"And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days..." as quoted in Betsy and Joe, page 252.

**CONVENTION ADVISORY**

The Convention is now only weeks away! If you haven't yet mailed your registration, do so immediately. We will attempt to honor as many Saturday-Only registrations as possible, but there is a 200-person cap on Full Convention registrations. All registrations should be mailed by June 25th.

continued on page six

**ATTENTION MOMS**

Have you a daughter between the ages of 7 and 10? Does she remind you of Betsy, Tacy, or Tib? If so, we are looking for her! During the first week of July, three girls, portraying Betsy, Tacy, and Tib, will appear on television to promote the Centennial Convention. Children must be available in Minneapolis between 9:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on a weekday for appearance on a Twin Cities newscast. Please submit a picture of your child (in costume, if possible). Include your name, address, and telephone number, as well as a letter from your child describing how she is like her chosen character. Write to: Alison Guider, 8972 Knoble Court, Minneapolis, MN 55347-2000. Entries should be received by June 20, 1992.

continued on page eight

**NEW CHAPTER FORMING**

Diane Gonzales of Chicago, Illinois has written to the Board of the Betsy-Tacy Society, requesting approval for a Greater Chicago Chapter (GCC). An organizational meeting was held on May 28th at the home of attorney Mila Novak in Elmhurst, IL. The proposed GCC requests

**HELP PRESERVE BETSY-TACY**

by Michele Franck

Recently I visited a library in a place I had once lived, which had a wonderful collection of Lovelace books. The children's area had been remodeled, and it was obvious that the book collection had been reduced. To my dismay, only one lone copy of Betsy in Spite of Herself remained on the shelf, and a check of the card catalogue confirmed that the rest had been discarded. Don't let this happen in your library! Please speak to your children's librarian. Bring a BTS newsletter, a Convention Guide, or just share your enthusiasm for Betsy-Tacy and the importance of keeping the work of Maud Hart Lovelace available for the generations to come! (Whoever picked these discs up at a library sale was lucky, but think of all the children who may not now discover Betsy-Tacy.)
From Our Mailbox

We’d love to hear from you! (Even if your name isn’t Karen!) Address correspondence to: Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001

"During a trip to our local library, I was delighted to see a display for the 100th birthday of Maud Hart Lovelace! I thought that my sister and I were the only people who still read her books. So I was even more delighted to find out that there is an organized group, with a newsletter and all! I would like to join and I’d like to sign up my sister as well — a belated thank you gift to her, since she is the one who first put *Betsy-Tacy* into my hands and said, ‘You’ll love this book!’ And thank you for all your work to keep the wonderful, loving spirit that Maud wove into all her books alive!"

Karen Arnold
Colorado Springs, Colorado

"I’d like to put in a vote for my favorite Betsy-Tacy book. *Heaven to Betsy* is my favorite, with *Downtown* taking second honors. Should I admit we named our first child Betsy in honor of this heroine? I always wanted to be just like her!"

Teri Kelsey
Millington, Tennessee

"I have loved Maud Hart Lovelace for years and years. Here’s a question: how is it that Mr. Ray’s sandwiches sound so wonderful and I don’t even like what they’re made off? I think Sunday Night Lunch is a sweet concept."

Karen Taylor
El Paso, Texas

"I love the Betsy-Tacy books so much; in fact, my daughter is named Betsy (Elizabeth). She is named after a combination of Betsy Ray (mostly), the Betsy of the Carolyn Hayward books, and the Betsy of *Understood Betsy* by Dorothy Canfield. I had never met another Maud Hart Lovelace fan, and now to find out there is a Society is really terrific!"

Karín Miller
New York, New York

"I was surprised and interested to read in the *Duluth News-Tribune* about the Betsy-Tacy Society convention in Mankato in July. My daughter is a real fan — even naming her two children Betsy and Joel."

Dorothy Mickelson
Kerrick, Minnesota

"My Betsy is aged 10 - what else could I name my daughter? When I first met my husband, I warned him that if we married, and if we had a daughter, her name would be Betsy. We were married in 1978 and our daughter Betsy was born in 1981. In 1984, when our son was born, I then had to let my husband name him for the Lone Ranger’s nephew!"

Karen Cyson
St. Cloud, Minnesota

"I was delighted to find out that there is a Betsy-Tacy Society and that a convention is being planned. I read my first Betsy book when I was in 6th grade (about 1956). After reading all the books, I wrote a letter to Maud Hart Lovelace. I received a letter and a booklet which I kept for many years. In fact, a project I did in a college children’s literature course was based on that letter and booklet. I’m looking forward to learning more about the Betsy-Tacy Society. It’s great to know that there are other readers who loved this series as much as I did!"

Bonnie Davis
Tallahassee, Florida

"Sunday, my younger daughter handed me the convention news article (from the Mother’s Day *New Orleans Times-Picayune*), quipping that she felt sure I would appreciate its contents much more highly than that of her nicely wrapped Mothers Day gift to me! (I believe I managed to keep her from realizing how true her guess was!) My excitement over gaining a tie to my old,
old friends Betsy, Tacy, and Tib was unequaled by any other gifts this year!

“Both my daughters grew up hearing about my three fictional friends, whose story constituted my very own, first-owned book, a gift from an aunt, who could not possibly have realized what she was giving to me that day, back in the mid-40's.

“I recently mentioned to my older daughter (the mother of my only grandchild) that I planned to begin looking for a copy of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib to form the corner stone of my 16-month-old granddaughter’s library! (You can’t start to early, right?)”

Anne Cappel
New Orleans, Louisiana

“My aunt started me on the Betsy-Tacy books when I was eight years old, and one of the great tragedies of my young life was not being able to read Heaven to Betsy immediately because I had pinkeye the Christmas I received it. My complete Betsy-Tacy library was destroyed in our house fire of 1983. I have managed to get all of the hard cover books for my two grown daughters, except Emily of Deep Valley and Carney’s House Party. I will immediately send letters to the address of HarperCollins given in your newsletter #6.

“I guess I always identified a bit with Betsy — space between my two front teeth, straight brown hair, and hazel eyes. My mother was just a bit younger than Betsy, so grew up in the era of ‘middy blouses’ and ‘shirt waists.’ Her lifestyle was a bit more like Laura (Ingalls Wilder), though.

“My eldest daughter had her Betsy-Tacy books on a shelf in her apartment in Chicago and when a new acquaintance came to pick her up and saw the books, squealed, ‘Oh, you read Betsy-Tacy! You’re the first person I’ve met that has read them too!’ My third daughter is a Raggedy Ann and Andy collector, but we love her anyway! Those books are out of print, too. Why aren’t they publishing all these wonderful timeless books? I apologize for rambling on. I’m just so excited. I love to read and love to talk about the books I’ve read. Now I must do two days dishes (well, I had to read my new LaVyrle Spencer novel, didn’t I?) and start boning up for the Betsy-Tacy trivia contest!”

Kathryn Kent
Gibbon, Minnesota

Betsy, Tacy, and Tib
by Elena de Sosa, Northridge, CA
age six

Betsin, Tacin, and Tibbin
by Megan Bardolph, Grand Rapids, MI
age eight
WHAT ARE YOU READING 
WHEN YOU’re NOT READING BETSY-TACY??

"What are you reading?..." is a regular feature of the Betsy-Tacy Society Newsletter. Let us know what you’re reading and what you love to reread. Send your literary lists and comments to: Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001.

From Diane Kipp 
Vancouver, Washington

If you are interested in just a list, here is mine (incomplete, but they’re what come to mind first.) The obvious books are the Little House series, Anne of Green Gables series, Gone with the Wind, and Little Women. Then there’s Rebecca by Daphne duMaurier; To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee; Of Human Bondage by Somerset Maugham; How Green Was My Valley; almost anything by Jane Austen, but especially Pride and Prejudice and Persuasion; The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings by Tolkein; Charles Dickens’ novels; A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and Joy in the Morning by Betty Smith; Exodus and Mila 18 by Leon Uris. For light entertainment, I love Agatha Christie novels. Mary Stewart novels, especially the early ones, are the same. And I’ve recently discovered Dick Francis, again for light reading (Straight and High Stakes are the two I’ve read so far). Although her books are not as perfect as the Betsy books are to me, I am very much enjoying Maeve Bickey’s novels. So far I’ve read Echoes, Light a Penny Candle, and Circle of Friends (the best - I highly recommend it). I hope a lot more readers let us know what they’re reading!

My Additions for Books that Betsy-Tacy Fans Will Love 
From Mary C. Johnson 
Providence, Rhode Island

*Marjorie Morningstar* by Herman Wouk. A moving story that traces a young girl’s trip to womanhood. I’ve been reading this book since high school, and I see a different point of view each time!

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. A great read! Betsy-Tacy lovers will find that this book answers the question, ‘What if Betsy had grown up in a New York City slum instead of Mankato?’ The story follows Francie from her impoverished childhood to her successful entrance into college. Francie’s father, Johnny Nolan, is even a Tony-esque character!

*The Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher is a beautifully written and gripping family drama set in WWII and the present. Unforgettable!

There are many more, but I’d better stop typing or I’ll never quit!
SEASONS TO BETSY
By Brenda Worsley
Albany, Georgia

Brenda's series of articles, evoking the seasons as represented in the Betsy-Tacy books, continues with a summer installment...

"That summer they started having picnics. At first the picnics were not real picnics; not the kind you take out in a basket. Betsy's father, serving the plates at the head of the table, would fill Betsy's plate with scrambled eggs and bread and butter and strawberries, or whatever they had for supper. Tacy's father would do the same... Then they would walk up the hill to that bench where Tacy had stood the first night she came. And there they would eat supper together."

Betsy and Tacy had no way of knowing that first picnic was the beginning of a long-time tradition. From Betsy-Tacy through Betsy's Wedding, the celebrated picnics are described in memorable detail.

At first the picnics were simple affairs: suppers on their bench and basket lunches on the Big Hill. As teenagers, picnics with the Crowd at Page Park were enjoyable, too. Maud describes picnic tables laden with baked beans, potato salad, potted meat, hard-boiled eggs, sandwiches, cakes, coffee, and jugs of lemonade. After they finished their enormous feasts, the Crowd enjoyed singing around the campfire (can't you just hear "In the Good Old Summertime"?), swinging in the big swings, and walking beside the river.

In Betsy and Joe, Betsy shares her love of picnics with Joe, and over bread, cheese, bologna, olives, and cookies, they begin to fall in love. She tells him, "...picnics are so important...there's nothing so nice as eating out of doors." Years later, after Betsy and Joe were married, they picnicked at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. Along with Tacy, and her husband Harry, they listened to band concerts playing at the pavilion while they ate.

Summertime in Deep Valley also evokes visions of warm, lazy days at Murmuring Lake. The Ray family spent several summers there, and in Betsy Was a Junior Maud describes the beauty of Babcock's Bay, where Betsy daydreams in her rowboat. She gives us a nostalgic description of Betsy's and her sisters' bathing suits, "...all of heavy blue serge, trimmed with white braid around the sailor collars, the elbow-length sleeves, and the skirts which came to the knees over ample bloomers." Add black stockings and canvas shoes, and you have a stylish 1909 bathing suit!

Another favorite summer memory is in Carney's House Party. It has been my favorite summer afternoon companion for many years. This year as I was rereading, I was drawn to a particular passage in which Carney was reflecting on her house party. She thought what a good idea it had been, and how it had tied the East, West, and Midwest together. I thought at once of our convention, and how comparable it would be to the house party, which also took place in July.

July 10-12 will be like one big house party as we gather from all over the country to learn more about Maud Hart Lovelace. We await with great anticipation the Betsy-Tacy picnic, Sunday Night Lunch (I can already taste those onion sandwiches), and all the programs in between. Like the girls in the house party, I'm sure many of us will stay up late getting acquainted and discussing our favorite books. (Remember the Little Colonel books?) Perhaps Michele Franck, our Convention Registrar, best summed it up in a previous newsletter when she wrote, "... despite differences in age, family background, economic situation, and geography, we are all bound together by our love for Betsy Ray and her family and friends." I'll see you at the convention!
CONVENTION ADVISORY

TICKET SYSTEM

Due to the number of people expected at the convention, admission to events, programs, and meals will be by ticket only. A packet of tickets will be included in the folder you will pick up at registration. For those events involving souvenirs, tickets will merely be shown at the door; tickets will be surrendered in exchange for the souvenir at the end of the event. Please note that only persons choosing the Full Convention package will receive all souvenirs (since they will be attending all events). The only event for which tickets will not be required is the Friday Picnic at Sibley (Page) Park. This is a “bring your own” picnic. Families and friends are very welcome.

CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS

If you have indicated willingness to volunteer an hour or more on the convention registration form, we thank you! (And fear not — no registrants will be asked to work during a scheduled event or program.) We particularly need help at the registration desks and in the hospitality room. If you are not contacted in advance, you may sign up for your hour (or more) when you arrive to register.

If you can help us out with advance planning, there are numerous chores to choose from. For instance, we need a volunteer to make cardboard “street signs” with the names of the fictional streets to be posted at a few select corners on the real streets. If you happen to like fund raising, we could use help getting sponsors for the Convention Program. We already have generous donations from Borders Book Store, the Minnesota Historical Society, Hubbard Milling, and Vetter Stone Company in Mankato. If you like making phone calls, we need help coordinating volunteers for work on July 10-12. Perhaps you would just like to put up convention posters around your town. If you can give us some time over the next few weeks, please contact: Sharla Whalen, 2140 Cherrywood Circle, Naperville, IL 60565 (708) 983-9441 P.S. the fact that you may not live in Mankato is not an excuse for not volunteering!

Children should register in the auditorium of the Library, where their program will begin.

At the registration desk, you will be asked to sign up for banquet and “Christmas in Deep Valley” seating. You may sign up for seats for friends who have not yet arrived in Mankato. If you have questions about this or other registration issues, please contact: Michele Franck, 294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA 02130 (617) 522-0067

AIRPORT ARRIVALS

Numerous Betsy-Tacy fans are taking advantage of recently lowered fares to fly into the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport for the convention. If you have a waiting period between the arrival of your flight and the departure of the Land to Air bus for Mankato, carry a Betsy-Tacy book through the airport in order to be recognized by fellow convention arrivals!

One of our members has kindly offered to pick up out-of-town convention-goers at the airport to provide transportation to Mankato on Friday afternoon, July 10th. If you are arriving on Friday and would like to be hooked up with a Twin Cities “host,” or if you live in the Twin Cities and would be willing to pick someone up at the airport on Friday on your way to Mankato, please contact: Bonnie Daly, 5644 Edgewater Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417 (612) 825-6855

Convention Registration

As noted in the Registration Guide, registration will take place at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library on Friday, July 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you arrive after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, please report to the Hospitality Room (#157) at the Holiday Inn.

On Saturday morning, July 11th, registration will take place in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.
CONVENTION ADVISORY

CONVENTION PUBLICITY

Publicity for the convention has gone out far and near, and a resounding reply echoes back: "I thought I was the only one!" Betsy-Tacy fans are delighted to discover the Society, and we are delighted to discover them!

Watch for articles about the Betsy-Tacy Convention in the July issue of Victoria magazine, the June ECSU Review, and the June 15th issue of Booklist. Convention news has appeared in such papers as the New Orleans Times-Picayune, the Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch, and the Tyler (TX) Courier-Times. Thanks to the Scripps-Howard news wire service, convention notices have been appearing in papers all over the country.

Convention flyers have blanketed the Midwest, arriving at every public library and every school (gratis, thanks to the library systems and education departments) in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and northern Illinois. Additionally, Lovelace centennial displays have been set up in libraries across the country, from the Colorado Springs Public Library (thank you Cheryl Hamness) to the Chicago Public Library (thank you Jane Sorensen!). We are getting numerous new members, as well as many convention registrants from these efforts.

Betsy-Tacy Convention Shop

Don't forget to bring your Visa card to Mankato, and plan to do some early Christmas shopping, because an impressive array of Betsy-Tacy products awaits you in the Convention Shop. You will find your favorite illustrations on post-it notes, t-shirts, tote bags, and rubber stamps. Lona Falenczykowski and Kelly Reuter have been working overtime to stock the shop. All proceeds benefit the Betsy-Tacy Society!

SUNDAY NIGHT LUNCH

Come to the Judge Lorin Cray house (now the YYCA), a beautiful Queen Anne style mansion built in 1899, located at 603 S. Second Street, at 6:00 p.m. on July 12th for Sunday Night Lunch. Beth Hudson has planned this event, and promises onions for sandwiches and chocolate layer cake! She is looking for a number of volunteers to help make the Lunch a success. If you would like to play the piano, please contact Beth about obtaining copies of sheet music mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy books. If you can bring along platters, creamers and sugar bowls, or would like to bake one of Anna's coconut or banana cakes, or can bring fudge (Beth has a no-fail recipe), please contact: Beth Hudson, 1020 Bonham Terrace, Austin, TX 78704 (512) 447-1440

CAN YOU DONATE A BETSY-TACY BOOK??

Here is a worthy cause, if there ever was one! If you have an extra copy of a Betsy-Tacy book, please consider donating it to the Convention Raffle. We hope to be able to offer one copy of each B-T title. Of course, autographed first editions with dust jackets would be lovely, but we will accept any donations gratefully! (There will be a separate raffle of sheet music mentioned in the Betsy-Tacy series, including such pieces as "Yip-I-Addy-I-Ay" and the "Merry Widow Waltz.") As with all convention events, proceeds will go toward purchasing Lovelace's childhood home, and other Betsy-Tacy Society goals. Raffle tickets will be on sale for $1 per chance, 12 for $10, and 25 for $20. They will be available at the convention registration area and hospitality room. Please send your book(s) to: Bonnie Daly, 5644 Edgewater Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55417 (612) 825-8655

Please note: you must be present in order to win at the raffle. The raffle will be held in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m., following the last series of programs (before the Tasting Tea). The first ticket drawn will be given first choice of one of the books offered, the second ticket, second choice, etc. If there are fifteen books in the raffle, there will be fifteen winning tickets. If you have questions about the raffle, please contact Bonnie at the address above.
Chicago Chapter
continued from page one

that the Board appoint a Regional
Vice-President, and expresses a
commitment to adhere to the by-
laws of the charter of the Betsy-
Tacy Society, governing the
formation of regional chapters.
The mission of the GCC would be
to assist the Betsy-Tacy Society in
attaining its goals, particularly the
establishment of a museum in
Lovelace's childhood home. The
GCC would also promote
readership of Lovelace in its
region. Taking a leaf from the
book of the Twin Cities Chapter
(TCC) of the Society, the GCC
would plan a book-store event, or
series of events, to take place this
autumn. Martha Miller of St.
Charles, IL has volunteered to act
as organizer, and will contact
Borders Book Store in Oakbrook,
IL and Barnes and Noble in
Wheaton, IL. To learn about
forming a chapter in YOUR region
of the country, meet GCC and
TCC members next month at the
convention, after breakfast on
Sunday in the hospitality room.

WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS

Due to convention publicity, as
well as the extremely successful
Borders Book Store Birthday
Party of the TCC, the Betsy-Tacy
Society has acquired many new
members! The Society would like
to extend a warm welcome to
each one and an invitation to
become involved. Throughout
this newsletter you will find many
pleas for assistance with
collection-related projects,
accompanied by the name of a
contact person. Pick a project
and get involved!

CONVENTION
STICKERS

Convention stickers are available,
three for $1.00. Please send your check
made payable to the Betsy-Tacy
Convention and a self-addressed
stamped envelope to: Michele Franck,
294 Chestnut Ave., Boston, MA
02130.

HOLIDAY INN
ROOMMATES

If you care to share a room at the Holiday
Inn with another
Betsy-Tacy fan, please contact: Kay Rommel,
1205 Center, Rochester,
MN 55902. (507) 281-
4179 Please indicate
your smoking
preference or any
other needs.

The Betsy-Tacy
Companion

Did YOU ever receive a letter from
Maud Hart Lovelace?
Many fans who wrote to her received
letters in return.
If you have an MHL letter please
write to me.

Sharla Whalen
P.O. Box 4774
Naperville, IL 60567

BETSY-TACY
ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations from the Betsy-Tacy
books have been reproduced in
this Newsletter with the kind
permission of HarperCollins.
Don't forget to let them know
how disappointed you will be if
they neglect to reprint all Betsy-
Tacy titles. Write to: Marilyn
Kriney, HarperCollins, 10 E. 53rd
St. New York, NY 10022
Lovelace Biography Update

Sharla Scannell Whalen put aside her Betsy-Tacy Companion late last year in order to take on the full-time duties of Convention Chairperson. After spending three months producing the Registration Guide, she is now, between convention publicity efforts and final arrangements for the July 10 - 12 weekend, preparing the Convention Program. Sharla is looking forward to returning to the final revision of her book. She says she has aged more in the last six months than over nine years researching and writing the Companion. She is very grateful for the support of Lona, Michele, Kelly, Brenda, Kay, Carlienne, Beth, Linda, Bonnie, and the others who have helped to shoulder the burden of a wide variety of convention responsibilities.

Lovelace Appreciation

continued from page one

I try to restrict fudge making for obvious reasons; still, it makes for an enjoyable way to pass the evening with friends.

I went to the University of Salzburg when I was 17, but before arriving there, I had to scope out the inn of the Cheshire Cheese in London, a sidewalk cafe in Paris, and the Angel of Peace in Munich. I fell in love in Venice to the strains of a serenading gondolier.

The piano has a place of grand importance in my living room, just as it did in the Ray home. I like to play show tunes so others can sing along, though more recently I’ve been playing kiddie songs and my two and a half year old sings with me.

Maud Hart Lovelace worked her way into my heart like no other author, and has had an enduring and endearing effect. I never tire of reading Betsy-Tacy stories, and I’ve reread them faithfully, several times a year, since I was nine years old -- 28 years ago! It was -- and still is -- so easy to become Betsy myself as I read.

My name is Elizabeth. I have straight brown hair and a gap between my front teeth. I spent hours of my childhood writing stories in a corner of the backyard, putting on plays with other kids, and reading books from the library. It is easy to see why I embraced Lovelace stories as I did. When I married my newspaperman, our home became much like Betsy and Joe’s as we set up house, shared our writing, and started our own family rituals.

The greatest legacy of the Lovelace books is for my own children, who will have a family life of cherished memories, traditions, and time with their parents. Happy, healthy kids come from happy, healthy homes and we’ve been given a wonderful example of this. Thank you, Maud.

BETSY-TACY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name __________________________ Phone ________________
Address _____________________________________________

Membership Levels

___ Patron $25 and up ___ Family $10
___ Individual $5 ___ Student $2

Membership renewal will be in September, 1992. Make checks payable to the Betsy-Tacy Society. Please send your membership form and your check to: Lona Falen, 303 Meadow Wood Drive, Mankato, MN 56001
Friends, to make new memories... and capture some magic! Come to Deep Valley... to make a pilgrimage... to make new...

Mankato, Minnesota 56001
139 Clark East Pleasant
The Betsy-Tacy Society

An interpretation of Betsy, Tacy, and Tib by Cheryl Harness