By Julie Schrader

On a beautiful sunny October day in 2015, we were traveling along a quiet country road southeast of Mankato. In a roadside park, a marker records the site of the historic Washington Prairie Methodist Church. Maud wrote in 1954 that the church was "a meeting house for the Methodists in the Washington Prairie area near Ossian in the mid-eighteen-fifties and came to Calmar Township, to a farm near Ossian. Pioneer life was hard, as any farmer will tell you. There were no roads and the Prarie Methodist Church was a beacon for the settlers in the area."

The historic Washington Prairie Methodist Church, located between Decorah and Ossian, Iowa, in 1980 the Washington Prairie Methodist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The church was built by members of the immigrant community that settled in the area.

By Julie Schneider

On a beautiful sunny October day in 2015, we were traveling along a spine road near Decorah, Iowa in search of the historic little church that Maud’s father, Thomas W. Hart, and grandparents, James A. and Ann Lovelace, attended.

The story of the Hart family and the Washington Prairie Methodist Church can be best told by Maud herself. Found in the files at the Iowa Historical Society are letters Maud wrote in 1964-65 in which she inquires about the possibility of donating family documents. Maud wrote to "another sort of manuscript which has come to my possession, a great, great treasure of the Hart family."

Along with this correspondence Maud included her recollections:

...
Message from the President...

Greetings Members and Friends of BTS

2016 has been a busy and blessed year in Deep Valley. As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, the BTS has sponsored many successful events this year. As part of the Deep Valley Homecoming and as a joint project with Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery, two limited edition books were produced and are available for sale. A portion of the sales of these books and other items donated to the BTS. Please consider sharing these winners at your gatherings and parties this holiday season or giving them as gifts. Another gift idea is the "Listening To Your Song" CD from Maud Blais. We are proud to host her live concert, which served as the release of this CD. As part of the opening event for DVH.

Thanks to your generous response to our letter requesting funds to help pay for a revised and updated website, we met our goal and the website is under construction. It is anticipated that it will be up and running very soon. Look for it soon.

Meet Our Operations Manager

Hello all! My name is Lois Bouleuter, the new Operations Manager, and I want to thank you for welcoming me to the BTS family. When my girls were young we read through the stories and thoroughly enjoyed them. At the time the Society only had acquired Tacy’s house, so it is exciting to see how far things have come.

My background is varied so I hope to bring the skills I have learned to benefit this organization. I have a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. At Mankato’s Early Childhood Family Education program, I spent 20 years as an assistant teacher in the preschools. I say Tacy currently the Costume Mistress for the Mankato Ballet Company, which I have also been doing for a very long time.

I hope to continue long into the future with the BTS and Tacy family as well as how much further we can go. Thank you again for allowing me to help promote Maud Hart Lovelace’s legacy.

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Message from the Director......

Greetings, members!  I hope this newsletter finds you well.  My name is Anna Anderson and I have been honored to accept the position of Executive Director with the Betsy-Tacy Society in May of this year.  I hit the ground running with the final planning and execution of this year’s Deep Valley Homecoming which took place June 24-27.  I had the privilege of meeting some of you there as we enjoyed an eventful weekend in Maud’s Deep Valley.

I moved to Mankato in 2011 with my then 4 year old daughter and we settled into a home a few blocks away from Tib’s.  We immediately felt how special our neighborhood was and began reading the Betsy-Tacy books.  We devoured every tidbit of information we could find about the history of the neighborhood and about that special woman who gifted us all with the magic of her memories growing up here; Maud Hart Lovelace.  It seemed such a natural thing for me to have the opportunity to do my part to carry on such a legacy.

I will graduate with a Bachelor’s in Business Management this spring, and am pleased to be able to bring my professional knowledge and education to the Betsy-Tacy Society.  I worked as an assistant-teacher with Mankato’s ECFE since moving here and it is one of my goals to give the gift of Betsy-Tacy to children not only in Mankato, but everywhere.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you to all of our volunteers, members, and donors.  The hard work, dedication, and generosity you all show is palpable and vital to our success.  The Betsy-Tacy Society and those who support it speak volumes to the depth and breadth of Maud Hart Lovelace’s legacy and it is a joy to witness, and such an honor to be a part of.  If I can ever be of assistance to you, please reach out to me at btsmankato@gmail.com.  I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Treasurer Report

By Tom Salsbery

The Betsy-Tacy Society continues to search out new opportunities to earn revenue to further enhance our programs, maintain the houses and provide for the regular operations of the Society.  At present, the Society has $7,338 in checking and approximately $38,900 in savings and certificates of deposit.  Some of this is designated for specific causes.  Our endowment fund has approximately $28,500 in it.  We look forward to a robust holiday season with our Victorian Christmas and, hopefully, many donations from our supportive members.

Do you shop on amazon.com?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the Betsy-Tacy Society.

Start Now!

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Choose “Betsy-Tacy Society from the search menu.
3. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so that the Betsy-Tacy Society benefits every time you shop!

DID YOU KNOW? BETSYY-TACY TRIVIA

Questions
1. When did Betsy go by her given name?
2. Which neighbor lent Betsy and Tacy fashion magazines for their paper dolls?
3. What park could almost be seen from the rim of the Big Hill?
4. In front of what building was the first horseless carriage sitting when Tib jumped in to take her famous ride?
5. When is a “magic horse” mentioned?
6. What are the school colors of Deep Valley High?

See page 21 for Answers
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Did You Know? Betsy-Tacy Trivia

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3. What park could almost be seen from the rim of the Big Hill?
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5. When is a “magic horse” mentioned?
6. What are the school colors of Deep Valley High?

See page 21 for Answers
A Fundraising Message
from the Board of Directors…

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who donated so generously in the last year to help us launch our new website. As with many large undertakings, we have hit a few bumps in the road during this process but are confident that the new site will be ready for us to enjoy its many benefits soon.

The Betsy-Tacy Society has welcomed two staff members to the team this year! Their dedication and experience will help to extend the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and Betsy-Tacy and ensure our organization can continue growing. Their hard work managing daily operations and outreach opportunities does require an ongoing financial obligation, however. We consider them a true investment in our future.

As our new team members began “cleaning house” and improving our gift shop at Tacy’s house it was discovered that our store computer is desperately outdated and needs replacing. Each visitor to Deep Valley or betsy-tacysociety.org uses this computer and it is vital that our sales and banking software is able to function effectively.

Please consider giving a year-end tax-deductible donation to help us meet our goals of ensuring an efficient gift shop and retaining our talented staff. You can mail a check or go online at betsy-tacysociety.org/membership to make a single gift by using your credit or debit card, or PayPal.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will sustain and honor the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace, Deep Valley, and Betsy and Tacy!

Join the Betsy-Tacy Society for Minnesota’s Day of Giving on November 17, 2016 at www.GiveMN.org. Give to the Max Day is an annual statewide giving holiday, but you don’t have to be from Minnesota to give. We hope you will join tens of thousands of Minnesotans in making a donation to your favorite non-profit on this day of giving. Thank you for supporting the Betsy-Tacy Society with your gifts.

Betsy’s Bedroom Restoration

Candy and Doug Laven installing new sheet rock.

BTS Museum Wish List

Items or cash to purchase items off this list

Kitchen
• Small metal bath tub (child size)
• Wooden butter churn
• Enamel splatterware pans
• Wall-mount holder for kitchen bar soap
• Small wood box for kitchen stove wood
• Small coffee grinder
• Old hand-made broom
• Kitchen wall pictures
• Old baskets, crockery
• Kitchen jars, spice or dry ingredient tins
• Small wooden butcher block on legs
• Ceiling light for kitchen

Dining Room
• Telephone chair
• Dining Room wall pictures in frames

Front Parlor
• Small wall picture frames in which family photos can be hung

Main Floor Bedroom
• Bedroom wall picture frames with pictures
• ¾ Bed with Mission-style high head and foot boards

Upstairs Bedrooms
• Youth Bed
• Bed tables, wash stand
• Small Dresser
• Floor rugs
• Ceiling light fixture
• Framed wall pictures in children’s theme
• Small wooden tray to go inside small wooden trunk

Tacy House
• Heavy doorway drapes for bedroom doorway
• Violin on stand
Victorian Christmas at Betsy’s House

Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House is an annual tradition for many! The house is decorated for the season and costumed living history actors will make you feel as if you stepped back in time to Christmas in 1900.

Bring your camera and have your picture taken with Betsy, Tacy and Tib by the Christmas tree. Enjoy shopping for the holidays in the gift shop at Tacy's house. Here children can purchase a Christmas ornament for 10 cents, just as Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona did.

Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas and you too, can “hold Christmas in your hands”.

Open to the public - Admission $5 Adults, $2 Age 6-16
Free admission for BTS members and children under age 6.

© Illustration by Lois Lenski from Betsy & Tacy Go Downtown
Wine and Song Fundraiser for BTS

We’re proud to have partnered with Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson on two special fundraising projects in 2016.

Two special label wines, Deep Valley Red and Deep Valley White, are available for a limited time. The special labels feature a Lois Lenski illustration from one of the Betsy-Tacy books. This fundraiser is only good while supplies last, so hurry to get yours now. A bottle of wine makes a wonderful gift for the holidays!

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this CD is donated to the BTS. CD’s sell for $15 and are available in Tacy’s House Gift Shop or online.

Thanks to Jane Schwickert from Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson for your generosity and support of the BTS!

Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery is located just a few miles north of Mankato on North Riverfront Drive to Hwy 22 N. Watch for the sign for Chankaska Creek Winery on Hwy 22 N. If you are from the following states, you can have the wine shipped to you: MN, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IA, and MT. The Deep Valley label wines are not listed on Chankaska’s website – call to request.

Singer and BTS member Maud Hixson released a new CD, “Listening For Your Song” with a concert at the Chankaska Creek Winery for the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming in June. Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson, recorded 20 songs that were referred to in the Betsy-Tacy books.

Listening For Your Song
A Musical Companion To The Betsy-Tacy Books By Maud Hart Lovelace

Vocalist Maud Hixson Presents songs from the 1890s through WWI that were referred to in Maud Hart Lovelace’s series of books about growing up in Mankato at the turn of the century. Hear familiar favorites like “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” and “In The Good Old Summertime” as well as some lesser-known gems from the era of parlor music. Available for presentation at libraries, schools, performing arts centers, and for parlor concerts! Contact Maud Hixson for more information: maud@maudhixson.com.

Upcoming program dates:
March 14, 2017 Minnesota History Center
10:30 am St Paul
March 30, 2017 LeSueur Public Library
7:00 pm
April 1, 2017 West St. Paul Public Library
2:00 pm
Hit Tunes A Century Ago

Review written by David Bittinger

Whatever types of popular music appeal to you, here’s a reasonable guess about something you’ve not found appealing for many years: the way the music is commercially positioned and publicized. From payola and white covers of R&B records through ersatz acts (remember Milli Vanilli?), unmusical music videos, country and western supermodels, and (your choice here), pop music’s growth as a business has been matched by its shrinkage in culturally intrinsic character and authenticity.

How did popular songs become popular a century ago? As phonographs were owned by many households, rich and poor, records were widely played. But songs were introduced primarily through performance, with professional concerts less common than “parlor music” home concerts using piano and widely distributed sheet music. New songs were lively word-of-mouth experiences that travelled easily through a culture not yet dominated by entertainment potentates and marketing. Compositions that resonated in people’s experiences and emotions became hits; popularity was far less the product of commercial promotion.

In a new and appropriately novel CD, Listening For Your Song, accomplished vocalist Maud Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson’s skillful arrangements and piano, presents songs from the early twentieth century that serve virtually as characters in books written by Maud Hart Lovelace. Beloved by a wide audience, these books vividly recreate experiences of her youth. Those experiences echo artfully in this recording partnership between Hixson and the Betsy-Tacy Society, which supports not just Lovelace’s legacy but also songs worthy of crossing over a long bridge of popular culture.

The storylines of Lovelace’s Betsy-Tacy books include the 20 songs in this CD (as well as many others) and were published between 1940 and 1955. Born in 1892, Lovelace wrote her last book in 1966 and lived to 1980.

Through the coming-of-age progression of these books, the songs performed and encountered by best-friend characters Betsy and Tacy serve as the soundtrack of an adult world experienced by two sensitive and searching girls. The books follow the two growing up in the peaceful haven of a small Minnesota town during the century’s first two decades—a peace abruptly interrupted by World War I.

One of this collection’s songs, It’s A Long Way To Tipperary, became, a couple years after its composition, a patriotic rallying cry of “The Great War” that reached from Europe to America’s heartland. At a dinner party in Betsy’s Wedding, the song plays on a phonograph as the guests dance.

“. . . but then in the midst of all the gaiety something pressed on Betsy’s heart. For she had seen the British Territorials march off to war to that tune, just boys most of them, and many had not come back.”

As Maud is an uncommon name today, one might wonder whether vocalist Maud Hixson was named for the author whose work inspired this CD. Hixson, a serious musical researcher as well as a prominent performer and recording artist in jazz and traditional vocals, apparently would prefer people focus elsewhere. She’s noted that her mother grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books, leaving the matter there.

If you recall, say, President Eisenhower or had parents who enjoyed singing old tunes, you’ll recognize many of these expertly crafted, good-hearted songs. They range from enduring ballads like Moonlight Bay and My Wild Irish Rose to the jazzy Alexander’s Ragtime Band and the droll domestic humor of Everybody Works But Father. One highlight is the moving Tonight Will Never Come Again; another is You’re Here and I’m Here, an upbeat love tune by a young Jerome Kern.

The CD’s opening vocal track, The Cat Duet, is singular, starting with its early 19th century origins. Its music drawn from a Rossini theme, the piece is performed with operetta-like enthusiasm by two “cats” (the second cat is performed by soprano Maria Jette). The only lyric is Mee-ee-ow! It’s lots of fun but not easily described, though I can attest it’s enjoyable even for people who hate cats.

See ‘Hit Tunes’ page 9
Sifting through a copy of a scrapbook kept by the famous Mankato native Maud Hart Lovelace, I felt as though I was transported into the mind of the quirky, precocious 16-year old Betsy Ray, the beloved main character in her series of books for children.

The scrapbook is filled with exactly what you’d expect from a recent graduate – cut outs from the list of names in the Junior-Senior Banquet, school play programs, notes from friends, parodies on popular songs, and a program from the commencement ceremony for the Mankato (Deep Valley) High School’s Class of 1910.

Lovelace’s simply bound, scruffy book, with the curly cursive letters “Scrap Book” on the cover, now more than 100 years old, reveals her choice of silly poems and mementos. She explained in the book’s inscription that most of its items were compiled after she graduated high school and the scrapbook was “an incomplete record of the ‘larks’ enjoyed in that worthy institution.”

Among its first pages is a bit of sarcasm written on a folded piece of paper: “My masterpiece was produced this early!” Inexplicably, that note is accompanied by a supper menu from a hotel.

Lovelace’s listing of a “Revised Form of the Comandments in the Ear of Our Lord: 1907” reminds me all too much of a giggly, young teenager, cleverly conjuring up funny stories for her friends. Some of the rules she penned: “Thou shalt not sit upon the school-house steps even until thou takest cold.” “Thou shalt not have a waist smaller than Eve whose measure was 12 inches.” “Thou shalt not steal—a kiss.” “Thou shalt not have two wives at once unless one be dead.”

All of the achievements she’s most proud of lie tucked within these pages. There are also the bits and pieces that would have tumbled out every time she opened the book: love letters and their envelopes, pressed flowers and newspaper clippings. A silly little slip of paper Lovelace found worthy of saving, reads. “We the under signed do hereby request that Miss Maud refrain from making eyes at Zelona.”

Among the names of girls who signed the petition, Frances Kenney (Tacy) stands out with the phrase “I am jealous” written next to her signature. Far from a Lovelace expert am I, for I am unsure whether Zelona was his real name or a code one. I like to think the latter.

It’s hard not to fall for this charming young woman and all her endearing accomplishments and embarrassments before graduating. It is hardly difficult to picture a group of teenagers barely holding back bursts of laughter in class, teasing one another about boys, sharing everything when they were together, and laughing until they cried at nonsensical stories.

Lovelace’s scrapbook reminds me of the very reason why her books are loved so much. They are able to grant the reader a real connection, a good laugh or two, and a reassuring sense that the world we live in today really isn’t too different from the world of Betsy and Tacy.

Copy of Maud’s dance card from her scrapbook. Courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
Here’s another example of how early-twentieth century popular songs significantly set the stage of Lovelace’s stories. In My Merry Oldsmobile (published in 1905) is played at a dance in Betsy In Spite of Herself, as Betsy gambols with a fellow who owns a flashy Buick:

. . . the words of the song caused smiling faces to turn in their direction.

“Come away with me, Lucille, In my merry Oldsmobile . . .”

“Only it isn’t an Oldsmobile,” he murmured in her ear.

With her youthful, bell-like soprano, Hixson performs these songs beautifully, glowing and gliding through the tales of longing, humor, success and loss. Carlson, a master of phrasing, melodic wisdom and shrewd asides, delivers understated arrangements that reflect the music’s early-1900s sensibilities yet also have a contemporary jazz pianist’s touch.

Listening For Your Song (a lyric from the CD’s last track, There’s A Long, Long Trail) can be heard as representing two appreciations of another era, from Lovelace’s perspective and from ours today. Presenting these songs as fresh performance rather than nostalgic amusement, the production delivers something remarkable. It has the character of a confidant with valuable recollections and eloquence in their expression.

David Bittinger’s commentary has appeared in All About Jazz, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Los Angeles Times, (St. Paul) Pioneer Press, Palm Beach Post and other publications.

Editor’s Note:
Also of interest is the Betsy-Tacy Songbook: Music from the Deep Valley Books of Maud Hart Lovelace and Maud’s Music of Deep Valley: Musical Tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace.
In Memoriam

Inella Burns
April 9, 1917 – May 26, 2016

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Inella Burns. Inella was a long-time friend and supporter of the Betsy-Tacy Society. Inella Burns and Maud Hart Lovelace were connected, in spirit, both geographically and literally. In 1950 Inella and her husband Bert, with their daughters Kathleen and Janet, bought a big, brown house on Byron Street, just around the corner from the bottom of the “Big Hill”, Betsy and Tacy’s houses are two blocks up that hill. When the Burnses moved into the neighborhood, Lovelace’s books, written in the 1940’s, were already popular, but there were no physical traces of the girls and their friends. (It was not until 2001 that the Betsy-Tacy Society purchased and restored Betsy’s house; Tacy’s house was purchased in 1995.) Inella was a much beloved English teacher at Mankato High School (now Mankato West). In the years that she taught (1951–1976) there was just one high school in Mankato (as was true in Lovelace’s day), linking the whole town through the high school experiences of its children. In her books, Lovelace brought those shared experiences to life.

Andrea Shaw

The Betsy-Tacy Society is very saddened to report the death, after a long illness, of Andrea Shaw, who co-founded the New York Chapter of the BTS with Maud’s daughter, Merian Lovelace Kirchner, and later served as Merian’s literary executor. Although they were initially strangers, Andrea and Merian became very close, and when Merian’s health failed, she took on the role of caregiver and advocate.

Merian’s longtime friend Brenda Becker described Andrea this way: “she was an incredibly generous and gifted steward, who worked tirelessly for the Betsy-Tacy books as a legacy and for our Merian as a beloved friend… whatever revival the beautiful books of Maud Hart Lovelace have had in the past decades, Andrea and [her husband] Alan were critical behind-the-scenes facilitators, and they together gave Maud’s most precious treasure, her daughter, the priceless gift of peace of mind.”

Andrea was also a gifted writer, who published a wonderful guide to film on video called SEEN THAT, NOW WHAT? After becoming a diehard Elvis Presley fan, she and Alan collaborated on an illustrated map of Memphis featuring Elvis-related landmarks and anecdotes about his life. Even those Betsy-Tacy fans who never met her were affected by Andrea’s dedication to promoting Maud’s work after Merian was no longer able to do so. We are all the richer because of Andrea’s efforts, and she will be greatly missed.

Andrea Shaw and Merian Lovelace Kirchner
As remembered by Andrea’s sister, Donna Storey

Even though we lived in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our parents would often take us downtown to the grand Carnegie library in Oakland to choose books from their extensive collection. I loved the children’s room and still remember the day my middle sister Andrea pulled Heaven to Betsy from a small book shelf set on the circular table in the middle of the reading room. “This is a good book. I think you’ll like it.” I was only eight years old, but a precocious reader who loved historical novels. I also knew my sister’s recommendations were very reliable—and this time she outdid herself. I devoured the high school books and raced on to Betsy’s Wedding, my favorite. The library was missing its copy of Betsy and the Great World, which
neither Andrea nor I read until I discovered a copy in my
college roommate’s local library. I also didn’t read the
books for younger children until decades later, but by then I
was happy to have more Betsy-Tacy history to enjoy.

In any case, Andrea and I shared a love of the Betsy-Tacy
books and over the years we often re-read them together—
Christmas in Milwaukee and summers at Murmuring Lake
and picnics with cocoa made over an open fire seemed like
part of our own past. We were also a family of three sisters.
The oldest of us was a beauty who left a string of broken-
hearted beaux like Julia. Andrea had the independent spirit
and charisma of Betsy. Like Margaret, I was younger (by
seven years), bookish and dignified and loved our two
poodles like friends, but I also knew I wanted to be
a writer, so I identified with Betsy, too.

And like many fans, Andrea and I thought we were
the only ones who preferred Betsy to Nancy Drew.

Fast forward to December of 1992. I treated myself
to a copy of *Victoria Magazine* to get myself in
the old-fashioned Christmas spirit. There I found
an announcement about the Betsy-Tacy Society,
a group of Maud Hart Lovelace fans who thought
they were “the only ones” who loved her books
but had found they were a community. It was our
family custom to try to outdo each other with clever
stocking stuffers on Christmas morning, and I knew
I had to get a membership for Andrea (and myself).
She was surprised and delighted—and I was glad to
be able to make my own contribution to our Betsy-
Tacy legacy.

Then just a few months later, I decided to take a tour
of my own local library in Berkeley (I was
in graduate school and the university library had
served my literary needs up to that time). I went to
the children’s floor and thought I’d check if they had
a full collection of Betsy-Tacy books. That’s when
I saw a children’s version of *King Kong* by Delos
W. Lovelace. Why had “Joe” written about King
Kong? Today the question could be answered with
a quick Google search, but in 1993 research was a
little more difficult. Andrea was equally intrigued
and decided to see if the Betsy-Tacy Society could
help. I’ve attached a pdf of the letter she wrote, which she
gave to me a few years ago with the note: “Donna, What
started it all.”

(By the way, Andrea got the library wrong—my husband
and I had helped her with the Japanese movie portion of
her video guide *Seen That, Now What?* and we borrowed
many of the videos from the Stanford library, hence her
assumption that I saw Delos’ book there).

See ‘In Memoriam’ page 12
The Betsy-Tacy Society secretary, Michele Franck, forwarded Andrea’s letter to Merian. I believe Merian wrote to the address Andrea provided in reply, and since they were both in the New York City area, they later spoke by phone (I wonder if the phone number on the letter was Merian’s writing?) and Merian invited Andrea to lunch. They had a wonderful time chatting about Betsy-Tacy and really hit it off. Andrea visited many times, both alone and for Betsy-Tacy Society meetings of the New York chapter. Once when I was back east, Andrea took me to meet Merian at her Park Slope apartment. It was a real thrill for me to meet her. She was gracious and very generous with stories about her mother and father. I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to meet her and felt in touch with the spirit of her parents, too.

Andrea and Merian became great friends. Near the end of Merian’s life in 1997, Andrea visited her every day in the hospital.

Kathryn Adams Doty
July 15, 1920 - October 14, 2016

Born Kathryn Hohn in New Ulm, MN, she attended Hamline University in St. Paul. As a sophomore in 1939, she won a trip to Hollywood, chosen the Mid-western winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest. Kathryn was paired with another regional talent contest winner, Hugh Beaumont from New Orleans. Beaumont is best known for his role as Ward Cleaver in the “Leave it to Beaver” television series.

Movie director Gregory LaCava spotted Kathryn’s talent and he offered her a role in his new movie, “Fifth Avenue Girl”, starring Ginger Rogers. Known as Kathryn Adams during her days on screen, she went on to appear in 25 movies from 1939-1946, working with Lucille Ball, Kay Kyser, Bing Crosby and many others.

Kathryn married Hugh Beaumont in 1941 and chose to leave acting to begin a family. The couple later divorced after more than 30 years of marriage. In the years following her acting career she raised three children, taught school, earned a master’s degree in psychology and practiced for years in California. Kathryn later married Fred Doty, also a psychologist and they moved to Mankato, Minnesota.

Between the years 2003 and 2009, Kathryn wrote and published three books. She was a guest at Tacy’s House several times for book signings and events. The first time was in December 2004 when her first book, “A Long Year of Silence”. Kathy is holding a copy of Hamline University’s 1939 newspaper with the article announcing that she was chosen the Midwestern winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest.

“Build our lives out of what materials we have. It’s as though we were given a heap of blocks and told to build a house.”

Emily of Deep Valley
A Wonderful Holiday Gift Idea

2017 Maud Hart Lovelace’s Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. 12” x 24”

Quantities are Limited • Only $15.00
ORDER NOW!
The Coffin House, Vassar and Me

By Kathleen Baxter

In the summer of 2013, I received an invitation to give a presentation in Poughkeepsie, New York. BOCES, the Board of Children’s Educational Services, had hired me to do several all-day talks about children’s books around the state. But - let’s get real! As much as I had enjoyed visiting the other locations depicted in Carney’s House Party, I had never been to Vassar, where part of the book takes place. I certainly had seen images of it, but actually being there was something else again. Although I had presented in Poughkeepsie before, I’d had no spare time to see it, having had to take a train to Manhattan and then out to Long Island to give another talk the next day. I had reveled at being in the Poughkeepsie train station, realizing it could not have been much changed since Carney’s time.

This time my husband Riley came along and we flew into Bradley Airport near Hartford. I wanted to go through Connecticut to get to Poughkeepsie and I had my reasons:

“...In 1935 Lois even had the outbuilding south of the house that had once served as the Balch coffin shop renovated to serve as her studio.” Quote from Lois Lenski Storycatcher by Bobbie Malone

This studio is where Lois created the illustrations for the first four Betsy-Tacy books. (Photo courtesy of Kathleen Baxter, 2013)

my four times great grandfather was a teenager in Litchfield, Connecticut when the Revolutionary War broke out, and on the day the local militia was formed, he and a bunch of other...
volunteers raced to the town green to enlist. I wanted to see that town green and learn more. I did know that the militia, 36 men from Litchfield, had a miserable time of it. In the battle of New York/Long Island, those who were not killed were captured by the British and put on a prison ship where they were fed almost nothing (a handful of wormy meal a day, he said in his petition for a pension). Although he also came down with smallpox, he was lucky—he was one of only six men who survived and went back to Litchfield.

By coincidence, I had read Lois Lenski’s autobiography, Journey into Childhood, shortly before the trip. She had lived much of her life in Connecticut, and as I started looking at maps and planning our journey, I realized that Harwinton, her home for many years, was the next town to Litchfield! We were going to go right through it! And, by gum, we were going to see her house. I googled the address.

“For Sale” signs were on the property. We drove into the driveway. Clearly, no one was living there. The big lot, with a few buildings and an old house, was a lovely, wooded place. We wandered around taking photos. I was hoping to see the building where Ms. Lenski did all of her illustrations for the Betsy-Tacy books: the coffin house! The coffin house was a small building where coffins had been made in previous centuries. As is pretty normal in New England, this house was older than any houses we have in Minnesota. Ms. Lenski’s husband Arthur Covey was also an artist, but, at least in his own mind, he was the great illustrator and she was just a children’s book creator, so he got the best studio.

While we were looking around, a car pulled up. The owner of the house had gotten a call saying people were walking around the property and he came to see if we were interested in purchasing the house. Alas, we were not, but he was pleasant and interested to hear that I was a Lenski fan. His parents had bought the house, which he grew up, from Lenski and her husband.

It was a lovely time, and I realized that “I think I am the only one” would not apply to this case. Who wouldn’t want to see that coffin house where immortal pictures were created? Betsy, Tacy and Tib hypnotizing Winona? Great stuff! And we can all name many more illustrations, not to mention Lenski’s own books. It was wonderful!

Later, when we arrived in Poughkeepsie, we headed straight for Vassar and visited the locations mentioned in Carney’s House Party. Even though the book took place over a hundred years ago, much still looks as it was described. I, of course, took photos.

I love going to places where things happened. And I had gotten to two important ones on the same day!
The holidays are rapidly approaching and soon we’ll all be caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Don’t forget to add the Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop to your shopping list. We have something for Betsy-Tacy fans of all ages. Books, cd’s, 2017 calendar, apparel, tote bags, mugs, and more.

- “Betsy’s House” and “Tacy’s House” classically inspired ornaments made of brass and finished in elegant 24 karat gold make wonderful keepsake gifts and are gift boxed with an origin card. $18.00 ea.

- Four versions of Betsy-Tacy Christmas cards are available and feature artwork by Lois Lenski, Vera Neville and Cheryl Harness and holiday quotes from the books. $8.00 package of 6 cards

- Not sure what to give that special person on your gift list? Consider giving the gift of a BTS membership or a Betsy-Tacy gift certificate.

Grandma Hart was buried there three years later. She was only forty-five. She had left her stamp on every one of her nine children, and her grandchildren and even her great grandchildren are aware of her. Many of us have been taken to Washington Prairie to see “Grandma’s Church”.

It was a great pride to my father that at his father’s death in 1913, he was given…by vote of his brothers and sisters…the old subscription list which I am now happy to put into the care of the State Historical Society of Iowa.”

The rest of the story… Beside the Washington Prairie Methodist Church is a small cemetery where I expected to find the grave stones of James A. and Arosamond Hart. However, they are buried a few miles away in the Greenwood Centennial Cemetery. This remains a mystery…until next time.
New in the Gift Shop

2017 Maud Hart Lovelace’s Deep Valley Calendar
Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. Limited quantities available. 12” x 24” $15.00

Lois Lenski – Storycatcher by Dr. Bobbie Malone
Betsy-Tacy fans know Lois Lenski best as the illustrator of Maud’s first four Betsy-Tacy books. But not everyone may be aware that author and illustrator of the Newbery Award-winning Strawberry Girl and numerous other tales of children from America’s diverse regions and cultures, Lenski spent five decades creating stories for young readers. Lois Lenski: Storycatcher follows her development as a writer and as an artist. This first full-length biography tells how Lenski traveled throughout the country, gathering the stories that brought to life in words and pictures whole worlds that had for so long been invisible in children’s literature. In the process, her work became a source of delight, inspiration, and insight for generations of readers. Hardcover $26.95

Mrs. Chubbock’s Candy Store mini tote is perfect for gift giving. Fill with candy or small gift items. Canvas bag features Lois Lenski illustration from Betsy-Tacy. 6.75” x 6.25”. $5.00

Deep Valley Homecoming gifts include t-shirts, tote bags, silicone bracelet and Deep Valley Homecoming color mug.

Porcelain Tea Set in Basket
Child’s porcelain tea set for two. Available in Betsy’s Violet or Tacy’s Pink Rose. $35.00

Listening For Your Song CD by Maud Hixson – $15.00

I Love Betsy-Tacy bracelet
Show your love of the Betsy-Tacy books with a pink silicone bracelet. One size fits all. $2.00

The Betsy-Tacy Society is joining with the Mankato City Center Partnership to celebrate “Small Shop Saturday” on November 26. This nationwide event encourages shoppers to shop local and support our small businesses. Watch for more information on our website and facebook pages.

Shop at Tacy’s Gift Shop
Online (betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog) or at 332 Center Street in Mankato
Open on Saturdays 1 pm – 4 pm through December 17th.
The BTS hosted the 3rd annual Deep Valley Homecoming to celebrate author Maud Hart Lovelace and her books on June 24-27, 2016. Activities narrated horse-drawn trolley rides, guided house tours, living history actors, Deep Valley book festival, Victorian Tea, Deep Valley wine release, “Listening For Your Song” cd release and concert by Maud Hixson, children’s activities and crafts, reader’s theater, dance lessons, “Betsy and Joe” dramatic play, Blue Earth County Courthouse and First Presbyterian Church tours, living history exhibits, guest speakers Teresa Mercier and Susan Hagberg-Miller, Young Artist and Young Writer Competition, a Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest and more.

Visit our website to read the winning stories and see the winning illustrations.

Many volunteers are needed to host an event such as this and we’re grateful to each and every one of you! We appreciate the local businesses and organizations that partnered with us for this annual event. Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for grant support.

For more photos, visit our facebook page, click on photos and there’s an album for the Deep Valley Homecoming 2016.

See highlights from the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming on our new video courtesy of Purple Torchlight Productions at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fYW6jZOJUE.

**Deep Valley Writers Competition Award Winners**
1st Place (age 8–10 division) — Eva Madelyn James for “Ms Butter and the Big Rock”
1st Place (age 11–13 division) — Rachel Evans for “Courage to Speak”

**Young Artist Competition Award Winners**
1st Place (age 7–8 division) — Aidan Klammer for illustration of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
1st Place (age 9–10 division) — Kate North for illustration of “Betsy’s Desk”

**Winners of the Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest**
Betsy Ray — Rosalita Jones
Tacy Kelly — Lily Geyer
Tib Muller — Clare Duncan

*We look forward to seeing you June 23-25, 2017!*
Deep Valley Homecoming 2016

Thank you To Our DVH 2016 Sponsors

Barnes & Noble, River Hills Mall
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South Central College
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### Membership Makes a Difference

#### Welcome New Members

**Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015**
- Colin Barnacle
- Molly Cummins
- Molly Gallaway
- Shirley Hardie
- Mary Healy
- Kristen Hoel
- Kirsti Johanson
- Andrea Lerum
- Karen Nolan
- Leslie Owen
- Kristin Raymakers
- Laura Stoesz
- Meghan Sweeney

**Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016**
- Jean Brune
- Emma Casaudoumcq
- Bernardine Codella
- Jean Costello
- Julia Cox
- Carolyn Davis
- Margaret Edmonston
- Brooke Ellman
- Debbie Fischer
- Colleen Gray
- Sue Hytjan
- Barbara Kohnke
- Fredi Levitt
- Elizabeth Manzoni
- MaryJo Ruppert
- Susan Seltz
- Nancy Spika
- Jennifer Struss
- Sonja Werle

#### Thank You!

### Donations

#### 2015 Donations
**Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015**
- Lynne Baab
- Lynda Barchard
- Sunniva Brady
- Bob & Susan Brown – *Endowment/Memory of Rod Elbert*
- Carol Burger
- Colleen Canavan – *Endowment*
- Mary Chamberlain
- Judith Corson
- Dena Fleurichamp
- Cheryl & William Foote
- Cleo Grosscup – *Website upgrade*
- Barbara Hartwick
- LeAnn & Richard Hufnagel
- Julia Holden – *Memory of Nan Soule*
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- Eunice Sassenberg
- Julie Schrader
- Thomsen Rueters Matching
- Cecilia Wirth
- Beth Walls
- Marilyan & Alan Youel
- Marilyin Williamson
- Cecilia Wirth

#### 2016 Donations
**Jan. 1 – Oct. 1, 2016**
- Rita Allen
- Krista Barrett
- Doris Berger
- Doris Boyce
- Bob & Susan Brown – *Endowment/Memory of Kathleen Dorn*
- Chris Christie
- Colleen Gray
- Thomas Hagen
- Cheryl Hanson – *Memory of Inella Burns*
- Harsh Hettige
- Kristi Jalics
- Karin Johnson – *Honor of Gisea E. Johnson*
- Susan Kavulich
- Eloise Layman
- L. Joy Lutzi – *Memory of Inella Burns*
- Lucille Northenscold – *Memory of Inella Burns*
- Sandra O’Brien – *Memory of Inella Burns*
- L. Peltola – *Memory of Inella Burns*
- Joy Petzinger
- Janet Piwowarski
- Anne Rickert & Mary Byrne – *Website upgrade*
- Linda Rouzer – *Honor of Stella Mae Rouzer*
- Jeanine Sallos
- Lisa Schmidt
- Julie Schrader – *Memory of Inella Burns and Andrea Shaw*
- Andrea Schwartz – *Website upgrade*
- M.L. Steiner
- Pete Steiner
- Kathy Stollenwerk
- Colleen Sullivan – *Memory of Lorraine Carlson*
- Kathleen Turner
- Beth Walls
- Carol Welsch – *Website upgrade*

#### 2015 Donations
**Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2015**
- Rich Robinson
- Kathleen Baxter
- The Bersteins
- Nate & Lori Gardner – *Jones Fage Jacobsen Family Foundation*

#### In Kind Donations
- Deep Valley Players
- American Legion Post 11
- Minnesota Heritage Publishing
- Peddler of Rapidan
- Purple Torchlight Productions
- South Central College

#### Engraved Paver Donations
- Eileen Beha
- Barb Fecteau
- Maud List – *Memory of Rachel Rose*
- Maud List – *Memory Colleen O’Neil*
- Linda Lyon
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- Mary Lien
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- Becky Kritz
- Julia Nephew
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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who give their time, expertise and resources to guide tours, greet guests, shop staff and inventory, programs, committees and more.


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DID YOU KNOW?

BETSY-TACY TRIVIA

(continued)

Answers

1. On Betsy’s 10th birthday party (Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill). The girls decided that now that they had two numbers in their age, none of them should go by their nicknames.

2. Mrs. Benson (Betsy-Tacy)

3. Page Park (Betsy-Tacy)

4. The Opera House (Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown)

5. In the chapter, “The Milkman Story” (Betsy-Tacy). The magic horse could talk and liked doughnuts.

6. Maroon and gold (Heaven to Betsy)

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS
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 with the recipient’s name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.

New Members
Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:
- Be kept abreast of developments with the BTS and its outreach.
- Have access to the “Members Only” page on the BTS website, where society archives are available.
- Be an integral part of the BTS mission to preserve the Betsy-Tacy houses, which are historical and literary landmarks.
- Help the BTS introduce the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace to a new generation of readers.
- Be a part of the movement that values history and appreciates literature.

Privacy Statement
The Betsy-Tacy Society is committed to respecting 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-tacsociety.org or (507) 345-9777.

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.

Uncle Frank’s (Uncle Keith) Oliver Typewriter
In a letter written to her cousin Marjorie Austin Freeman in 1964, Maud described her beginnings as a writer:

“Perhaps you would like to know that, preceding my novels, were dozens of published short stories, the first of which, called Number Eight, was written in San Diego when I was eighteen. This was in 1911 when I visited Grandma Austin for several months. Uncle Frank Palmer, who lived then at El Cajon, took a great interest in my constant writing of stories and their consistent rejection by the magazines. He suggested that perhaps they failed to sell because they were hand-written. He loaned me his old Oliver typewriter... He tried to give it to me, but I refused the gift because I knew he liked to write stories, too. On this, I pecked out Number Eight and sent it to the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine.”

A bit of history on the Oliver Typewriter…
Rev. Thomas Oliver designed his first typewriter, made from strips of tin cans, as a means of producing more legible sermons. He was awarded a patent in 1891 and after four years of development, a “crude working model” composed of 500 parts had been produced. The Oliver Typewriter Company began operating in 1895. At its peak the company’s labor force was 875 and was producing 375 machines daily. The British Oliver Typewriter Company bought the company in 1928 and that company made Oliver typewriters until 1959.

This typewriter is most likely what Uncle Frank’s Oliver Typewriter looked like. This model has been called “butterfly-style” because of its vertical type bars.
A Fundraising Message from the Board of Directors…

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who donated so generously in the last year to help us launch our new website. As with many large undertakings, we have hit a few bumps in the road during this process but are confident that the new site will be ready for us to enjoy its many benefits soon.

The Betsy-Tacy Society has welcomed two staff members to the team this year! Their dedication and experience will help to extend the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace and Betsy-Tacy and ensure our organization can continue growing. Their hard work managing daily operations and outreach opportunities does require an ongoing financial obligation, however. We consider them a true investment in our future.

As our new team members began “cleaning house” and improving our gift shop at Tacy’s house it was discovered that our store computer is desperately outdated and needs replacing. Each visitor to Deep Valley or betsy-tacysociety.org uses this computer and it is vital that our sales and banking software is able to function effectively.

Please consider giving a year-end tax-deductible donation to help us meet our goals of ensuring an efficient gift shop and retaining our talented staff. You can mail a check or go online at betsy-tacysociety.org/membership to make a single gift by using your credit or debit card, or PayPal.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will sustain and honor the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace, Deep Valley, and Betsy and Tacy!

Join the Betsy-Tacy Society for Minnesota’s Day of Giving on November 17, 2016 at www.GiveMN.org. Give to the Max Day is an annual statewide giving holiday, but you don’t have to be from Minnesota to give. We hope you will join tens of thousands of Minnesotans in making a donation to your favorite non-profit on this day of giving. Thank you for supporting the Betsy-Tacy Society with your gifts.

Betsy’s Bedroom Restoration

Candy and Doug Laven installing new sheet rock.

BTS Museum Wish List
Items or cash to purchase items off this list

**Kitchen**
- Small metal bath tub (child size)
- Wooden butter churn
- Enamel splatterware pans
- Wall-mount holder for kitchen bar soap
- Small wood box for kitchen stove wood
- Small coffee grinder
- Old hand-made broom
- Kitchen wall pictures
- Old baskets, crockery
- Kitchen jars, spice or dry ingredient tins
- Small wooden butcher block on legs
- Ceiling light for kitchen

**Dining Room**
- Telephone chair
- Dining Room wall pictures in frames

**Front Parlor**
- Small wall picture frames in which family photos can be hung

**Main Floor Bedroom**
- Bedroom wall picture frames with pictures
- ¾ Bed with Mission-style high head and foot boards

**Upstairs Bedrooms**
- Youth Bed
- Bed tables, wash stand
- Small Dresser
- Floor rugs
- Ceiling light fixture
- Framed wall pictures in children’s theme
- Small wooden tray to go inside small wooden trunk

**Tacy House**
- Heavy doorway drapes for bedroom doorway
- Violin on stand
Victorian Christmas at Betsy’s House

Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 2016
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A Victorian Christmas at Betsy's House is an annual tradition for many! The house is decorated for the season and costumed living history actors will make you feel as if you stepped back in time to Christmas in 1900.

Bring your camera and have your picture taken with Betsy, Tacy and Tib by the Christmas tree. Enjoy shopping for the holidays in the gift shop at Tacy's house. Here children can purchase a Christmas ornament for 10 cents, just as Betsy, Tacy, Tib, and Winona did.

Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas and you too, can “hold Christmas in your hands”.

Open to the public - Admission $5 Adults, $2 Age 6-16
Free admission for BTS members and children under age 6.

© Illustration by Lois Lenski from Betsy & Tacy Go Downtown
Wine and Song Fundraiser for BTS

We’re proud to have partnered with Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson on two special fundraising projects in 2016.

Two special label wines, Deep Valley Red and Deep Valley White, are available for a limited time. The special labels feature a Lois Lenski illustration from one of the Betsy-Tacy books. This fundraiser is only good while supplies last, so hurry to get yours now. A bottle of wine makes a wonderful gift for the holidays!

Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery is located just a few miles north of Mankato on North Riverfront Drive to Hwy 22 N. Watch for the sign for Chankaska Creek Winery on Hwy 22 N. If you are from the following states, you can have the wine shipped to you: MN, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IA, and MT. The Deep Valley label wines are not listed on Chankaska’s website – call to request.

Singer and BTS member Maud Hixson released a new CD, “Listening For Your Song” with a concert at the Chankaska Creek Winery for the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming in June. Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson, recorded 20 songs that were referred to in the Betsy-Tacy books.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this CD is donated to the BTS. CD’s sell for $15 and are available in Tacy’s House Gift Shop or online.

Thanks to Jane Schwickert from Chankaska Creek Winery and Maud Hixson and Rick Carlson for your generosity and support of the BTS!

Listening For Your Song
A Musical Companion To The Betsy-Tacy Books By Maud Hart Lovelace

Vocalist Maud Hixson Presents songs from the 1890s through WWI that were referred to in Maud Hart Lovelace’s series of books about growing up in Mankato at the turn of the century. Hear familiar favorites like “Alexander’s Ragtime Band” and “In The Good Old Summertime” as well as some lesser-known gems from the era of parlor music. Available for presentation at libraries, schools, performing arts centers, and for parlor concerts! Contact Maud Hixson for more information: maud@maudhixson.com.

Upcoming program dates:
March 14, 2017 Minnesota History Center 10:30 am St Paul
March 30, 2017 LeSueur Public Library 7:00 pm
April 1, 2017 West St. Paul Public Library 2:00 pm
Review written by David Bittinger

Whatever types of popular music appeal to you, here’s a reasonable guess about something you’ve not found appealing for many years: the way the music is commercially positioned and publicized. From payola and white covers of R&B records through ersatz acts (remember Milli Vanilli?), unmusical music videos, country and western supermodels, and (your choice here), pop music’s growth as a business has been matched by its shrinkage in culturally intrinsic character and authenticity.

How did popular songs become popular a century ago? As phonographs were owned by many households, rich and poor, records were widely played. But songs were introduced primarily through performance, with professional concerts less common than “parlor music” home concerts using piano and widely distributed sheet music. New songs were lively word-of-mouth experiences that travelled easily through a culture not yet dominated by entertainment potentates and marketing. Compositions that resonated in people’s experiences and emotions became hits; popularity was far less the product of commercial promotion.

In a new and appropriately novel CD, Listening For Your Song, accomplished vocalist Maud Hixson, accompanied by Rick Carlson’s skillful arrangements and piano, presents songs from the early twentieth century that serve virtually as characters in books written by Maud Hart Lovelace. Beloved by a wide audience, these books vividly recreate experiences of her youth. Those experiences echo artfully in this recording partnership between Hixson and the Betsy-Tacy Society, which supports not just Lovelace’s legacy but also songs worthy of crossing over a long bridge of popular culture.

The storylines of Lovelace’s Betsy-Tacy books include the 20 songs in this CD (as well as many others) and were published between 1940 and 1955. Born in 1892, Lovelace wrote her last book in 1966 and lived to 1980.

Through the coming-of-age progression of these books, the songs performed and encountered by best-friend characters Betsy and Tacy serve as the soundtrack of an adult world experienced by two sensitive and searching girls. The books follow the two growing up in the peaceful haven of a small Minnesota town during the century’s first two decades—a peace abruptly interrupted by World War I.

One of this collection’s songs, It’s A Long Way To Tipperary, became, a couple years after its composition, a patriotic rallying cry of “The Great War” that reached from Europe to America’s heartland. At a dinner party in Betsy’s Wedding, the song plays on a phonograph as the guests dance.

“. . . but then in the midst of all the gaiety something pressed on Betsy’s heart. For she had seen the British Territorials march off to war to that tune, just boys most of them, and many had not come back.”

As Maud is an uncommon name today, one might wonder whether vocalist Maud Hixson was named for the author whose work inspired this CD. Hixson, a serious musical researcher as well as a prominent performer and recording artist in jazz and traditional vocals, apparently would prefer people focus elsewhere. She’s noted that her mother grew up reading the Betsy-Tacy books, leaving the matter there.

If you recall, say, President Eisenhower or had parents who enjoyed singing old tunes, you’ll recognize many of these expertly crafted, good-hearted songs. They range from enduring ballads like Moonlight Bay and My Wild Irish Rose to the jazzy Alexander’s Ragtime Band and the droll domestic humor of Everybody Works But Father. One highlight is the moving Tonight Will Never Come Again; another is You’re Here and I’m Here, an upbeat love tune by a young Jerome Kern.

The CD’s opening vocal track, The Cat Duet, is singular, starting with its early 19th century origins. Its music drawn from a Rossini theme, the piece is performed with operetta-like enthusiasm by two “cats” (the second cat is performed by soprano Maria Jette). The only lyric is Mee-ee-ow! It’s lots of fun but not easily described, though I can attest it’s enjoyable even for people who hate cats.

See ‘Hit Tunes’ page 9
Sifting through a copy of a scrapbook kept by the famous Mankato native Maud Hart Lovelace, I felt as though I was transported into the mind of the quirky, precocious 16-year old Betsy Ray, the beloved main character in her series of books for children.

The scrapbook is filled with exactly what you’d expect from a recent graduate – cut outs from the list of names in the Junior-Senior Banquet, school play programs, notes from friends, parodies on popular songs, and a program from the commencement ceremony for the Mankato (Deep Valley) High School’s Class of 1910.

Lovelace’s simply bound, scruffy book, with the curly cursive letters “Scrap Book” on the cover, now more than 100 years old, reveals her choice of silly poems and mementos. She explained in the book’s inscription that most of its items were compiled after she graduated high school and the scrapbook was “an incomplete record of the ‘larks’ enjoyed in that worthy institution.”

Among its first pages is a bit of sarcasm written on a folded piece of paper: “My masterpiece was produced this early!” Inexplicably, that note is accompanied by a supper menu from a hotel.

Lovelace’s listing of a “Revised Form of the Comandments in the Ear of Our Lord: 1907” reminds me all too much of a giggly, young teenager, cleverly conjuring up funny stories for her friends. Some of the rules she penned: “Thou shalt not sit upon the school-house steps even until thou takest cold.” “Thou shalt not have a waist smaller than Eve whose measure was 12 inches.” “Thou shalt not steal—a kiss.” “Thou shalt not have two wives at once unless one be dead.”

All of the achievements she’s most proud of lie tucked within these pages. There are also the bits and pieces that would have tumbled out every time she opened the book: love letters and their envelopes, pressed flowers and newspaper clippings. A silly little slip of paper Lovelace found worthy of saving, reads. “We the under signed do hereby request that Miss Maud refrain from making eyes at Zelona.”

Among the names of girls who signed the petition, Frances Kenney (Tacy) stands out with the phrase “I am jealous” written next to her signature. Far from a Lovelace expert am I, for I am unsure whether Zelona was his real name or a code one. I like to think the latter.

It’s hard not to fall for this charming young woman and all her endearing accomplishments and embarrassments before graduating. It is hardly difficult to picture a group of teenagers barely holding back bursts of laughter in class, teasing one another about boys, sharing everything when they were together, and laughing until they cried at nonsensical stories.

Lovelace’s scrapbook reminds me of the very reason why her books are loved so very much. They are able to grant the reader a real connection, a good laugh or two, and a reassuring sense that the world we live in today really isn’t too different from the world of Betsy and Tacy.
Here’s another example of how early-twentieth century popular songs significantly set the stage of Lovelace’s stories. In My Merry Oldsmobile (published in 1905) is played at a dance in Betsy In Spite of Herself, as Betsy gambols with a fellow who owns a flashy Buick:

. . . the words of the song caused smiling faces to turn in their direction.

“Come away with me, Lucille,
In my merry Oldsmobile . . .”

“Only it isn’t an Oldsmobile,” he murmured in her ear.

With her youthful, bell-like soprano, Hixson performs these songs beautifully, glowing and gliding through the tales of longing, humor, success and loss. Carlson, a master of phrasing, melodic wisdom and shrewd asides, delivers understated arrangements that reflect the music’s early-1900s sensibilities yet also have a contemporary jazz pianist’s touch.

Listening For Your Song (a lyric from the CD’s last track, There’s A Long, Long Trail) can be heard as representing two appreciations of another era, from Lovelace’s perspective and from ours today. Presenting these songs as fresh performance rather than nostalgic amusement, the production delivers something remarkable. It has the character of a confidant with valuable recollections and eloquence in their expression.


Editor’s Note: Also of interest is the Betsy-Tacy Songbook: Music from the Deep Valley Books of Maud Hart Lovelace and Maud’s Music of Deep Valley: Musical Tribute to Maud Hart Lovelace.
In Memoriam

Inella Burns
April 9, 1917 – May 26, 2016

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Inella Burns. Inella was a long-time friend and supporter of the Betsy-Tacy Society. Inella Burns and Maud Hart Lovelace were connected, in spirit, both geographically and literally. In 1950 Inella and her husband Bert, with their daughters Kathleen and Janet, bought a big, brown house on Byron Street, just around the corner from the bottom of the “Big Hill”, Betsy and Tacy’s houses are two blocks up that hill. When the Burnses moved into the neighborhood, Lovelace’s books, written in the 1940’s, were already popular, but there were no physical traces of the girls and their friends. (It was not until 2001 that the Betsy-Tacy Society purchased and restored Betsy’s house; Tacy’s house was purchased in 1995.) Inella was a much beloved English teacher at Mankato High School (now Mankato West). In the years that she taught (1951–1976) there was just one high school in Mankato (as was true in Lovelace’s day), linking the whole town through the high school experiences of its children. In her books, Lovelace brought those shared experiences to life.

Andrea Shaw and Merian Lovelace Kirchner
As remembered by Andrea’s sister, Donna Storey

Even though we lived in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our parents would often take us downtown to the grand Carnegie library in Oakland to choose books from their extensive collection. I loved the children’s room and still remember the day my middle sister Andrea pulled Heaven to Betsy from a small book shelf set on the circular table in the middle of the reading room. “This is a good book. I think you’ll like it.” I was only eight years old, but a precocious reader who loved historical novels. I also knew my sister’s recommendations were very reliable—and this time she outdid herself. I devoured the high school books and raced on to Betsy’s Wedding, my favorite. The library was missing its copy of Betsy and the Great World, which

strangers, Andrea and Merian became very close, and when Merian’s health failed, she took on the role of caregiver and advocate.

Merian’s longtime friend Brenda Becker described Andrea this way: “she was an incredibly generous and gifted steward, who worked tirelessly for the Betsy-Tacy books as a legacy and for our Merian as a beloved friend… whatever revival the beautiful books of Maud Hart Lovelace have had in the past decades, Andrea and [her husband] Alan were critical behind-the-scenes facilitators, and they together gave Maud’s most precious treasure, her daughter, the priceless gift of peace of mind.”

Andrea was also a gifted writer, who published a wonderful guide to film on video called SEEN THAT, NOW WHAT? After becoming a diehard Elvis Presley fan, she and Alan collaborated on an illustrated map of Memphis featuring Elvis-related landmarks and anecdotes about his life.

Even those Betsy-Tacy fans who never met her were affected by Andrea’s dedication to promoting Maud’s work after Merian was no longer able to do so. We are all the richer because of Andrea’s efforts, and she will be greatly missed.

Andrea Shaw

The Betsy-Tacy Society is very saddened to report the death, after a long illness, of Andrea Shaw, who co-founded the New York Chapter of the BTS with Maud’s daughter, Merian Lovelace Kirchner, and later served as Merian’s literary executor. Although they were initially
neither Andrea nor I read until I discovered a copy in my college roommate’s local library. I also didn’t read the books for younger children until decades later, but by then I was happy to have more Betsy-Tacy history to enjoy.

In any case, Andrea and I shared a love of the Betsy-Tacy books and over the years we often re-read them together—Christmas in Milwaukee and summers at Murmuring Lake and picnics with cocoa made over an open fire seemed like part of our own past. We were also a family of three sisters. The oldest of us was a beauty who left a string of broken-hearted beaux like Julia. Andrea had the independent spirit and charisma of Betsy. Like Margaret, I was younger (by seven years), bookish and dignified and loved our two poodles like friends, but I also knew I wanted to be a writer, so I identified with Betsy, too.

And like many fans, Andrea and I thought we were the only ones who preferred Betsy to Nancy Drew.

Fast forward to December of 1992. I treated myself to a copy of Victoria Magazine to get myself in the old-fashioned Christmas spirit. There I found an announcement about the Betsy-Tacy Society, a group of Maud Hart Lovelace fans who thought they were “the only ones” who loved her books but had found they were a community. It was our family custom to try to outdo each other with clever stocking stuffers on Christmas morning, and I knew I had to get a membership for Andrea (and myself). She was surprised and delighted—and I was glad to be able to make my own contribution to our Betsy-Tacy legacy.

Then just a few months later, I decided to take a tour of my own grand local library in Berkeley (I was in graduate school and the university library had served my literary needs up to that time). I went to the children’s floor and thought I’d check if they had a full collection of Betsy-Tacy books. That’s when I saw a children’s version of King Kong by Delos W. Lovelace. Why had “Joe” written about King Kong? Today the question could be answered with a quick Google search, but in 1993 research was a little more difficult. Andrea was equally intrigued and decided to see if the Betsy-Tacy Society could help. I’ve attached a pdf of the letter she wrote, which she gave to me a few years ago with the note: “Donna, What started it all.”

(By the way, Andrea got the library wrong—my husband and I had helped her with the Japanese movie portion of her video guide Seen That, Now What? and we borrowed many of the videos from the Stanford library, hence her assumption that I saw Delos’ book there).

See ‘In Memoriam’ page 12
In Memoriam

The Betsy-Tacy Society secretary, Michele Franck, forwarded Andrea’s letter to Merian. I believe Merian wrote to the address Andrea provided in reply, and since they were both in the New York City area, they later spoke by phone (I wonder if the phone number on the letter was Merian’s writing?) and Merian invited Andrea to lunch. They had a wonderful time chatting about Betsy-Tacy and really hit it off. Andrea visited many times, both alone and for Betsy-Tacy Society meetings of the New York chapter. Once when I was back east, Andrea took me to meet Merian at her Park Slope apartment. It was a real thrill for me to meet her. She was gracious and very generous with stories about her mother and father. I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to meet her and felt in touch with the spirit of her parents, too.

Andrea and Merian became great friends. Near the end of Merian’s life in 1997, Andrea visited her every day in the hospital.

Kathryn Adams Doty
July 15, 1920 - October 14, 2016

Born Kathryn Hohn in New Ulm, MN, she attended Hamline University in St. Paul. As a sophomore in 1939, she won a trip to Hollywood, chosen the Mid-western winner in the “Gateway to Hollywood” talent contest. Kathryn was paired with another regional talent contest winner, Hugh Beaumont from New Orleans. Beaumont is best known for his role as Ward Cleaver in the “Leave it to Beaver” television series.

Movie director Gregory LaCava spotted Kathryn’s talent and he offered her a role in his new movie, “Fifth Avenue Girl”, starring Ginger Rogers. Known as Kathryn Adams during her days on screen, she went on to appear in 25 movies from 1939-1946, working with Lucille Ball, Kay Kyser, Bing Crosby and many others.

Kathryn married Hugh Beaumont in 1941 and chose to leave acting to begin a family. The couple later divorced after more than 30 years of marriage. In the years following her acting career she raised three children, taught school, earned a master’s degree in psychology and practiced for years in California. Kathryn later married Fred Doty, also a psychologist and they moved to Mankato, Minnesota.

Between the years 2003 and 2009, Kathryn wrote and published three books. She was a guest at Tacy’s House several times for book signings and events. The first time was in December 2004 when her first book, “A Long Year of Silence”, was released. Kathy and her husband Fred Doty (also a psychologist and author) were friends and supporters of the BTS and our mission. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

“In Memoriam” continued from page 10

“We have to build our lives out of what materials we have. It’s as though we were given a heap of blocks and told to build a house.”

Emily of Deep Valley
A Wonderful Holiday Gift Idea

2017 Maud Hart Lovelace’s Deep Valley Calendar

Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. 12” x 24”

Quantities are Limited • Only $15.00
ORDER NOW!
The Coffin House, Vassar and Me

By Kathleen Baxter

In the summer of 2013, I received an invitation to give a presentation in Poughkeepsie, New York. BOCES, the Board of Children’s Educational Services, had hired me to do several all-day talks about children’s books around the state. But - let’s get real! As much as I had enjoyed visiting the other locations depicted in Carney’s House Party, I had never been to Vassar, where part of the book takes place. I certainly had seen images of it, but actually being there was something else again. Although I had presented in Poughkeepsie before, I’d had no spare time to see it, having had to take a train to Manhattan and then out to Long Island to give another talk the next day. I had reveled at being in the Poughkeepsie train station, realizing it could not have been much changed since Carney’s time.

This time my husband Riley came along and we flew into Bradley Airport near Hartford. I wanted to go through Connecticut to get to Poughkeepsie and I had my reasons: my four times great grandfather was a teenager in Litchfield, Connecticut when the Revolutionary War broke out, and on the day the local militia was formed, he and a bunch of other...
volunteers raced to the town green to enlist. I wanted to see that town green and learn more. I did know that the militia, 36 men from Litchfield, had a miserable time of it. In the battle of New York/Long Island, those who were not killed were captured by the British and put on a prison ship where they were fed almost nothing (a handful of wormy meal a day, he said in his petition for a pension). Although he also came down with smallpox, he was lucky—he was one of only six men who survived and went back to Litchfield.

By coincidence, I had read Lois Lenski’s autobiography, Journey into Childhood, shortly before the trip. She had lived much of her life in Connecticut, and as I started looking at maps and planning our journey, I realized that Harwinton, her home for many years, was the next town to Litchfield! We were going to go right through it! And, by gum, we were going to see her house. I googled the address.

“For Sale” signs were on the property. We drove into the driveway. Clearly, no one was living there. The big lot, with a few buildings and an old house, was a lovely, wooded place. We wandered around taking photos. I was hoping to see the building where Ms. Lenski did all of her illustrations for the Betsy-Tacy books: the coffin house! The coffin house was a small building where coffins had been made in previous centuries. As is pretty normal in New England, this house was older than any houses we have in Minnesota. Ms. Lenski’s husband Arthur Covey was also an artist, but, at least in his own mind, he was the great illustrator and she was just a children’s book creator, so he got the best studio.

While we were looking around, a car pulled up. The owner of the house had gotten a call saying people were walking around the property and he came to see if we were interested in purchasing the house. Alas, we were not, but he was pleasant and interested to hear that I was a Lenski fan. His parents had bought the house, which he grew up, from Lenski and her husband.

It was a lovely time, and I realized that “I think I am the only one” would not apply to this case. Who wouldn’t want to see that coffin house where immortal pictures were created? Betsy, Tacy and Tib hypnotizing Winona? Great stuff! And we can all name many more illustrations, not to mention Lenski’s own books. It was wonderful!

Later, when we arrived in Poughkeepsie, we headed straight for Vassar and visited the locations mentioned in Carney’s House Party. Even though the book took place over a hundred years ago, much still looks as it was described. I, of course, took photos.

I love going to places where things happened. And I had gotten to two important ones on the same day!
The holidays are rapidly approaching and soon we’ll all be caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. Don’t forget to add the Betsy-Tacy Gift Shop to your shopping list. We have something for Betsy-Tacy fans of all ages. Books, cd’s, 2017 calendar, apparel, tote bags, mugs, and more.

• “Betsy’s House” and “Tacy’s House” classically inspired ornaments made of brass and finished in elegant 24 karat gold make wonderful keepsake gifts and are gift boxed with an origin card. $18.00 ea.

• Four versions of Betsy-Tacy Christmas cards are available and feature artwork by Lois Lenski, Vera Neville and Cheryl Harness and holiday quotes from the books. $8.00 package of 6 cards

• Not sure what to give that special person on your gift list? Consider giving the gift of a BTS membership or a Betsy-Tacy gift certificate.

Grandma Hart was buried there three years later. She was only forty-five. She had left her stamp on every one of her nine children, and her grandchildren and even her great grandchildren are aware of her. Many of us have been taken to Washington Prairie to see “Grandma’s Church”.

It was a great pride to my father that at his father’s death in 1913, he was given…by vote of his brothers and sisters…the old subscription list which I am now happy to put into the care of the State Historical Society of Iowa.”

The rest of the story…Beside the Washington Prairie Methodist Church is a small cemetery where I expected to find the grave stones of James A. and Arosamond Hart. However, they are buried a few miles away in the Greenwood Centennial Cemetery. This remains a mystery…until next time.
New in the Gift Shop

2017 Maud Hart Lovelace’s Deep Valley Calendar
Full color calendar features 12 charming historical photographs from turn of the 20th century Mankato, MN (Deep Valley). Accompanying each photograph are quotes and history related to the Betsy-Tacy books. Limited quantities available. 12” x 24” $15.00

Lois Lenski – Storycatcher by Dr. Bobbie Malone
Betsy-Tacy fans know Lois Lenski best as the illustrator of Maud’s first four Betsy-Tacy books. But not everyone may be aware that author and illustrator of the Newbery Award-winning Strawberry Girl and numerous other tales of children from America’s diverse regions and cultures, Lenski spent five decades creating stories for young readers. Lois Lenski: Storycatcher follows her development as a writer and as an artist. This first full-length biography tells how Lenski traveled throughout the country, gathering the stories that brought to life in words and pictures whole worlds that had for so long been invisible in children’s literature. In the process, her work became a source of delight, inspiration, and insight for generations of readers. Hardcover $26.95

Mrs. Chubbock’s Candy Store mini tote is perfect for gift giving. Fill with candy or small gift items. Canvas bag features Lois Lenski illustration from Betsy-Tacy. 6.75” x 6.25”. $5.00

Deep Valley Homecoming gifts include t-shirts, tote bags, silicone bracelet and Deep valley Homecoming color mug.

Listening For Your Song CD by Maud Hixson – $15.00

I Love Betsy-Tacy bracelet
Show your love of the Betsy-Tacy books with a pink silicone bracelet. One size fits all. $2.00

Porcelain Tea Set in Basket Child’s porcelain tea set for two. Available in Betsy’s Violet or Tacy’s Pink Rose. $35.00

The Betsy-Tacy Society is joining with the Mankato City Center Partnership to celebrate “Small Shop Saturday” on November 26. This nationwide event encourages shoppers to shop local and support our small businesses. Watch for more information on our website and facebook pages.

Shop at Tacy’s Gift Shop
Online (betsy-tacysociety.org/catalog) or at 332 Center Street in Mankato
Open on Saturdays 1 pm – 4 pm through December 17th.
Deep Valley Homecoming 2016

The BTS hosted the 3rd annual Deep Valley Homecoming to celebrate author Maud Hart Lovelace and her books on June 24-27, 2016. Activities narrated horse-drawn trolley rides, guided house tours, living history actors, Deep Valley book festival, Victorian Tea, Deep Valley wine release, “Listening For Your Song” cd release and concert by Maud Hixson, children’s activities and crafts, reader’s theater, dance lessons, “Betsy and Joe” dramatic play, Blue Earth County Courthouse and First Presbyterian Church tours, living history exhibits, guest speakers Teresa Mercier and Susan Haggberg-Miller, Young Artist and Young Writer Competition, a Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest and more.

Visit our website to read the winning stories and see the winning illustrations.

Many volunteers are needed to host an event such as this and we’re grateful to each and every one of you! We appreciate the local businesses and organizations that partnered with us for this annual event. Thanks to the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for grant support.

For more photos, visit our facebook page, click on photos and there’s an album for the Deep Valley Homecoming 2016.

See highlights from the 2016 Deep Valley Homecoming on our new video courtesy of Purple Torchlight Productions at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fYW6jZOJUE.

Deep Valley Writers Competition Award Winners
1st Place (age 8–10 division) — Eva Madelyn James for “Ms Butter and the Big Rock”
1st Place (age 11–13 division) — Rachel Evans for “Courage to Speak”

Young Artist Competition Award Winners
1st Place (age 7–8 division) — Aidan Klammer for illustration of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
1st Place (age 9–10 division) — Kate North for illustration of “Betsy’s Desk”

Winners of the Betsy, Tacy & Tib Contest
Betsy Ray — Rosalita Jones
Tacy Kelly — Lily Geyer
Tib Muller — Clare Duncan

We look forward to seeing you June 23-25, 2017!
Deep Valley Homecoming 2016

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who give their time, expertise and resources to guide tours, greet guests, shop staff and inventory, programs, committees and more.


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Did You Know?

BETSY-TACY TRIVIA (CONTINUED)

Answers

1. On Betsy’s 10th birthday party (Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill). The girls decided that now that they had two numbers in their age, none of them should go by their nicknames.

2. Mrs. Benson (Betsy-Tacy)

3. Page Park (Betsy-Tacy)

4. The Opera House (Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown)

5. In the chapter, “The Milkman Story” (Betsy-Tacy). The magic horse could talk and liked doughnuts.

6. Maroon and gold (Heaven to Betsy)
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 with the recipient’s name and mailing address and tell us how to sign your card.

New Members
Every new member receives a new member packet that includes the most recent newsletter, a history of the BTS, Maud Hart Lovelace timeline, and much more.

As a member of the Betsy-Tacy Society you will:
• Be kept abreast of developments with the BTS and its outreach.
• Have access to the “Members Only” page on the BTS website, where society archives are available.
• Be an integral part of the BTS mission to preserve the Betsy-Tacy houses, which are historical and literary landmarks.
• Help the BTS introduce the timeless works of Maud Hart Lovelace to a new generation of readers.
• Be a part of the movement that values history and appreciates literature.

Uncle Frank’s (Uncle Keith) Oliver Typewriter
In a letter written to her cousin Marjorie Austin Freeman in 1964, Maud described her beginnings as a writer:

“Perhaps you would like to know that, preceding my novels, were dozens of published short stories, the first of which, called Number Eight, was written in San Diego when I was eighteen. This was in 1911 when I visited Grandma Austin for several months. Uncle Frank Palmer, who lived then at El Cajon, took a great interest in my constant writing of stories and their consistent rejection by the magazines. He suggested that perhaps they failed to sell because they were hand-written. He loaned me his old Oliver typewriter… He tried to give it to me, but I refused the gift because I knew he liked to write stories, too. On this, I pecked out Number Eight and sent it to the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine.”

A bit of history on the Oliver Typewriter…
Rev. Thomas Oliver designed his first typewriter, made from strips of tin cans, as a means of producing more legible sermons. He was awarded a patent in 1891 and after four years of development, a “crude working model” composed of 500 parts had been produced. The Oliver Typewriter Company began operating in 1895. At its peak the company’s labor force was 875 and was producing 375 machines daily. The British Oliver Typewriter Company bought the company in 1928 and that company made Oliver typewriters until 1959.

This typewriter is most likely what Uncle Frank’s Oliver Typewriter looked like. This model has been called “butterfly-style” because of its vertical type bars.

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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.