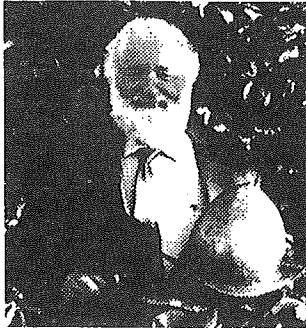


Antiques International

Back by popular demand, BECHS presents the second annual *Antiques International* seminar conducted by artist and collector Arnoldus Gruter. Mr. Gruter has graciously offered to share his personal art collection including



oil paintings, stained glass, manuscripts, ceramics, coins and much more. The seminar will take place on two Tuesday evenings at Mr. Gruter's home, March 19 & 26, from 7 - 9:30pm. The Gruter collection emphasizes European objects, but also includes

items from Africa, the Middle East, China and New Guinea. Please plan to join us for this very special event. For seminar information and reservations, contact Jane Kolars at 345-5566. All proceeds will benefit BECHS.

Heritage Dinner

The Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family will be honored as the 1991 BECHS Heritage Family. We are planning an awards dinner/program for Tuesday, April 16. **As many of you know, much work goes into this event and we are looking for volunteers to work on various committees: developing Homestead Player scripts, working on the program, setting up the family exhibit, ticket sales, etc.** Please call Jane Kolars at the Heritage Center if you are able to help with this major fund raising event.

Curation Notes

Audrey Burmeister-Hicks

According to Mankato author Maud Hart Lovelace "quite often, after school, Betsy and Tacy went to



Betsy's house and played paper dolls." Sixty years later my sisters and I quite often, after school, played paper dolls. And in 1991 my young nieces quite often, after school, play paper dolls. Through the decades paper dolls have remained a favorite plaything of

young children. As part of the program honoring Betsy (Maud Hart Lovelace) and her friends, Tacy and Tib, BECHS is planning an exhibit of 100 years of paper dolls. The exhibit will be located on

the second floor of Hubbard House from Feb. 16 through March 16. We invite you to stop to see if your favorite paper doll is represented.

We continue to need cardboard boxes with telescoping lids (paper supply boxes) and a used freestanding coat rack. If you have any of these to donate, please call Audrey at 345-5566.

Membership News

Mary Brown

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Berneal Schindle, Mankato
Mrs. Verla Boesch, Amboy
Karen Cooper, Mankato

New Sustaining Life Members

Many thanks to the following Life Members for upgrading to an annual Sustaining Life Membership:

Mary Dickmeyer Todnem, Mankato
Judge Milton D. Mason, Mankato
Dr. Harry Smith, Lake Crystal
Carolyn Shrewsbury, Mankato
Mary Dooley, Mankato
John Thro, Mankato
Ruth Engstrom, Mankato

Donations

Ogden P. & Elizabeth A. Confer Family Charitable Trust, Mankato
Dan Greenwald Family, Mankato
Jean Carlstrom, Mankato
Randall & Kay Lamb, Mankato
Kathyn Hanson, St. Peter, Wish Tree Donation
Mrs. M.C. Koehler, Minneapolis
Lyle LaFavor, Garden City
John Thro, Mankato
Robert Schindle, Mankato
William Carlson, North Mankato

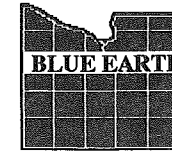
Please Note: If we received your memorial, membership, or donation after the 15th of the month when our newsletter goes to press, your name will appear in next month's newsletter.

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

February 1991

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 16 *For the Love of Betsy! An afternoon of fun at the Hubbard House for Maud Hart Lovelace fans of all ages. Young Historians are encouraged to attend this special event.*
- Feb. 16 *Paper Dolls Cut through the Years - An exhibit of paper dolls past and present. At the Hubbard House until Mar. 16.*
- Feb. 18 *Offices Closed in observance of Presidents' Day.*

BECHS Notes

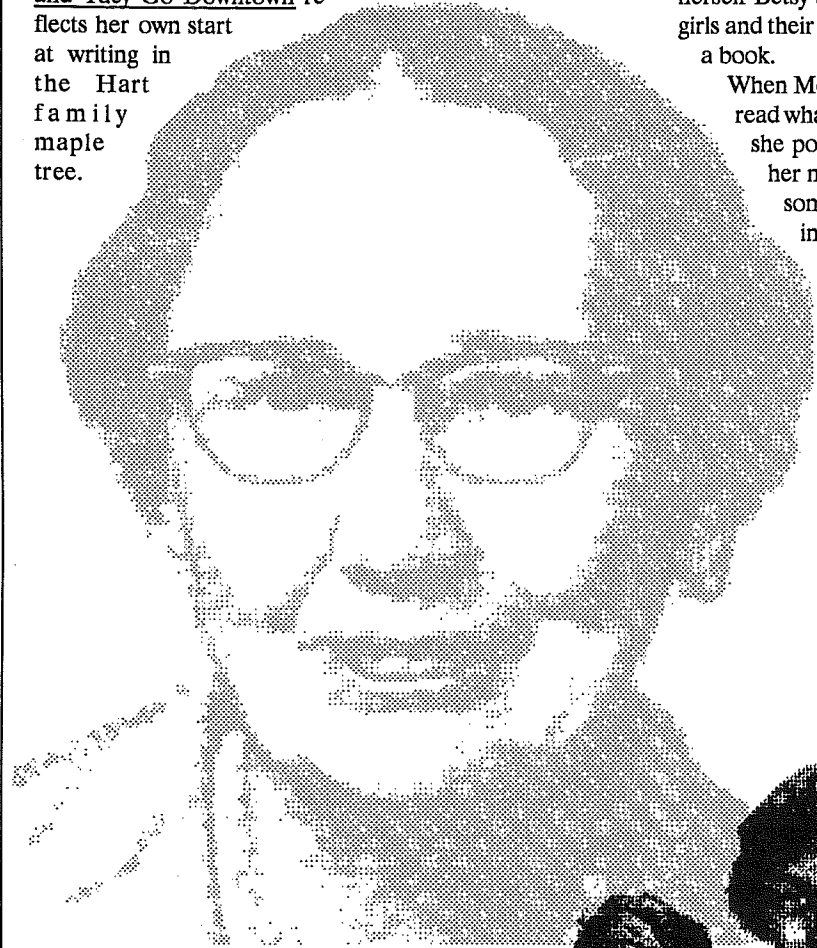
Tim Solie

Since being hired as BECHS's Executive Director in December, this is my first opportunity to write for the BECHS newsletter. I am a native of Mapleton. I received a bachelor's degree in history from Hamline University and a master's degree in history from Mankato State University. In the past, I have been involved with my father's agri-business in Mapleton. I have also been involved with the Society as a BECHS member, a member of the program committee, and for the move to the Heritage Center I even helped carry boxes from the Hubbard House. I have lived in Blue Earth County my entire life, and I welcome the opportunity to be exposed to history on a daily basis. I look forward to an interesting and challenging year as Director, and I hope to meet as many BECHS supporters as possible in the coming year. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the BECHS staff and board who have made my transition to a new job much easier.

On February 16, the Society is hosting "For the Love of Betsy," complete with costumed characters, vignettes and Betsy-Tacy exhibit. The Society looks forward to this event and hopes for an excellent turnout.

Maud Hart Lovelace

Maud Hart was born and grew up in Mankato and was constantly writing -- stories, poems and diaries. The description of the private office in a maple tree in Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown reflects her own start at writing in the Hart family maple tree.



time she had had seven published, she had a six year old daughter, Merian, whom she amused by telling stories about her Mankato childhood. Soon Maud was calling herself Betsy and her best friend was Tacy, and these girls and their experiences just naturally developed into a book.

When Merian came home from school she would read what her mother had written that day. When she pointed out a word she didn't understand, her mother sometimes decided to change it or sometimes left it in for the reader to look up in the dictionary. Within the next 15 years, the rest of the Betsy-Tacy series appeared. In addition to relying on her memory, diaries, snapshots and programs she had collected over the years, she did extensive research in libraries and museums about the period. Sears, Roebuck catalogues were invaluable for both the author and the illustrators.



Tib, Betsy and Tacy.

Her first short story, "Number Eight", was published in the Los Angeles Times Sunday magazine when she was 18. She continued to sell stories to the smaller magazines. After her marriage when her husband was publishing regularly in major magazines, he correctly suggested that her talent might lie in novels rather than short stories. Her first novel, Black Angels, was published in 1926, and by the

Mrs. Lovelace has described the series thus: "All of the Betsy-Tacy books are laid in Minnesota, most of them in Mankato, which I call Deep Valley. I often used Mankato street names but seldom gave them to the proper streets, which confuses visiting children now. Many, although not all, of the characters are based on real people. In making plots, I have invented freely but usually the invention sprang from fact, for in writing the high school books my diaries were extremely helpful. The Ray family is a true portrayal of the Hart family. Mr. Ray is like Tom Hart; Mrs. Ray like Stella Palmer Hart; Julia like Kathleen; Margaret like Helen, and Betsy is like me except that, of course, I glamorized her to make her a proper heroine. The family life, customs, jokes, traditions are all true and the general pattern of the years is also accurate . . . for example, Julia went to Europe just when Kathleen did, as well as having much the same adventures. The Uncle Keith in the books is based on my Uncle Frank."

After Maud's graduation from Mankato High School, the family moved to Minneapolis so that the Hart girls could attend the University of Minnesota. She went to Europe just before the beginning of World War I (see Betsy and the Great World) and married Delos Lovelace in 1917, a journalist and novelist. Mr. Lovelace served as the model for Joe Willard in the series.

Mrs. Lovelace last visited Mankato in October 1961 for Betsy-Tacy Days. Tacy (Mrs. Frances Kenney Kirch of Buffalo, NY) and Tib (Mrs. Marjorie Gerlach Harris of Chicago, IL) were also in Mankato for the occasion.

Several of Mrs. Lovelace's adult novels have a Minnesota setting also: Black Angels, Mankato; Early Candlelight, in and around Fort Snelling; One Stayed at Welcome, near Minneapolis; and Gentlemen from England, Fairmont. She collaborated with her husband on these last two novels. The Minnesota Valley Regional Library has numerous copies of all of these books and their well read condition attests to their popularity.

Marcia T. Schuster

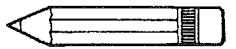
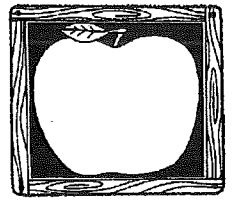
The late Marcia T. Schuster, a former BECHS Director, wrote this article for the Home Magazine in May 1973, from which it is reprinted. Many of the Betsy-Tacy books that remain in print can be purchased at both the Heritage Center and Hubbard House Gift Shops.

Program Update

Jane Kolars

Educators' Open House

Thanks to all who volunteered time and donated goodies for the BECHS Educators' Open House on January 15. We hope to have answered area school teachers' questions and look forward to seeing their classes at the museum in the future!



For the Love of Betsy!

A day to celebrate Betsy-Tacy and Maud Hart Lovelace will be held at the Hubbard House Saturday, February 16. Activities will include: 3 Betsy-Tacy vignettes with tours beginning on the hour at 1, 2, and 3pm; an exhibit of paper dolls from the BECHS archives and on loan; "Tell me about Betsy, Momma" video tape presentation; paper doll making and a slide presentation with the Betsy-Tacy society; Carlienne Frisch will be autographing her pamphlet, "Betsy-Tacy in Deep Valley"; refreshments and more! Activities are geared for both children and adults.



Tickets:

<u>Children under 14</u>	
\$2.50 members	\$3.00 non-members
<u>Adults</u>	
\$4.00 members	\$5.00 non-members

If you are interested in donating a pan of fudge or some muffins for the Betsy-Tacy event, please call Jane Kolars at the Heritage Center. Thanks!

February Young Historians are encouraged to attend For the Love of Betsy! February 16.