

THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER #10

WINTER, 1992

"One climbed through mists of secrecy ... there was whispering and giggling. Doors were slammed when one approached. Everyone cautioned everyone else not to look here or look there ... Betsy knew so many secrets that she was afraid to speak for fear one would pop out like the jack-in-the-box she had seen in the toy shop." from *Downtown*, p. 128-129

MEMBERSHIP PREMIUMS

All members contributing \$10 or more will receive a Betsy-Tacy bumper sticker. 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. Hornby. If you are still waiting for your bumpersticker, please be patient! Remember that this is an all-volunteer organization, speaking of which ...

GET OUT THE VIOLINS

We have received a number of queries about the raising of the basic dues from \$5 to \$10. This increase was caused by the expansion of the newsletter. (The first Society newsletters were a single sheet.) It costs approximately \$8.50 per person per year to produce and mail a quarterly newsletter of this size. The remaining \$1.50 is used for other printing and postage costs, responding to the many inquiries and letters we receive, etc. Funds for the eventual purchase of Lovelace's childhood home will be accrued through fund raising events, since the dues are wholly absorbed by the expenses of the newsletter and associated operating costs.

While the violins are playing, we should ask (plead) for help with the newsletter from any members who like to write, proofread, or organize! We were overjoyed by the arrival of Stephanie Smith and her Macintosh, but we need your skills and talents, too. Please see the masthead on page 2 for more information about getting involved with the newsletter!

BETSY-TACY "IN PRINT" STATUS

HarperCollins promises continuing paperback supplies of the first four Betsy-Tacy books. If your local bookstore has trouble obtaining them, you may call HarperCollins at 1-800-331-3761 to order direct. The Lois Lenski covers will become a thing of collecting history next year when these four titles are reissued with new cover illustrations by popular artist Diane Goode. (To get an idea of what the new covers might look like, visit the children's section of your favorite book store and take a look at some of the many books illustrated by Ms. Goode.) The Lenski illustrations inside the books will remain as-is!



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 02130-4414.

HAVE YOU MAILED YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL??

If you have sent in your membership renewal, we thank you! For those who have not yet renewed ...

Please note: this is the last complimentary newsletter which will be sent. To continue receiving the newsletter, send in your membership dues today!

Members receive our 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. A current membership form can be found on page 15 of this newsletter.

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The Betsy-Tacy Society

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 Assistant Treasurer Kay Hocker
 Corresponding Secretary Michele Franck
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 Greater Chicago Chapter President Diane Gonzalez
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 If you can help us with this newsletter, you will receive many blessings on your head. We are both IBM (MS-DOS) and Macintosh compatible. If you don't have a computer, you can still help! Please write to Sharla Whalen, c/o P.O. Box 4774, Naperville, IL 60567.

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE!

The Betsy-Tacy Society is delighted by the addition of so many new members! Membership has quadrupled since March, when publicity for the convention began. The formation of two chapters, the centennial birthday party, held by the Twin Cities Chapter at Borders Bookshop in Minneapolis, the article in the July issue of VICTORIA magazine, articles in a number of Minnesota newspapers and on the wire services nationwide, in library journals, and simple word-of-mouth, have all helped to spread the word: you are NOT the only one!

LOVELACE PROGRAM

Betsy Norum offers a Maud Hart Lovelace program in the Twin Cities area. Her slide presentation and display of period artifacts are wonderful. She addresses schools, libraries, mother/daughter banquets, girl scouts, etc. For information, contact Betsy Norum, 1653 W. 26th St., Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 377-0205.

LIBRARIANS' COMMITTEE

The Librarians' Committee has been formed to facilitate the sharing of ideas and materials between librarians across the country who may wish to create displays featuring Maud Hart Lovelace, or otherwise promote reading of the Betsy-Tacy books among their patrons. Gloria Richardson of Illinois and Debbie Wakeley of Washington will co-chair this committee. (Gloria is working on a felt-board project based on the Lois Lenski illustrations from the B-T books.)

If you have a special Betsy-Tacy program, book display, bulletin board, or other promotional idea you'd like to share with fellow-librarians in the Society, please send them to MISS SPARROW, in care of Gloria Richardson, 122 E. Third St., Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-3708. If you're fresh out of ideas and would like some help along the above lines, or just want to be in touch with other librarians, contact MISS SPARROW. She'll gather, sort, and dispense the ideas (like a good librarian) and, "heaven to Betsy," you'll enable future generations of readers to become Betsy-Tacy fans.

Meanwhile, has your library made a petition available for patrons' signatures telling HarperCollins Publishers "we support the proposed reprinting of the entire Betsy-Tacy series"? (Your children's librarian might also like to take a look at a copy of the Betsy-Tacy Society newsletter!)



DID YOU SEE ...

... the November 8th article in the NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW by Betsy-Tacy Society member Ilene Cooper? She wrote a wonderful article about children's series books, prominently featuring the Betsy-Tacys! Your local library should have a copy of this edition.

... the November issue of MINNESOTA PARENT about Kathleen Baxter and Amy Dolnick, the president and vice-president of the Twin Cities Chapter.

CHAPTERS, CHAPTERS EVERYWHERE!

Melanie Rigney is the chairperson of the new Chapters Committee of the Betsy-Tacy Society. The purpose of this committee is to prepare a packet of information to send to newly forming chapters. It will include tips on obtaining publicity, planning a first event, contact names, etc. Amy Dolnick, vice-president of the Twin Cities Chapter, is the publicist at Borders Bookshop in Minnetonka, MN. She is compiling a list of the Borders stores across the country, along with a list of contact names. (Borders stores graciously hosted the very successful first events of the Twin Cities and Greater Chicago Chapters!)

If you would like information about forming a chapter (or if you would like your name kept off the lists given to those forming chapters), please contact Melanie Rigney, 5000 N. Delphia Ave., Chicago, IL 60656. Phone 312 625-2430

NOTICES

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

National Board: January 14, 1992 at the Heritage Center, 415 E. Cherry, Mankato, MN. Call Kay Hocker at 507 280-8348 for more information.

Twin Cities Chapter: January 6, 1992 at Washburn Public Library in Minneapolis. Call Kathleen Baxter at 612 786-8988 for more information.

Chicago Chapter: January 23 at the home of Katrine Poe in Chicago. Call Elaine Pappas at 219 942-5563 for more information.

MEMBERS IN THE DALLAS, TX AREA Watch for a Betsy-Tacy Society feature on WFAA-TV news!

WE ARE STILL 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 Michele Franck.

Illustrations are used throughout this newsletter with the gracious permission of HarperCollins.

Betsy-Tacy PEN PALS



The Betsy-Tacy Society is pleased to assist members in forming a pen-pal network. If you would like to make some new friends through pen and paper, send a few lines about yourself for publication in this column to **Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130-4414.**

"I'm seventeen years old and I love the Betsy-Tacy books. I love to write and send letters! I live very close to Mankato, MN. I'm looking for pen pals of all ages. I'm looking toward a writing career just like Betsy and Maud Hart Lovelace!" Alisha Adams, Box 411, 520 Ranchwood, Bird Island, MN 55310

"My name is Katie Watts. I am 44, have three sons, Richard (12) and David and Christopher (twins, aged 8). We live in Petaluma, CA, a smallish town 40 miles north of San Francisco. I am interested in classical music and theatre, being a founding member of a local community theatre group. I adore Broadway musicals, not what they are passing off today as musicals, over-amplified, simplistic stuff by Andrew Lloyd Webber and his ilk, but Sondheim, Porter, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Kern, the biggies. My favourite television program is HOMEFRONT. I am highly opinionated, funny, determined, good with words, stubborn, generous, friendly. I identify most strongly with Betsy, then Julia, then Emily." Katie Watts, 1448 Pheasant Dr., Petaluma, CA 94954

"I am 29 years old, recently married (September 19!), and I am a librarian at the Boston Museum of Science who writes children's books on the side. I read my first Betsy-Tacy book (BETSY-TACY) at the age of 5 -- it was the first book I checked out with my own library card! Other books I enjoy are: THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA by C.S. Lewis, the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, Noel Streatfield's BALLETS SHOES, and many more. I'm a lot like Betsy, only blond and a bit more introverted. I hope to hear from you soon." Janet Hamilton, 8 Hillside Rd., Lincoln, MA 01773

"I'll be 16 on December 6, and the Betsy-Tacy books have been favorites since childhood. I love to read and write, and I enjoy getting and sending letters. My other favorite authors are Madeleine L'Engle and Cynthia Voigt. If I sound at all like you, write to Me!" Laurie Slagenwhite, 8403 York Ct., Ypsilanti, MI 48198

A SUPPORT SYSTEM

by Mary Sherman
Wichita, KS

I've very much enjoyed reading the wonderful comments of my fellow fans of these timeless stories as I've savored back issues of the newsletter. I can say without exaggeration that the two most rewarding society memberships in my life right now are the Betsy-Tacy Society and the Jane Austen Society. Not only that, but also that my indispensable bedside volumes for at least the past five years have been the Betsy-Tacy series and the complete works of Jane Austen. These books, though written in different times and places by, in some ways, very different authors, give us wisdom, laughter, and a sense that life is very much worth living. As a harried "modern" woman, I turn to these treasured tales for comfort, hope, and a reminder that many so-called contemporary issues are actually recurring challenges to the human spirit which must be met again and again. What a legacy Maud and Jane have left us!

SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

A good number of our members belong to other groups throughout the country which promote authors as beloved to them as Maud is to us. In case you wish to join them, the following is a partial list:

For L.M. Montgomery:
Kindred Spirits of Prince Edward Island
Silver Bush Park Corner
Kensington RR #2
PEI Canada COB1MO
Newsletter four times a year. \$18.00 U.S.

For Gladys Taber:
Friends of Gladys Taber
321 South College Street
Franklin KY 41234
Attention: Gilbertine Moore
Newsletter four times a year. \$5.00 for a subscription. \$20.00 total for all back issues dating to 1984. A legend on their stationery reads: "there are no strangers, just friends who have never met."

Girls' Series Books:
The Society of Phantom Friends
See item below.

Do you belong to the Jane Austen Society of North America? A Laura Ingalls Wilder group? Other literature groups? Tell us about them! (Write to the workaholic corresponding secretary, Michele Franck.)

THE PHANTOM FRIENDS

It was a special pleasure to be joined this summer at the convention by the Society of Phantom Friends, an international organization of girls' series book readers, collectors, and authors. The PF's publish a monthly journal called "The Whispered Watchword" which contains many informative articles and reviews of girls' series books, both well-known and obscure. Members may send sale and want lists, and TWW has been responsible for matching many a collector with a long-sought-after book. Membership, which includes a year's subscription to TWW is \$25.00. Sample copies are available for \$3.00. Please make checks payable to Kate Emburg, who is the PF President. Write to her at 4100 Comelia Way, North Highlands, CA 95660.

WANT TO TRADE?

Anne Kolibaba, 5005 NE Wasco, Portland, OR 97213 has three copies of BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD (for a description of the conditions, contact Anne) She would like to trade for copies of DOWNTOWN, HEAVEN TO BETSY, or BETSY WAS A JUNIOR.

BRIGHT IDEAS

From Our Members

"We have taken to buying up all the paperback B-T books we find at local bookstores. These books have become our standard birthday party gift. It's our hope that we can introduce B,T, & T to as many new friends as possible, and with two daughters, we have a large circle of potential B-T fans!"

Jan Peterson, Brooklyn Park, MN

"I wonder if I'm the only person to get the significance of the title of the painting in the Children's Room of the Deep Valley Library. I've read that name fifty times at least, and it wasn't until this last time that it hit me--Isle of Delos or I Love Delos."

Katie Watts, Petaluma, CA

Lani Jordan sent in a gift membership for her daughter Annie's teacher. "When I took Annie to meet her kindergarten teacher this fall, Mrs. Evans asked what kind of books she liked. Annie responded that she only likes 'chapter books' and that Betsy-Tacy books were her favorites. Mrs. Evans said, 'Oh, those were my favorites too!' Annie proceeded to tell her all about the convention, playing on the Big Hill, etc. Never hurts to get extra points with the teacher, I guess!"

Lani Jordan, St. Paul, MN

This is not meant as an endorsement of Johnson & Johnson, but we thought our members might like to know that J & J has packaged a special edition replica of an 1892 J & J baby powder tin. Did one just like it sit on a shelf in the Hart home for baby Maud? (Lovelace was born April 25, 1892.)

The Anne of Green Gables group on Prince Edward Island is producing a souvenir "passport" which can be stamped at each of the four L.M. Montgomery sites there. Perhaps we might try this somewhere in the roseate future when we own Betsy's house ...

The Betsy-Tacy books were mentioned in a number of books for children by other authors. Anne Pellowski mentioned them, as did Edward Eager. Can you think of any fictional characters who read Lovelace books?

**BETSY-TACY
FROM ONE GENERATION
TO THE NEXT**

by Susan Mahoney
Petaluma, CA

I am 42 and my daughter Betony is 7 1/2. We are both extreme Betsy-Tacy fans! I'm sorry to say I never read the books in my youth; I can't help but wonder how reading them then might have changed my life?? Thanks to good old alphabetical order on the library shelves, we discovered Betsy while looking for books by Astrid Lindgren and Lois Lenski. Seeing the Lenski illustration on the early B-T books prompted us to check them out. That was about 10 years ago, and I've lost count of how many times we've read each of them since!

We started at the beginning of the series ... it just fit, Betsy being the same age as Betony. But of course, we couldn't stop there. I hesitated, at first, reading some of the older Betsy stories to Betony at such a young age; I'm a strong believer in not rushing childhood. But we simply had to know what would happen next! Betony's been having so-called "older books" read to her almost all her life, and she's been enthralled with Betsy's life from the beginning to the end of the series. I can't think of better values to show her than those discovered by Betsy and her friends.



"Nothing is so much like Christmas as a Christmas-tree ornament." (from DOWNTOWN) This 1992 collector's edition Betsy-Tacy-Tib Christmas ornament can be ordered from Deep Valley Creations for \$15.00, plus shipping. Call 612 941-6597 to request a catalog or place an order.

**MEMORIES OF THE
BETSY-TACY BOOKS**

by Anne Kolibaba
Portland, OR

As a child, I read them in reverse order -- the high school stories first, and much later, the first four books. I believe I was in about fifth grade when I first read HEAVEN TO BETSY. I was much more interested in the mysterious world of teenage girls than I was in traditional children's literature. Over the next few years, I read the other B-T books, including CARNEY'S HOUSE PARTY, EMILY OF DEEP VALLEY, BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD, and BETSY'S WEDDING. I have reread them many times over the years, through high school, college, and into my thirties. Even now, when I want comfort and need to escape, I read a Betsy-Tacy book, sometimes in one sitting if time allows. I am still moved to tears by certain scenes -- in particular, in BETSY AND JOE when Julia comes home for Betsy's graduation, and of course, in BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD, when Joe's message is printed in the Agony column and Betsy responds with a telegram.

Of course, one of the joys of reading is sharing. One of my nieces just started high school yesterday, and over Labor Day weekend I took her a copy of HEAVEN TO BETSY and a blank diary. I told her briefly about the four books in the high school series, and clued her in to watch for all the great descriptions of food! Another niece will turn five on Saturday, and I am giving her an old hardback copy of BETSY-TACY that I picked up at a library books sale. She's just the right age for this book, as all true and loyal B-T fans are aware!

**ANSWERS TO
CHILDREN'S QUIZ**

(see quiz on page 12)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Europe | Chocolate House |
| Farm | Boston |
| St. Michaels | Naples |
| France | Oberammergau |
| California | The Big Hill |
| School | Grand Canal |
| Park | Cooks Book Store |
| Venice | Opera House |
| London | |

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL BOARD

by Kelly Reuter
Recording Secretary

Greetings from Deep Valley! Our special guest at the October meeting was Bunny Just. She has spent most of her nine-century life in Mankato. Her husband's family bought the "Tib House," and Bunny and her husband lived there for many years. It was a delightful evening of nostalgia, stories, and questions about Mankato in days gone by.

Business at the October meeting centered around our mail order business and how it would be handled now that we have more merchandise. We also discussed the necessity of planning ahead for when we have a "Betsy" house to own and maintain. We have a committee looking into the maintenance of historic homes. We have become acquainted with the Wanda Gag House Association in New Ulm, MN and are very happy that they are willing to share their knowledge of the purchase/restoration/upkeep process.

On Saturday, October 10, Lona Falenczykowski, Cheryl Harness, Kay Hocker, and I visited New Ulm as lunch guests of the Wanda Gag (pronounced Gaag) group. We had a lovely tour of their home, which is in various stages of the restoration process. We are sure to enjoy working with his friendly group of people in the future. They may be wanting a few pointers on having a centenary convention, since the 100th anniversary of Gag's birth is next year.

The National ZONTZ convention was held in Mankato this fall, and the guests were treated to a Betsy-Tacy tour of Deep Valley and a tea at the YWCA. Betsy-Tacy Society representatives were on hand to answer questions and pass out chocolate men. Carlienne Frisch was available to sign her booklet, and Society board members set up a sales table at the Y.

The Betsy-Tacy Society is again working with the Lincoln Park Association for their annual Christmas Tour of Homes. Last year we decorated Doris Berger's 19th century home as the

Harts would have done - with fresh evergreen, red bows, wreaths, candy canes, and sparkling glass ornaments. Costumed characters talked to visitors about Betsy traditions as little Betsy, Tacy, and Tib decorated the tree, played paper dolls, and sampled cookies. The tour was a great success.

This year's tour will include a visit to Irma's (see HEAVEN TO BETSY) house, and the Society will help out the Ryan family by acting as hostesses in their home and offering information about Irma and her friends. Mrs. Chubbock's store will also be open for the purchase of Betsy-Tacy souvenirs and candy.

The November meeting of the Betsy-Tacy Society was held on the 12th. We discussed various aspects of our by-laws. We also discussed shop products and the legalities of non-profit organizations. Kay Hocker and Michele Franck have graciously agreed to do the shipping and book-keeping for the shop merchandise and we are very grateful to them for taking on this big job.

Watch for this column in future newsletters for happenings here at home in Deep Valley.

NOTES FROM THE SHOPKEEPER

by Kay Hocker
Rochester, MN

The shop is enjoying brisk business! Our most popular items are the convention memorabilia, notecards, and pewter merchandise.

Please note two small corrections: we are NOT charging sales tax. Minnesota residents do not need to include tax with their orders. Also, my correct address is 2438 18 1/2 Ave. NW #5-205 (Rochester, MN, 55901). The small misprint on the order form doesn't seem to have created a problem for the U.S. Postal Service, 'cause I'm getting lots of correspondence.

Merry Christmas to everyone and ENJOY all that Betsy-Tacy merchandise you are giving and receiving!

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER BOARD

The Twin Cities Chapter is busy preparing for a festive book party to be held December 12 at Borders Book Shop, Bonaventure Center, Minnetonka, MN. A huge group is expected, including a large number of Brownie troops! This is a beautiful new store, complete with glass elevator and espresso bar. Chapter Vice-President Amy Dolnick is keeping things hopping there. She had six author signings scheduled in one week recently!

Plans are also gearing up for a Betsy-Tacy celebration to be held June 12 at the College of St. Catherine's in St. Paul. Attention Minnesota educators: there's talk of teachers receiving continuing education credits for attendance!

GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER BOARD

by Julie Sheffieck
Chapter Secretary

On November 7, 1992, the members of the Greater Chicago Chapter met at the home of Melanie Rigney (where refreshments were replete!) to review the party held at Border's Book Shop in October. The bookstore party was a great success - Betsy-Tacy souvenirs, trivia, wonderful photographs on display, and even a rendition of the Cat Duet!

Some new positions were filled at the meeting. Gloria Richardson and Hilary Bagnato will be the GCC's archivists. Julie Sheffieck will be chapter secretary.

Various fundraising ideas were discussed. The next BIG event will be a membership program held in honor Maud Hart Lovelace's 101st birthday, April 25, 1992. Two of the locations to be investigated are the Chicago Historical Society and the Harold Washington Library.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

For information about forming a chapter in your area, see page 2.

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER BUS TOUR TO "DEEP VALLEY"

by Kathleen Baxter
Minneapolis, MN

The Society's bus trip was a great success! Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Library, the trip was ably organized under the direction of Janet Urbanowicz. The Friends had sponsored last year's trip, but this year the Society was able to help out by promoting it among our members. We had no idea how many would come -- and we apologize to all of you who didn't get in. We ended up taking 94 people, two full buses. Unfortunately, the logistics of adding a third bus were beyond us!

I started out at the State Fair grounds in St. Paul, where a group of about 35 of us waited ... and waited ... and waited for a bus which finally arrived 45 minutes late. It was the bus company's mistake -- Janet promised that heads will roll! We happily climbed aboard, and shortly thereafter arrived at Borders Book Shop in Bonaventure. Our tardiness was barely noticed by the happy people busily browsing and buying books in that lovely new store, which features a glass elevator and an espresso bar! Two of our chapter board members, Amy Dolnick and Arlene Kase, work there. Our whole group had its photograph taken for MINNESOTA PARENT's November issue (the article, by Connie Sandler, is great!). Then we set out for Deep Valley.

The ride down Highway 169 was beautiful (albeit a bit misty), and our late arrival was taken in stride by the hospitable folk at the Carnegie Art Center. Hope Cook gave us an interesting and informative talk about the building, followed by a viewing of Lyn Lacy's slide-tape show on Maud Hart Lovelace and the books. Then we walked over to the Minnesota Valley Regional Library to see the Lovelace wing. Carlienne Frisch met us there and graciously autographed copies of her book. We proceeded on to Meray's where we had a delicious lunch -- soup and a choice of six entrees.

After lunch the buses split up, one heading first to Tacy's and the other to Tib's. On the way they both passed Carney's house, Lincoln Park, and Winona's house. The owners of Tacy's and Tib's houses were just as anyone would hope them to be -- worthy descendants of their predecessors. Sandy Kerkhoff, who owns Tib's house, informed us that it is now a triplex -- her family has most of the ground floor. Much of the woodwork is original -- the original kitchen is intact, too, cupboards, sink, and all. Marilyn Curran, the owner of "Tacy's Place," proudly showed us through her new home (she just moved in this summer). It's amazing to think such an enormous family as Tacy's lived there!

The group on the St. Paul bus then got two thrills. While Amy took the Minneapolis bus past the sites of the high school and the High Street house, our group went to see Little Syria. That was certainly a thrill -- the second thrill occurred when our bus had to back up a whole block because of my slightly skewed directions. Believe me, changing your mind in a bus is totally

different from changing it in a car!

Our day reached its rainy peak when we climbed the Big Hill (albeit in a motor vehicle) to be the guests of Michelle Coughlin and Helen Joseph Gallup for baklava and lemonade. It was delicious and they were wonderful, letting all 94 of us plus assorted friends from Mankato and elsewhere, troop through their kitchen. The view from the top of the Big Hill, even in drizzle and mist, is breathtaking!

We made it back to the Twin Cities with time to spare -- enough so that the deprived St. Paul group got to shop at Borders too before heading back to the State Fair grounds. We all had a great time in spite of the glitches. Carolyn Collins, co-author of the Anne of Green Gables treasury, sympathetically told me that her guided bus tour of Prince Edward Island was one long glitch. In any case, Betsy-Tacy people are as nice as people come, and I really loved getting the opportunity to meet more of them.

GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER BORDERS BOOK STORE EVENT

by Diane Gonzalez
Chicago, IL

We did it! On Saturday, October 17, 1992, the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Betsy-Tacy Society co-hosted with Borders Book Shop a party marking the 100th anniversary year of Maud Hart Lovelace's birth.

We had a great time! While member Frieda Maheras sang the Cat Duet solo, the guests enjoyed punch, cookies, the trivia quiz with prizes, and the free souvenir bookmark. But the most fun was meeting and talking with other Betsy-Tacy fans. Almost everyone somewhere in her conversation exclaimed, "I thought I was the only one who loved these books!" Throughout the party, an oft-repeated question was: did Maud ever write any more books after BETSY'S WEDDING. (Yes -- WHAT CABRILLO FOUND and THE VALENTINE BOX - but no more Betsy-Tacy books, unfortunately!)

The party, which was held in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook, drew over 200 people of all ages. We added many new members to our chapter, and Borders sold 212 Lovelace books! We even received some donations towards the purchase of Maud's house.

This was a wonderful event, and it was our chapter's first. Even as we savor the fun of the Borders party, we begin planning for two events in the spring of '93. If anyone is interested in joining the GCC, please contact Elaine Pappas, Membership Chairman, 7548 Colorado Street, Merrillville, IN 46410.

Happiest of Holidays to everyone!

A LOVELACE CHRISTMAS

by Merian Lovelace Kirchner

I can tell you about our Lovelace family Christmas tree. It was always beautiful and I imagine some of the ornaments came from Minneapolis and before that, Mankato. They were mostly the classic blown glass kind, red and green and blue and white and silver and gold. Balls of all sizes, of course, and all kinds of other shapes and designs ... santas and bells and pinecones and houses and lanterns and musical instruments and birds, and, and, and!

When Bert and I got married, we started our own collection, all gold and silver and white, because that was what his family had in Germany and I wanted to keep Kirchner traditions as well as Lovelace ones. Along the way, we acquired just two Lovelace ornaments, I can't remember how. A little silver house with colored windows, and a beautiful red and blue bird with a horsehair tail. The bird is our tree top ornament, because we never found an angel or a star that seemed quite right for the top.

This year, I'll add the silver ball that I brought home this summer from the convention in Mankato!

Betsy-Tacy people may be pleased to know that our Lovelace Christmases were very Hart/Ray-ish. We read about the Cratchits' Christmas dinner, and the Night Before Christmas, and the birth of Jesus from the book of Luke, and Grandma Stella (who came to live with us when I was about four) played the piano for carols.

We had oyster stew for supper on Christmas Eve, and sausages for breakfast on Christmas morning, and turkey with all the trimmings for Christmas dinner, followed in the evening by turkey sandwiches with cold stuffing in them.

Just like the Rays on High Street, we split up for church after we opened our presents on Christmas morning - Baptist for Stella, Episcopal for Maud and Delos and Merian.

Our tree never went up until the 24th. When I was very small, Maud and Delos trimmed it after I went to bed and I didn't see it until Christmas morning. But even after I was old enough to help, and knew for sure that there really was a tree waiting in the living room, coming downstairs in the morning was magic. The colored lights were reflected on the ceiling, mingled and softened to near pastel, and that pool of blue and green and rose was the first thing I saw.

In this Christmastide, I'm wishing with Tiny Tim: God bless us every one!



A BOUNTY OF RECIPES FOR A BETSY-TACY CHRISTMAS

compiled by Jill Ca' ...
Worthington, N I

The Christmas Cookbook

Of all the holidays in the year, Christmas is featured the most prominently — and the most lovingly — in Maud Hart Lovelace's "Betsy-Tacy" books, particularly those covering the high school years. There were the joke presents and the old familiar carols, the Christmas tree and Christmas Day church service. Best of all, there was Christmas Eve.

Betsy read from Dicken's Christmas Carol, Margaret recited " 'Twas the night before Christmas," and Julia, grave and reverent, read the story of Jesus' birth out of the book of Luke. (Betsy was a Junior)

A traditional Christmas morning included, in addition to the scented evergreen tree, "the smell of coffee and sausages ... drifting through the house." (Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown)

Later that morning, Betsy feasted on Christmas cookies frosted with colored sugar at Tib's house, but the main meal came in the early afternoon.

"Dinner came at one o'clock sharp. Full of turkey and turkey dressing, gravy and cranberry sauce, mashed turnips, creamed onions, celery, rolls, and mince and pumpkin pie, people either took naps or went sliding. ... Turkey sandwiches, made by her father, ended the day."

The People's Home Recipe Book is included in the People's Home Library, a 1915 volume published by R.C. Barnum Co., Cleveland and Minneapolis. It is not unlikely that Rena and Anna would have consulted this book as they prepared the Rays' Christmas dinners. The recipes, assembled by Alice Gitchell Kirk, date back to 1906.

Mashed Turnips

6 white turnips, 1 T. butter, pepper, salt, 1-2 T. cream. Select firm, white turnips or the ruta-baga, a large yellow variety. Wash and pare. Cut in slices and throw into boiling salted water. Cook uncovered, just below the boiling point until tender. Drain and shake a moment over the fire until dry. Press through a potato ricer or mash and season with salt, pepper, butter and cream. Heap in a vegetable dish with a dash of paprika on top and serve very hot with duck or mutton; also very nice with roast pork or spare-ribs.

Creamed Onions

Peel and boil onions in salted water till tender; changing water twice while boiling; drain; add milk and flour enough to slightly thicken and season with butter, pepper and salt.

Plain Pastry

2 c. pastry flour, ¼ c. lard, ¼ c. butter, ½ tsp. salt, 1 T. sugar, cold water. Have all materials cold, including the bowl in which the pastry is to be mixed. Measure the dry ingredients into the flour sifter and sift into the bowl. Measure the shortening and with the pastry cutter or knife cut this well into the flour. Do not put the hands into it, as the main thing in pastry is to keep it cold and it is the expansion of this cold air in the oven when baking that makes the pastry light and flaky. Add cold water a little at a time, as mixed push to one side; add more and do the same until water has been added sufficient to take up the dryness and no more. Now bring it all together in one mass; cover and set in a cold place two or three hours, if possible, as the crust is then much easier to handle and more flaky when baked. This recipe will answer for all pies.

Mincemeat changed from a mixture of ox-tongues, chicken, eggs, sugar, raisins and lemon and orange peel to a mixture of suet, spices and dried fruit over the years. It was baked in pie plates or — as Bonnie Andrew's mother did — in little individual tarts (Heaven to Betsy). This 1908 recipe uses beef and suet.

Mince Meat

3 lbs. lean boiled beef, 1½ lbs. suet, 3 qts. chopped apples, 1 qt. stoned raisins, 2 c. currants, ¼ lb. citron, 1 c. molasses, juice of 2 oranges, juice of 2 lemons, grated rind of 1 of each, 1 nutmeg, 1 tsp. powdered mace, 1 T. salt, 3 c. brown sugar, 2 c. cider, 1 c. sherry and brandy as desired or sweet pickle vinegar. Chop the meat and suet fine and shred the citron. Mix all the dry ingredients together, then all the liquids (except the sherry and the brandy). Mix all well together and bring slowly to the boiling point; boil five minutes. Remove from the fire and add sherry and brandy (if you use it) and seal in jars. This will make 7 quart jars and cost about one dollar and one quarter.

In "Heavens to Betsy," over a Christmas Eve meal of oyster stew, Mr. Ray sadly informs Mrs. Ray she won't receive the brass bowl she has had her heart set on — unaware that she has already purchased it herself.

Later in that holiday season, Betsy comes home to a party hosted by Julia: *Anna had brought in the lighted chafing dish ... (Tony) brought in the coffee, toasted wafers, passed plates filled with shrimp a la Newburg.*

Christmas Eve Oyster Soup

1½ pts. freshly shucked oysters with liquor, 2 qts. whole milk, 4 T. butter, ½ tsp. salt, 1 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground. Pick over oysters and rinse with cold water. Strain liquor through fine mesh sieve to catch a random piece of shell. In large soup pot, bring milk to a full boil. Just before milk reaches top of pot, pour in oysters and add liquor if desired. Cook only until edges of oysters begin to curl, only one minute. Add butter, salt and pepper; mix well. Serve immediately. ("Food from an American Farm," Janeen Aletta Sarlin.)

Shrimp a la Newburg

Melt 2 T. of butter, stir until creamy, then add 1 gill of sherry. Beat together the yolks of two eggs and ½ pt. of cream, add and stir constantly; when well mixed stir in 1 pt. of shrimp and cook. (Under "Chafing Dish Cookery" in Mrs. Kirk's recipes.)

In "Betsy in Spite of Herself," Betsy spent the Christmas of her sophomore year away from her family, with the Mullers in Milwaukee. Before she left, however, "Anna was making fruit cake, plum pudding and mince meat." These recipes both come from Mrs. Kirk. The first is a simplified version that assumes the cook only needs the ingredients; the mixing and baking time is already known.

Fruit Cake

1 c. molasses, 2 c. brown sugar, 1 c. butter, ¼ c. milk, 4 eggs, c. flour, 3 c. stoned raisins, 3 c. currants, 1 c. chopped citron, 1 tsp. nutmeg, 1 tsp. ground cinnamon, ½ tsp. cloves, 1 tsp. soda and 2 of cream of tartar or 3 of baking powder.

Plum Pudding

¼ lb. seeded raisins, ¼ lb. English currants, ¼ lb. blanched almonds, ¼ lb. candied lemon peel, ¼ lb. candied orange peel, ¼ lb. candied citron, ¼ lb. walnut meats, ½ lb. suet, ½ lb. sifted bread crumbs, 1 c. granulated sugar, ½ c. (scant) cream, 4 eggs, 1 tsp. cinnamon, ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. cloves, nutmeg, 1 wineglass brandy, 1 wineglass fruit juice or wine. Chop half the raisins and add to them the currants, chopped walnuts and almonds, citron, orange and lemon peel shredded fine. Now add all the remaining ingredients except eggs and cream and mix well together. Cover closely and let stand several days, at least 24 hours. Add the beaten eggs and cream and pack in well-buttered molds, cover tightly and steam six hours. Put away in a cool, dry place and when ready to use steam at least two hours, and longer will do no harm. Serve with hard sauce or ice cream. In blanching the almonds either pour cold water over them for several hours to remove the skins or put over the fire with cold water, bring just to the boiling point, remove the skins and dry the almonds off quickly in the oven.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES CONT.

Another dessert mentioned in "Betsy and Joe" is caramel ice cream. Mrs. Kirk has a recipe for that, too.

Caramel Ice Cream

Put 1 qt. of milk in a double boiler; when hot add 1 T. of cornstarch moistened with milk, yolks of 4 beaten eggs and ½ c. of sugar; boil to the consistency of custard. Scorch 1 c. of maple molasses or ½ lb. of maple sugar; add a little water to it, then add to the custard; cool, add 1 pt. of cream, and freeze.

Not all holiday events involved the family. The girls in Betsy's "Crowd" enjoyed a progressive dinner during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Their senior year, the menu included grapefruit with brandied cherries, bouillon, a fish course, chicken and cranberry ice, a delectable salad, hot mince pies and after dinner coffee. The invaluable Mrs. Kirk supplied the grapefruit recipe; the cranberry ice comes from the White House Cookbook, as updated in "Great Old-Fashioned American Desserts" by Beatrice Oljakangas.

Grapefruit Cocktail

Break up the pulp of 2 grapefruit and pour over it ½ pt. brandy and ½ pt. of sherry. See that this covers the fruit. Sprinkle with sugar and let stand over night. In the morning add ½ pt. of maraschino cherries and the liquor. This may be strained and served without the fruit if preferred.

Fruit Jelly Ice

Homemade or good-quality store-bought fruit jelly, water, lemon juice to taste. Blend the jelly with an equal amount of water, whisking until smooth. Add lemon juice to taste. Turn into a hand-cranked or mechanical ice cream freezer according to the manufacturer's directions. Flavors that work well are raspberry, plum, grape, strawberry, apple, pineapple and cranberry.

Betsy and Irma also served punch on New Year's Day at a public gathering. Once again, Mrs. Kirk has a suggestion.

Christmas Temperance Punch

To 4 lbs. of sugar and 2 qts. of water add the grated yellow rind of 4 lemons and 6 oranges. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and then boil for 10 min. Strain, and when cool add the juice of the oranges and lemons and 2 tart baked apples which have been passed through a sieve. When wanted, put a small piece of ice in the punch bowl, pour over the syrup, add a pint each of grape juice and ginger ale, and enough effervescing water to make it palatable.

Merry Christmas — and enjoy your own family's traditions!



Have you sent in your membership renewal? Don't forget ... we don't want you to miss a single newsletter. Do you have an idea for an article? The next deadline is February 15.

Random Thoughts on the Great Cake Controversy

by Beth Hudson
Austin, TX

Before the ink was even dry on my first Betsy-Tacy Society membership form some two years or three years ago, I was asked what kind of cake I thought it was that Mrs. Kelly made—the "unfrosted cake" that Betsy so enjoyed when she visited the Kelly home. As it was, I did indeed have a strong opinion on this subject, a decision I had come to years before by process of elimination.

Had it been a spice, applesauce, or fruit cake, I'm sure the wonderfully descriptive Maud Hart Lovelace would have told us, so as not to leave future generations pondering this mystery. A yellow cake, I further reasoned, is a wanting cake—in need of icing to be complete.

But a chocolate cake! Iced or otherwise, a chocolate cake is always perfection.

At this deduction, some of you hooted!

These hooters insisted it was a yellow cake, with little to boost their unfounded opinions. Their only reason, given repeatedly, was that the Kelly's could never have afforded to keep a supply of chocolate in their home.

What? This kind of overtly erroneous information from the very people who can tell you that Betsy sailed to Europe on the SS *Columbic* in Stateroom #52, that Hank Weed was the captain of the senior football team in 1907, that Miss Bangeter hailed from Boston? These are the same woefully misguided people who say that the Kelly's couldn't afford chocolate?

I offer into evidence the following:

—Sister K. Kelly suggested a cross-country tramp for the following Thursday. This was agreed upon, one of her chocolate cakes being part of the bargain.—
from Betsy Was A Junior page 107.

—Everyone always looked forward to refreshments at the Kelly house. Tactfully seizing a moment when Katie's chocolate cake, smothered with thick fudge frosting, was being cut, the girls said what fun it would be if the boys got up a fraternity.—
from Betsy Was A Junior page 120.

—Tacy brought out the pail and Tib said it was too hot for cocoa, but Betsy and Tacy shouted her down.
"We always have cocoa!"—
from Betsy and Joe page 30.

I rest my case. Apologies accepted.
And now, having saved face, I would like to change my mind.

Some weeks back my grandmother and I were sitting through her recipe file and came across a treasured old family recipe, now in its fourth generation of use. We called it "coffee cake" for want of a better name. It is a quick, easy cake, made of a little flour, an egg, some sugar and milk, butter and cinnamon. Simple to make of odds and ends left over in the larder.

My grandmother told me that the recipe was given to her by a dear friend sometime during World War I. It was a light snack and good with a cup of coffee. I think Mrs. Kelly made something much like this, which would explain why Maud never gave a detailed description. It's just a delicious little unfrosted cake.

Actually, I'd say Maud described it just right.

(As a courtesy to the ever-growing Heath/Hudson family, the recipe mentioned above will remain unpublished. However, if you must have the recipe, write Beth at 1020 Bonham Terrace, Austin, TX 78704. Enclose an SASE and she'll send you the recipe and tell you the whole story of the little unfrosted cake tradition in her family).

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

"What are you reading?..." is a regular feature in the Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter. Let us know what you're reading and what you love to reread. Send literary lists and comments to: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Avenue, Boston, MA 02130-4414

by Patricia Nolan Stein
Grants Pass, OR

Does anyone remember the Claudia books by Rose Franken? The first novel in the series, titled *Claudia*, was published in 1938, and seven sequels followed. The last book in the series was published in the mid-1950's. They're wonderful novels, telling the story of a young, devoted wife who marries at 18, and subsequently experiences some tough lessons in life. The books continue until she's in her early 30's. The Claudia novels were very popular in their day and are extremely difficult to find now. (Dorothy McGuire and Robert Young starred in the 1943 film version of *Claudia*.) In her own way, Claudia is as warm and lovable as Betsy Ray Willard. She goes through many heartbreaking experiences as a wife and mother, but she and her husband, David, have their share of joy and happiness as well. Rose Franken based the Claudia novels after her own life story. The books, in order, are: *Claudia*, *Claudia & David*, *Another Claudia*, *Young Claudia*, *The Marriage of Claudia*, *From Claudia to David*, *The Fragile Years*, *The Antic Years*.

I'm so glad to know that other Betsy-Tacy fans are recommending *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. I've always felt that the main character, Francie Nolan, was the "flip side" of Betsy. The book is so descriptive and genuine with its characterizations that you feel you're right there in Brooklyn during the early years of this century, struggling along with Francie and her family. She's not frivolous by any means -- her innermost fears and desires as the young daughter of an alcoholic will touch the heart of anyone who reads the novel. Similar to the Claudia books, it doesn't avoid the heartbreaking side of life, but it does leave readers with a positive, uplifting feeling. Francie's love for books is also gratifying.

The Blue Castle by L. M. Montgomery: I enjoyed this novel even more than I did the author's most famous book, *Anne of Green Gables*. The story features Valancy, a mousey, drab "old maid" of 29 who suddenly changes her life for the better and becomes a fulfilled, happy woman after learning she has only one year to live. It was L.M. Montgomery's most mature novel and I think her best, aside from another gem, *Emily Climbs*.

A Girl of the Limberlost, by Gene Stratton Porter: This novel, originally published in 1909, is a delight, focusing on a young girl living in rural Indiana. It reflects her appreciation of nature and her love of the outdoors and all living creatures.

Mama's Bank Account, by Kathryn Forbes: First published in 1943, this novel was later the inspiration for a successful film and TV series in the early 1950's. It's about Mama, a Swedish immigrant living in San Francisco with her family at the turn of the century. She's everything a mother should be -- and more!

Other "old time" novelists whose books I continue to enjoy include Taylor Caldwell, Edna Ferber, Pearl Buck, Anya Seton, Louis Bromfield, Kathleen Norris, Daphne du Maurier, James Hilton, Stuart Cloete, and Betty MacDonald.

Contemporary writers that I recommend include Maeve Binchy, Rosamunde Pilcher, Yael Dayan, Herman Wouk, Miss Read, Barbara Wood, and Amy Tan.

With writers like these, who needs television or rock music?!



by Sharon Avinger
Lexington, SC

What do I read when not reading B-T? Well, anything by Rosamunde Pilcher (I can't put her books down once I've started one!). Also, I collect and constantly reread the fifty-plus titles by Gladys Taber who wrote of her quiet but never dull life at her Connecticut country home Stillmeadow. I faithfully devour every book by Victoria Holt (mystery/romance) and Lavyrle Spencer (romance). Every Betsy-Tacy fan of course adores the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House books, as well as the Anne of Green Gables series--I am no exception. And I have been known to lovingly reread any of Carolyn Haywood's Betsy books, as well as the turn-of-the-century (don't we all love that period?) Moffat family books by Eleanor Estes. Other childhood favorites worth reading again and again are the All-of-a-Kind-Family books by Sydney Taylor - a warm series (again turn-of-the-century) about a New York Jewish family with five daughters.



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

continued

by Charity Nelson
Casnovia, MI

The books I love that I can think of right now are the *Little House* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery, Betsy-Tacy books by MHL, *National Velvet*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy, the *Pendragon Cycle* by Stephen Lawhead, the *Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis, anything by Madeleine L'Engle, *Dr. Doolittle* by Hugh Lofting, *Mary Poppins*, *The Little Prince* (excellent!), *Summer of My German Soldier* and *Morning Is a Long Time Coming* by Bette Green, anything by Roald Dahl, *Little Women*, The Earth's Children series by Jean Auel, *A Matter of Feeling* by Janine Boissard (French title *L'Esprit de Famille*), *The O'Donnells* by Peggy Sullivan, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, anything by Victoria Holt or Agatha Christie, *Anne Frank: the Diary of a Young Girl*, anything by Marguerite de Angeli, the Winnie the Pooh books by A. A. Milne, *Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web*. I guess that's about it!



by Judi Buller
Olympia, WA

Now that raspberry season is over, I can leave the berry patch and get back to "normal" life, which includes joining the Betsy-Tacy Society. I discovered *Betsy-Tacy* and *Betsy-Tacy and Tib* in the library of my elementary school when I was in about third grade. In the beginning, only these first two books were available. I checked them out a number of times before *Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill* and *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown* were added. For many years, these four were the only books in the series that I was aware of, and they are still my favorites. Now my ten-year-old daughter Lydia and my eight-year-old son Peter are reading the Betsy-Tacy books, and loving them! At first Peter would ask, "Mom, would you like me to read *Betsy-Tacy* to you while you crochet?" but now he has given up all pretense of "helping mom," and reads them for himself (along with the Hardy Boys and *Famous Americans*, of course).

So many portions of the Betsy-Tacy stories come to mind as I think of how they have influenced my life. They are always there, never forgotten. My two childhood friends and I were Betsy, Tacy, and Tib, and I have always desired that my children be as fortunate in their friendships. I identify closely with the atmosphere of the Ray family home, and have tried to continue that atmosphere for my children. Little

things have stuck with me, too: I've always loved colored sand in jars, hard-boiled eggs and olives are a must for picnics, and violet perfume is the only kind I use. I'm sorry to say I've never been fond of onion sandwiches or fudge, but my family (sisters, brothers, parents) is famous for singing around the piano and being "limelight" kind of people.

Next to the Betsy-Tacy books, I reread *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame the most. Of course there's also the *Little House* series that I enjoy from time to time, and the *Anne of Green Gables* books - although I like L. M. Montgomery's *The Story Girl* and *The Golden Road* the best (no, I do not watch *Avonlea*. That would spoil it, somehow). I also reread *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Toyer and Anne Ortlund's *Disciplines of the Beautiful Woman* now and again.

Since we are a home school family, I need to keep up on our subject matters, and I try to read a book on the philosophy of education each year. This year it's the six-volume set *The Original Homeschooling Series* by Charlotte Mason. Our emphasis will be on American History, so I have lined up *America's Providential History* by Beliles & McDowell, *Faith and Freedom* by Benjamin Hart, and *The Constitutional Journal* by Jeffrey St. John to read before we begin.

For myself, I enjoy the historical settings of Marian Wells' novels, and also the detective stories of the 1930's: Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple; Dorothy Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey; and Marjorie Allingham's Albert Campion. On my nightstand I have Wilder's *Little House in the Ozarks* and also *A Little Maid of New England* by Alice Turner Curtis. good reading for restless nights.

I'm excited at the prospect of getting to know other people who share a love for these special gifts of Maud Hart Lovelace. Thank you for spreading the word.



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

Sacred Strands, Sermons by Minnesota Women Barbara Mraz, editor. Drawings by Susan Friesen. Lone Oak Press, 1991 ISBN 0-9627860-2-0

Time Windows by Kathryn Reiss
A time-travel fantasy novel for middle-grade readers.

The Glass House People by Kathryn Reiss
A psychological suspense novel about a 16-year-old girl and her family, for young adults.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

by Patricia Katzloff
M. katc MN

TRAVELING WITH BETSY RAY

When Betsy was very young, she and her friends had adventures exploring the world of Hill Street. As they grew older, they explored Deep Valley, and as a young woman, Betsy continued her adventures overseas. Hidden in the puzzle on this page are the names of seventeen places visited by Betsy. Choose the proper pairs of letters and put them together in the correct order to form the place names. HINT: many of the answers were derived from the first few books in the series, as well as from *BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD*. Also note that each pair of letters can be used only once. (Answers can be found on page 4.)

eh	ce	sc	th	ah	ol
ve	eu	er	st	pl	ls
ni	co	gr	rn	ou	ia
ll	at	ol	bo	ok	
oc	mi	eb	re	on	es
ch	ca	am	fo	sb	me
se	pe	li		st	ro
fa	rm	al	nd	ae	hi
lo	on	an	ig	au	an
ce	na	ks	ch	oo	de
ho	fr	to	ob	rg	an
se	ou	op	rk	pa	er



Betsy
↓
Tacy
↓



Big Hill
← Park Bench

To little Syria →

ARTWORK BY MISS ANGIE HARRINGTON, AGED TEN, OF EULESS, TEXAS.

From Our Mailbox

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

Michele Franck, Corresponding Secretary, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130-4414.

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

"You can't imagine the joy I have experienced at learning through VICTORIA magazine that there are Betsy-Tacy volumes I have not yet read. The three or four volumes I continually checked out of the West Side Branch Public Library in Youngstown, OH were solace to a young girl from an abusive home. Little did I realize that my beloved escape would have such an impact on my life. I eventually evolved into my 'career' via many activities formulated by reading of clothes, parties, and a lovely little town with loving people as described so beautifully by Mrs. Lovelace." Kathleen Hamilton, Fairfield, CT

"Oh bless you! As "I can hardly believe that the Betsy-Tacy Society exists! I thought I was the only one! I am 48 years old and just reread Betsy's Wedding. My daughter Danielle is 21 and also read the Betsy-Tacy books. I'm looking forward to establishing contact with other Society members." Suzanne Feasel, Plainfield, IN

"I have just read the Lovelace article in the July issue of Victoria magazine, and am thrilled to find there are other adults who love the Betsy-Tacy books as much as I do." Suzanne Brayman, Saginaw, MI

"I was delighted to read about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I began reading the books by Maud Hart Lovelace in 1957 when I was in second grade, and I own several of them." Susan Hackman, Grosse Pointe, MI

"While I was growing up in Minneapolis I started reading the Betsy-Tacy books in third grade. I remain enamored! And just like the article in Victoria said, my daughter has now joined the ranks." Martha Carroll, Otsego, MN

"Imagine my surprise when I read there was actually a Betsy-Tacy Society. My daughter and I always thought we had exclusive rights to Betsy and Tacy. Many a delightful hour was spent at the library finding the next adventure and going home to enjoy the stories. She was so little then, probably five or six, and I was in my twenties. This was back in the fifties. We loved the stories so much. When I read about the Society, I immediately called my daughter and told her about the Betsy-Tacy Society. She responded, 'Where's Tib?' (We always referred to the stories as Betsy-Tacy and Tib.)" Patricia Nelson, Tacoma, WA

"I was so thrilled to read about the Society! I have been a devoted fan of the Betsy-Tacy series for years and am so happy to learn there are others out there." Karen Hill, Lombard, IL

"I was so excited when I read the article about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I have been a fan since I was nine years old. I am now twenty-four and still going strong." Stephanie Kleinz, Lynnwood, WA

"I picked up the July issue of Victoria and was surprised to read about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I thought I was the only adult woman who rereads those books!" Kathy Capaldi, Willoughby, OH

"My mother introduced me to the Betsy-Tacy books because of my name, and I faithfully read them every summer over vacation - one after the other! I'm going to reread them this summer!" Betsy Butler, Columbus, OH

"Today my daughter, Elizabeth, showed me the article in Victoria about the Betsy-Tacy celebration. We were both delighted, to put it mildly. Our Elizabeth was named after Betsy, and she reads and loves the books just as my sister and I still do. In these times when children are rushed into adulthood and imbued with the doom-and-gloom outlook on the future, the fun, innocence, and bright spirit of the Betsy books is increasingly important. The values in them are universal and transcend time and place. So much of modern children's literature is written in a smart-aleck tone Betsy and the Crowd would never have dreamed of espousing. Betsy wasn't angelic, but she was possessed of imagination, courage, and a terrific sense of fun. It's always fortunate to find other people who share our tastes. I remember once giving a lift to a fellow teacher, and I noted the 'rosy apple blossoms' by the road. 'You know Betsy!' she shouted, and our friendship was cemented then and there. ... Many thanks from those of us who love Betsy, Tacy, and Tib." Pauline Tugwell, Johnson City, NY

"I have been an avid Betsy-Tacy fan for many years. I am now a children's book writer myself." Elaine Gavalas, New York, NY

"Please rush me information about the Betsy-Tacy Society. I was thrilled to read about it all, as I am, at age 57, an unashamed and inveterate fan of Betsy-Tacy (although I think it should be, in fairness, Betsy-Tacy-Tib -- Tib, after all, appeared in most of the books and was almost my favorite). After I mail this letter, I am heading straight for the library to take out Betsy In Spite of Herself, Betsy Was a Junior, and Betsy's Wedding." Elaine Bollinger, Farmington, NY

From Our Mailbox - continued

"Oh, if only I had known there was such a club! I have been a Betsy-Tacy fanatic for thirty years, but as far as I knew, I was the only one. I check the books out from the library on a regular basis but have longed for a set of my own since first I read them. My opinion is that they rank at least as high as the "Little House" or "Anne of Green Gables" books. Besides being lovely, charming stories, the books remind me of my own childhood, and my two special friends." Judi Buller, Olympia, WA

"What an unexpected and pleasant surprise when I read that the wonderful stories of Betsy and Tacy are still being treasured. I didn't have a chance to share them with my own daughters but I certainly don't want to miss sharing them with my granddaughters. With the world filled with such stressful events, it is reassuring to know that there are still beautiful dreams to be dreamed." Emily Reason, Renton, WA

"I thought I was the only adult that still read the 'Betsy-Tacy books. I read these books when I was a child and reread them when my three girls read them for the first time. I would love for my two granddaughters to read them too." Rosemary Jones, Louisville, KY

"I have just 'discovered' the Betsy books and am reading them to my children, ages 5 and 10. Each book is like a jewel. I look forward to our reading time as the very best part of the day and dread coming to the end! (Though I've gone 'ahead' and read Betsy and the Great World and Betsy's Wedding.)" Annie Kitching, Lansing, MI

"I was very excited to read about your group. I, too, have loved the Betsy-Tacy books since I was very young. I have reread them countless times over the years and have now read several to my own daughters. I'm glad to know I am not the only adult who checks Betsy's Wedding out of the library!!" Patricia Freymuth, Antioch, CA

"I was so excited to read the article about Betsy-Tacy books, because I am one of their adult fans who introduced her daughter to the books. I have wanted to compile a library of the Betsy-Tacy books for my daughter and a daughter she might have in the future. The Betsy-Tacy books are delightful reading, and hold the attention even of my very '90's 21-year-old daughter." Carolyn Waterman, Bethany OK

"I was taken aback to see the article on the Betsy-Tacy Society. As a loyal Lovelace reader (still, at 27 and married, no kids), I never realized that there were many who cherish the "Betsy books" as I have for years. The article describes me, too. I showed the article to my husband and family to prove that I am at least as sane as others enthralled by the Betsy-Tacy series." Teresa Gibson, Ann Arbor, MI

"I can't believe what I just read in July's Victoria magazine! Betsy-Tacy was my favorite book series when I was growing up in Minnesota in the 40's and 50's. Many summers I still will reread much of the series - which I've given to my daughters. Now I have my own Tacy. She's shy, blue-eyed and red haired (what a surprise to me!). And her sister, Christina Elizabeth, is quick-witted and much more of a dickens than Tacy. The attraction of the names for me, besides their beauty, emanated from my sense of strong family values that are so clearly exemplified in all of the books." Linda Arava, Laguna Beach, CA

"After reading the article in the July issue of Victoria magazine regarding the Betsy-Tacy Society Convention, I had to write and express my surprise and delight at the existence of such a society. I never imagined that there was such a devoted following of the Betsy-Tacy series." Sara Stanhope, Lyme NH

"I read Betsy, Tacy, and Tib books all through my childhood and enjoyed them immensely. Lately, when I've taken my eight-year-old son to the library, I've checked out a 'Betsy' book for me too. I found out I love them just as much now, as I did back then!" Kathy Blumeier, Sugar Hill, GA

"I saw Michele Franck's letter in the December issue of Victoria magazine. All this time I thought my friend Janet Herman (since 2nd grade and we're both 54!) and I were the only ones in the world who read and loved Betsy-Tacy books. Everyone heard of the Little House series, but not even the library could help me on Betsy-Tacy when I tried to find them for my daughter many years ago." Marlene Lade

"Betsy and I go back a long ways. My mother read me Betsy-Tacy when I was three or four, and I have read the books myself pretty much on a yearly basis since I was nine. So I was excited when I heard about the Betsy-Tacy Society." Martha S. Fletcher, Portland, OR

"It's great to know that other people are still reading Betsy-Tacy books as adults. I thought I was the only one sneaking into the children's section of the library to check out a copy of one of the Betsy-Tacy books. Maud Hart Lovelace's books still bring out the child in me every time I rediscover one of them. Her books never lose their charm and I can't wait to share them with any children I may have, just as my mom did with me and my grandmother with my mom." Kathy M. Forbes, Pleasant Hill, CA

CONVENTION ROUNDUP

RAFFLE

Thanks to the hard work of Bonnie Daly, our raffle coordinator, we sold 1679 raffle tickets at the convention. (Special thanks to Lucia Duff, Julie Butler, Sue Grossman, Brenda Worsley, and Bonnie Daly for the donation of books.)

The SHEET MUSIC winners were:

- Susan Stanfield • Merry Widow Waltz
- Cheryl Harness • Keep the Home Fires Burning
- Peggy Scannell • Peg O' My Heart
- Susan Stanfield • Yip I Addy I Ay
- Cheryl Harness • Wild Irish Rose
- Toni Killinger • It's A Long Way to Tipperary
- Cheryl Harness • The Glow Worm
- Barbara Carter • I'm Afraid to Come Home in the Dark
- Annie Harm • Dreaming
- Colleen Timmins • The Trail of the Lonesome Pine
- Evette Zamarripa • Oh Promise Me
- Jenny Mealey • Hitchy Koo
- Melissa Timmins • The Gaby Glide
- Diane Gonzalez • Ciribiribin
- Teri Kelsey • Bedelia
- Susan Knorr • The Cubanola Glide
- Aviva Mermelstein • Hearts and Flowers

TRIVIA ANSWERS

(from the last newsletter)

- What was Tacy's big sister's name? **KATIE**
- The name of Tib's family's hired girl? **MATILDA**
- What did the girls use to make lockets out of, when they cut their hair? **PILLBOXES**
- What fairy tale did the girls and Freddie re-enact in Tib's basement? **3 LITTLE PIGS**
- The name of the English teacher who picked on Betsy about commas? **MR. GASTON**
- What did Julia recite at the school entertainment in OVER THE BIG HILL? **QUEEN O' THE MAY**
- What perfume was Mrs. Ray known for wearing? **VIOLET**
- What did the initials TCKC stand for? **THE CHRISTIAN KINDNESS CLUB**
- From what city did Miss Bangeter, the high school principal, come? **BOSTON**
- The name of the Rays' horse? **OLD MAG**
- What color Easter egg did Betsy and Tacy leave in the bird's nest for Baby Bee? **PURPLE**
- The name of Betsy's piano teacher? **MISS COBB**
- Whose father died at the end of Betsy Was a Junior? **CAB'S**
- What was the name of Paul Kelly's dog? **GYP**
- Who was the Zetamathian faculty advisor? **MISS CLARK**
- Who was the Philomathian faculty advisor? **MISS O'ROURKE**
- What color did Julia wear in Betsy's Wedding? **GREEN**
- Where did Tacy's mother keep her ringlets after the girls cut their hair? **CANDY BOX**
- The name of the farmers whom Betsy visited in Betsy and Joe? **BEIDWINKLES**
- What song did the flying lady fly to in BTT? **NARCISSUS**

In Betsy-Tacy and Tib, the three girls used to like to look at pictures of beautiful ladies in what magazine? **MUNSEY'S MAGAZINE**

What was the name of the boat on which Betsy sailed for Europe in GREAT WORLD? **COLUMBIC**

The names of Margaret's cat and dog? **WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN**

Who was Anna's beau and where did he work? **CHARLIE at the CORNER CAFE**

What kind of trees lined the Secret Lane? **BEECH**

The name of the owners of the Inn at Murmuring Lake? **VAN BLARCUM**

Who ate the legs first on Mrs. Chubbock's chocolate man? **BETSY - HEAD, TACY-LEGS**

What stylish new hairdo did Joe keep toppling the day he got into Minneapolis from the East? **PSYCHE KNOT**

What color bows did Betsy and Tacy wear on costumes for the CAT DUET? **RED**

What was on Betsy's wedding cake besides flowers and ribbons? **A DOVE**

What two colors was the gingham in Betsy's fifth birthday dress? **TAN & PINK**

What were the first and last names of Betsy's two German friends, between whom she divided her time in Munich? **TILDA DIENEMANN and HELENA VON WANDERSEE**

The name of Julia's beau who loved to sing the Toreador song from Carmen? **PATRICK MCFADDEN**

Who was the captain of the football team in the fall of 1906? **HANK WEED**

If apple blossoms are rosy, what color were the morning glories on 909's backporch? **BLUEISH PINK**

Which is the only Betsy-Tacy book without a quotation on the end papers? **BETSY AND THE GREAT WORLD**

BETSY-TACY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 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

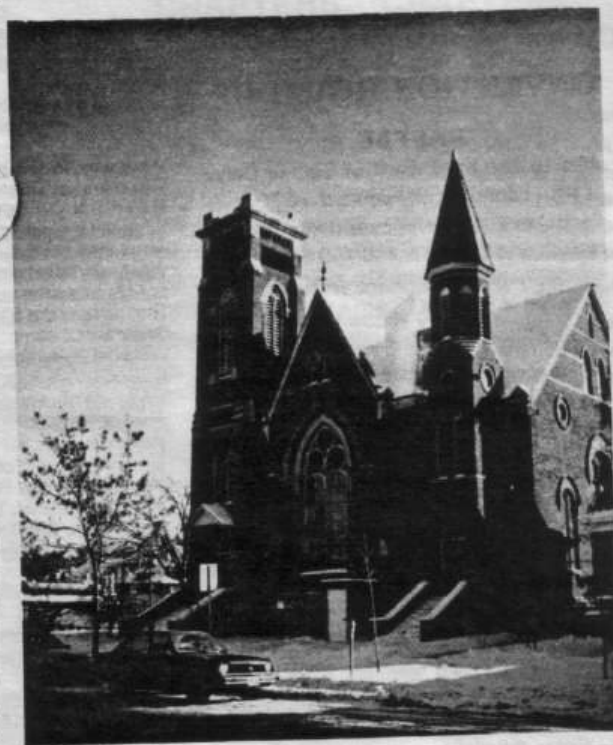
- _____ Sustaining \$100 and up
- _____ Patron \$25
- _____ Family \$15
- _____ Individual \$10
- _____ Europe or Canada \$15 and up



Membership renewal will be in September, 1993. **Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society.** Please send membership form and check to: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130-4414



Hill Street Hill with the bench, almost concealed by snow, perched at the top.



The Baptist Church, which the Ray/Hart family attended.

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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