



# Deep Valley Sun

Newsletter of the Betsy-Tacy Society

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

[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)



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Vol. 1, Issue 1

February 2005

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## A Note from the President...

Greetings from Deep Valley!

The Betsy-Tacy Society is delighted to welcome Julie Schrader in her new role as Director and newsletter editor. Her efforts will allow us to keep you updated more frequently on our progress as we continue, with your help, to restore and maintain Betsy and Tacy's houses and to promote the work of Maud Hart Lovelace.

~ *Lona Falenczykowski*

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## From the Director/Editor....

Dear Betsy-Tacy Members,

I'm honored to have been appointed Director and newsletter editor for the Betsy-Tacy Society and am very excited to have this opportunity. Some of my duties will include bookkeeping, program/event coordination, shop manager, newsletter editor, publicity and fund raising.

This is the first issue of the *Deep Valley Sun*, a society newsletter we plan to print several times a year. This newsletter will NOT replace the Journal, but will supplement it. Due to the production work involved and the high costs of printing the Journal, it is feasible to only print it once a year. By sending a newsletter we'll be able to better keep you up to date and involved in what's happening at the society.

Another change you'll notice concerns our membership renewals. In the past we have marked membership renewals by Journal numbers. In an effort to make it easier for our members to know when their membership is due and for our record keeping, we'll be changing to a month and year format. Your renewal date is found on your mailing label. Please be patient with us while we are transforming our system. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information can be found on page 2.

~ *Julie Schrader*

## Regular Hours for Tacy's House and Gift Shop

Tacy's House is now open every Saturday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If there is enough interest and support (and volunteers!) we'll be able to extend the days and times that the house is open to the public. For now this is our first step forward. We'll still continue to offer tours by appointment. When making appointments for tours – please keep in mind that we request a week's advance notice to give us time to line up a tour guide. To make an appointment, call Lona (507) 345-8103.

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## News from Tacy's Gift Shop

Beginning February 1, 2005, we will begin offering our members a 10% discount on purchases from our gift shop or catalog. To receive the discount on catalog orders, please provide your membership expiration date (which is found on your mailing label) in the space provided on the on-line order form. If you are using an old order form you can write your expiration date on the bottom of the form.

We'll be expanding our shop to include books written by our members and Minnesota authors. From time to time our newsletter will print a book review of one of the new books from the shop. Kathryn Adams Doty, now living in Mankato, has written a wonderful book, "*A Long Year of Silence*." You'll find a review on page 3 of this newsletter. If you have a book to suggest for our shop, please let us know.

Our online catalog will also be expanded and we hope to begin offering PayPal to make it easier for our members and customers to order from us. Keep checking our website ([www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)) for updates.

New in the gift shop – "On the Bench" rubber stamp. See back page for more information.

## The Betsy-Tacy Society

Est. 1990

P.O. Box 94  
Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
507-345-8103  
[www.betsy-tacysociety.org](http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org)

Our mission is to promote and to preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's books, encourage continued publication and distribution of the books, and restore historical literary landmarks in Mankato.

### Board of Directors

President - Lona Falencykowski  
Vice President – Dolly Blomquist  
Secretary – Dr. Louisa Smith  
Treasurer – Penny Banwart

### Board Members

Peggy Bartelt	Denise Billington-Just
Genie Hedlund	Barb Lamson
Carol Lee	Kelly Reuter

Director/Newsletter Editor: Julie Schrader

Membership/Website: Michele Franck Blake

Journal Editor: Dolly Blomquist

Catalog Orders/Shipping: Joan Nikolay

### Membership Levels

\$15.00	Regular
\$25.00	Patron
\$200.00	Lifetime
\$20.00	Canada
\$25 & up	Europe, Asia, Africa

### Contact information:

Mail: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094  
Membership: [membership@betsy-tacysociety.org](mailto:membership@betsy-tacysociety.org)  
Shop: [shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org](mailto:shopkeeper@betsy-tacysociety.org)

Tours: Call Lona - 507-345-8103 or [lonaf@charter.net](mailto:lonaf@charter.net)

Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato and Betsy's House is located at 333 Center Street.

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## Donations

The BTS would like to gratefully acknowledge donations received during the months of December 2004 and January 2005 from the following:

Allen, Rita	Kase, Arlene
Arndts, Patricia	Kennedy, Laura
Baerg-Vatndal, Anita	Kirch, Sally
Barrett, Krista	Kleinbub, Suzanne
Bayer, Jaqueline	Kinoshita, Betty
Berman, Ruth	Knowles, Sally
Blomquist, Dolly	Landes, Judy
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Buell, Evelyn	Liederbach, Nora Lee
Bulla, Clyde Robert	Lindgren Lyndy
Burford, Stacey	Lins, Judith
Canfield, Cheryl	MacCulloch, Susan
Cockburn, Shirley	Manis, Cordelia
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Cox, Janie	Metzger, Angela
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Gold, Emily	Sippel, Cleo
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Holloway, Betsy	Trofimuk, Janette
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Hudak, Madeline Barnes	Welsch, Carol
Hudson, Beth	Williamson, Marilyn
Jacks, Colleen	Woizeschke, Kristin
Jensen, Pat	Wortel, Kathleen
Jensen, Sue Ellen	Young, Toby
Johnson, Janine	Zobel, Vicki
Johnson, Karin	
Just, Fran	

*We apologize if we  
inadvertently omitted anyone,  
and if so, please contact us.*



## *"A Long Year of Silence"*

Review by Julie Schrader

This historical novel is set in New Ulm, Minnesota and takes place in 1917 when the United States declares war on Germany. At the time the

German language was spoken in homes, and churches. You'll find this a compelling story that contributes greatly to the understanding of the World War I experience in Minnesota.

While the United States mobilized for war, it also implemented a campaign to quell opposition on the home front. The Minnesota Public Safety Commission was established and created a climate of fear, especially in towns with significant German-American population. Government agents monitored newspapers and the mail and took notes at public events. Undercover agents spent hours in local saloons and hotels, listening for any hint of disloyalty. The government encouraged citizens to spy on the activities of their neighbors.

"*A Long Year of Silence*" is the story of sixteen-year-old Emma Altenberg whose world is turned upside down when anti-German hysteria sweeps through Minnesota. Emma, the daughter of a German Methodist minister, struggles with the challenge of relationships with her parents and her friends.

*"My father's congregation had been pretty much all of one mind about our entering into a European conflict, but for months and months, the rest of the town had been divided about the war, half for it, half against it. So what had been such a peaceful, prosperous German-American community, now seemed to have a war going on inside it...For myself I wanted to be a part of both halves, but I just couldn't figure out what I thought or felt about any of it, in spite of knowing beyond a shadow of a doubt which side my peace loving father was on. I certainly couldn't tell him how torn apart I was. It would break his heart"*.

Newspaper headlines such as "Speaking German Forbidden" and "All German Books Gathered and Burned" began to appear. Signs from the Committee on Public Information go up in store windows: *Spies and Lies - German agents are everywhere, eager to gather scraps of information about our men, our ships, our munitions. Report the man who spreads pessimistic stories, cries for peace, or belittles our efforts to win the war.*

Fear spreads quickly and friends and family members begin to be suspicious of one another. Emma has

growing fears and suspicions about her father being a spy.

*"Then I heard Father's voice, "Young boys on both sides of this terrible war will be lonely. We must not forget that. If the American people want to rid themselves of everything German, they will have to eliminate most of Christmas customs – the tree, many carols, so many things." I turned my gaze from my mother and looked at my father, saw his face and my pondering began again. He certainly seemed to always be defending the Germans. Yet how could I possibly hurt this wonderful man. How could I doubt him, deceive him, betray him?"*

The author, Kathryn Adams Doty, was born in New Ulm, MN and was the daughter of Rev. Christian Hohn, pastor of the German Methodist church. In 1939 she moved to California for a career in the movies. She married actor Hugh Beaumont of "Leave It To Beaver" fame and retired to raise a family. She returned to Minnesota and has also returned to her first love – writing.

Just before the newsletter went to press, we received the news that Kathryn Doty was chosen as a finalist in the Young Adult Fiction category in the Minnesota Book Awards for her book "*A Long Year of Silence*."

Congratulations Kathryn!

**Copies of "A Long Year of Silence" are available from the Betsy-Tacy Society Gift Shop. \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping & handling.**

## Connections

By Dr. Louisa Smith

Dumpster diving is a sport that I don't frequently indulge in, but I couldn't resist the clump of Hamline Oracles at a house sale last March. I had attended



Hamline in the 1950s and had written a weekly column for the same newspaper so I couldn't see them just tossed out. And besides, they were free.

The house sale was conducted for Glenn Carey, a Hamline University graduate who had saved his college newspapers and literary magazines. His name appears in the Oracle as a member of Phi Theta Chi Fraternity and his dinner guest

at the spring formal was Ruth Ross whom I believe he married.

I stuck these papers in the trunk of my car and forgot about them until in December, I met Kathryn Adams Doty at an open house at Tacy's. I remembered reading an article about her in the Mankato Free Press that noted she too had attended Hamline University. Kathryn was signing her book, "A Long Year of Silence", set in New Ulm during World War I. In between signatures, I was able to ask her about her days at Hamline and mutual faculty members we both knew.

Besides the Hamline connection, I knew that Kathryn had gone from Minnesota to Hollywood where she had been in motion pictures and where she had married Hugh Beaumont of Leave it to Beaver fame. So I mentioned Anne Sumley, the theatre director at Hamline, and also English instructor. That was exactly the right person. While she attended Hamline in the late 1930s, Kathryn, known as Betty Hohn, was active in drama and speech activities. As a sophomore, she starred in Stage Door and Winterset, directed by Anne Simley, and represented Hamline in the state oratorical contest.

But it was winning the Gateway-to-Hollywood Search-for-Talent contest that launched coed Betty into her movie career. She was one of seven selected out of 40,000 applicants. According to James Moore, Hollywood talent scout, "If the studio got nothing from the whole series of 'Search for talent' contests but Kathryn Hohn, it would have been well-worth while. She is definitely star material."

While Kathryn was explaining how she was Betty at Hamline, I remembered those Oracles still in the trunk of my car and rushed out to get them. Sure enough, there she was in front of a WCCO microphone accepting her award (February 17, 1939). And a later issue, May 26, 1939, Kathryn Hohn appears in another photo as a guest columnist explaining what it's like to be in Hollywood. She was just starting work on a film with Ginger Rogers.

Kathryn (Betty) Hohn Adams Doty married Hugh Beaumont in 1942, had three children, retired from films to be a full-time mother. But not before she'd been in 24 films. Beaumont died in 1982 in Germany while visiting a son who was a psychology professor. Kathryn received a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology and became a licensed psychologist.

"A Long Year of Silence," is a truly wonderful book about New Ulm's persecution during World War I and the problems of having been born of German heritage. Most of the town spoke German and though grateful to live in America, were opposed to having their sons sent to fight people who were likely to be relatives in Germany. Played out in this atmosphere is a love story between the daughter of the German-Methodist minister and a Catholic-German young man whose mother speaks

only German. On all levels, it's a story about prejudice and short-sightedness, and the power of love.

Kathryn was born in New Ulm after World War I and her father was the German-Methodist minister until after the war when the church merged with the Episcopal church. The sermons had been preached in German before the war. The family lived there until 1926 when they moved to Iowa, but Hamline was the school for Methodists, especially the sons and daughters of ministers, and so it made sense for her to attend college there. Beaumont was also a minister, I should add.

Her book is set during World War I but her own life was played out during World War II when New Ulm again was faced with the same German question. She has done her homework and selected her information brilliantly for the book, but you can tell that she also was probably working with first hand experience.

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## Tacy's Victorian Christmas a Success

This year we celebrated the holidays with Tacy's Victorian Christmas Open House. Tacy's House was decorated in traditional Victorian style and was open to the public each Saturday afternoon beginning Nov. 20 and running through December 18, 2004. Each week we were host to a special guest. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our guests; Lydia Campbell (Betsy), Minnesota authors John J. Koblas, Lisa Bullard and Kathryn Adams Doty, Mankato musicians, Ron Affolter and Mike Blomquist.



**Our luncheon table beautifully  
decorated by Barb Lamson**

During the holiday season we also hosted three informational luncheons at Tacy's House. These were well attended and gave us a chance to reach out to the community to explain the mission of the Betsy-Tacy Society.

## New Song written for the Betsy-Tacy Society

Mankato native, Ron Affolter, wrote the words and music for "My Deep Valley Home" in honor of his sister Connie Affolter (1946-2001). Connie was a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society and introduced Ron to the Betsy-Tacy books. The first performance of this song was at Tacy's House on December 11, 2004. It's beautiful and we can't wait for everyone to hear it! We're planning to have the song recorded on CD and it will be available in our gift shop. Thank you Ron for sharing your time and talents with us!

### MY DEEP VALLEY HOME

Words and music by Ron Affolter, © 2004



If memories were meant to be veiled in mists of secrecy  
Nobody would ever see the tales that we could weave  
For we imagined we would fly to sunset clouds across the sky  
But all we ever did was try and lived in make believe

New leaves on the trees shimmer golden light  
Birds fly in the sky and sing with all their might  
Sunlight shines like powdered gold forever on our days of old  
And stories waiting to unfold of my Deep Valley Home

When we first climbed up the hill in search of dreams we  
could fulfill

We never knew that we would still be building memories  
We'd walk down the Secret Lane in a pink dress with a satin  
train

Trying to please the King of Spain so we could be the Queen

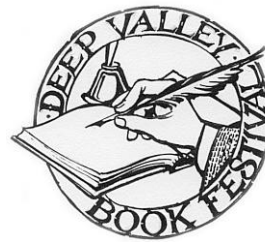
We would live in the Mirror Room  
And past the ridge where the wild roses bloom  
But waking to a golden dawn as the sun dried off the lawn  
Said the days would soon be gone in my Deep Valley Home

Twilight spread a purple glow over fields of drifting snow  
We looked on houses far below and wandered in a dream  
Then the springtime hill awoke and melted snow rushed down  
the slope  
We built sailboats full of hope and sent them down the stream

But when the years have grown old and darkness brings  
November cold  
There will be stories to be told of my Deep Valley Home.

## 2005 Events

- February 12** 1:00 Valentine Making Party at Tacy's House
- March 12** 1:00 pm St. Patrick's Celebration at Tacy's House "Irish Storytelling, Singing & Magic" by Leprechaun, Jack McGowan
- April 23** 1:00 pm Maud's Birthday Celebration BTS, Carnegie Library and Blue Earth County Historical Society program. Check our website - more details to follow
- May 18** 7:00 pm "Outside the City: Rasmussen Slough in 1912 viewed through the writings of Maud Hart Lovelace." by Dr. Louisa Smith at Elk's Nature Center in Mankato
- June 4** 1:00 pm Victorian Lawn Party Check our website - more details to follow
- June 11** Noon Pot Luck picnic and Annual Meeting at Tacy's House
- October 29** 6:30 pm Halloween Party at Tacy's House
- November 12-13** Deep Valley Book Festival – Midwest Wireless Civic Center Mankato
- December 3, 10 & 17** Christmas at Tacy's House



## Deep Valley Book Festival

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of Authors and Books was held at the Blue Earth County Library in May, 2004 and was co-sponsored by Minnesota Heritage Publishing, the Betsy-Tacy Society and the Blue Earth County Library. The event was a huge success and we're planning a bigger and better festival for 2005. The goal of this festival is to bring awareness to Minnesota authors and books and in doing so raise much needed funds for the Betsy-Tacy Society House Restoration Project. What better place to hold a book and author festival, but in Maud Hart Lovelace's hometown – *Deep Valley!* The Midwest Wireless Civic

Center has joined us as a sponsor and the 2005 festival will be held in this wonderful facility. The name has been changed to Deep Valley Book Festival to better identify the event with Mankato and Maud Hart Lovelace. BTS member, author, illustrator, Cheryl Harness has created the festival logo. As plans progress, we'll pass them along in future newsletters or you can check our website: [www.deepvalleybookfest.com](http://www.deepvalleybookfest.com). For more information on last year's festival see: [www.festivalofauthorsandbooks.com](http://www.festivalofauthorsandbooks.com).

## Clyde Robert Bulla

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our dear friend, Clyde Robert Bulla. Clyde is recuperating at St. Mary's Regional Rehabilitation Center, 301 NW R D Mize Rd, Room 326, Blue Springs, MO 64014.

## Artifact Donations

**Inella Burns:** Singing Wheels by Cornelia DeBois

**Sue Ellen Jenson:** The Game of Authors by Parker Brothers, Lady Audley's Secret by Miss M. E. Braddon.

**Everett & Ramona Schlingmann:** 1925 & 1926 Otaknam yearbooks

**Friends of the Deep Valley Libraries:** Glass display case

**Susan Stanfield:** Post card album with 10 postcards of Mankato and Minneapolis, MN

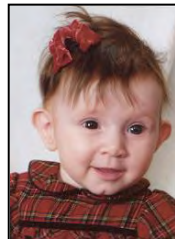
**Cornelius & Phyllis Votca:** 1938-1939, 1940 & 1941 Otaknam yearbooks

**Thank You!**

## Wish List For Tacy's House

Here is a list of items needed for Tacy's House. If you wish to donate any of these items to the BTS or know anyone who does, please contact us. (see page 2)

- Cast iron parlor stove with isinglass doors (as described and pictured in "Betsy-Tacy" - for pictures see our website.)
- Apartment size refrigerator
- New kitchen entry door with deadbolt
- Office supplies – desk, electric typewriter, copy machine
- Bookcases for shop
- Sideboard
- Security System
- For programs/events - small music CD player, portable DVD player
- Vacuum cleaner
- Fireproof safe or cabinet for archival materials
- Water heater – new energy efficient
- 1905-1915 Otaknam Yearbooks



## Bick's (Tacy) Great-Great Granddaughter

**Anastasia (Tacy) Elizabeth Lipovic**

Born: August 12, 2004 in Mesa, AZ  
 Parents: Ivan and Marisa Jayne (Kirch) Lipovic.  
 Grandparent: Elizabeth Anne (Kirch) Del Sol  
 Great-grandparents: Jim and Jane Kirch  
 Great-great grandparents: Charles & Frances

(Bick) Kenney Kirch

We're told that Tacy's room is beautifully decorated with framed illustrations from the Betsy-Tacy books. Her parents can hardly wait to begin reading the books to her!

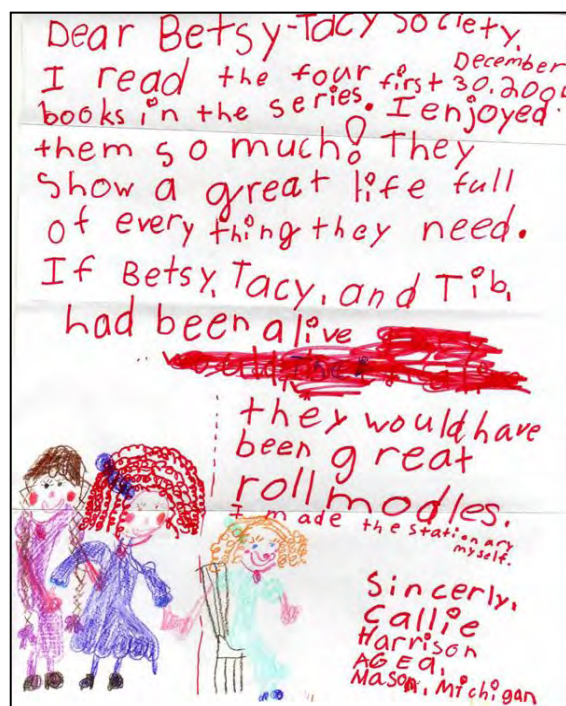
Congratulations!

## RESTORATION NEWS

by Amanda Mahn

As part of an independent study in historic restoration at Minnesota State University-Mankato, Kelly Freiborg and I (Amanda Mahn) will be working with our professors and the Betsy-Tacy Society to create a project plan for the restoration of Betsy's house. Through research, planning, and hands-on work we hope to bring the Betsy-Tacy Society one step closer to achieving their restoration goals. We plan to focus the project on the interior and restoring it to its historical appearance. We will also be looking into the possibility of being added to the National Register of Historic Places. More information will be available as we continue to work on the project.

## Mail From Our Young Readers



### New Members

Every new member receives a new member packet which includes the most recent Journal and newsletter, a History of the Betsy-Tacy Society, a Fact Sheet and laminated bookmark. 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 and Journal.
- Receive a 10% discount at Tacy's Gift Shop or catalog.
- Be part of an important effort to restore Betsy and Tacy's houses, historical literary landmarks in Mankato to educate future generations about the importance of the period.
- Be informed of all upcoming events

### 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.

### Volunteers Are Always Welcome

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time to help the society, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

- Participating on committees/help with programs
- Data entry
- Tour Guides or helping during tours
- Stuffing envelopes/Mailings
- House and yard maintenance
- Packaging/Shipping catalog orders
- Mailings, stuffing envelopes, applying labels, stamps
- Fund Raising
- Journal layout/production
- Grant Writing

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## Betsy-Tacy Society Membership Form

(Form may be photo-copied)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Levels

- Regular \$15 (1 yr.)
- Patron \$25 (1 yr.)
- Lifetime \$200
- Canada \$20 (1 yr.)
- Tax-deductible donation - Betsy-Tacy House Fund
- This is a Gift Membership – please sign card

#### Additional Information

- New Member
- Renewal
- If renewing, is this a new address?
- Europe, Asia, Africa \$25 and up (1 yr.)  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- No acknowledgment for donation required

Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society and send this form to: P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094

For membership office use only Invoice# \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# New in Tacy's Gift Shop

*"On the Bench"*



rubber stamp  
\$6.25

Made of fine quality rubber on maple mount.  
Stamp image size - 1 1/2" x 2"



## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please remember to inform us if your 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.

The Betsy-Tacy Society  
P.O. Box 94  
Mankato, MN 56002-0094

Non Profit Org. Bulk Rate U.S. Postage PAID Mankato, MN Permit No. 697
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