



Deep Valley Sun

NEWSLETTER OF THE BETSY-TACY SOCIETY

To promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's legacy and her work, encourage and support literacy and conserve historic landmarks in Mankato

VOL. 5 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2009



Christmas in Deep Valley



© Illustration by Lois Lenski from *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*

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. In the spirit of the season, we hope you will enjoy this collection of holiday excerpts from the books. Merry Christmas from Deep Valley!

...school closed for the Christmas vacation. That meant that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib had an important engagement. For years on the first day of Christmas vacation they had gone shopping together.

This year they invite Winona to join them, and an entire chapter in "Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown" is devoted to this Christmas shopping trip.

The streets were crowded with sleighs and cutters. Chiming bells added to the Christmassy feeling in the air. Front Street was very Christmassy. Evergreen boughs and holly wreaths, red bells and mistletoe sprays surrounded displays of tempting merchandise in all the store windows. In one window a life-sized Santa Claus with a brimming pack on his back was halfway into a paper-mâché chimney.



© Illustration by Lois Lenski from *Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown*

The girls each have a dime to spend. After shopping at Cook's bookstore, the harness and saddle maker's shop, the Lion Department store, and the jewelry store, they end up at the toy store.

There on a long table Christmas tree ornaments were set out for sale. There were boxes and boxes full of them, their colors mingling in bewildering iridescence. There were large fragile balls of vivid hues, there were gold and silver balls; there were tinsel angels, shining harps and trumpets,

gleaming stars.

"Nothing," Tacy tried to explain, "is so much like Christmas as a Christmas-tree ornament."

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

They gave themselves then with abandon to the sweet delight of choosing. It was almost pain to choose. Each fragile bauble was gayer, more enchanting than the last. And now they were not only choosing, they were buying. What each one chose she would take home; she would see it on the Christmas tree; she would see it year after year, if she were lucky and it did not break.

They walked around and around the table, touching softly with mittened hands. Betsy at last chose a large red ball. Tacy chose an angel. Tib chose a rosy Santa Claus. Winona chose a silver trumpet. They yielded their dimes and the lady with the eye glasses wrapped up four packages. Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona went out into the street. The afternoon was drawing to a pallid close. Soon the street lamps would be lighted.

They walked to Ray's Shoe Store, smiling, holding Christmas in their hands. (Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown)



Betsy and Tacy went down town on their Christmas shopping expedition. This was a tradition with them. They went every year, visiting every store in town, and buying, at the end, one Christmas tree ornament. It was joyful, as always, to walk with locked arms along a snowy Front Street, gay with its decorations of evergreen and holly boughs, and the merry jingle of sleigh bells. (Heaven to Betsy)



[The tree] was a feathery hemlock and smelled deliciously when Betsy and Margaret visited it in the woodshed. On Christmas Eve it was brought indoors. It was set up in a corner of the dining room and a star was fixed on its crest. Strings of popcorn and cranberries were

Continues on page 3

In This Issue

- Christmas in Deep Valley.....1, 3
- Membership News2
- Special Message..... 5
- Lovelace Christams4
- A Betsy-Tacy Milestone!7
- In Memoriam - Esther Hautzig, 8

The Betsy-Tacy Society
Est. 1990
P.O. Box 94
Mankato, MN 56002-0094
507-345-9777
www.betsy-tacysociety.org
501(c)3 organization

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Annual Membership Levels

(Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)

Basic	\$25.00
Patron	\$50.00
Silver	\$100.00
Gold	\$250.00
Lifetime	\$500.00

For more information, see pg.9

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Membership:
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Shop:
shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org

Shop Catalog:

Shop our online catalog: www.betsy-tacysociety.org. PayPal available.
For a catalog: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.

Tacy's House and Gift Shop

Open every Saturday – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Closed January – February

Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is at 333 Center Street. Saturday Admission—Adults \$2, Ages 6-16 \$1. Under 5-Free (no admission to gift shop only).

Special House Visits: Call 507-345-9777

For special house visits, advance reservations are requested 2 weeks in advance.
Admission for special appointments: \$20.00 – up to 5 people. Over 5 people, additional \$3 for adults and \$1 for ages 5-16.
This fee applies to members and non-members of the BTS. Special rates available for bus tours or school visits. Contact us for more details.

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Welcome New Members

August 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009

Robin Ayotte
Julie Bell
Kathy M. Bezbatchenko
Sharon Bigot
Robin M. Black
Carol Burger
Patricia Clarke
Deva Fagan
Barbara Halligan
Nona Hillsberg
Anne Kerr
Linda James
Mickey Myhre
Jonni Craven Ngo
Deanna Sandcork
Tracy van Straaten
Amy Schwin
Melissa Wiley

Donations

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from August 1 – November 15, 2009 from the following:

Donations to \$49

Balcome, Helen - Assessment Fund
Berg, Marilyn - Assessment Fund
Blethen, Mary Jane
Bodelson, Katherine
Brown, Joan
Burger, Carol
Carroll, Martha - Assessment Fund
Chamberlain, Mary - Assessment Fund
Cloutier, Cheryl
Corbett, Hillary - Assessment Fund
Eng, Kathleen - Assessment Fund
Falgren, Jo – In Honor of Jerry & Kathy
Bodelson's 50th Anniversary

Fleurichamp, Dena
Hurwitz, Johanna - Assessment Fund
Jasinski, Kathryn - Assessment Fund
Jewkes, Cary Rich - Assessment Fund
Johnson, Barb
Katz, Amy
Kerr, Anne
Kolibaba, Anne - Assessment Fund
Kusserow, Jeannie - Assessment Fund
Lattemann, Dianne - Assessment Fund
Livdahl, Barbara - Assessment Fund
McKeever, Regina
MHL Listserv - Assessment Fund
Morley, Allison - Assessment Fund
Morrison, Kathleen
Munoz, Carlos & Grace - Assessment Fund
Norland, Kris - Assessment Fund
Phillips, Anne - Assessment Fund
Phillips, Patricia - Assessment Fund
Poythress, Diane - Assessment Fund
Rolek, Tricia
Schultz, Jo - Assessment Fund
Sjulstad, Patti - Assessment Fund
Stenzel, Bryce - Assessment Fund
Tugwell, Pauline - Assessment Fund
Turner, Kathleen - Assessment Fund
Vosbeck, Elizabeth - Assessment Fund
Wagenhals, Susan

Donations \$50 - \$99

Anderson, Olivia & Julia Weidner – lemonade stand sales
Banwart, Penny - Assessment Fund
Deep Valley Convention – shop sales
Bonello, Sarah - Assessment Fund
Bryan, Kourtney
Burford, Stacey - Assessment Fund
Fick, Barbara - Assessment Fund
Hanson, Kathryn - Assessment Fund

Kavulich, Susan
Lloyd, Harry
Madison, Roberta - Assessment Fund
Michalets, Jeanette - Assessment Fund
Mohr, Harley - Assessment Fund
Parnell, June - Assessment Fund
Reed, Dorene - Assessment Fund
Rozier, Hilah - Assessment Fund
Steiner, Mickee
Taylor, Marcelle
Thomas, Deborah - Assessment Fund
Trofimuk, Janette - Assessment Fund
Tveite, Carol
VanTol, Noel
Voss, Hannah - Assessment Fund
Williamson, Marilyn - Assessment Fund
Yudiskas, Rose

Donations \$100 - \$499

Brown, Bob & Susan - Assessment Fund
Corson, Judith
Crepeau, Courtney - Assessment Fund
Freymuth, Patricia – Restoration Fund
Gibson, Teresa - Assessment Fund
Hilleke, Beth - MHL Listserv book sales
Huntley, Mary - Assessment Fund
Laven, Doug & Candace - Assessment Fund
MAS Communications - Assessment Fund
Masters, Lee & Wendi - Assessment Fund
Mills, Cheryl - Assessment Fund
Pengra, Laurie - Assessment Fund
Raun, Wendylee - Assessment Fund
Reuter, Kelly – DVC jewelry sales
Roberts, Nancy - Assessment Fund
Sandleback, D'Lene - Assessment Fund
Schnoor, Barbara - Assessment Fund
Schnoor, Barbara
Taylor, Marcelle - Assessment Fund
van Straaten, Tracy

Donations \$500 - \$1,000

Barnes & Noble – Bookfair Fundraiser
Gift, Helen - Assessment Fund
Hanson, Kathryn
Johnson, Janine
Thomas, Norma - Assessment Fund

Pauper Fundraiser

August 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009

Baxter, Kathleen
Bodelson, Kathy
Brown, Bob & Susan
Braddock, Bill & Marge
Hixson, Maud
Klugherz, Tom & Sharon
Mankato High School – Class of 1959
MHL Listserv
Pengra, Laurie
Stollenwerk, Kathy
Turner, Kathleen

Thank You, Volunteers!

August 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009

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Bryce Stenzel
Norma Thomas
Julia Weidner
Denny Weis
Brooklyn Youngerberg
Emy Youngerberg
Kim Youngerberg
Lucas Youngerberg

Artifacts & Archive Donations

August 1, 2009 – November 15, 2009
Janice Ahlness - Maud Hart Lovelace booklets published by Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
Bill Edwards – Framed autographed "1961 Guide to BT Places in Mankato"
Marilyn Feliciano – Sheet music: "Down by the Old Mill Stream", "Meet Me To-Night in Dreamland", "Ireland is Ireland to Me", "When You Tell the Sweetest Story to the Sweetest Girl You Know".
Julie Schrader – The Country Gentleman magazine Aug. 23, 1924; The Delineator magazines Aug. 1900, Aug. 1925, and June 1924; The Golden Pheasant and the AHOP Club by Maud Hart Lovelace (softcover book); vintage satin bed jacket, sheet music: "Bedelia", "In My Merry Oldsmobile", "Ragged Robin", "The Moon Has His Eyes on You".
Barb Wandersee – School desk (from Union School in Mankato)
Rhonda Whiting – Curse You, Jack Dalton one act play book

. . . . continued from page 1

woven through its branches that were hung with colored balls. (Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown)

In "Heaven to Betsy" the chapter "The Brass Bowl" is devoted to Christmas.

Mrs. Ray was busy with Christmas shopping, and one night at supper she announced:



© Illustration by Vera Neville from Heaven to Betsy

"I hope you haven't bought my Christmas present, Bob, for today I saw just what I want." "It's expensive," she warned. "You can all go in together to get it. You don't need to buy me another thing. I'll be perfectly contented with just this."

"It's in Dodd and Storer's window. Just what I want for the front parlor window. A big brass bowl!" . . . "It's perfectly stunning, Bob," Mrs. Ray said. "I just have to have it. It looks just like me." (Heaven to Betsy)



The Ray house by this time was almost bursting with Christmas. Holly wreaths were up in all the windows. Mr. Ray had brought home candy canes; Washington had a red and green bow on his collar. And everyone had been warned by everyone else not to look in this or that drawer, or this or that closet. (Heaven to Betsy)



There was the usual Christmas Eve ritual. They decorated the tree. Betsy put on the golden harp from this year's shopping expedition with Tacy. She hung the red ball she had bought last year, the angel from the year before. The tree stood in the dining room, and its candlelight mingled with the soft light from the fire in the grate as Julia went out to the piano and they all sang, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and "Silent Night." (Heaven to Betsy)



By firelight and Christmas-tree light the family sang the old familiar carols. Betsy read from Dicken's *A 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. When this was over, they turned out the lights and filled one another's stockings with smothered giggles which anticipated next morning's fun. "Now you all stay in bed until the house is warm," Mr. Ray always said. (Betsy Was a Junior)

In the morning he [Mr. Ray] shook down the furnace, and heat came up through the registers along with the smell of sausages and coffee. After he had kindled a fire in the grate and Anna had set breakfast on the table to be consumed at will, the gong summoned the rest of the family. Each one rushed to the chair which held his stocking.

(Betsy Was a Junior)



Maud Hart dressed in her Christmas fur, ca 1908. © Maud Hart Lovelace archives, published in Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley

. . . she found a big box. . . Clutching it joyfully, she [Betsy] raced back to the fire and while the family crowded about, she lifted out a set of furs. They were fluffy blue fox, a neck piece, a muff, even a fur hat with a chou of green velvet on the side. "Papa! Mamma!" She rushed about kissing, then ran to the music-room mirror. She wore them to church later. . . The sidewalks were covered with a thin powdering of frost and the snowbanks seemed to have been sprinkled with diamonds.

(Betsy Was a Junior)

Excerpts taken from the Betsy-Tacy book series written by Maud Hart Lovelace and published by ©HarperCollins



BTS Member News

Membership Renewal Reminder

Memberships are due each year on January 1. Please check for your renewal date on the address label of this newsletter. If your membership expires on December 31, 2009, please renew today. Thank you!

Do we have your current e-mail address?

Our new database allows us to keep in closer contact with our members by making it easy to send out e-mails regarding current news and events that take place between newsletter publications. But we need your e-mail address! If you are not receiving occasional e-mails from us, please check to be sure we have your current e-mail address on file or that our messages are not getting caught in your spam filter. Contact: julie@betsy-tacysociety.org.

A Lovelace Christmas

Written by Merian Lovelace Kirchner (daughter of Maud & Delos Lovelace) for the 1992 Betsy-Tacy Society newsletter.



Maud and Merian Lovelace and Stella Hart, ca 1933

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...Santa 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 the 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/Rayish. 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 on 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!

Give the Gift of Betsy-Tacy

Gift shop sales are a wonderful way to support the BTS during the holidays and year-round! Whether you're shopping for yourself or for that special someone on your gift list, we have unique gifts that are sure to please. Many of our items are custom made especially for the BTS and are not found anywhere else. Not sure what to give? How about a Betsy-Tacy gift shop gift certificate? Visit our website to shop online or request a catalog (see p. 2). Many new products were featured in the August 2009 Deep Valley Sun.



The Black Angels and the new Betsy-Tacy high school book titles are now available!

Thanks to Jennifer Hart with HarperCollins for the tremendous job she's done promoting the re-issue of the high school books

and to all those who organized "Party With the Crowd" events in their area.



"The Crowd" at Betsy's house for the Party With the Crowd event on October 3rd.

Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society website

We are continually adding new information to our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org.



A member benefit is the "Members Only" page. Members just need to create a password to enter this page, which features

current and back issues of the *Deep Valley Sun* and other special articles and member information. A "Learn About Maud" page features a wide variety of information about Maud and her books, children's activities, teachers guides, book clubs, parties and games and more. New are Betsy-Tacy reading guides for each of the Betsy-Tacy books. These guides were written by Dr. Kris Koebler and are designed to help you share the exciting adventures of Betsy and Tacy with your children, students or book club. You can keep up to date with our restoration projects and get information on events, tours and open hours. And don't forget to check out our shop!

Special Message

Dear BTS Members:

As we did with the mortgages of Betsy's and Tacy's childhood homes, we are now asking the BTS membership and supporters for financial support to help pay for the street assessments for these houses. As a non-profit organization, the BTS does not pay property tax. We are, however, required to pay for street assessments. Over the past few years, Center Street and Lewis Street, which run on both sides of these houses, have been completely redone. Fuller Street, which runs behind Betsy's house, was completed this year. If you have recently been to the houses, you saw the beautiful new streets on all sides of our property. However, with such progress comes a price! The assessments billed to the BTS total \$10,023.30. This cost will be increased by \$1,750 in 2010 when the assessments for Fuller Street are added.

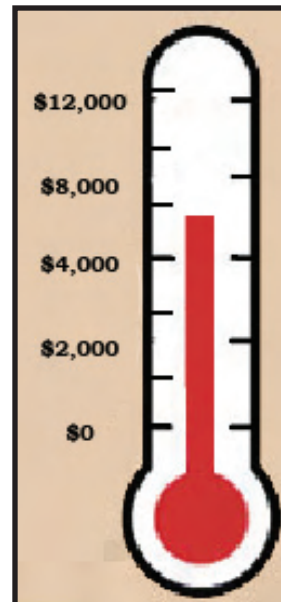
The assessments can be paid over a 10-year period with 6.5 percent interest. Payments are due every May 15 and October 15. The first payment of \$826.67 was due on October 15, 2009. An e-mail was sent to the membership in September asking for help to raise the funds for the first payment, and the response from you was overwhelming. Thanks to everyone who answered our call for help nearly \$4,000 was raised! Since we do not have the e-mail addresses for all BTS members, many of you are just now learning of this.

The BTS Board members have pledged to contribute to pay the street assessments. As the owners of these houses, we're asking our membership to help meet this expense with a special contribution. We are confident that our membership will come through for us as we face these financial hurdles, just as you raised the funds to pay off the mortgage! If every BTS member made a contribution (no matter how large or small) to paying these assessments, we will put this huge expense behind us within a short time.

If you can help, please send a check to the Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094. Write TAXES in the memo line of your check. As always, your contribution is tax deductible. Please know that whatever you can send is appreciated.

With gratitude,

The Betsy-Tacy Society Board



Wish list

Cash donations are gratefully accepted and will help us purchase items needed.

1950 Mankato High School Otaknam yearbook

Archival boxes & supplies for artifacts

Books by Maud Hart Lovelace: *The Charming Sally*, *One Stayed at Welcome*, *The Tune Is in the Tree*.

Breakfront desk for Betsy's House

Dehumidifier for Betsy's House

LCD projector

Vacuum cleaner for Betsy's House

Paver Fundraiser

There is still time to get your name in stone or to give this as a gift in honor or memory of your loved ones. An order form can be downloaded from our website. This fundraiser will continue until the entire walkway by Betsy's House is filled with engraved pavers! Blank pavers are replaced by engraved pavers as the orders come in. Proceeds benefit the Restoration Fund.



Cemetery Fund

A permanent flower urn was installed at the gravesite of Maud Hart Lovelace by the Betsy-Tacy Society this summer. Maud loved flowers, and it will be a tribute from all of her fans to be remembered with flowers each summer. Annual costs are \$75 for planting and maintenance. We also have the option (for an additional fee) to have a wreath placed at the gravesite during the holidays.

To contribute to the Cemetery Fund, you can send a check to the Betsy-Tacy Society, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094. Or make a donation online through the BTS shop site using PayPal - just include a note designating your donation to the Cemetery Fund.



Fundraising for the Betsy-Tacy Society!

Olivia Anderson (age 12) of Stillwater and Julia Weidner (age 11) of Minnetonka organized a fundraiser for the Betsy-Tacy Society held outside the Stillwater Public Library in Stillwater, MN in August 2009. The girls sold lemonade and home-made lemon cake. Both girls enjoy reading these historical fiction books based on the author's childhood and became quite inspired after visiting the historic homes in Mankato. Thank you Olivia and Julia!



We are thankful for each and every one of our supporting members. We know it has been a difficult year for many of you. Your continuing show of support, confidence and assistance to the Betsy-Tacy Society is appreciated more than you can know. You make this possible!

Wishing you and those you hold dear a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the BTS staff and board

A Betsy-Tacy Milestone!

The Betsy-Tacy Society (est. 1990) purchased Tacy's house (332 Center Street) for \$39,000 in 1995. In 2001, just six years later, Betsy's house (333 Center Street) was purchased for \$60,000. Both houses have undergone extensive renovations, which continue as funds are raised.

The BTS has held a mortgage since 1995. Our "Burn the Mortgage" campaign began in February 2007 with \$38,000 still owed on the mortgage. Thanks to our generous members and donors we have been able to pay off the mortgage just a little over two years later! We're proud of this accomplishment and grateful to our members, donors and volunteers for their continued support. Thank you to everyone who has helped the BTS achieve this milestone!

On October 17, the Betsy-Tacy Society commemorated the retirement of the mortgage on Betsy's house and the re-issue of *The Black Angels* with a celebration.

2009 Betsy-Tacy Society Board

- President: Penny Banwart
- Vice President: Joan Brown
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- Candy Laven
- Doug Laven
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- Kristin Woizeschke
- Jacqui Woodwick

BTS President Penny Banwart addresses the crowd and introduces past and present BTS board members. L-R: Joan Brown (BTS vice-president), Julie Schrader (BTS executive director), Penny Banwart, (BTS president) and Bryce Stenzel (BTS board member and master of ceremonies).



David Geister signing *The Black Angels*



Cast of *The Black Angels* vignette: L-R: Johnathon, Emy, Alex, Emily, Joshua and Lucas.



Special guest artist David Geister and his wife, Pat Bauer. David is holding the original artwork used for the cover of *The Black Angels*, which was unveiled during the vignette.



Burning the mortgage!

In Memoriam Esther Hautzig



Esther Hautzig, whose memoir of growing up in exile in Siberia, *The Endless Steppe*, has become a classic of children's literature, died November 1, 2009 at a New York City hospital. She was 79 and had Alzheimer's disease and congestive heart failure.

Esther Rudomin was born October 18, 1930 in Vilnius, Lithuania, then part of Poland, where her family ran a jewelry store. In 1941, after the Soviet Union and

Germany signed a nonaggression pact that put Vilnius under Soviet control, Hautzig's family was arrested for being capitalists. At age 10 she was shipped with her parents and grandparents in a cattle car to the Siberian city of Rubtsovsk.

She spent all of World War II there, attending school and learning to live with privation and loss. More than 20 years later, after Hautzig had settled in the United States, she wrote *The Endless Steppe*. She wrote the book for children when publishers told her that her story would not appeal to adults. It won several awards and was acclaimed as a worthy successor to Anne Frank's powerful memoir, *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

In 1954 Esther was hired by Elizabeth Riley as the director of children's book promotion at Thomas Y. Crowell Co. She worked on the promotion for *Betsy's Wedding* by Maud Hart Lovelace. Esther asked Paul Galdone's sister-in-law, who was a sculptor, to create a Betsy bride doll. The nearly life-size doll was made of papier-mâché on a wire frame. Esther sewed the doll's nylon organza skirt and the veil and offered the doll to libraries and bookstores for "appearances." She wrote a biographical booklet about Maud Hart Lovelace and the Betsy-Tacy series that was also part of the publicity.

Children all over the country could now see Betsy "in person," read about the creator, and learn the story behind all the stories in the Betsy-Tacy series. The doll stayed in each place for a few weeks, and every few months Betsy returned to Esther for freshening up, which involved Esther taking the skirt and veil home to wash by hand. The Betsy doll toured the country for a number of years and now resides at the Blue Earth County Historical Society in Mankato, Minnesota.

Esther's second promotion for *Betsy's Wedding* was a "bridal tea" to be held near the date of the book's publication. Esther had formal invitations printed, hand-addressed each envelope, and mailed the invitations to reviewers and librarians. The tea was

held at the Waldorf-Astoria. At 5 pm the guests began to arrive, including Robert L. Crowell, the president of the Thomas Y. Crowell Co., and many members of the board of directors, as well as all the movers and shakers in the New York children's book community. Mr. and Mrs. Delos W. Lovelace attended. "Maud was dressed elegantly, her hair parted and waved in a manner that made her look like the Duchess of Windsor," Esther remembered in an interview.

Esther continued to work in children's book publishing until 1990. Survivors include her husband, Walter, two children and three grandchildren.

Sources: Los Angeles Times (Nov. 12, 2009) and article written by Fran Manushkin for the Betsy-Tacy Society Journal in 1999. Visit www.betsy-tacysociety.org to read the complete obituary or log in to the members page to read the Journal article.



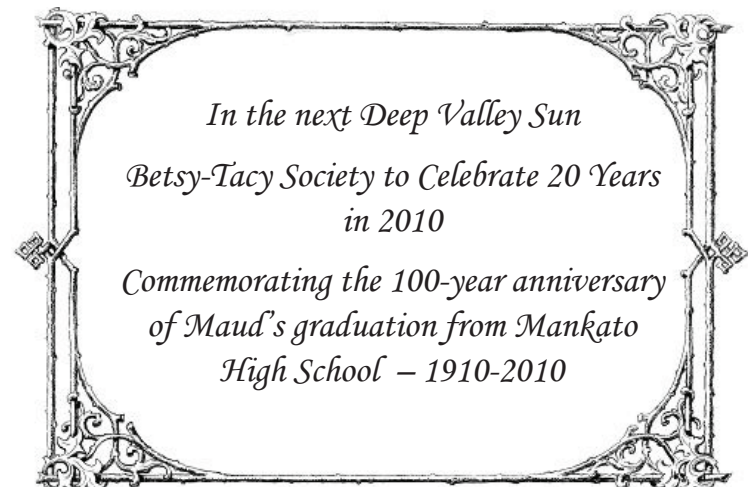
Leave a Legacy

We all leave our own unique mark on this world in our families, work and the organizations we believe in and support. We celebrate these legacies at the Betsy-Tacy Society - after all, this is the heart of the history we are passionately working to preserve every day.

A legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, can help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve and promote the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and her works for future generations. If you are also thinking about the future, please consider a legacy gift to help ensure the Betsy-Tacy Society has the resources to preserve these historic literary houses (childhood homes of Maud Hart Lovelace and Frances "Bick" Kenney) and the precious Lovelace artifacts and archives for many years to come.

The Betsy-Tacy Society is a member of LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, which is a collaborative effort to educate the public and promote the idea of giving through bequests and estate plans by increasing awareness of and interest in charitable-giving options.

To learn more about giving opportunities, contact Julie Schrader, executive director, at 507-345-9777. To learn more about LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, visit its website: www.leavealegacymankato.org.



New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletters, a history of the BTS, Maud Hart Lovelace timeline and much more. With each new paid lifetime membership you'll receive a hardcover copy of Winona's Pony Cart and a lifetime membership certificate.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:

- Receive our newsletters.
- Have access to the special "Members Only" page on our website
- Receive special "Members Only" gift shop discounts.
- Be informed of all upcoming events.
- Be part of an important effort to restore the Betsy-Tacy houses, historical literary landmarks in Mankato to educate future generations about the importance of the period.

Great Gift Idea

Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society makes a great gift for that special person on your gift list. With each paid gift membership, we'll send a new-member packet and sign your name to a special card announcing your gift. Just fill out the membership form below with the recipient's name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.



When contacting the BTS....

By Mail - Always send mail to the following address:
 Betsy-Tacy Society
 P.O. Box 94
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Do not use the address printed in the back of the older issues of the Betsy-Tacy books and do not address mail to us at the Center Street location. We do not have a mailbox at either house, and the mail carrier cannot deliver to these addresses.

By Email - When sending an email, ALWAYS use "Betsy-Tacy" in the subject line. This will help ensure your message does not get caught in spam filters.

By Phone - Our phone number - 507-345-9777 - reaches an answering service. Please leave your message and it will be returned by someone with the Society who can best help you

Privacy Statement

The Betsy-Tacy Society is committed to respecting the privacy of our members. Please be assured that we do not rent or sell our mailing list. If you have any questions about your member information and how it is used, please contact us at membership@betsy-tacysociety.org or 507-345-9777.

During these difficult economic times, your support is vital to us! As a non-profit organization, we operate solely on memberships, gift shop sales and special donations. We receive no federal or state funding.

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Membership Form

Membership runs from January 1st - December 31st

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

New Renewal

I would like: Mailed newsletters

Electronic Newsletter

Choose electronic newsletter - save money for the BTS and save a tree!

Membership Levels

\$25 Basic (Foreign members receive electronic newsletters - if mailed are preferred move up to the next level.)

\$50 Patron

\$100 Silver*

\$250 Gold* (Gift Choice (circle one): A or B)

\$500 Lifetime (Gift A and C)

Pay in 4 installments of \$125

* Denotes business memberships

Please do not send my gift. I want my full contribution to support the BTS.

GIFTS

Gift A: Winona's Pony Cart - hard cover

Gift B: Immortal Trio note cards

Gift C: Betsy's House ornament

Donations

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____ above my yearly membership dues.

I would like to allocate my gift to:

- Unrestricted
- General Fund
- Restoration Fund

No acknowledgement for donation required

Donation in Memory of: _____

Donation in Honor of: _____

Membership dues and monetary gifts cover a growing part of BTS annual operating budget. Thank you for your support as BTS preserves and promotes the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

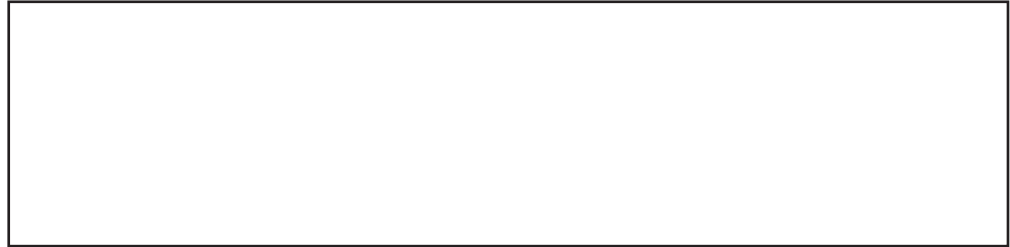
Please return this form to:

BTS Membership
 P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094



Betsy-Tacy Society
 P.O. Box 94
 Mankato, MN 56002-0094
 www.betsy-tacysociety.org

Non-Profit Org.
 Bulk Rate
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Mankato, MN
 Permit No. 86



Calendar of Events

2009

December 5 Betsy-Tacy Victorian Christmas - special guest author Jill Kalz

2010

CLOSED JAN-FEB - tours or gift shop open by appointment only

March 9-10 BTS participates in the South Central Service Cooperative Young Writers & Artists Conference (For more information: www.mnscsc.org/student_outreach/ywac.html)

April 24 Betsy's (Maud's) Birthday Party

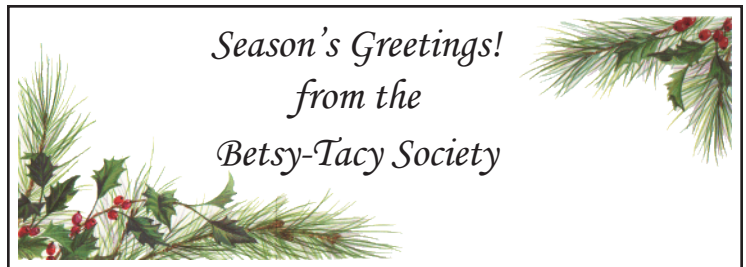
June Victorian Lawn Party & Annual Meeting (date to be announced)

July 16-17 BTS special events in collaboration with Laurapalooza in Mankato (watch for more details)

September 25 Betsy-Tacy Neighborhood Walk

December 4 Betsy-Tacy Victorian Christmas

Event details are posted on our website - www.betsy-tacysociety.org and www.greatermankatoevents.com



Address Changes

Please remember to inform us if your mailing address changes. Most of our mailings are sent via bulk mail to save on postage costs and keep membership rates low. Bulk mail is NOT forwarded even when a change-of-address card is left with the post office.

Important Membership Information

Check your renewal date on the address label of this newsletter. If your membership has expired, please renew today. If you mailed your membership dues after November 15, 2009, the new expiration date may not be reflected on this mailing label. If your membership has expired, please consider renewing today! You are very important to us and we don't want to lose you as a valued member.