, we would be delighted to send a Betsy-Tacy gift card. Simply send the giftee's name and address, together with your check for \$10 or more (payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society) to Michele Franck, Corresponding Secretary, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

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## ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES

If this is your first Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter, we would like to say welcome! The Betsy-Tacy Society was formed in April, 1990 by a group of Mankato (Deep Valley), Minnesota Lovelace admirers. Our purpose and goals have not changed, though our size certainly has! This newsletter will be mailed to over 1000 Lovelace fans. We meet at the Historical Society in Mankato on the second Thursday of every month. For meeting information, call Lona Falen at 507 345-8103.

The primary goals of the Betsy-Tacy Society are:

- ~to promote Maud Hart Lovelace and her work, and to encourage readership of the Betsy-Tacy books, particularly among children.
- ~to purchase Lovelace's childhood home in Mankato, with the objective of establishing a Betsy-Tacy museum, visitor center, and gift shop.
- ~to advocate the republication of those Betsy-Tacy and related titles which are no longer in print.
- ~to facilitate friendship and communication between Lovelace fans of all ages and geographic locations, and through our quarterly newsletter, to provide a medium for sharing our members' thoughts and ideas.

The Betsy-Tacy Society also seeks to encourage and facilitate the formation of local chapters. The purpose of chapters is to afford Lovelace fans within a region or metropolitan area the opportunity to meet together locally, hold local events, and otherwise promote the Betsy-Tacy books within their locale! At this time, there are two regional chapters. To join the **Twin Cities Chapter**, write to Kathleen Baxter, 50 94th Circle NW #201, Coon Rapids, MN 55448. To join the **Greater Chicago Chapter**, write to Diane Gonzalez, 218 Menomonee, Chicago, IL 60614. If you are interested in forming a chapter in your area, please write to Doris Berger, Executive Director, 139 E. Pleasant, Mankato, MN 56001 for more information. 🐾

## CONVENTION THANKS

The committee would like to extend grateful thanks to all the Betsy-Tacy Society members who helped make the convention a success, particularly: Beth Hudson who was in charge of Sunday Night Lunch and who conceived of the "blue and orange ribbon" idea and cut the ribbon into strips!; Renea Ratzloff for taking charge of the children's program; Betsy Norum and Jill Callison for their hard work on the Tasting Tea; Kathryn Hanson, Wendi Masters, and the many others who worked at registration; Susan Stanfield and Vera Sullivan for making the nametags; Lynne Querzoli, Elaine Narby, Jean Laverdiere, and Evette Zamarippa for being "our women Friday," Brenda Worsley for all her letter-writing and work in the hospitality room; Barbara Carter and Kathleen Baxter for their gift of songs!; Doris Pagel for leading bus tours and staffing the hospitality room; Carlienne Frisch and Amy Dolnick for their assistance with publicity; Kay Hocker for running the gift shop; all of the families, especially the Reuters, who gave so much of their time and talents; Merian Kirchner, John Gallos, Patricia Hampf, and Stan Christ, Mayor of Mankato, for their presence; and those who opened their homes and yards to us, especially the Currans, the Coughlans, and Violet Hoehn. 🐾

## NOTICES

### DON'T MISS THE PARTY!

Join the Greater Chicago Chapter at Borders Bookshop at the Oaks of Oakbrook, 1600 16th St., Oakbrook, IL on Saturday, October 17th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for Betsy-Tacy treats, trivia, and surprises! For more information, call Borders at 708 574-0800.

### TWIN CITIES CHAPTER VISITS MANKATO

A day trip to visit Betsy-Tacy sites in Mankato will be held on Saturday, October 17. Buses will pick up passengers at three Twin Cities locations. For more information, call Janet Urbanowicz at 612 372-6667

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 8TH

The Lincoln Park Association is holding a gala Christmas tour of homes in the Betsy-Tacy neighborhood, including "Irma's" house. For more information, contact Doris Berger at 507 388-7549.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**ABOUT MLH:** Carlienne A. Frisch's booklet, "Betsy-Tacy in Deep Valley: People and Places" can be ordered from the Friends of the Minnesota Valley Regional Library, 101 E. Main Street, Box 3446, Mankato, MN 56001. The cost is \$4.75 postpaid.

If you would like information about setting up a Betsy-Tacy display in your library, please write Shirley Lieske for details at 214 S. 4th St., Mankato, MN 56001

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR TAPES!

Did you videotape any part of the convention? Due to the illness of one of our "cameramen," not all of the speakers were videotaped. If you can help us fill in the blanks, please write to: Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001

### JOIN YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Doris Berger urges Betsy-Tacy Society members to join their local historical societies. Anyone who would like to learn more about the history of Mankato can receive the newsletter of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. The membership fees are: \$15 student; \$20 individual; and \$30 family. Write to the BECHS, 415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001

### PRODUCT MAILING

Watch your mailbox for a mailing from Deep Valley Productions. Alison and Lonny Gulden, who hold film rights to the B-T books, will be keeping us informed when production begins!

## Betsy-Tacy PEN PALS



Betsy-Tacy Society member Charity Nelson wrote in to suggest a pen-pal network. We would be happy to run free "pen pal personals" for members of all ages.

*I'll be sixteen years old on October 8th, and I discovered Betsy-Tacy when I was in second grade! My favorite memories are from Betsy in Spite of Herself, Ivanhoe and "Betsy" and the trip to Milwaukee! I love to write letters and I love to read. Other than Lovelace, some of my favorite authors are Laura Ingalls Wilder, Roald Dahl, and Madeleine L'Engle. Please write to Charity Nelson, 4355 18 Mile Road, Casnovia, MI 49318*

If you would like to make some new friends through pen and paper, send a few lines about yourself to **Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Dr., Mankato, MN 56001.**

The Twin Cities Chapter has formed a pen pals club for children and young adults. If you would like to be matched with another young Betsy-Tacy fan, send your name, address, and age to Arlene Kase, 2810 Idaho Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55427. 🐾

## "MUSTER YOUR WITS" and Your Favorite Quotation, Too!

by Michele Franck

Maud Hart Lovelace was especially good at using poetry, quotations, and snatches of song to enhance the stories she told. Surely many of us have found a particular verse or expression floating into our heads or tumbling from our lips from time to time. For me, the most meaningful of all phrases comes from EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY. "Muster your wits, stand in your own defense!" Whenever I am faced with a challenge or if I've just been procrastinating, the words come unbidden to my mind and can move me forward (it even helped this morning when I was almost too lazy to take out the garbage. Try it - it works!) Have you a favorite Betsy-Tacy saying? Send it in! (To make it really interesting, tell us the source of the quote. EMILY says mine comes from Shakespeare, but I haven't found out from where. Any ideas? Send your Betsy-Tacy saying to: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130. 🐾



## BETSY-TACY CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEECH

given by Patricia Hampl July 11, 1992 in Mankato, Minnesota

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I've known for a long time that I would have the honor of addressing you, my fellow Lovelace fans, at this celebration. So as spring moved squarely into summer, why did I let week after week go without writing this speech? Besides my regular work, there was my garden to put in, then friends arrived from out of town--the usual litany of had to do this, had to do that.

I became proficient in procrastination, every day reassuring myself that it was a small task after all, this speech I was looking forward to, a job easily done--not to worry. I found a dozen ways to reassure myself that all was well. Besides, I'm used to deadlines. I'm a pro, I reminded myself. Inspiration won't fail me.

So it went. Until yesterday. I woke saucer-eyed, caught between guilt and terror, the deadly deadline smacked in my face, and no work done. I locked myself in my office, refused lunch with a friend, told my husband he was on his own for dinner, and was abrupt with a student who called with a perfectly reasonable question. I was buckling down. I was a person possessed--not by inspiration, but desperation.

Readers of Heaven to Betsy will recognize the syndrome. And so did I when I finally sat down yesterday to re-read that book, my all-time favorite of our beloved series. You'll remember that in Heaven to Betsy, the first of the high school books in the series, Betsy too has an important assignment here in Deep Valley (as I think we have a right to call Mankato all day today.) She too is given an honor as you have given me one: she is chosen to write the freshman essay for the Zetamathians in direct competition with that boy with the blond pompadour, Joe Willard, representing the Philomathians.

And didn't we all know deep in our Deep Valley hearts who Joe Willard really was--or would be--given a few more books in the saga? Didn't we know that this essay contest was more, much more, than a composition test between Betsy and Joe? Didn't we feel that primal mating tug in their very first encounter in the dime store where Betsy goes to buy presents and Joe is the clerk reading The Three Musketeers? Didn't we register with rising dread the fatal error of Betsy's wasteful ways as she partied through the spring, telling herself that she should write circles around Joe Willard, that she didn't need to go to the library to study up on the world's driest assigned contest topic, The Philippines: Their Present and Future Value? She trusted her inspiration and inspiration never failed her.

She loses that contest--publicly, humiliatingly, just as we feared she would. Her failure, which comes at the end of the book, is in fact the beginning of her real commitment to her writing, her real understanding of what it is to be an artist. Betsy loses the essay contest. She loses because she tries to elude the solitude of art, the beautiful loneliness of it. She fails to trust the real inspiration of art which is ultimately the comforting silence of creativity that exists just beyond and out of immediate sight of the loneliness, the silent wish is the mother of discipline. And in losing the essay contest, Betsy feels the shock of the even bigger possible loss: "What would life be like without her writing? Writing filled her life with beauty and mystery, gave it purpose...and promise."

"She looked back over the crowded winter. She did not regret it. But she should not have let its fun, its troubles, its excitements squeeze her writing out. 'If I treat my writing like that,' she told herself, 'it may go away entirely.' The thought appalled her." Betsy wakes up very early the next morning, all the other Rays still asleep. She moves back into her bedroom in the new High Street house her actor Uncle's old touring trunk which had served as her childhood desk when she played at writing in the old Hill Street house. "Uncle Keith's trunk still seemed out of place in her bedroom," we read on the last page of the bedroom, "but it was a challenge there."

Heaven to Betsy is the book in which Betsy becomes her grown-up self, the book in which she falls in love--and out again, the book in which she tastes defeat as a woman and as a writer, the book in which she touches, really for the first time, the rim of womanhood that the little girl books prepared her--and us--for. And it is the book where she betrays her first love--her writing--and comes back to it more profoundly pledged than ever before. It was the big, defining book of my girlhood.

Maybe that is why I spent most of the day reading the book slowly, copying out passages, marveling at the perfect pitch of Maud Hart Lovelace's writing, her stunning acuity about a girl's heart full of desire for life and for accomplishment. "I must be getting old," 15-year-old Betsy thinks to herself one day as the smell of smoke at a bonfire at Carney's house brings back thoughts of her childhood on Hill Street, "I must be getting old," she thought, "the way things remind me of things."

But Betsy isn't becoming old as she stares into one fire and thinks heart-achingly of another earlier bonfire. She is becoming an artist. She is achieving the life of the imagination. And that is who Betsy is, who Maud Lovelace gave us in her great creation: a girl who can think about her life. I was asked recently in a radio interview if I was disoriented by the question. Because Betsy and Tacy, like Jo March, like Jane Eyre, like the precious few of our vivid girlhood heroes, are neither ahead nor behind their times. Their time is all time because they are about the inner pulse of desire, about the life of feelings and hope. They cannot go out of fashion unless longing itself does. And of all these abiding girlhood heroes, Betsy is not simply my favorite, but my model, my other self. Unlike Jo March, for instance, who longed to be a boy, Betsy loves being a girl. She radiates the secret bliss of being female, even as she too tries and fails and tries again to extend the range of what a girl can do. Loving being a girl, though, may be one of her greatest gifts to us.

My own thought as I read Betsy's reflection at that bonfire on Carney's lawn was: she may think she's getting old, but I must be getting young, the way this story refuses to feel like something long ago and far away. I think it's safe to tell you my dear fellow readers, how it was for me yesterday as I sat all day reading Heaven to Betsy and understanding again, just as I had the first time so many years, decades ago, just who Betsy was--she was me. She still is. Just as she is you.

Here is the close of Heaven to Betsy, Betsy and her dear pal meeting at their old Hill Street house to the end of the big freshman year. They are meeting in Betsy's past--and Betsy, already the writer with an eye to symbol and meaning, knows it:

"Hill Street looked very green and fresh with sprinklers running and roses in bloom. The sun was setting behind Tacy's house.

"Just where it ought to set," said Betsy. It hasn't set in the right place since I left Hill Street. Oh, Tacy, it's wonderful to be back!"

And yet, even as she spoke, she knew that she did not wish to come back not to stay, not to live. She loved the little yellow cottage more than she loved any place on earth, but she was through with it except in her memories..."

Which is to say, in imagination, in art. And in saying this, this girl makes us all artists, all people capable of musing on the meaning of the changes and losses, the inevitable betrayals and disappointments of our lives--our lives which are perilous and full of longing even in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Betsy has left Hill Street, yet the person she loves most, her other self, her darling pal, her Tacy, resides there always. Betsy's new life, the life of womanhood, of love and writing, of desire and loss, belongs to High Street.

"She and Tacy sat looking down Hill Street," Lovelace wrote in the book's final paragraph, "while the clouds in the sky behind Tacy's house turned pink. Their hands met as always, unfailingly, joined in a loyal clasp." You're probably the only people who would understand what happened yesterday as I read again those brave words of attachment and loyalty in the face of inevitable change and loss. The words blurred, and I burst into tears all alone there in my office in front of my computer. I didn't know why I was crying, but I knew absolutely that it was my truest self sobbing its heart out.

I'd cried these tears before, as a girl, of course, when I first read those words. I cried for the purity and faith of girlhood friendship, I cried for the urgency of our need for expression, I cried for the end of Betsy and Tacy as little girls, I cried for reasons I'll never be able to speak. So I cried when I was a girl, and now again. Never mind that I was crying the same tears. And why not? It's the same life. Just as yours is--or you wouldn't be here, in the depth and fullness of your lives, to tour not only Betsy's Deep Valley, but your own.

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## Memories of the Betsy-Tacy Convention Weekend

by JoAnne Fatherly of Newburgh, New York

This turned out to be a real mother-daughter weekend - not only was I there with my daughter, but my sister was there with *her* daughter. There were many other mother-daughter teams at the convention, plus a dozen or so complete families.

I was lucky enough to get on the flight from Newburgh I had planned to take, but I had a twenty-minute connection in Chicago. You probably know that "twenty-minute connection in Chicago" translates as "Run madly from concourse H to concourse K, carrying your luggage and overrunning any obstacle smaller than yourself." I made it, and arrived in Minneapolis on schedule, an hour and a half before my daughter Nicki's flight was due. It took me most of that time to find out where, on the three and a half concourses devoted to Northwest Airlines at that airport, the flight from Phoenix was expected!

Friday morning we registered for the convention, which was to open officially that evening. We walked up the hill (and it's quite a hill!) to the Blue Earth County Historical Society to see their exhibits on Minnesota history and the display of quilts by the local quilt guild, the Deep Valley Quilters. At six we were back, dressed, and waiting in line for the official opening, a birthday party at the once-Carnegie-Library, now local arts center. I was one of about twenty who made the first cut in the Trivia Bee, but went down rapidly in the second round. ("Where did Anna's boyfriend Charlie work?" took out six of us in rapid succession.)

Saturday was nitty-gritty day, conference day - the day we heard the speakers. The keynote speaker was an English prof whose field of specialization is the personal memoir, and she talked about the continuing appeal of this sort of book, noting that the last scene of one of the Betsy-Tacy books had always made her cry and that it still does.

Then we broke out for the presentations. My first session was "Classic Girls Series" by the president of the Phantom Friends collectors group. She had drawn up a grid showing the common features of those series that met the criterions of "classic," i.e. at least one title continuously in print for more than 25 years. She pointed out several unobtrusive factors - for instance, that none of these books have proper plots, but are episodic in nature. The plotted books tend to have shorter circulation lives!

Next came "Characters and Counterparts" which was in essence a sneak preview of Sharla Whalen's book, The Betsy-Tacy Companion. Sharla has researched all the prototypes Lovelace used. Besides the books, and being chairman of the convention, Sharla has three five-and-unders at home (or, in this case, with her husband, in the hotel). After lunch, "Home is Where the Heart Is" was about Lovelace's historical novels, her "other" books. This was followed by "Minnesota Women Authors" in which Laura Ingalls Wilder, Maud Hart Lovelace, Wanda Gag (it's pronounced "gahg"), and Borghild Dahl were compared. Television to the contrary, Wilder only lived in Minnesota for a couple of years. Wanda Gag was the author/illustrator of Millions of Cats, and Dahl was a truly extraordinary woman about whom I intend to learn more.

After that we hit the gift shop (again), and dressed for dinner. We compared speakers: Nicki had gone to one on the Syrian immigrants in Minnesota at the turn of the century, for instance, while my niece had made the discovery that she shares a birthday with Lois Lenski (who illustrated four of the Lovelace books). The banquet entertainment was extremely varied. Among other things, we heard from the only male speaker of the weekend, a TV personality from the Cities who introduced some rare film footage Lovelace had appeared in at the time of the Minnesota Centennial.

Sunday was all party! We took a bus tour of Mankato, to see many of the sites in the books. The woman who recently bought "Tacy's house" is thrilled to be living in a literary landmark and she let us tour the place. What a tiny house to raise ten children in! Wow! We hurried back to the hotel for "Christmas in Deep Valley," which besides food, featured a skit by Kelly Reuter and her two daughters, utilizing narrative right from the books -- with this crowd you wouldn't dare deviate by a hair!

Next we went out to the lake where "Deep Valley" vacationed. We had dinner there and the official farewell and thanks, but it wasn't over! Back to the hotel, where the fainthearts packed up and left for home. The rest of us had "Sunday Night Lunch."

On the way home, I had an hour's connection time in Chicago ("You can walk down to concourse K, and maybe stop at a restroom"), but we were delayed coming in on the ground, while they moved equipment. O'Hare is always a zoo; that day it was a zoo with all the cage doors left open. I missed my connection. Says the agent, gently, "This really isn't a good day to travel."

But via a reroute through LaGuardia and an hour-and-a-half-long bus ride, I made it home that night. It was worth it! A great weekend! Although I'm sure the committee isn't, many of the participants are willing to do it all over again!

P.S. A week later, Nicki called to report finding a copy of Carney's House Party for \$3 at her local used bookstore, two days after her return. Definitely a better finale than mine!



Herald Newspapers 22 July 1992

## Joyride III

By Libby Demp Forrest



I have just returned from a Minnesota odyssey. That beautiful state of 10,000 lakes was also the setting of a series of girls' books I started reading when I was about 12.

I fell in love with the Betsy-Tacy series and have stayed in love with them since. Around the time I read one of the Betsy-Tacy books, I wrote a letter to its author, Maud Hart Lovelace.

Back came a letter from the author, and out again went another letter to her. And so it went, for years and years, letter after letter, back and forth.

WE BECAME FRIENDS over the years and by the time she died in 1980 I had a box of her letters, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, inscribed books, and snapshots.

During those years I had also collected at least four visits with her. One of those visits was in Makato, Minnesota, when her old hometown honored the author during Betsy-Tacy days in 1961.

The Betsy-Tacy books, drawn on her girlhood experiences, artfully juxtapose real people and events with the fine flourishes of fiction. They are beautiful books, and over the years, their author has become an icon of quintessential girlhood. Her books are revered by women in many different places.

I MET QUITE A FEW of them in Mankato last week, women who came from California, Texas, Massachusetts, and many corners of the Midwest to pay homage to the memory of Maud Hart Lovelace and the birthplace she made famous.

In addition to the Betsy-Tacy books, she wrote several other children's books and four adult historical novels; 24 books in all.

But it is the Betsy-Tacy books that drew women from many corners of the country and Canada to celebrate her centennial.

She would have loved the lectures about her works by librarians, professors, and women in the arts, literature, history, and education; the tours to her childhood settings; the picnics, teas, and meals we shared together; sentimental sing-alongs; and an old-fashioned Christmas party that seem to lift right out of the pages of the Betsy-Tacy books.

MANY OF HER FANS stocked up on Maud Hart Lovelace commemoratives— old-fashioned china pieces, bookmarks, quilt blocks, pencils, canvas shopping bags, and newsletters about the Betsy-Tacy Society, the convention sponsor.

Some women brought their daughters, dressed in turn-of-the-century clothing. Some of the women wore old-fashioned dresses with lacy bodices and flouncy skirts, and flower-festooned straw hats, maybe pretending a little they were characters in the Betsy-Tacy books.

We women grow up and become duty-bound. Many of us become wives and mothers and nurses, and teachers, and social workers, and technicians, and writers. But inside, we try to hang onto our girly spirits. Maud Hart Lovelace understood this so well.

Didn't we have fun all together last week, Maud?

### Children's Book Catalog

Over 3000 different titles in 17 categories (over 200 Little Golden format last issue). Minimum 500 new listings in every issue. Send \$3.00 for one issue or \$15.00 for 6 issues. Nerman's Books, 410-63 Albert Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 1G4

### GIRLS SERIES BOOKS

Girls Series Books 1840-1991 is now available from the Kerlan Collection of the University of Minnesota. The spiral bound book expands an earlier edition covering series published from 1900 to 1975. Send a check or money order for \$22.25 (postpaid) payable to the University of Minnesota to: BTS Orders, Children's Literature Research Collections, 109 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.



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Roses are red, violets are blue,  
Don't forget, it's time to renew!!



## From Our Mailbox

*We'd love to hear from you! Address correspondence to:  
Michele Franck, Corresponding Secretary, 294 Chestnut Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
Should you wish to respond to the letter-writers below, please address them c/o Michele.*

"Oh bless you! As a 37 year old mother of two who has read and reread Betsy-Tacy since third grade, I would love information about the Society. I am an eternal fan who, alas, has never been able to find Carney's House Party or Winona's Pony Cart. I will even come to the books and read them on someone's doorstep if necessary." Nancy Cleaveland, Avondale Estates, GA

"I was amazed by the amount of work everyone put into the convention. The decorations, the souvenirs, the food, the atmosphere -- everything was more perfect than perfect. Every talk I attended was interesting and informative. I loved walking to the Betsy-Tacy sites (and later taking the bus there). I loved going into Tacy's house. I loved the entertainment -- and the onion sandwiches. There are too many horror stories on the evening news. It's refreshing to be able to recreate a time when people gave to others instead of taking from others. Just think -- 300 people and one Carney's House Party in the same room, and there was no fighting and no disagreeing and no bickering. Everyone was friendly. Everyone shared tales and experiences. Maybe the U.N. should be sent a truckload of Betsy-Tacy books to read?" Rosemarie DiCristo, Bronx, NY

"I've loved the Betsy-Tacy books since I can remember. My three sisters and I spent tons of time at the library. It has never seemed quite right that someone who loves paperdolls, roses, Little Women, pink and yellow, Edwardian "stuff," A Room with a View, etc. should have sons. Oh well - I am certainly looking forward to the newsletter!" Linda Brown, Los Alamitos, CA

"I was thrilled to read in the July issue of Victoria that I am not alone in haunting bookstores "for my niece" for any Betsy-Tacy book. I grew up in California where I read every Betsy-Tacy book, along with Emily of Deep Valley. I have since moved to Colorado where, I believe, they have never heard of Maud Hart Lovelace. In used bookstores I have found only three books of the series and I've run out of used bookstores in Denver." Amy Richardson, Aurora, CO

"Having grown up in Mapleton, just 20 miles south of "Deep Valley," and having been a lover of Lovelace since an early age, I, like many of the letter writers in Newsletter #8, was surprised and excited to learn about the existence of the Betsy-Tacy Society. My letter to Ms. Kriney at HarperCollins has been written and will be mailed at the same time as this membership form. I hope the drive to keep the books alive succeeds. I'm glad that I grew up in the heart of Betsy-Tacy country, with a complete collection of "Deep Valley" books readily available from the public library, and wish that every little girl could have the same opportunity. I hate to think of my nieces growing up without three of the best friends a girl could ever have. A big thanks to you and the founders of the Betsy-Tacy Society for your efforts to keep the books alive. They are an important part of Americana which we cannot afford to lose." Janice M. Kunkel, Mapleton, MN

"With much work, effort, and imagination you created memories that will last a lifetime for all who experienced the convention weekend. With heartfelt thanks, Colleen Timmins, North St. Paul, MN"

A note accompanying fees for two years of membership read: "Hope this doesn't 'confuse the books,' but now that I've discovered the Betsy-Tacy Society, I don't want to miss a word!" Patricia DeLucia, Mount Laurel, NJ

"I have been a Betsy, Tacy, and Tib fan for years. Most of my friends had never heard of them and would make jokes about them to me. I was thrilled to see the article in Victoria magazine, first of all to show my non-believing friends they did exist, and second of all because I know there are other fans out there besides me." Melissa Gajewski, Cleveland, OH

"I am one of the die-hard Betsy-Tacy fans addressed in the July issue of Victoria. At age 29, I still lovingly reread my library-discard copies of Maud Hart Lovelace on a yearly basis!" Terry Gur, Fredericksburg, VA

"You cannot imagine my surprise when I read the article in my local Sunday paper describing your organization. Betsy-Tacy books were among my special treats when I was growing up in Brooklyn, New York. I had no idea of the broad appeal of these stories until I read this article. (Naturally, my own daughter, Lauren, age 18, is also a Betsy-Tacy fan.)" Jan Boettcher, Richmond, VA

"My mother grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy series and remembers with great fondness many happy hours spent following their adventures. Mom became a grandmother recently and would love to someday give the books as a gift to her granddaughter." Rosemary Pinney, Fairfax, VA

"I was excited to read of a Betsy-Tacy Society because I have a special remembrance of these books -- all wound up with the summers of my childhood." Sandra Stafford, Huntsville, AL



*From Our Mailbox - continued*

"I just read of the Betsy-Tacy Society and I can barely contain my excitement! I thought I was the only adult who loved or even knew of Betsy Ray and Tacy Kelly! Ever since I first read the series in fourth grade, Betsy has been my true best friend and faithful companion. Even now, I still read the complete series at least once a year, if not more often. Discovering this society is truly one of the nicest things that I have experienced." Kim Wise, State College, PA

"I was so thrilled to see an article about the Betsy-Tacy series. As a girl, they were my favorite books, and I shared them with my two daughters as they grew up. I hope to buy a complete set of the books as a gift for my granddaughter. All these years I thought I was the only person that read them!" Judith Bragg, Los Altos Hills, CA

"I have been a fan of these books since I discovered them in 1958 when I was ten years old." Terry Lethcho, Seattle WA

"While reading the July issue of Victoria magazine, I came across the article regarding the Betsy-Tacy Society and was thrilled! For the past thirty years, I thought I was the only person who remembered and continued to love those little girls! What a pleasant surprise to know you exist!" Kathleen Thayer, Weirton, WV

"I'm so happy to hear that there are others out there!" Evelyn Osborne, Guilford, IN

"This morning as I was leafing through the new issue of Victoria magazine, I came across an article about my beloved Betsy-Tacy books. Imagine my surprise to discover that there is a Companion, a Society, and a Convention. I had no idea that there were still people out there who knew and loved those books as I do." Deborah Thomas, Albany, NY

"I received my July issue of Victoria this morning and after I got my two little girls down for their nap, I sat down and read an article about the Betsy-Tacy Society. It's amazing that other adults remember those books as fondly as I do. I would love to receive information on the Society. I hope to purchase the entire ten volume series for a special reason -- my youngest daughter, Betsy, is Betsy Ray's namesake!" Jeri Lathrop, Trenton, MI

"I was thrilled to read about the Betsy-Tacy Society. It is so exciting to know I am not the only adult who relishes time spent with these two old friends!" Dena Fleurichamp, Sedro Woolley, WA

"My daughter, now 31, loved Betsy-Tacy as I did -- and her daughter, Jessica (16 months), will grow up on it as well. I was thrilled to hear that Betsy-Tacy has not been forgotten." Diane Walker, Huntington Station, NY

"I am thrilled to find out that I am not the only one who loves the Betsy-Tacy books." Lauren Davis, Greensboro, NC

"I read the article about your organization in the July 1992 issue of Victoria magazine. My mind and soul were immediately transported back to 1959." Irene Vallone, Brooklyn, NY

"I was thrilled and delighted to read about the Betsy-Tacy Society. Finally! My guilty secret can come out -- I'm a 27-year-old career woman with strong feminist leanings who adores the Betsy-Tacy books!" Laura Northern, Dallas, TX

"Ever since I discovered the Betsy-Tacy books as a little girl, they have been my favorite set of stories. I even bought my own set of books a few years ago through the publisher. Now I don't have to depend on the library to get them for me." Kristina Henning, Mequon, WI

"I recently read about the Betsy-Tacy Society in Victoria magazine. As a college senior who has 'smuggled copies' of the Betsy-Tacy books in my dorm room very often, this article was a joy to discover." Stephanie Cummings, Beaumont, TX

"I was extremely surprised and happy to read about your Betsy-Tacy Society. As a young girl I too was in love with the Maud Hart Lovelace books. Many years later I introduced them to my own daughter. She quickly became enamored with all the Betsy-Tacy stories." Penny Campbell, New York, NY

"I loved Maud Hart Lovelace's books when I was growing up and did not know such aficionados elsewhere existed! How wonderful to find a proper adult society to foster our childhood passions!" Teresa Rouzer, Greensboro, NC

"My joy at receiving the latest issue of Victoria magazine was exceeded only by the thrill of learning about the Betsy-Tacy Society. How exciting to know others share my love of these books, and how hopeful I am that your organization will give me more information on the books and their author. I will be unable to travel to the Mankato convention. About that time I hope to be bringing another Betsy-Tacy fan into the world. Reading about your organization was like a day spent on the 'Big Hill.' Thank you!" Sarah Geiger, Abilene, KS (Ed. Note: Caroline Marie weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 1/2 ozs.! Congratulations Geigers all!)



# SEASONS TO BETSY

By Brenda Worsley  
Albany, Georgia

A fall edition of Brenda's series of articles, evoking the seasons as represented in the Betsy-Tacy books ...

*"There was something so familiar about September - golden fields clean swept by harvest, sumac reddening along country roads, birds in great sociable flocks ready to fly south."*

September, for me, has always seemed to be the beginning of the year. I suspect Betsy Ray felt this way, too. She began new journals about her family life and high school activities each September, journals filled with descriptions of autumn events. The high school books refer to her family's outing to hear Chauncey Olcott at the Opera House each autumn. She wrote of rides in the surrey out in the crisp autumn air smelling of bonfires. Football games, Halloween parties, school dances were all part of her lively Crowd's entertainment.

September was also a time of renewal for Betsy, as she looked forward with enthusiasm to each new school year. Betsy's love for her high school, her Crowd, and her family was contagious for all of us who read the books as adolescents. We wanted a school, a crowd, and a loving family just like Betsy's. For Betsy, life was full of time-honored celebrations. During the autumn of her senior year, she realized this pattern of fun and traditions was changing and life would never be quite the same.

For many Lovelace readers, the most memorable autumn event in the Betsy-Tacy books was the Rays' anniversary trip to Murmuring Lake each October. Maud wrote, "The trip usually came at a glittering autumnal moment when Minnesota was a paradise of blue skies and lakes, with red and gold leaves overhead and underfoot." Each year, for his daughters, Mr. Ray retold the story of his engagement to Mrs. Ray. He showed the girls the oak tree where they were engaged, and Mrs. Ray showed them the bay window where they were wed. As a young reader, I thought this was so romantic. I still think so. What a wonderful legacy of love they passed down to their daughters!

I know many of us, on our visit to the lake during the convention, reflected on that anniversary trip, as well as the summer vacations the Rays took there. Looking around at the beautiful lake and countryside, I remembered the pictorial autumn descriptions from the books. I could even visualize the Ray family strolling on the banks through flame colored leaves as Mr. Ray told his story.

I fell in love with Minnesota many years ago, before I ever went there, through the Betsy-Tacy books. Living in the South and having a very minimal autumn, I imagine Minnesota to be at its most glorious in this season. From the descriptions Maud wrote in her books, perhaps she thought so, too.



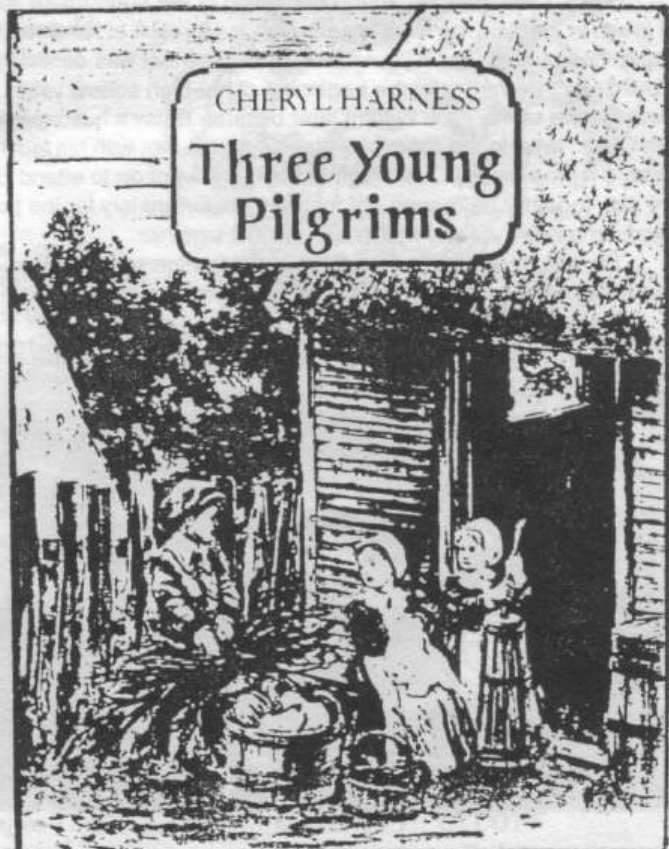
Dear Betsy-Tacy Society Members,

The convention has long been over but the memories linger on. I cherish the thoughts of conversations with members from all over the nation, of the thoughtful and delightful workshops, and tables decorated with wonderful imaginative themes.

Each and every person who attended made the convention the success it was and I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

And now here on Center Street the children have gone back to school just as the children of Hill Street did 90 years ago. After school the street is noisy with play just as it was when Betsy and friends came home from school. The trees are beginning to turn and it is a wonderful time to come again or make a first time visit to Hill Street of Deep Valley.

Doris Berger, President of B-TS



Illustrated in full color by the author.  
*Three Young Pilgrims*, Bradbury Press, September 1992  
\$15.95 ISBN 0-02-742643-2



## BETSY, TACY, AND TIB

### *Jen Mat, Jen Tom, and Mere*

by Jennifer Mathews of Birmingham, Alabama

Betsy and Tacy and Tib were three little girls who were friends. They never quarreled. They lived in a small town called Deep Valley, Minnesota. *Jen Mat, Mere, and Jen Tom were best friends. They grew up in Birmingham, Alabama.* Tacy was the tallest. She had long red ringlets, freckles, and bright blue eyes. *Jen Tom was tall, with long red hair, freckles, and blue, blue eyes.* Tib was the smallest. she was little and dainty with round blue eyes and a fluff of yellow hair. She looked like a picture-book fairy, except, of course, that she didn't have wings. *Mere was the smallest. She was dainty and blond, with grey-blue eyes. Boys all found her irresistible.* Betsy was the middle-sized one. She had hair which stood out in a soft brown fluff around her face, which was round and beaming with very red cheeks. *Jen Mat was of middle height, with curly brown hair, green eyes and very pink cheeks.* Betsy loved to think up things to do, and Tacy and Tib loved doing them.

"Betsy, Tacy, and Tib were born in 1892 and graduated from Deep Valley High School in 1910. Jennifer Tomlin, Meredith Cummings, and I were born in 1972, eighty years after Maud Hart Lovelace's characters. We graduated from Ramsay Alternative High School in 1990, nearly a century after the fictitious trio. Yet the parallels are clear. There are a few inconsistencies in the story of likeness, but there are eerie coincidences that almost suggest a psychic link! I loved the "Betsy stories" even before I became close friends with Jen and Mere, for we were not really close until high school. However, the similarities began to unfold rapidly as our friendship strengthened; we resemble Betsy, Tacy, and Tib in physical appearance as well as some inner character traits. My likeness to Betsy is almost uncanny at times, as is Meredith's to Tib. Jennifer T. is not as close to Tacy as we are to our respective counterparts, but we each exhibit some characteristics of the three at one time or another. I am further drawn to Betsy because she is the central character, from whose perspective many events are related. She is a writer, thus the author herself seems to favor Betsy. As an English major who hopes to write someday, I love her all the more. Perhaps Mrs. Lovelace created the epitome of three silly little girls growing up, for we all can identify with one experience or another. The relationship between her characters and Jen Mat, Jen Tom, and Mere shows them to be timeless.

Betsy, self-described at the beginning of her sophomore year, had dark brown, wavy hair. Her eyes were hazel, with "lots of green in them." She wore green often, as a result of her eye color. In her blue and white bedroom, with two windows, she began her journal. My bedroom during high school was decorated basically in blue and white, with two windows. Betsy's family moved to a new house at the beginning of her high school years, as did mine, and moved again when Betsy went to college. Mine did the same. Joe Willard later became Betsy's husband, after attending Harvard University. My high school boyfriend, Jim Chalk, lived in the room of a friend's house, not with his family, as Joe Willard lived in a "room somewhere" (according to Betsy's journal entry). After high school, Jim went on to attend Boston University, while I am at nearby Wellesley College. We are still "together," although not married. Unfortunately for the parallel, Jim is not blond, but Mere and Jen also found him handsome when we were all in high school together.

Tib was popular with all the boys during high school, yet she did not settle down with anyone after graduating. After Tacy and Betsy were married, Tib still had not found that "special someone." This caused some concern for her two friends,

who feared that Tib would become an old maid. Mere dated all the eligibles during high school, then continued this at the University of Alabama. Rather than settle down, she attends every function on the arm of a different beau. Jen and I do not fear that she will be an old maid, not at the tender age of 19, but it makes for a great joke!

Tacy was swept away by salesman Harry Kerr, a newcomer to Deep Valley. Jen, Tacy's counterpart for the twenty-first century, is "romantically involved" with Ed Guthrie, whom she met at Birmingham-Southern College. He is a newcomer to Mere and me. Jen and Ed are not married or engaged, but they are pinned. Jen plans to have several children, and at the end of the series, Tacy is the only one of the three to have children.



*Meredith Cummings, Jennifer Tomlin & Jennifer Mathews*



# CHAUNCEY OLCOTT

by Ruth Berman of Minneapolis, MN

In Betsy in Spite of Herself, the "Septemberish" chapter tells of the traditional visit most Septembers to the Opera House, to see Chauncey Olcott, in more or less the same play in many variations. As Frank M. Whiting remarks in his Minnesota Theatre, From Old Fort Snelling to the Guthrie (Minneapolis: Pogo Books, 1988), Olcott was once "almost as familiar to Minnesotans as ... Paul Bunyan or Governor Ramsey ... He appeared in the Twin Cities seventeen times, playing at least 136 performances, more than any other actor (male or female) who was not a member of a resident company" (p. 95).

In the Minneapolis Tribune, August 26, 1907, reviewer Caryl B. Storrs writes:

"In his annual curtain speech at the Metropolitan opera house last evening, Chauncey Olcott somewhat disarmed criticism by pretending to infer, through the medium of a funny story, that he desired to antagonize the critics. It would be difficult for anyone so genial and so capable of giving pleasure to antagonize anybody, even a member of the supposedly hostile tribe of dramatic reviewers. During the last two acts of the play last night the writer had the pleasure of the companionship of a twelve year old girl, and the child's eager delight in Mr. Olcott would have drawn the barb of criticism, even had Mr. Olcott's curtain speech failed to do so.

That there is opportunity for adverse criticism of Chauncey Olcott and his plays, from the standpoint of the drama's highest mission, Mr. Olcott himself would doubtless admit. But from the point of view of the thousands of worthy citizens (and citizenesses) all over the country, who find in his annual visit one of the bright spots in the dramatic year, he deserves only congratulation and commendation.

The company is composed principally of negative or conventional actors, whose stilted methods, combined with glaringly new costumes and too vivid make-ups lend them an air of painted unreality. The exceptions are Daniel Jarrett, whose Barney McGee is genuine; Rose Curry, to whom the songs are directed; and Alice Farrell, who plays Elly O'Toole prettily. Anna Wilks, when she masters the Irish brogue, will prove entertaining as the bad boy, introduced to give play to Mr. Olcott's talent for good natured banter.

Though a speech was vociferously demanded at the close of every act but the last, Mr. Olcott waited until the psychological moment, which for some mysterious reason seems to be the end of the third, before really gratifying the insistent demand. He then spoke gracefully of his pleasure at beginning his seasons in so cordial a city as Minneapolis, made his humorous references to critics and tried to make his escape. But of course it was no use, and he was compelled to give 'My Wild Irish Rose' and 'Day Dreams' before the play could proceed."



CHAUNCEY OLCOTT  
Minneapolis Tribune  
September 1, 1907



## 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: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

by Lucia Duff  
Minneapolis, MN

Great minds do think alike! I have been delighted to read other members' submissions to "What Are You Reading?" and discovering common favorites. I hope you'll recognize old friends or intriguing new ideas from my list:

*The Blue Bedroom and Other Stories* by Rosmunde Pilcher. A marvelous collection of engaging stories about contemporary women in Great Britain.

*Nell and Three Women at the Water's Edge* by Nancy Thayer. Actually, anything by Nancy Thayer gets a thumbs-up from me. Like Maud, she writes so vividly about the tastes, smells, sights, and sounds that make up family life.

*The Egg and I* by Betty McDonald. This is the same Betty MacDonald who wrote the great Mrs. Piggle Wiggle series for children. But this is the book that started her career. The woman is incredibly funny. Reprinted in paperback a few years ago.

*Auntie Mame and Around the World with Auntie Mame* by Patrick Dennis. Extremely hard to find (right up there with *Carney's House Party*) but hopefully in most libraries. Laugh-out-loud funny. My sister and I practically came to blows over who would take these books with her to college.



by Carlienne Frisch  
Mankato, MN

Those of us who grew up with the idea that reading was second only to breathing developed a deep affection for our companions -- Betsy, Tacy, and Tib, as well as Laura Ingalls, Beany Malone, Judy Bolton and Peter, Trixie Belden, Ginny Gordon, and the perennial Nancy Drew, Ned, George, and Beth. Some were real people; most were fictional but seemed real -- especially to those of us who had no brothers or sisters with whom to share our childhood fun.

I remember being caught up in the escapades of Jack and his sister, Lucy, and Dinah and her brother, Philip, the creations of author Enid Blyton. Years later, my children read my five volumes: *Mystery Island*, *Castle of Adventure*, *Valley of Adventure*, *Sea of Adventure*, and *Mountain of Adventure*. The kids announced they

would disown me if I ever gave away "the adventure books."

I clearly recall the strong sense of loss I felt when I finished reading the fifth book. There would be no new adventure with my four friends! At the time I didn't know there were more books in the series, such as *Ship of Adventure*, *Circus of Adventure*, and *River of Adventure*. (Perhaps they hadn't yet been written - I discovered them just recently.) So here's the good news: some of the books in Blyton's "adventure" series are still on the shelves of today's libraries. There's time for me to catch up with my friends' adventures ...



by Joanne Goldberg  
Philadelphia, PA

I read the "What are you reading" feature in the Summer, 1992 BTS Newsletter and can't resist adding a few of my own favorites. Along with the *Anne of Green Gables* books (make sure you've read *Rainbow Valley* and *Rilla of Ingleside*, the last two in the series) and others by L.M. Montgomery (especially the *Emily* books), I adore Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, the *Little House* books, Dorothy Canfield's *Understood Betsy*, plus *Jane Eyre*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Sydney Taylor's *All of a Kind Family*. Aside from my varied academic reading, which runs the gamut from Chaucer to business case studies (I'm an English and Marketing major), my leisure reading includes classics like E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View* and romance authors LaVyrle Spencer, Johanna Lindsey, and Catherine Coulter. But the most compelling (and addictive) book I've read in a long time has to be Helen Hooven Santmeyer's ... *And Ladies of the Club*.



by Leslie Croce  
Germany

### Historical Fiction

I thought I was the only person in the world who had read *Campion Towers* until I read Michele Franck's list (Newsletter #6, Winter, 1991)! She's right; it's extraordinarily good. So is *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.



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

continued

(Leslie Croce continued)

Some others that weren't on Michele's list:

*The Nickel-Plated Beauty* by Patricia Beatty  
*The Ark and Rowan Farm* by Margot Benary-Isbert  
*Caddie Woodlawn* and *Magical Melons* by Carol Ryrie Brink

*Those Miller Girls!* by Alberta Wilson Constant

*Rebecca's War* by Ann Finlayson

Books by Cynthia Harnett (publishers keep changing the titles)

*Proud Servant*, *The Stranger Prince*, and *The Bride* by Margaret Irwin

*Secret of the Crazy Quilt* by Florence Hightower

*All-of-a-Kind Family* and sequels by Sydney Taylor

Historical Fantasy/Time Travel/Fantasy

Again I agree with Michele Franck: *The Little White Horse*, *The Sherwood Ring*, and *The Perilous Gard* are worth reading over and over again, and *A Traveller in Time* is one of the best books I've ever read. Try these:

*The Green Knowe* books by L.M. Boston

*The Vision of Stephen* by Lolah Burford

*The Court of the Stone Children* by Eleanor Cameron

*Charlotte Sometimes* and *The Summer Birds* by Penelope Farmer

*The Apple Stone* by Nicholas Stuart Gray

*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

*The Borrowers* and sequels by Mary Norton

*The Sword and the Circle*, *The Road to Camlann*, and

*The Light Beyond the Forest* by Rosemary Sutcliff

*A Wrinkle in Time* and sequels by Madeleine L'Engle

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

An awful name for the category - it's simply books set "now" (when the author was writing); historical background isn't a vital part of the story, and it's recent enough that it's barely noticeable anyway, except because of changing technology or clothing styles.

*The Magic of the Glits* and *Some Other Summer* by C.S. Adler

The *Katie John* series by Mary Calhoun

*The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes

*The Saturdays*, *The Four-Story Mistake*, *Then There Were Five*, *Spiderweb for Two*, *Gone-Away Lake*, and *Return to Gone-Away* by Elizabeth Enright

The Marlowe family books by Antonia Forest (They're British; I don't think they were published in the U.S., but maybe they were in Canada)

The Macdonald Hall books by Gordon Korman

The shoe-business books by Noel Streatfeild

*The Changeling*, *The Velvet Room*, and *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Miscellaneous and Classics

Yes! *Little Women*, *A Secret Garden*, *A Little Princess*, *Anne of Green Gables*, the *Little House* books, *Beany Malone*, the *Chronicles of Brother Cadfael*, and Elswyth Thane's Williamsburg novels. Don't forget:

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* and sequels by Baroness Orczy

*Mr. Lincoln's Army*, *Glory Road*, and *A Stillness at*

*Appomattox* by Bruce Catton

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

Pick of the List from American Bookseller August '92  
 Reviewed by Rosemary and Michael Stimola

*Three Young Pilgrims* by Cheryl Harness  
 ISBN 0-02-742643-2 \$15.95

"History comes alive in this story, focusing on the experiences and perceptions of three Pilgrim children who traveled with their family on the Mayflower. Richly detailed illustrations, maps, timelines, and other informative devices explain the historical context in which the voyage took place and vividly portray life at the Plymouth plantation. Readers come to understand the personal sacrifices as well as rewards of forging a life in the New World."

*The Tree that Came to Stay* by Anna

Quindlen, illus. by Nancy Carpenter, Crown, ISBN 0-517-58145-0, \$13.00

"This tenderly illustrated remembrance of a particular Christmas tree is narrated with great warmth and an inspired sense of childhood wonder. The tree's selection, its trimming, and the way mom helps her family preserve its scent and spirit long after the holiday is past are the main elements of this affectionate look at a family's 'best Christmas ever.' It will surely strike a responsive chord in many homes this holiday season."

Other new or forthcoming titles by members of the Betsy-Tacy Society:

*Virgin Time, In Search of the Contemplative Life* by Patricia Hampl

Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1992, \$22.00

*Dreadful Sorry* by Kathryn Reiss

Harcourt Brace, April, 1993

Are we missing some? Please send in the titles!



## Betsy-Tacy Fans Unable to Attend the Convention Have Been Inquiring about Betsy-Tacy Souvenirs

The souvenirs below are available by mail. Please note that supplies are limited, so place your order promptly. All proceeds from convention souvenirs go to the not-for-profit Betsy-Tacy Society (whose primary goal is the purchase of Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home in Mankato, MN for use as a museum and visitor center). Allow 6 -8 weeks for delivery.

**1) CONVENTION  
STICKERS**  
3 for \$1.25 postpaid



ACTUAL SIZE IS THREE INCHES

**2) BETSY-TACY  
PENCILS**

The cost for a set of six pencils (one each of the six styles) is \$3.75 postpaid.

The pencils read:

1. Ray's Shoe Store  
Deep Valley, Minnesota  
Wear Queen Quality Shoes  
(navy pencil)
2. I ♥ Maud ♥ Lovelace (pink)
3. Deep Valley High School  
Class of 1910 (silver)
4. Zet! Zet! Zetamathians! (blue)
5. Philo! Philo! Philomathians!  
(orange)
6. The Betsy-Tacy Society  
303 Meadow Wood Dr.  
Mankato, MN 56001 (white)

**3) CONVENTION  
BOOKMARKS**  
Set of 12 for \$6.00  
or 50c each  
postpaid

The bookmark shown below is actual size. There are twelve styles, each with a different Betsy-Tacy illustration by Lois Lenski or Vera Neville (see page 15).

**Betsy-Tacy  
Convention**

**Deep Valley,  
Minnesota**

**July 10-12, 1992**



**Maud Hart Lovelace  
Centennial**

The Betsy-Tacy Society  
303 Meadow Wood Drive  
Mankato, MN 56001

**4) BETSY-TACY  
POST-IT NOTES**  
Set of 4 for \$4.00  
postpaid

Post-it note designs are as follows:

1. 2" x 3" (vertical) green post-it note with green imprinting: "Betsy was always making lists..."

2. 2" x 3" (vertical) blue post-it note with Lois Lenski drawing of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib on their bench. Blue imprinting: "Forever Friends."

3. Shown below. 2" x 3" (vertical) pink post-it note with Lois Lenski drawing from p. 53 of Betsy-Tacy and Tib. Brown imprinting: "Don't Forget."

4. 3" x 6" (vertical) white post-it note with Vera Neville illustration of Betsy by her trunk. Green imprinting: "Perhaps people who liked to write always made lists ... just for the fun of it."





5) ♥ **Convention Collectibles** includes Convention Poster, Button, Tasting Tea Booklet, Registration Guide and Commemorative Medallion. **\$10.00 postpaid**

The Poster, Button, and Guide all bear the Betsy-Tacy Society convention logo (pictured on the sticker shown on page 14) in green ink on white. The Guide is a twenty page booklet describing convention activities, events, speakers, and programs. It includes a map of Mankato (Deep Valley). The Guide has become a collector's item and is available in limited quantities. The **Tasting Tea Booklet** is an eleven-page souvenir compiled by Jill Callison. It contains recipes for some of the foods offered at the convention's Tasting Tea, including Welsh rarebit and Little Syrian baklava. The Commemorative Medallion was created by artist Cheryl Harness, a photo-engraving of the convention logo in pewter.

6) ♥ **Convention Sampler** consists of Convention Poster, Button, and Tasting Tea Booklet only. **\$3.00 postpaid**

♥ **Convention Bookmarks**

Each of the twelve speakers at the convention chose a Betsy-Tacy illustration to appear on the bookmark given at her presentation. **50¢ each postpaid**



3a)

Memories of Maud Shirley Loeke

3b)

Classic Girls' Series Kate Emburg

3c)

Women who Drew D.V. Cheryl Harness

3d)

Collectors' Hints Colleen Timmins

3e)

A Heroine Flourishes Mary Atwell

3f)

Characters & Counterparts Shelia Whalen



3g)

My Love Affair Kathy Baxter

3h)

Home Is Where Susan Stanfield

3i)

Kerlan Collection Karen Hoyle

3j)

Great World Revisited Beth Hudson

3k)

History of Little Syria Gail Palmer

3l)

MN Women Authors Lyn Lacy

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A BETSY-TACY PICNIC



TACY TIB BETSY



MAUD HART AND DELOS WHEELER LOVELACE



THE HARTS OF MAUKATO • THE RAYS OF DEEP VALLEY

# Betsy - Tacy Society Designs



Betsy Meets a Friend



Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown



Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill



Betsy and Tom



Betsy in Spite of Herself



Betsy's Wedding



Betsy and the Great World



Home to Betsy

- 13) Quilt Blocks - Set of 12 (Shown above) \$25  
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- 14a) "Betsy-Tacy" Raspberry: Child S & M; Adult S, M, L, XL
- 14b) "Heaven to Betsy" Aqua: Adult M, L, XL & XXL
- 14c) "Betsy, Tacy & Tib" Pink in Sizes: Child S & M; Adult S, M, L, XL, & XXL.
- 15) Aprons - "Everything Pudding" Child & Adult
- 16a) "Shop Deep Valley" Large Tote Bag \$9.95
- 16b) "Betsy - Tacy & Tib" Small Tote Bag \$6.95
- 17) "Windows to the Past" by Rene Ratzlof. A book of games and puzzles for children. \$5



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# The Betsy Tacy Society Shop

2438 1/2 18th Avenue, N. W., # 5-205, Rochester, Minnesota 55901 Attn: Kay Hocker

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Qty	Code	Title	Price	Total
1	1	Convention Stickers (3)	\$1.25	
2	2	Betsy-Tacy Pencils (6)	\$3.75	
3	3	Convention Bookmarks (12)	\$6.00	
3a	3a	Memories of Maud Bookmark	\$.50	
3b	3b	Classic Girls Bookmark	\$.50	
3c	3c	Women Who Drew Bookmark	\$.50	
3d	3d	Collector's Hints Bookmark	\$.50	
3e	3e	A Heroine Bookmark	\$.50	
3f	3f	Characters Bookmark	\$.50	
3g	3g	My Love Affair Bookmark	\$.50	
3h	3h	Home is Where Bookmark	\$.50	
3i	3i	Kerlan Collection Bookmark	\$.50	
3j	3j	Great World Bookmark	\$.50	
3k	3k	History of Syria Bookmark	\$.50	
3l	3l	Women Authors Bookmark	\$.50	
4	4	B-T Post-It Notes (4)	\$4.00	
5	5	Convention Collectibles	\$10.00	
6	6	Convention Sampler	\$3.00	

**Office Use Only**

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ V \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Mo/Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Qty	Size	Code	Title	Price	Total
7		7	4" x 5" Notecards (4)	\$3.25	
8a		8a	Window Bookplates (24)	\$5.00	
8b		8b	Tree Bookplates (24)	\$5.00	
9		9	Tacy, Tib & Betsy Pewter	\$22.50	
10		10	Bench Pin Pewter	\$10.00	
11		11	5" x 7" Notecards (4)	\$4.00	
12		12	5" x 7" Notecards (8)	\$7.50	
13		13	Quilt Blocks (12)	\$25.00	
14a		14a	B-T Raspberry T-Shirt*	\$9.95	
14b		14b	Heaven Aqua T-Shirt*	\$9.95	
14c		14c	B, T, & T Pink T-Shirt*	\$9.95	
15		15	"Everything Pudding" Apron	\$9.95	
16a		16a	"Shop Deep Valley" Lg. Tote	\$9.95	
16b		16b	B, T, & T Sm. Tote	\$6.95	
17		17	Games & Puzzles	\$5.00	

\*If additional sizes are desired, please note on separate sheet and attach.

Merchandise Subtotals	Regular Delivery
Up to \$15.00.....	\$2.95
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\$30.01-\$45.00.....	\$5.65
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\$65.01-\$95.00.....	\$8.65
\$95.01+.....	\$9.75

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

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Delivery Charge \_\_\_\_\_

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Minnesota residents add 6.5% sales tax



## CONVENTION ROUNDUP

If you would like to write up an account of your convention memories for the Newsletter, please send it to Michele or Lona.

### RAFFLE

Thanks to the hard work of Bonnie Daly, our raffle coordinator, we sold 1679 raffle tickets at the convention.

The winners were:

Nancy Dirito • Carney's House Party  
 Jenny Mealey • Emily of Deep Valley  
 Lisa Trimmerger • Betsy and the Great World  
 Lucia Duff • Betsy Was a Junior  
 Natalie Hoyle • Betsy's Wedding  
 Wendylee Raun • Heaven to Betsy  
 Mary Atwell • Heaven to Betsy  
 Barbara Carter • Betsy's Wedding  
 Lucia Duff • Betsy in Spite of Herself  
 Kate Mosezzo • Betsy-Tacy and Tib  
 Jeannie Kusserow • Betsy and Joe  
 Kathleen Dorn • Betsy and Joe  
 Kathleen Keating • Downtown  
 Deb Waters • Betsy in Spite of Herself  
 Hannah Earl • Early Candlelight  
 Ruth Tallakson • Downtown  
 Bonnie Davis • Downtown  
 Linda Donalson • Over the Big Hill  
 Meghan Weyrens • Betsy-Tacy

Sheet music winners will be printed in the next newsletter.

### TRIVIA

Jean Setering (Bloomington, MN) was the winner of the Trivia Bee. She was given a run for her trophy by Stephanie Cummings (Beaumont, TX) and Susan Stanfield (Manhattan, KS)!

Due to the heat of the evening (which allowed us all to experience July at the Carnegie library "authentically"), it was desirable to secure a winner in a moderate length of time - therefore the Trivia questions progressed from "easy" to "impossible" with crucial rapidity! Here are some of them:

What was Tacy's big sister's name?  
 The name of Tib's family's hired girl?  
 What did the girls use to make lockets out of, when they cut their hair?  
 What fairy tale did the girls and Freddie re-enact in Tib's basement?  
 The name of the English teacher who picked on Betsy about commas?  
 What did Julia recite at the school entertainment in OVER THE BIG HILL?  
 What perfume was Mrs. Ray known for wearing?  
 What did the initials TCKC stand for?  
 From what city did Miss Bangeter, the high school principal, come?  
 The name of the Rays' horse?  
 What color Easter egg did Betsy and Tacy leave in the bird's nest for Baby Bee?  
 The name of Betsy's piano teacher?  
 Whose father died at the end of Betsy Was a Junior?  
 Name one of the games played at Betsy's tenth birthday party?  
 What was the name of Paul Kelly's dog?  
 Who was the Zetamathian faculty advisor?  
 Who was the Philomathian faculty advisor?  
 What color did Julia wear in Betsy's Wedding?  
 Where did Tacy's mother keep her ringlets after the girls cut their hair?  
 The name of the farmers whom Betsy visited in Betsy and Joe?  
 What song did the flying lady fly to in BTT?  
 Name one of the cartoons in the Milwaukee funny paper that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib enjoyed?  
 In Betsy-Tacy and Tib, the three girls used to like to look at pictures of beautiful ladies in what magazine?  
 What was the name of the boat on which Betsy sailed for Europe in GREAT WORLD?

The names of Margaret's cat and dog?  
 Who was Anna's beau and where did he work?  
 What kind of trees lined the Secret Lane?  
 The name of the owners of the Inn at Murruring Lake?  
 Who ate the legs first on Mrs. Chubbock's chocolate man?  
 What stylish new hairdo did Joe keep topping the day he got into Minneapolis from the East?  
 What color bows did Betsy and Tacy wear on costumes for the CAT DUET?  
 What was on Betsy's wedding cake besides flowers and ribbons?  
 What two colors was the gingham in Betsy's fifth birthday dress?  
 What were the first and last names of Betsy's two German friends, between whom she divided her time in Munich?  
 The name of Julia's beau who loved to sing the Toreador song from Carmen?  
 Who was the captain of the football team in the fall of 1906?  
 If apple blossoms are rosy, what color were the morning glories on 909's backporch? (warning - two word answer)  
 Which is the only Betsy-Tacy book without a quotation on the end papers?

### FROM LONA'S CLUTTERED DESK

If we have been wrongly spelling part of your name or address, please note the correction when mailing in your membership renewal. Simply correct the error on the mailing label (on the reverse of the membership form below)

Michele Franck did such a wonderful job managing registration for the convention that we are delighted to add membership renewal responsibilities to her regular duties as corresponding secretary. Good luck Michele, and God help you!

## BETSY-TACY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check either: New Member  or Renewal

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



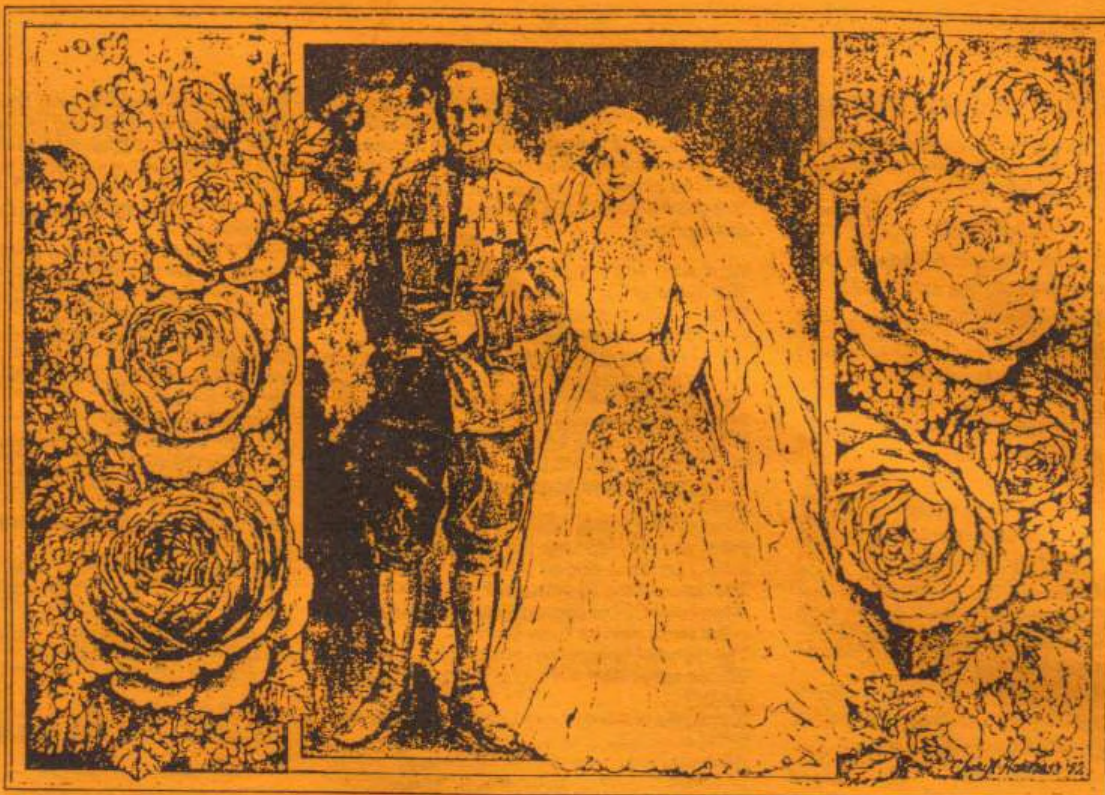
### Membership Levels

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$100 and up
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Europe or Canada \$15 and up



Membership renewal will be in September, 1993. Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Please send your membership form and your check to: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130





•MAUD HART AND DELOS WHEELER LOVELACE•

*Betsy and Joe were married in September, 1914  
at the Rays' Minneapolis home  
Maud and Delos were married November 29, 1917  
at the Harts' Minneapolis home*



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To:

*Autumn is a time of renewal ... don't forget to renew your  
membership in the Betsy-Tacy Society!*