



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. 6 ISSUE 2

JULY 2010

Carney, Emily, and Winona Return!

An Interview with Mitali Perkins and Melissa Wiley

By Jennifer Hart

In October 2010 Harper Perennial will reissue the three books in Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley series: *Emily of Deep Valley* and *Carney's House Party* and *Winona's Pony Cart*. A new foreword for *Emily of Deep Valley* has been written by acclaimed young adult author Mitali Perkins, whose new novel, *Bamboo People*, will be released this July. Melissa Wiley, author of *The Martha Years* and *The Charlotte Years*, two series of novels about the ancestors of Laura Ingalls Wilder, has written a new foreword to the combined edition of *Carney's House Party* and *Winona's Pony Cart*.

Julie Schrader provided new background material, along with archival photos, about the real Emily (Marguerite Marsh) and Winona (Beulah Hunt), and Amy Dolnick, author of *Future in a Handbasket: The Life and Letters Behind Carney's House Party*, has written background material about Carney (Marion Willard). Both books include a new biography of Maud written by Julie Schrader as well as a biography of illustrator Vera Neville written by Teresa Gibson.

After discovering online last fall that both Mitali and Melissa were Betsy-Tacy fans, I was thrilled when they agreed to write the forewords for the upcoming reissues and was so happy to talk with them both about their experiences reading and loving Maud Hart Lovelace.

Jennifer Hart: How did you first discover Maud Hart Lovelace and the Betsy-Tacy and Deep Valley books?

Mitali Perkins: Wandering the stacks of the children's book section in the Flushing Public Library as a newcomer to America.

Melissa Wiley: Amazingly, I didn't meet Betsy until my mid-twenties. I was a young editorial assistant at HarperTrophy, and a fellow assistant, Susan Chang (who is now an editor at Tor), praised the Betsy-Tacy books so highly that I had to check them out. This was around the time of the reissues with the Diane Goode covers. I fell head over heels with the whole series.



Mitali Perkins



Melissa Wiley

JH: What about the books appealed to you at that time?

MP: As a stranger and foreigner, I was longing for roots to feel at home in this new place. Reaching out through time and space, Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Emily gave me a sense of belonging to Deep Valley—and to America. I also resonated with the old-world values in the book, as many of them matched the values in my home.

JH: You both write in your forewords about the importance Maud's

Interview continues on page 4



Deep Valley Book Release Party

Saturday, October 16, 2010

See page 5 for details

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The Betsy-Tacy Society
Est. 1990
P.O. Box 94
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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. 11

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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

March - May and September - December:
Open every Saturday 1 pm - 3 pm
June - August:
Open every Saturday 10 am - 3 pm
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 \$3, 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 - up to 5 people. Over 5 people, additional \$3 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-16. 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

February 1, 2010 - May 31, 2010
Barbour, Celine
Barnes, Erin
Coleman, Bonnie
Halperin, Julia
Herborn, Karen
Holston, Judy C.
Kanigher, Nancy
Konkle, Rachel Gavelek
Kraus, Mary Susan
Lloyd, Barbara
McDonald, Tacey Suzanne
McKee-Sexton, Arienne Harper
Munoz, Madalyn Marie
Natrakul, Mara
Pommerenke, Marlene
Reishus, Elizabeth
Sinko, Stephanie
Spiers, Gabrielle
Springer, Sarah
Tran, Allison
Witten, Katherine

New Lifetime Members

Chuba, Julie
Dempsey, Judy
Nemchick, Susan

Donations

The BTS gratefully acknowledges donations received from February 1, 2010 - May 31, 2010 from the following:

Donations to \$49

Bigot, Sharon
Brown, Susan
Calabrese, Meg
Canavan, Colleen Ann - *Endowment*
Deal, Lynda Bagby - *In Memory of Sara Lavender Bagby*
Ebert, Gladys
Feasey, Susan
Geiger, Sarah
Gipson, Linne - *Restoration*
Goldberg, Michelle
Hackman, Susan - *Assessments*
Hilgert, Jackie
Hill, Karen
Huber, Carole
Jacks, Colleen - *Restoration*
Johnson, Jennifer
Johnson, Karin - *In Memory of Gisela Johnson*
Kalz, Jill
Kamps, Julie
Karow, Linda
Kenny, Carole
Laven, Candace
Lilly, Judith
Morrison, Kathleen
P.E.O. Chapter BE
Parnell, June
Paskal, Marti - *Restoration - Honor of Judy Blume & Anna Quindlen*
Pengra, Laurie
Randow, Judith Ann - *Restoration*
Ritter, Nancy
Rohwer, Dennis & Gwen
Rouzer, Linda
Schnoor, Barbara
Shumowsky, Vicky
Siegel, Ellen
Turner, Kathleen
Williams, Vee - *Restoration*

Donations \$50 - \$99

Brekke, Diane
Cox, Janie - *Restoration*

Crepeau, Courtney
Jacobson, Priscilla
Lloyd, Barbara
Magee, Marlane - *In Honor of Haille Moraine Anderson*
Moore, Augusta - *Restoration*
Richards, Marcia - *In Memory of Marilyn Berg*
Robbins, Jo
Shanahan, Susan - *Assessments*

Donations \$100 - \$499

Betsy-Tacy Convention - *proceeds from Willard's Emporium*
Catron, Bonnie
DAR State Officer's Club
Kirch, Peggy
Layman, Eloise
Nixon, Judy - *Restoration*
Rose, Jennie

Donations \$500 - \$1,000

Jacobson, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle
Mohr, Harley
Thomas, Norma

Paver Fundraiser

February 1, 2010 - May 31, 2010
Blethen, Mary Jane
Halligan, Barbara
Kunetka, Jennifer
Laven, Doug & Candy
Leemis, Ivah
P.E.O. Chapter BE

In Kind Donations

Penny Banwart
Bob & Susan Brown
Frank Brown
HarperCollins Publishers
Jackie Hilgert
Daryl Hrdlicka
Susan Hynes
Mara Natrakul
Navigator
Julia Nephew
Julie Schrader
Bryce Stenzel
Kim Youngerberg

Thank You, Volunteers!

February 1, 2010 - June 15, 2010
Elyse Anderson
Ana-Brit Asplen
Penny Banwart
Lola Baxter
Anna Bayer
Jack Bayer
Victoria Bayer
Faith Beiswanger
Sarah Beiswanger
Michele Blake
Luke Bonanno
Grace Brosnan
Bob Brown
Joan Brown
Susan Brown
Dawn & Drew Campbell
Lexi Carlson
Nicole Carlson
Abby Cherny
Angie Cherny
Megan Cherny
Barb Dunker
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Candy Laven
Doug Laven
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Tacy Masters
Mankato City Parks Department
Mara Natrakul
Pat Nelson
Joan Nikolay
Rebecca Novak
Alexandria Oldenburg
Renata Olson
Laurie Pengra
Kelly Reuter
Megan Rheault
Sarah Roemhildt
Barbara Schnoor
David Schrader
Julie Schrader
Ken Schrader
Betsy Sherman
Gregg Sjulstad
Patti Sjulstad
Bryce Stenzel
Laurie Stenzel
Norma Thomas
Brooklyn Youngerberg
Lucas Youngerberg

Artifact Donations for Betsy's House

February 1, 2010 - June 15, 2010
Tom Hagen - *English Iron Stoneware, sofa and matching chair, plate rail*
Linda Karow - *buffet and painted lamp*
Mara Natrakul - *oak rain barrel*
Elaine Pappas - *needlepoint doily*
Doug & Candy Laven - *child's wooden high chair, wooded rocker, painted table, 3 ceiling light shades, plant stand, kitchen utensils.*

Artifact Donations

Vicky Shumowsky - *sheet music "Dreaming"*
Audrey Simonson - *A Guide to Some Betsy-Tacy Places in Mankato, Minnesota and typed notes from AAUW 1961 Betsy-Tacy tours.*

Wish List

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

1950 Mankato High School Otaknam yearbook

1900 period artifacts for Betsy's house museum

Books by Maud Hart Lovelace:
The Tune is in the Tree

Dust jacket images for *Petticoat Court* and *One Stayed at Welcome* by MHL

Archival boxes & supplies for artifacts

Message from the President

I am honored to be the newly elected president of the Betsy-Tacy Society board. I look forward to working with our dedicated board members, our faithful volunteers, and our loyal members. I also am overseeing a leadership transition that promises to strengthen BTS and take us in exciting new directions. (See note from Julie Schrader below.) I invite the entire BTS membership to share ideas and Maud memories with us as we continue to pursue our mission together.

I have always loved the Betsy-Tacy books — and I still read them with delight! As an elementary school teacher, I have read one or two books to many students who also enjoyed these timeless stories about families and friends living in Deep Valley. I am inspired by fellow fans who share what the books have meant to them.

My husband, Bob, and I are both members of the Betsy-Tacy Society. We consider it a privilege to be part of the local activities here in Mankato and to be tour guides in the restored homes. We meet wonderful people from all over the world and from our own community who also appreciate the stories and history Maud has preserved in her books. It is a pleasure to introduce Maud Hart Lovelace and her books to readers of all ages.

We love welcoming guests to the Hart and Kenney homes in Mankato, just as those families did many years ago. Welcome, BTS family and friends, to these homes on Center Street which we all own and treasure together!

Susan Brown
President, Betsy-Tacy Society



Transition at BTS

Dear BTS friends:

It is with profound regret that I announce I have left my position as executive director of the Betsy-Tacy Society in order to move to a new opportunity. Over the past five years it has been my privilege to take part in what for me has been a labor of love.

During my tenure there have been many highlights, including the Betsy-Tacy house restoration projects, our involvement with Hometime, and launching the new website. Between 2005 and 2010, \$81,000 in grants were secured. It was truly exciting to see our “Burn the Mortgage” campaign come to fruition. Lastly and most recently, the Betsy-Tacy houses were named national literary landmarks. Together with so many wonderful members, volunteers and BTS supporters we have achieved amazing accomplishments.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication and support you’ve provided me and the organization. Maud often signed her letters “Happiest Wishes,” and that is what I hope for all of you.

Julie Schrader

Reflections from our Past President

Greetings, members:

This is my final address to you as president of the Betsy-Tacy Society, as my three-year term has come to an end. It was because of a friendship seven years ago that I became involved with this society. Thanks to all of you, major accomplishments have been made by the society during this time. In 2003 the restoration of Tacy’s house was in progress, and there were mortgages on both houses. The restoration of Betsy’s house was just a dream. This dream became a reality as we were “adopted” by Hometime, and volunteers and board members donned work clothes and masks and began the long and challenging project of restoring Maud’s childhood home.

With some creative brainstorming, the board initiated two fundraising campaigns, one for the restoration at Betsy’s and another to retire the mortgages. With the financial support of the membership and other donors, we happily burned the mortgage just over a year ago.

During this time we have hosted countless events, given tours to visitors from all across the United States and abroad, and welcomed attendees of last summer’s convention. None of this could have been accomplished without you. Thanks to all of you!

As I leave this board, I am confident that I am leaving it in good hands. Susan Brown and Jackie Hilgert will be excellent leaders as your new president and vice president, respectively. The Betsy-Tacy board of directors is a group of dedicated, talented people with varied skills and experience in many areas, including administration, management, education, finance, publishing, and business. This society has also benefitted from the work of Julie Schrader, our former executive director; we thank her and wish her well in her future endeavors.

I wish you all well and take with me many good memories and the knowledge that we have saved a bit of the history of Deep Valley and promoted and fostered the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

Penny Banwart



Penny Banwart visits the Lovelace memorial bench in front of the Claremont library in Claremont, Calif., on March 12, 2010. This photo was taken 30 years and one day after Maud’s death.

Interview with Perkins & Wiley, continued from page 1

books have held for you over the years. Why have they meant so much and endured?

MP: You never forget your childhood best buddies, right? I was a lonely kid, so almost all of mine were fictional. Emily especially, just as lonely as me and struggling to find meaning in her narrow life, became a lifelong friend. I'd miss her desperately if I didn't reread *Emily of Deep Valley* every year.

MW (answering this and the previous question together): The Betsy books have resonated with me on many levels. They came into my life right around the time I discovered I was expecting my first baby. I had only been married a few months; I had taken an entry-level job in children's publishing because I adored children's books and wanted to write them myself. So there I was, reading and thinking about becoming

a mother—pondering how I would raise my children—and at the same time working hard on my own writing, and reading children's books not just as a devoted fan, but with an eye toward craft. Maud's work spoke to the girl I'd been — a girl who wrote constantly, and who wanted to grow up to be a writer — as well as the young wife that I was and the mother I wanted to be.



JH: *What do you love about Emily, Carney, and Winona?*

MP: I love them all, but Emily is my hero. She musters her wits and stands in her own defense, inspiring me to do the same no matter how old I get.

MW: I think of all the Deep Valley folks, Emily is the one I respect the most. She is handed a difficult set of circumstances and fights her way through a fierce and understandable depression to turn her thoughts outward and make other people happy — and in doing so, she finds happiness herself. This is a hugely important part of my philosophy of life. Acting happy makes you happy. Working to make other people happy has a rebound effect on you.

Winona represents for me the kind of impish, sparkling, fun-loving personality I see in some of my children — a zest for fun and adventure, even trouble. Life with a Winona means never a dull moment.

I'm immensely fond of Carney because she's a thinker, a ponderer. Whenever her emotions are most stirred, she turns to reason to calm the tempest inside. For me, Carney is the epitome of the examined life — probing one's own motivation even when that's an uncomfortable thing to do. Carney has such integrity. I admire her tremendously.

JH: *Maud's books are full of family traditions. Are there any that you've adopted in your life, or wish you could?*

MP: Onion sandwiches on Sunday nights for sure, but you'd need a dad like Mr. Ray for that. My dad could have fried up samosas for the gang, I guess. I hope I've adopted Emily's open heart to the stranger and the alien — I strive to offer hospitality to the newcomers in our community just as she and her grandfather welcomed the Syrian children.

MW: Not long ago, my 14-year-old made her first solo voyage away from home: She took the train from San Diego to Los Angeles to visit a college friend of mine who had just had a new baby. Kate is a huge Betsy-Tacy fan in her own right—she and her friends keep our copies in constant circulation — and I wondered if she would connect her journey to Betsy's Butternut Center jaunts. Sure enough, and without any kind of hinting from me, she triumphantly presented the family with presents upon her return. She had picked out something special for everyone. It was a very Ray-family-tradition moment, and we got a huge laugh out of it. However, I have to confess I didn't keep up my end of the custom — no total scouring of the house to greet her return! Then again, I don't have an Anna. :)

JH: *Most Lovelace fans, at one point or another, experience a moment when they meet a fellow fan. Do you remember your first "I thought I was the only one!" moment?*

MP: When I tweeted about loving the books, I began meeting so many other residents of Deep Valley via our imaginations. It's been a joy to connect with fellow Lovelace lovers — you know you're going to be good friends with somebody when Betsy introduces the two of you.

MW: Because of the way I first encountered the books, I am probably one of the few ardent Lovelace fans who didn't have that "I thought I was the only one" moment. At the beginning, there was Susan and other people at Harper. And my boss, Stephanie Spinner, told me about the devotion of the Betsy-Tacy Society and how instrumental the society had been in keeping the books in print. So from the beginning, I knew there were these passionate fans out there. And I guess I've been on the lookout for them ever since. I've met many fans (and converts) through my blog, which has been lots of fun.

JH: *If you could visit Mankato, what famous Deep Valley site would you go to first?*

MP: It would be delightful to visit the high school and stroll down Main Street with a fellow Betsy-Tacy maniac or two.

MW: The Big Hill, no question. At sunset, preferably.

JH: *If you could have coffee with any character in the books (besides Betsy), who would it be?*

MP: Carney, partly because she's a Presbyterian elder's kid and I'm a Presbyterian elder.

MW: Hmm, tough one – how to choose? I'd love to have been with Betsy and Co. when they first visited Naifi's house – that beautiful hospitality from her grandparents, and her father calling Naifi "my heart, my eyes" – I would like to get to know them. I bet Mr. Meecham would have some good stories to tell, if you could get past his defenses.

JH: And now for the lightning round! As quickly as you can, pick one of the options in the below lightning-round questions and answer them (special thanks to Jennifer Davis-Kay of the New Betsys for these questions).

Hill Street or High Street?

MP: Hill Street.

MW: Hill Street.

Lenski or Neville?

MP: Neville. I love the new book covers!

MW: Lenski.

Dandy or Old Mag?

MP: Dandy.

MW: Old Mag, absolutely!

Zetamathian or Philomathian?

MP: Equally fine, but I don't want to do all that work for the essay contest for either team.

MW: GO PHILO!

Welsh rarebit or onion sandwiches?

MP: Onion sandwiches, for sure. Extra thick.

MW: Oh, I am DYING for an onion sandwich. Seriously.

Tony or Joe?

MP: Tony. I like to imagine him marrying an older version of Margaret, after she gets tired of that long-legged kid.

MW: Easy one: Joe, of course.

Then again, I married a writer myself. Like Joe, he's got that glint in his eye, that intensity and fierce loyalty.

Rosy or white?

MP: Rosy.

MW: ROSY! (Poor Gaston, not seeing.)

Red auto, steamer, or Mr. Thumbler's hack?

MP: Drive me home from the train station in Mr. Thumbler's hack, please.

MW: The hack, for the homey tradition of it.

Pompadour or coronet braids?

MP: I'm with Tacy and her braids.

MW: Pompadour. Wish they'd come back in.



Interview continues on page 6

Deep Valley Book Release Party

The Betsy-Tacy Society invites you to join us in celebrating the long awaited release of the Deep Valley books!

Saturday, October 16, 2010

1 pm – 3 pm

Betsy-Tacy houses - 332 & 333 Center Street in Mankato

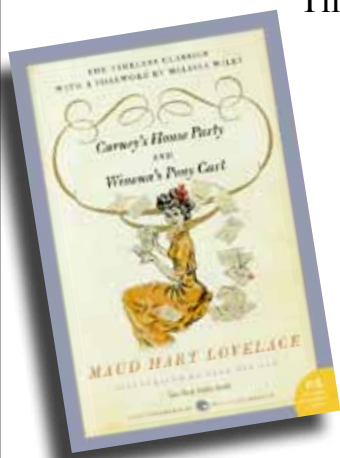
Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 ages 6-16

Open to the public

Books are available for sale at Tacy's House.

The afternoon will feature reenactments and other activities.

Cake and refreshments will be served.



These new Harper Perennial Modern Classics editions feature original cover artwork by Vera Neville, and forewords by bestselling authors Melissa Wiley and Mitali Perkins.

Siblings Honor Parents' Memory with Gift to BTS

The Betsy-Tacy Society is honored to be the recipient of four \$5,000 donations from the children of Marilyn and Ken Berg. Marilyn Berg was a long-time member and supporter of the Betsy-Tacy Society; her husband Ken was the editor of the Mankato *Free Press* and wrote, "A Tribute to the Young at Heart: Maud Hart Lovelace" in 1994. Their children, pictured from left, are Nancy Berg Phares, Steve Berg, Julie Berg Abdo, and Kevin Berg. In front of them stand Nancy Berg Phares' daughters, Camille, Genevieve and Eloise. Marilyn and Ken Berg's children and grandchildren were in Mankato in June to settle their parents' estate when they presented their gifts to members of the BTS board. In presenting the substantial donation, the Berg siblings said they wanted their gift to "make a difference for BTS." Look for more on the Berg family in an upcoming edition of the *Sun*.



Interview with Perkins & Wiley, continued from page 5

Jockey Club or new-mown hay?

MP: Mmmm ... hay.

MW: Hay. Ew to the perfume.

Chauncey Olcott or Geraldine Farrar?

MP: Geraldine was a Massachusetts girl, so I'll go with her.

MW: Ha! Dear old Chauncey.

Beidwinkles or Taggarts?

MP: Oh, I'd like the Beidwinkles' appreciation as an audience to my poor singing.

MW: Beidwinkles, for their beamingness.

Purple or dove gray?

MP: Purple.

MW: Purple—the warmth, the abundance of affection.

Charge it to the book or pay cash?

MP: I'm a frugal, cash-only kind of girl.

MW: The ghost of Laura Ingalls Wilder would haunt me if I dared say anything but pay cash.

Worse villain: Don or Rocky?

MP: Rocky drove me crazy, but I could see why Tib liked him. But how could Emily fall for that cad Don?

MW: Don. Utter cad. Boo, hiss.

Winona - spoiled brat or madcap free spirit?

MP: How can you even ask that? She was a blast and made the party happen.

MW: Madcap free spirit, emphasis on the madcap.

Mr. Jed - dreamboat or too good to be true?

MP: Hubba hubba.

MW: Because he stops just short of dreamboat, he isn't too good to be true.

Annette and Don - happily ever after or Divorce Court?

MP: Annette dumped Don long before they got married, and he became a bitter old bachelor who wrote bad poetry.

MW: They are doomed. Deep Valley's first divorce.

Larry - romantic hero or boring old stick?

MP: Glad Carney saw the light, but I liked him because he went to my alma mater.

MW: Somewhere in between?

Isobel - annoying but harmless, or manipulative snob?

MP: Definitely not a Deep Valley girl, but harmless.

MW: Manipulative snob, though not maliciously so.

Mitali Perkins (mitaliperkins.com) was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated at age seven to the United States with her family. Her award-winning books for young readers include *Bamboo People*, *Monsoon Summer*, *Rickshaw Girl*, *Secret Keeper*, and the *First Daughter* series. Mitali speaks frequently about the transforming power of stories as well as growing up between cultures. She lives in Newton, Mass., with her husband, sons, and Labrador retrievers.

Melissa Wiley is the author of *The Martha Years* and *The Charlotte Years*, two series of novels about the ancestors of Laura Ingalls Wilder. She lives in San Diego with her husband and six children. Between chapters of her next novel, Melissa blogs about children's books and rowdy family life at Here in the Bonny Glen (www.hereinthebonnyglen.com).

BTS is Honored with Flag Raising in Washington D.C.

The Betsy-Tacy Society is proud to have in its possession an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to honor the Society's efforts in promoting literacy and education.

Accompanying the flag is a note from U.S. Rep. Tim Walz, that reads: "Your role in our community represents the quintessential Minnesotan values of education, open-mindedness, and a thirst for knowledge. Thank you for all you do for Mankato and Minnesota."

An accompanying certificate says the flag was flown over the Capitol on June 10th, 2010, which happened to be the same date as the BTS annual meeting and volunteer recognition picnic. (See page 13 for coverage of the volunteer recognition picnic.)

The Betsy-Tacy book series was listed on Oprah Winfrey's book club book list for children. BTS sent Rep. Walz a set of Betsy-Tacy books; another set was sent to Sasha and Malia Obama.

Brand New!
From Cheryl Harness

The Betsy-Tacy Coloring Book

Featuring 19 original illustrations.

In the gift shop: \$4.95



The History of the Betsy-Tacy Society, Part 2 (1995–1998)

By Kelly Reuter (BTS recording secretary 1990-1997)

1995

Fall Fun at Tacy's House

- On October 14 guests were welcomed at the back porch of Tacy's house by dolls over-seeing a guest book, and each received a BTS button to wear. In the kitchen, cocoa and cider were being warmed on the stove. A table was spread with an array of goodies including fudge (of course), "fresh unfrosted cake," and baklava (in honor of Little Syria). Large wooden Betsy, Tacy, and Tib dolls greeted visitors in the dining room where tables were set up with books that could be purchased and premium items were given out in return for donations to the house fund. In the parlor, kids decorated pumpkin cookies and made Halloween black cats or Lady Jane Greys out of bump chenille and ribbon. In the back parlor guests wove maple leaves into crowns. (These could have been the maple leaf hats that Betsy and Tacy sold in their piano box store.) In the front porch room, stories from the books were read aloud. Fall Fun at Tacy's House was considered a great success, especially by the many happy children, fans, and potential fans who attended. That afternoon Barnes & Noble hosted a book fair with a percentage of proceeds going to the society.



Teresa Gibson shares this photo from 1997.

- In November the BTS got down to the business of taking care of our new home. House renovation expenses began with payment of the \$1,600 plumbing bill and boiler repair.

Mankato Festival of Trees

- We were asked to be a part of the first Mankato Festival of Trees at the Civic Center on Thanksgiving weekend. A tree was purchased and donated to the BTS to decorate and later use as Tacy's house tree, and we were given \$175 to buy ornaments. The society chose a traditional Betsy-Tacy-era theme for our first display at the Festival of Trees. We decided the tree should look as much like a typical turn-of-the-century Ray/Kelly tree as possible. Three handmade, almost life-size, Betsy, Tacy, and Tib dolls dressed in their winter coats and hats stood by the tree looking as if they had just walked down Front Street holding Christmas in their hands.

Caroling at Tacy's House

- At our Christmas open house, guests received special Christmas buttons featuring Cheryl Harness's new Center Street Christmas design. Children posed for pictures with the Betsy, Tacy and Tib dolls in front of Tacy's tree. Tables were covered with Betsy-Tacy Christmas gifts, including baskets filled with books, ornaments, and bookmarks. In the front parlor, children were invited to decorate Christmas cookies and made beaded candy cane ornaments to take home for their own trees.

1996

January

Betsy-Tacy Society Board Meeting and Christmas Party

- At the society's board meeting and Christmas party, we decided to draft a mission statement in 1996. We also discussed the preservation of Mankato landmarks, particularly the Carnegie Library (now the Art Center). A fundraising drive had been launched to purchase a new boiler. We decided to do what we could to help. Also, the following financial report was presented:

Total Assets	\$19,549
Shop Savings	\$5,200
Shop Checking	\$1,800
Society Savings	\$7,777
Society Checking	\$4,600

February

- A committee began working on getting the Betsy and Tacy homes on the historic register. The Lincoln Park area is already on the register for its architectural properties, but the area stops short of the houses on Center Street.
- The three Minnesota women to be honored by the YWCA for Women's History Month in March will be Maud Hart Lovelace, Dr. Helen Hielscher, and Elma Wagin.

The board worked on the wording of a mission statement, vision, and goals and came up with the following:

- MISSION STATEMENT:** To promote, preserve and collect the works of Maud Hart Lovelace and sustain interest in the lifestyle of the period as portrayed in her works.
- VISION:** To be the primary advocates of Maud Hart Lovelace and her works.

- **GOALS:**

1. Fund-raising – raise permanent funds to meet budget needs.
2. Works of Maud Hart Lovelace – keep books in publication
3. Preservation – advocate preservation of existing landmarks and sites pertaining to Maud Hart Lovelace books.
4. Membership – increase membership and member participation.
5. Marketing and promotion - increase visibility, awareness and image of the Betsy-Tacy Society through events.

March

The Treasurer's report:

Society Checking	\$2,203
Society Savings	\$8,155
Shop Checking	\$3,266
Shop Savings	\$5,244
Total	\$18,968

- We received written permission from HarperCollins for continued use of the illustrations.
- The Minnesota Historical Society honored Maud with a special event on March 10. It featured children's activities and a "History Player" roaming the building portraying Maud at the time of her recognition by Fort Snelling for *Early Candlelight*. The Betsy-Tacy Society had an information table at the event.
- On March 14, the YWCA sponsored a luncheon at the Holiday Inn honoring women in Minnesota's history to commemorate Women's History Month. Maud Hart Lovelace was one of the three honored women.
- An Easter event at Tacy's house on March 31, was planned in conjunction with a book fair at Barnes & Noble celebrating the republication of *Betsy in the Great World* and *Betsy's Wedding*.

Betsy-Tacy Society Annual Meeting

- The National Betsy-Tacy Society held its annual meeting at Tacy's house on April 27. Present were President Lona Falencykowski, Vice President Dolly Blomquist, Secretary Kelly Reuter, Treasurer Kay Hocker, Wendi Masters, Sandi Kleinschmidt, Jacqui Woodwick, Kathryn Hanson, Linda Michaels, Suzanne Bunkers, Vera Sullivan, Gwen Gerthe, and Colleen Timmons. Special guests were Elaine Flathers and her friend, both of whom had spent much time in Tacy's house. Elaine's aunt once owned the home, and she talked about the architectural and decorative changes

through the years.

The following financial report was presented:

Shop Income	\$4,838
Memberships	\$7,155
Newsletter Sales	\$126
House Savings	\$17,071
Income from Events	\$6,957
Total 1995 Income	\$36,435
Profit	\$420

- The possibility of designing a package for starting children's chapters was discussed. An adult from an area existing chapter could be the mentor for each children's chapter.
- It was announced that Dean Johnson from Hometown, a national public television show television show, had inquired about restoring Tacy's house.
- Tentative plans for the '97 convention were announced and discussed.
- The new "Betsy-Tacy Places in Mankato" pamphlet will include as many sites as possible that were mentioned in the books and a bigger and better map for those making pilgrimages to Mankato.

June

"Over the Big Hill - An American Celebration"

On June 17, the Minnesota Valley Regional Library sponsored a Betsy-Tacy tea for children in conjunction with its summer reading program. A flag theme with patriotic decor was based on *Over the Big Hill* and included stories from the book, an "American Queen" place mat to color, and a sundae buffet.

July

At the July meeting, the society discussed the valuable things Merian Lovelace Kirchner had sent for the archives. The following financial report was presented:

Society Checking:	\$1,881
Society Savings:	\$7,620
	\$435 refund from taxes.

It was decided to use the tax refund as part of a \$500 gift to Merian in appreciation of her time, effort, and support.

November

The society chose the theme "A Hart Family Christmas" for the second annual Mankato Festival of Trees event. The tree will be decorated in a Victorian hearts and roses theme, including

BTS History, Part 2, continued from page 9

handcrafted heart and cherub ornaments in shades of pink and rose. Cheryl Harness is also doing the new Christmas ornament, to be featured on the tree.

Everyone was invited to step back in time and celebrate the spirit of Christmas at the turn of the century with an old-fashioned shopping trip and treats at Tacy's house during the Betsy-Tacy Society's Victorian Christmas Market and Tea on Thanksgiving weekend. Guests shopped for Christmas gifts and treasures, including Victorian and Mankato history items, Betsy-Tacy memorabilia, shirts, books, rubber stamps, ornaments, and handmade creations. There was also an area for children's shopping. Everyone enjoyed carols and traditional Betsy-Tacy goodies just if they had been at Heinz's after their annual Christmas shopping trip.

1997

January

At its annual Christmas party the board worked on the upcoming convention - and continued working on it for the next several months.

The National Betsy-Tacy Society's 1997 Convention

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Meeting of Betsy & Tacy

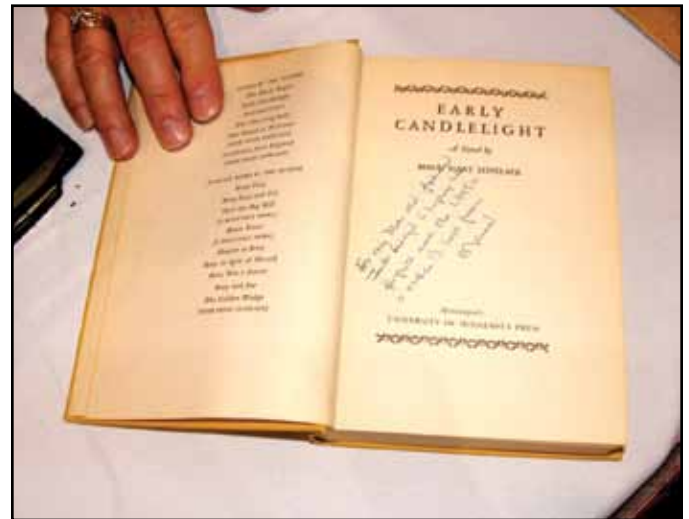
Overall Theme: Birthday Party - Focusing on the 5th Birthday Party and events from the first Betsy-Tacy book.

1998

May Day Market

- The society sponsored a May Day market on May 3. Guests were invited to travel back in time to Tacy's house for an old-fashioned springtime celebration and to shop for Mother's Day, graduation, and all those spring and summer celebrations. The market featured gifts, crafts, decorated shirts, quilted banners, rubber stamps, Victorian items, plants, Betsy-Tacy merchandise, and more. There were displays and rubber stamping demonstrations featuring the new Betsy-Tacy stamp collection. The Betsy-Tacy Society children had their special shop in the Piano Box.
- Also in May, the society received three precious pieces of furniture from the Hart/Lovelace family collection: a corner hutch, a rocking chair, and the drop-leaf table made by Maud's grandfather and featured in Betsy's Wedding. They will always be treasured as special gifts from Merian Lovelace Kirchner.

MHL inscribes Early Candlelight



Julia Nephew sends this photo of the title page of Early Candlelight. Maud Hart Lovelace inscribed the book to her good friend Jab Lloyd. The book was shared by Billy and Pete Steiner (Jab's grandsons) at the 2009 Deep Valley Convention.

Membership News

Membership Cards

BTS members will now receive a membership card with each new or renewed membership. As an added membership benefit, members will receive free admission to the Betsy-Tacy houses when you present your membership card. Free admission during regular Saturday hours is for the card holder only. The membership card will also serve as a reminder of your renewal date.

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 about 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: membership@betsy-tacysociety.org.

Past editions of the Deep Valley Sun can be found in the members section of the BTS web site: www.Betsy-TacySociety.org.

Announcements

* * * COMMENCEMENT DAY * * *

Betsy Ray and Tacy Kelly were characters created by Maud Hart Lovelace to tell the story of her own childhood in Mankato in the early 1900s. The play "Commencement Day" is based partly on her books and partly on her Maud's own commencement in 1910. Using the actual songs and information gleaned from the Mankato *Free Press*, this is a glimpse into the past. Come join Betsy and Tacy as they prepare for the evening's ceremony, talk about the day, and think about what the future might bring.

Play is directed by BTS member Daryl Hrdlicka of Westbrook, Minn. Hrdlicka has been involved in acting since high school, and currently performs in Walnut Grove's Wilder Pageant each summer.

September 9, 2010

Minnesota Shorts Festival of Plays

Fitzgerald Theater, 110 N. Fifth St., Mankato

Tickets available at: www.mnshorts.tripod.com

* * * * *

Although the **Chicago Chapter** disbanded a few years ago, a group of us still meet three or four times a year. Our last luncheon was on Saturday, April 24, 2010 to celebrate Maud's birthday. We met in Geneva, Ill., which is a charming town on the Fox River. There are several shops in the town to explore. We ate lunch at Chianti's, an excellent and family oriented Italian restaurant in the downtown. There were five of us at this luncheon: **Katrine Poe, Karen Nolan, Frieda Maheras, Anne Zender, and Judy French.** These are some of the core group who still like to visit and discuss current topics, books we're reading, and family news. Of course, we also enjoy a good meal. Our next "meeting" will be on Saturday, August 7 in Oak Park, Ill. We always meet at that time in order to participate in the Oak Park-River Forest library book sale. Anyone in the Chicago area is invited to participate in our luncheons. For more information contact Judy French (jaf85@aol.com).

* * * * *

The Betsy-Tacy Society extends its sympathy to the family of Robbie Madison who passed away recently. Robbie was a faithful Betsy-Tacy Society member and volunteer.

* * * * *

BTS accepts online donations through GiveMN.org, an innovative online resource for Minnesota nonprofits. 100 percent of donations made through GiveMN.org go directly to the BTS. It's a secure, fast, and easy way to donate to the BTS. You'll find the GiveMN.org link on our membership page.

What your dollars do for us: Promote and preserve Lovelace's work for current and future generations; support on-going restoration efforts; preserve two historic literary landmarks; preservation and care of Lovelace artifacts; support special literary and historical events and programs; and assist in securing matching grants from other foundations and organizations.

Betsy-Tacy Society website

Check out a new feature on our website: **Share your Story.**

You are invited to share your Betsy-Tacy stories or experiences with us. Tell us why you like the Betsy-Tacy books and what they mean to you or tell us about your visit to Mankato (Deep Valley) and the Betsy-Tacy houses. *Did you meet Maud?* If so, tell us about it! We want to hear from you. Here are some snippets from recent postings:

From Peyton Wineberg Downing

"My mother passed away recently and going through her life papers I found her Lifetime Membership to the Betsy-Tacy Society. I remember when I was in second grade my mother was teaching me to read. There was no Dick and Jane books for me. I remember loving the stories and the pictures in the books. My mother has also left behind all of her Betsy-Tacy books. She had quite a collection and now I have the chance to share them with my children and any grandchildren I might have..."

From Nancy Anderson Bestmann

"On June 10, 2010 time stood still as Mother (87), sister Linda (62) and I (60) planned to re-live a journey that began in 1961. We lived then on the corner of 4th and Warren and Maud Hart Lovelace was in town to guide a walking tour to the neighborhood where the stories took place. I walked down to the museum and purchased my program for 10 cents; the program that I still have tucked into my Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown where Dad had written: Merry Christmas 1961. We had planned to walk, but the day was rainy, so we slowly drove the route that we had walked 49 years ago. Time stood still as we passed Lincoln Park..."

From Kathleen Parucki

"I discovered the Betsy-Tacy books when I was in elementary school. I have read the whole series, which I now own, several times. I am now in my 60s, and I am reading the series once again. The reason for this is that last October I had a dream come true. My husband and I visited Mankato..."

Read the full posts on the web site: www.betsy-tacysociety.org/stories/. We are continually adding new information to our website and soon our new shop will be launched.

Of course, a benefit to being a BTS member 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.

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Paver Fundraiser

Set your name in stone or honor the memory of a loved one by purchasing a paving stone for Betsy's house. An order form can be downloaded from the BTS website. This fundraiser/memorial 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.



Betsy-Tacy Houses now National Literary Landmarks!

The childhood home of author Maud Hart Lovelace was dedicated a Literary Landmark by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ATLAFF), along with the childhood home of Lovelace's best friend, Frances "Bick" Kenney. Maud Palmer Hart was born on April 25, 1892, she and her family lived in the house from 1892 to 1906. It was there that she met her best friend, Frances "Bick" Kenney, who moved into the house across the street in 1898. Maud and Bick were lifelong friends, and the tales of their childhood in Mankato later became the Betsy-Tacy book series.

The Literary Landmark dedication of the houses, which was held May 20, began with a welcome by Betsy-Tacy Society President Penny Banwart, followed by a portrayal of Maud Hart Lovelace by Susan Hynes at "Betsy's House." A portrayal of Frances "Bick" Kenney by Barb Dunker followed at "Tacy's House." Tours of the Betsy-Tacy houses were held following the dedication.

Currently ATLAFF has about 100 sites listed on its registry. Minnesota has only one other Literary Landmark, the St. Paul birthplace of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Photos from the dedication, below, were taken by Jack Madsen.



Susan Hynes (left) and Penny Banwart.



Barb Dunker (center) with Susan Hynes and children portraying Betsy, Tacy and Tib.



Mankato Mayor John Brady (left) and Councilman Charlie Hurd



BTS board members, from left: Laurie Pengra, Susan Brown, Penny Banwart, Joan Brown, Pat Nelson, Jackie Hilgert, and Julie Schrader.

BTS Recognizes and Thanks its Volunteer Corps

The Betsy-Tacy Society Board of Directors held its annual meeting June 10 and took advantage of the occasion to entertain, feed, recognize and thank many of its dedicated volunteers. Rain, which marred the Victorian Lawn Party just days earlier, stopped long enough for the grass outside of Tacy's house to dry and lawn chairs to be set out. A buffet was assembled inside and friends, old and new, enjoyed a perfect summer evening.

The annual meeting portion of the evening was brief – just long enough for outgoing BTS President Penny Banwart to offer reflections on her term with the board, and incoming BTS President Susan Brown to introduce herself and thank Banwart, and outgoing BTS Vice President Joan Brown, for their service to the Society. Susan Brown presented a basket of flowers and a gift certificate to the BTS gift shop to each. BTS officers for 2010 are President Susan Brown, Vice President Jackie Hilgert, Secretary Laurie Pengra, and Treasurer Barbara Schnoor. Photos from the evening, below, were taken by Jack Madsen.



The BTS board set out a colorful and tasty buffet to thank volunteers for their service. Volunteers were also recognized with a certificate and a small gift.



BTS President Susan Brown presents flowering plants and gift certificates to Joan Brown (far right) and Penny Banwart (second from right) to thank them for sharing their time and talents with BTS.



Renata Olson (second from left) is flanked by two friends. Joining them on the porch at Tacy's House is Kathryn Hanson (second from right) and Pat Nelson.



Friends of BTS gather on the lawn of Tacy's house and listen to Penny Banwart reflect on her years as president.



Kelly Reuter and Peggy Bartelt catch up on their Betsy-Tacy memories.



Barb and David Lamson enjoying the gathering.

Leave a Legacy

We all leave our own unique mark on this world through 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.

As we look to the future, the BTS is researching the possibility of creating an endowment fund. Our first move toward this endeavor has been to become a member of LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, 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. The creation of an endowment fund will take some time as we investigate all the possibilities and legal aspects.

To learn more about LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area, visit its website: www.leavealegacymankato.org.



Give the Gift of Betsy-Tacy

Gift shop sales are a wonderful way to support the BTS 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.

New in the gift shop -

The Betsy-Tacy Coloring Book illustrated by Cheryl Harness

\$4.95

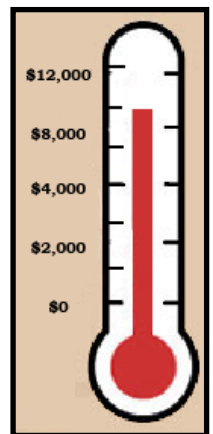
Shop our safe and secure online store at <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/shop.php>.

If you prefer to order through the mail, request a catalog by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to BTS, P.O. Box 94, Mankato, MN 56002-0094 and mark CATALOG on the front of the envelope.



Street Assessment Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who has responded with donations to help pay the street assessments for the Betsy-Tacy houses. This fundraiser will continue until we have raised the remaining \$9,067.05.



Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society website



We are continually adding new information to our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org. A member benefit is a “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. Don't forget to check out our shop!



Visit the Betsy-Tacy Society page on Facebook and become a fan!

You can find us at: www.facebook.com/BetsyTacy

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
- 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.

Due to an unexpected increase in printing costs, this newsletter is being printed in black and white, the most affordable option available. A full-color version of this newsletter is available on the BTS web site, in the Membership section: <http://www.betsy-tacysociety.org/memberlogin.php>

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* - hardcover
Gift B: Immortal Trio notecards
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: _____

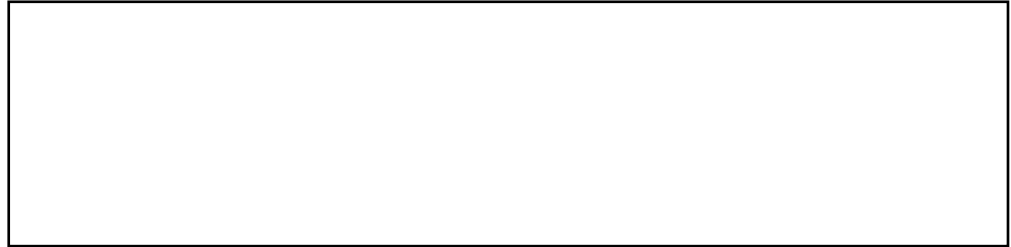
Membership dues and monetary gifts cover a growing part of the BTS annual operating budget. Thank you for your support as the BTS preserves and promotes the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace.

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

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Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| <i>September 25</i> | Betsy-Tacy Neighborhood Walk |
| <i>October 16</i> | Book release party - <i>Emily of Deep Valley</i> , <i>Carney's House</i> and <i>Winona's Pony Cart</i> |
| <i>December 4</i> | 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 or e-mail 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

Mailed newsletters: 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 May 31, 2010, 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.