



Maud Hart and Delos Wheeler
Lovelace Family Papers.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Merry Christmas wishes
to Maud Hart Lovelace
who to me is like the
angel on top of the
Christmas tree.

Affectionately,

Lily



To a dear friend:

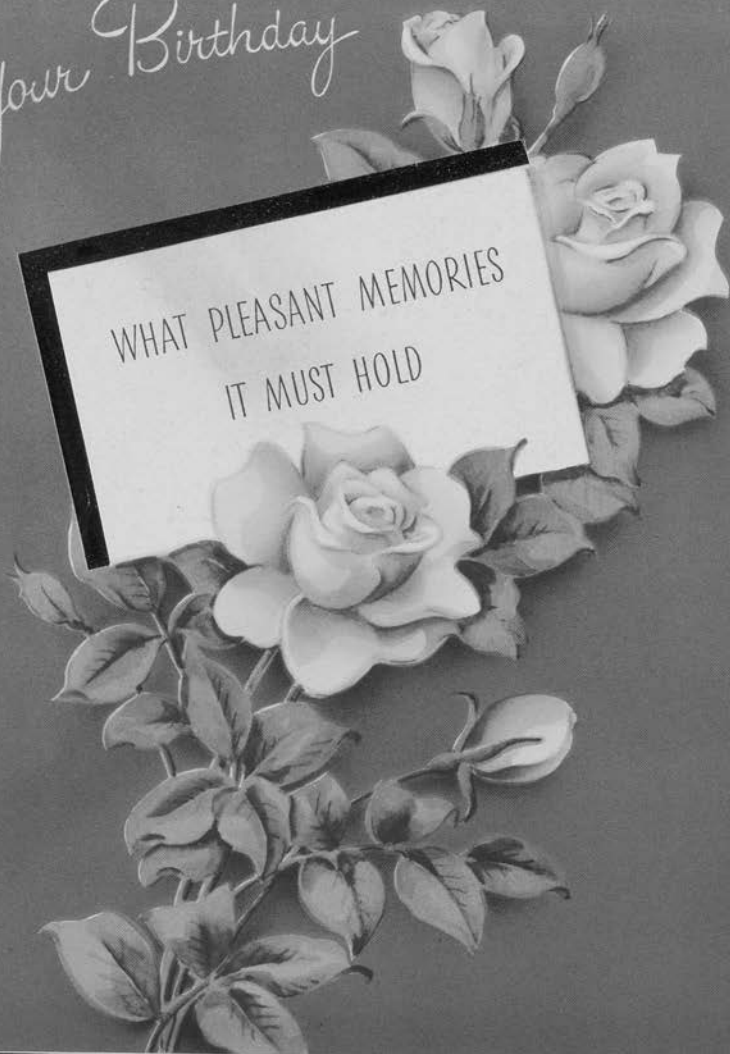
Your kindness will always
be remembered throughout
the coming years.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Love,
Libby Kemp

Your Birthday

WHAT PLEASANT MEMORIES
IT MUST HOLD



What a pleasure it is to send
These birthday greetings your way
With best wishes that you
will spend
A truly enjoyable day -



And may the year be happy
And brightened by the thought
Of friends you've made -
kind things you've done -
Of the happiness you've brought

Love,
& thanks -
Libby

Happy Birthday to a
Very Special Friend





As a friend you're pretty special
(In case you didn't know)
And your birthday should be happy
Only EXTRA-SPECIALLY so,
So here's hoping it's that way
And that the whole year
coming after
Will bring you lots of happiness,
Good friends,
success and laughter!

The nicest kind
of year to you!
Love,
Libby

Dear Mrs. Lovelace;

Since the last time I have written you, I have read "Betsy and Joe." I think it's the best book I've ever read yet. When Betsy was mad so was I. When she was happy so was I. I don't think very many people can do that who write books.

I have written to Vera Neville. I told her how much I have enjoyed her ~~books~~ pictures.

Yes, I can feel Christmas too. The shopping district which is two blocks away is all lighted up. They even have a Santa Claus talking to the children on his sleigh.

Even though my religion does not believe in Christmas I love Christmas anyway.

I'm sending 7 mas cards like mad and buying gifts for my classmates and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family and Facy and Fib.

Sincerely,
Libby Demp

(over)

May the spirit of Christmas -
Loving and giving,
Fill your heart to the brim
With the gladness of living.



Christmas is a
Merry Time!



144 lines Jr # 5
27 S. Redfield St.
Phila, 39, Penna.

May. 26, 1948

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I have read all of your Betsy Tacy Books and I would like to tell you how much I have enjoyed them. The books are so real and interesting. They are like real American home-life. I know you must be very proud to be the author of such wonderful books. I think my favorite of the series was Leave Me To Betsy. If the characters were real and alive I would be very proud to meet them. My mother and two sisters have also liked to hear me read them parts of the stories. I hope that someday you will write about Betsy's senior year in high school and what happens to her and Joe Willard.

I am thirteen and live with my mother and two sisters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I like also to write stories and poems. I am now starting a

book called "Theares Monton?"

I also play the guitar and have been taking lessons for six months.

I go to the Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High School. I am in 8A.

Well, I have nothing more to say except I hope you will write when you have time.

Yours sincerely,
From an interested reader,
Libby Demp

Libby Kemp
298 Redfield St.
Phila, 29, Penna.



Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace
% Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
Publishers
432 Fourth Ave.
New York,
16,
N. Y.

Please forward
when received.

29 S. Redfield St.
Phila, 39, Penna.

July 2, 1948

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was very glad to receive your letter.

I thought that perhaps the Betsy - Facy Books were based on your own childhood, since Betsy wanted to be an author and, since you are. I bet "Facy" and "Lib" are proud of you. I will be very glad to receive the next Betsy - Facy Books from my free library in the fall. By the title that you sent me "Betsy and Joe" I know Betsy and Joe will be great friends. I also am glad you are writing a book about Carney and Larry. Do you know what has happened to Tony, Joe, Carney, Larry, Herbert, Bonnie, and the others in your books?

I plan to write a book called "Ann and Libby" very soon. Libby is of course and Ann is my best friend. Ann lives in Bayonne, New Jersey. She lived in a house in back of mine two years ago. She is two years

older than I. The summer she lived here we had great fun. We were always running through the alley into each others houses. Then she moved in September. However I went to her home in Song Branch New Jersey last summer for a week and she visited me at the end of the summer too. In June Ann moved to Bayonne, but we have made plans for visiting each other during the summer.

Last week the Republican National Convention was in Philadelphia. My sister "Gonia" and I went to the Bellevue Stafford Hotel where the G.O.P. headquarters were. We had lots of fun and received soda, ice tea, and souvenirs free. We saw Thomas Dewey twice and my sister received a write up in the New York Post. Then we went to convention hall after the session was out and got flowers from Speaker Martain's stand. I can hardly wait for the next convention to come on July 12th.

I suppose Facy and Tib were very glad to see you when they visited

I hope you will write to them and tell them I think they are very splendid also if you will. I hope your daughter "Marion" will be a great author someday.

Last week when school was out I was very glad just as you were when school was let out in your stories. My life is full of ups and downs too, but not as exciting as yours were. I suppose because there is no Tony or anyone not half as lively, but my life isn't dull. I have great fun with my dog "Fuzzy" and family. We plan to go to see the fireworks on July 5th. My sister "Bella" however is going to the mountains for the week-end.

I hope you will write to me soon again.

Sincerely yours,
Lily Dempsey



Tuesday, August 24, 1948

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was very glad to receive your letter some while ago.

I returned last Wednesday from a trip to Bayonne New Jersey to visit my friend Ann. Ann had been at my house for a week and then we went to Bayonne. I stayed for eleven days. We saw New York twice, Coney Island, China Town of New York and the East

side of it. We went to Palisades Amusement Park and went on many thrilling rides.

I hope the Free Library here will get in "Carneys" book soon and also "Betsy and Joe".

Write me if you will soon again when you have time.

Sincerely,
Libby Demp

answered Thidied
when 3/12
near 522
has 10/22/48
- regular correspondence.

29 S. Redfield Street
Philadelphia, 39, Penna.

November 8, 1948

Dear Mrs. Lovelace;

Yesterday, when I went to the library I was very glad to find they had the book in "Betsy Was A Junior." As you know I have read the book before, but I am always glad to read it again for I never tire of reading your books.

Also in the library they had three sketches Vera Neville had made for the "Betsy-Tacy Books" hanging on a wall. I found each of them extremely interesting. Then when I went to the card-catalogue I found they had gotten in the book "Betsy and Joe" so I put "reserve for it." I don't want to miss one single copy of your books. The librarian told me your books are very popular and I don't doubt why either.

The "Betsy-Tacy" books are a great inspiration to me in both my writing and art interests. I am trying to write a book about fun and happiness, too. I try to make sketches like Vera Neville and I think you'll agree with me she does a splendid job in the art work.

I know, now, how you felt when you received a letter from the King of Spain for I feel hearing from you is equal to any king's.

My girl friend Ann Linn was here for a week during August and I was at her house for eleven days. I had a splendid time there. Since her home is only

six miles from New York the Linns' drove me ⁱⁿ their car to New York. I saw Broadway all lighted up at night, the East Side which is very interesting, Chinatown, and Coney Island (on a very busy Sunday). I also went to Palisades Amusement Park in Palisades, New Jersey and went on some very daring amusements, but never the less I had a wonderful time.

Now, that school is in full swing I am very busy (as you know from your own experiences.) I found time, though, to write a poem which is in memory of and dedicated to my father. I am writing it below. Maybe it will recall some of your own memories.

Memories

A little piece of paper,
A tiny, pressed rose,
A pencil, or a tablet,
Their memories now I suppose.

Or may it be a birthday card,
A picture, or a book,
But as you now do see,
They're just a memory.

Maybe too, it's a letter,
Or a ribbon of bright red,
A tiny stick, or heart shaped loop,
Or a colored piece of thread.

Once those things brought happiness,
And smiles that once were dear,
But now, they are just memories,
That pass through - out the years.

If it wouldn't bother you too much I hope you will write to me and tell me what happened to Tony (my favorite of the boys), Anna, Carney, Larry, Herby, Irma, Joe (another great favorite of mine), Dave, (if you know) and the others.

I hope you will write to me soon again when you have time and I hope you will send my kindest regards to Facy and Tib.

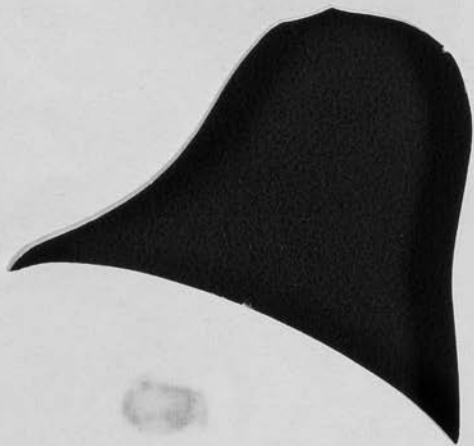
Sincerely yours,
Libby Kemp

[ca. 1948]

In Appreciation
at
Christmas
Time



Coming with these Christmas wishes
Is a little something more--



It's a special little "Thank You"
And you'll know just what it's for.

Your affectionate reader,
To Mrs. M. H. Lovelace
From Libby Samp



MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

not answered

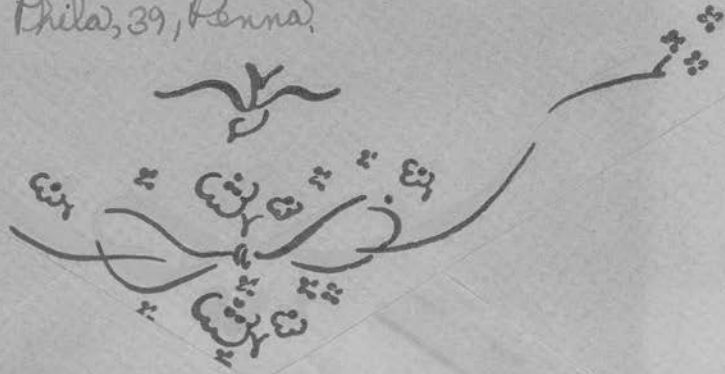


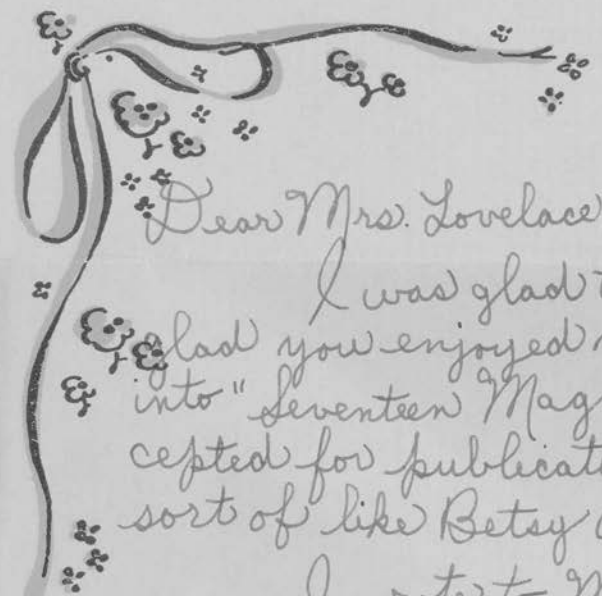
BUILD YOUR FUTURE
WISELY, SAFELY
U. S. SAVINGS BONDS



Mrs. Maud Hart Lovelace
63 Wyatt Road
Garden City,
N. Y.

29 S. Redfield Street
Phila, 39, Penna.





January 31, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was glad to hear from you and was glad you enjoyed my poem. I sent my poem into "Seventeen Magazine," but it was not accepted for publication. However, I guess I'm sort of like Betsy when it comes to that.

I wrote to Miss Neville and she wrote me and I wrote her again. She too, admires your writing.

As you advised I asked my librarian for "Silver Pennies" and she also gave me another book called "More Silver Pennies" (vol. 2). I have enjoyed them both.

Right now I have five days of vacation between terms.

I was lucky ^{to get} on the Honor Roll.

Two of my poems were published in the school newspaper. I am writing them down

so you can read them.

Pleasure

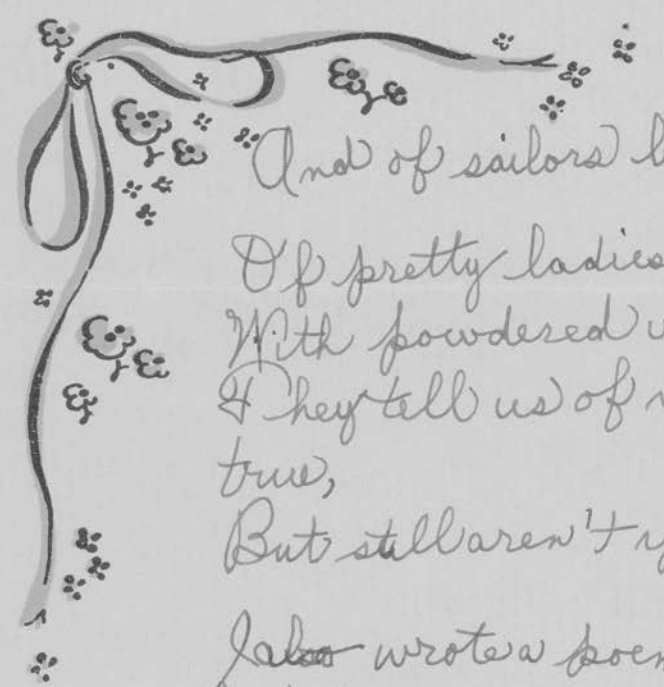
It gives us pleasure when we see
A person that is joyful and free.
It gives us pleasure when we say
I've done my good deed for the day.

It gives us pleasure when we see one smile
Especially after we've helped them awhile.
It gives us pleasure to help someone poor
When they've come knocking at our door.

It gives us us pleasure when we've done good
And now after we say, "Well if I could,"
There's at all no need to measure,
All we get from giving pleasure.

Fairy Tales

Fairy tales tell us of
Days of yore and old,
Of shining knights and dashing kings



And of sailors bold.

Of pretty ladies with pretty clothes
With powdered wigs topped by bows,
& they tell us of villains and heroines
true,

But still aren't you glad you're you?

~~Jake~~ wrote a poem for my class newspaper.

Next term which begins 9A - my first high school term - however I won't go to high school yet - I keep junior high school until 9B. I'm going to take Latin and the academic course.

My sister graduated high school on January 20. It was a very beautiful occasion.

(over)

I hope someday to get the entire series
of Betsy - Tacy Books, ^{someday} since I enjoy them
so.

I hope you will write me soon again
when you have time.

Sincerely,
Libby Demp.

for a contest put out by Call-
ing All Girls magazine.

I entered a contest by
G. S. Beck Shoes and I'm
hoping I'll win. Perhaps,
I will and perhaps I won't,
but I'm certinley hoping I
do for prizes are 6 pairs
of shoes, 3 pairs, and 1
pair.

I heard Joe Howard
singing "What's The Use
of Dreaming" and I felt
very glad about it.

Sincerely,
Libby Dem

201
BIRGOYNE
PHILADELPHIA



April 11, 1949

answered

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I hope my letter finds you in the best of health.

Several Sundays ago I went to the library and was glad they had "Betsey Was A Junior" in. I've read the book dozens of times, but I'm always glad to read it again.

How is the book "Lawrence Houseparty" coming along?

Our family brought a typewriter about a month

ago and I am so glad. Now, I'm busy typing up my stories and poems. However, I must learn to type with more than one finger or my stories will still come slow.

I am on my Easter vacation now and I very glad. School was getting boring, a little, and of course I am always glad to have a vacation. I have been working very hard with my Latin and Algebra.

I'm busy writing poems

Betty's birthday is some-
times in April so I wish
you a happy birthday?

My friend Ann is
moving to Mohawk, New
Jersey so she is busy
packing.

I hope you had a
pleasant Easter as I had
and am having a happy
Passover holiday.

Sincerely,
Libby Demb

answered.



April 20, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was very glad to receive your card. I hope you enjoy your vacation as much as you can, possibly.

I am so very happy. I imagine, I came in first place in the shoe contest and my prize is six pairs of shoes. I received a telegram on April 14. I had just waken up when the doorbell rang. Everyone started screaming when

the telegram was opened. We called up our relatives and then other relatives started calling us. I am going to get my shoes on Saturday.

I am glad to hear Carney's House Party is finished. I can hardly wait to read it.

I wrote to Miss Nevill the other day.

I remember in some of the Betsy, Gacy, Tib ^{Boon's} that

May 19, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was so glad to receive your letter and I was so thrilled to receive your picture. Thank you so much for sending it.

I could not remember what little vase Betsy got from Facy until I went to the library and got out "Betsy + Facy". I also got out "Betsy, Facy,

and Fib. The little vase is surely something dear.

I notice there is another Lovelace who writes. Delos Lovelace.

I am planning to have a birthday party on May 28TH. Since I am going to be 14 I am to have 14 girls at my party.

Around my neighborhood there is 4

any violets or lilacs
in bloom. It's all
city.

I saw a fashion show
last Saturday and I
enjoyed it very much.

I am busy writing a
book called "Just Plain
Polly." I am on the 3rd
chapter. Sincerely,
Libby Demp

5N-901
White & Wyckoff
Holyoke, Mass.





1952

Ruth Ptashkin
Shirley Ansky
"Lee" Mooradian
Libby Demp

} 9a³

Roberta Baker
Irene Pappas
Marlene Barron
Beverly Wilson
Jacqueline Start

} 9a⁴

Janet Shiff 9A²

June 1949



June 7, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I hope my letter finds you in the best of health.

I can hardly wait for school to be over. It ends on June twenty-second.

School is keeping me very busy. All our final exams are coming up and we have to study very hard.

On May twenty-eight was my birthday and I had a beautiful party. I had invited thirteen girls beside myself trying to make fourteen, but

only eleven showed up (not including me, I made twelve.) I received such beautiful presents. I never expected such lovely ones. However, we played games and had punch, birthday cake, candies (all kinds), nuts, tuna fish sandwiches, cookies, and potato chips. It was a perfect night for a party too. Clear and cool. I expected it to be hot for we've had pretty hot days here for the last few weeks.

Write soon.

Sincerely,
Libby Kemp



*A little gossip**

June 13, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I guess it must be pretty hot where you are, too. If here it's in the 90's.

We are all very busy for school exams. I can hardly wait till the end. School lets out then and I'll be free till September.

Enclosed you will find a picture of me. It doesn't do me justice, but then again there isn't anything to do justice to.

My Betty, Faye books are way over due at the library so one of these days I'll have to return them.

Sincerely,
Libby Kemp

June 27, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

Thank you so much
for your letter.

I have written
you last school has let out
(on June 22nd) and am I
ever glad. I was lucky to
make the Honor Roll.

My mother is away
for several weeks and I am
now housekeeper and mistress
I am making my sister
Yonia a pale blue dotted
swiss dress. When I am
finished making it I am
going to make a yellow dotted
swiss dress for myself like
~~my~~ the one I am making
my sister so we'll be twins.

On Saturday I saw
a baseball game with some

of my friends. We had a
very nice time.

The book that I started
"Just Plain Polly" is not
coming along too well, so
I am starting another one
soon.

I hope your book
"Carney's Houseparty"
will come out soon. I'm
dying to read it.

Sincerely,
Libby Demb

July 15, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was so glad to receive the little booklet telling all about your writing. I can hardly wait till the library receives "Carney's Houseparty" so that I can read it. Someday I would like to own every book you've ever written, but at the present my rare baby-sitting fees won't stretch that far.

I started another book, but I can't seem to keep my mind on it. My family thinks I was cut out to write short stories, instead, so I shall attempt one of them.

The weather here has been very disappointing. It hot (90° - 100°) and humid. It's terrible sleeping at night. It's drizzling out a bit now, and I hope that the rain will call it off. We didn't have

any rain here for ~~seven~~ weeks
till the end of last week
and we were very glad to
have it.

What is the new book
about that you are writing?

Someday, I hope to
visit your Deep Valley and
see everything you wrote about
in your books.

My oldest sister is
going on her vacation start-
ing Sunday for a week. She
is going to the mountains.

I did lots of the things
that your other readers write
you. I like to draw pictures
of Betsy, Pacy, and Tib. I
wish, sometimes that I could
of been your friends. I find
none of my friends (except
Ann and now she lives in
Sparta, New Jersey) love to
have the kind of fun you

did when you were out ~~at~~ age.

I hope you keep writing
about Betsy and her friends
for a long time, for I love
the stories.

I hope to spend a week
or so at Ann's house this
summer.

Enclosed you will find
a picture of some of my
friends and me, so that
you can see who they are.

I hope you can write,
again, soon, when you have
time.

Your affectionate reader
Fibby Dens

August 12, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

Since the last time I have written you I have been away for eight days to visit my friend Ann. Now she lives in Sparta, New Jersey and it is very beautiful there. Mountains, flowers, and lovely scenery. It took seven and one half hours to reach there.

We went swimming twice and then I took sick and had to stay in bed a lot. However, we did manage to get to an amusement park and they also managed to get me on the roller coaster and half scare me out of my skin.

We also had a picnic and took drives in Ann's father's car. Once we went up to a spot that is the highest in New Jersey and looked down and saw all the New Jersey country side for miles and miles. Now I am patiently

waiting for my pictures to come
back from the photo-company.

When I came home (on Monday) and I nearly didn't get home for the bus didn't stop at the terminal it was supposed to (it was on the way to Washington) and it left me off I don't where, but it certainly was far out.

After that I really took sick and had a fever of 102°. It broke, however, on Tuesday and I am in bed recovering.

My sister went to the library and managed to get me a "Betsy Tacy" book ("Heaven to Betsy") and I am very glad about it.

I can hardly wait to read "Carney's Houseparty."

It is very hot here (about

95° up) everyday and I can't get down to my writing. I went to try painting for a while and I am busy begging for oil paints.

Every time I read a "Betsy Tacy" book I feel as though I am one of the people in the book.

Well, old school starts next month and the old grind will begin again, I guess, so I am trying to enjoy the rest of my vacation.

I hope you will write me soon again, when you have time. I know you are kept busy writing. Oh, and what is the name of your new book?

Sincerely
Your most affectionate
reader,
Libby Dembski

answered

September 27, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

It has been a long time since I have written you and I feel a bit guilty.

I have been busy though, with school work, Latin and Algebra.

I don't think I mentioned it to you before, in June, when our school magazine was published (I was a co-editor), one of my articles in it was called "Letters to An Author" and it told all about you and your books. Sort of a publicity campaign.

I have not read "Carney's House-party" yet. I have seen it in the bookstores, but I am unable to get it. The library hasn't gotten it either.

When I went to the library yesterday I got out "Betty + Joe" the only book of yours in. They're

(over)

so popular.

I had an article published in "The Children's Playmate Magazine" and won a year's subscription to it.

I am taking your advice and am reading a lot. I am now on Jane Eyre and Glory Be.

What book are you writing now?

I am also sending my articles to magazines, but so far have only received reject slips. It'll sell, (I hope.)

I hope you will write soon.

Yours affectionate reader,
Libby Demp

answered

November 1, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was very glad to receive your card the other week.

I have been very busy with homework, etc.

Last Saturday night I went to a party. It was a Halloween party. If you had a costume you could wear it, but I didn't.

The night before the party a crowd of my friends went to the house of the girl who was to have it and decorated the place with skeletons, etc.

While walking home with the girl I told her I thought it would be nice to have someone call for me to take me to the party for it is dangerous to go out alone on Halloween nights. Not that I'm really afraid. I was hinting for a boy named Sam who I know a little bit. She said, "Sam, goes right past your

way, I'll call him tomorrow and tell him to call for you."

The next day he phoned me. I was so thrilled.

That evening he came for me. I wore a navy blue faille taffeta dress with tiny thin black pin stripes and a thick black velvet belt and black shoes.

He was dressed as a gypsy. He was the first boy I have ever been out with. He's very nice looking with dark ^{blond} brown hair and he's tall and such a gentleman!

We started out together and I began to talk about football and then sisters and costumes. He talked plenty too!

At the party there were

ten boys and five girls. They all asked me to dance and I did a terrible dance.

Sam had three dances with me. He asked me for two and I asked him for one.

He took me home!

In school we have been studying Longfellow's poems. I love it.

I am glad you are on a new book, I love to read them.

I have two out of the library now. Betsy in spite of herself and Betsy was a junior. A friend of mine is giving me Carney's

Houseparty for Christmas.
I haven't read it yet.

Must close now,
Your Affectionate Reader
Lily Dempf

Answered 1

December 9, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

Here I am writing
you again.

I sent away to the
Crowell Publishing Company
for all the book jackets
from the "Betsy Tacy"
books and they sent
them. I am so thrilled!

Christmas is
really in the air now
it's cold, but it hasn't
snowed yet. I just adore
snow!

I'm busy too, with
saving money for presents
and cards. My family
ordered up boxes of
cards. I was selling
them.

(over)

I had liked some boy in first grade, then he moved away. When I started Junior High he was in my class, but he got skipped in 2B. And in 9A he started going to the Boys' High. I really liked him. Yesterday, I dug up all my nerve and called him. He seemed interested. But, golly I feel brazen! My mother says, though, that the girls have to break the ice. Well, I chopped it up.

A Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!
(I'm starting early.)

Sincerely,
Your affectionate reader,
Libby Demp

P.S. Enclosed is a picture of me,
The other wasn't very good.

29 S. Resfield St.
Phila, 39, Penna.



Mrs. M. H. Lovelace
63 Wyatt Road
Garden City, New York

December 20, 1949

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I received your very lovely letter and thank you very much. I enjoyed the pictures too.

To think that my picture is going in that famous Kodak book!

I went to the main library on Saturday and found that Betsy and Joe was in. Naturally I took it out. While I was there I went down to the newspaper room and looked up the Philadelphia Inquirer from 1903 (January). I don't care much for the style of clothes worn then, but I did like the Monte Carlo coats and five and seven gore skirts. I'm planning to write a story about 1903 called "The Characters of Broad Street." Broad Street
(over)

(2)

is a very famous street here. But that story will have to keep until the Holidays. Even then, I won't have much time for it because my friends Annie is spending the holidays with me. We plan to see a play in town (pref. a musical comedy) and visit lots of historical places. If you have ever been in Philadelphia you'd know what I mean by lots of historical places. There are so many!

I have bought most of my presents for the family and some of my friends. I believe one of the presents I'm getting is my graduation blouse. It's rayon with a yolk of organdy, val lace and batiste and puffed sleeves. In school I'm making my graduation skirt of navy blue taffeta.

My junior high is the second one built in the U. S. and the first one in Pennsylvania. It is named after Oliver Wendell Holmes. However, a new junior high is being built to take Holmes's place and my class will be the last to graduate.

I enjoyed your letter a great deal, I'm sorry though I couldn't understand

some parts.

I suppose in a way
I'm just like Betsy. I
keep sending out my
poems and stories and
I get them right back.

I still haven't read
Carney's Houseparty and
I'm dying to know what
happened to Tony, Joe
and all the others.

I'm taking your advice
and reading a great deal
although I am so very, very
busy. I will be glad when
we get off from school this
Friday. Merry Christmas!

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Demp



Mrs. M. H. Lovelace
63 Wyatt Road
Garden City,
New York.

December 28, 1949



Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I have been reading
Betty and Joe and it
made me think of you.

You certainly had grand
times in your senior year at high
school.

Well, Christmas has come and
practically gone. My friend Ann did
not show up, much to my regret. We
were supposed to see a musical com-
edy together, but my mother says I
still may go. It's called "Arms and the
Girl" with music by Morton Gould
and written by Herbert and Dorothy
Fields.

My presents were very nice. I

received the graduation blouse. I was a little confused when I described it to you before. It's made of Bastiste with short puffed sleeves and a yolk of val lace and organdy. I also received a book called "My Private Life" by Polly Webster. In it you are to record five years of your teens. There is room for everything, Besus, movie stars, plays you see, radio, big events, etc. I also received lacy panties, a shoe tree, Milkmaid's Pixie Pink lipstick. It's very light and pink. Although I've never worn any before, I'm to wear Pixie Pink for graduation.

I hope you had a wonderful ~~party~~ Christmas. I know you must have!
I still haven't read "Corney's

H. P." and I'm dying to.

When my school magazine the "Nautilus" comes out I'll send you a copy. I want you to see it because I think it's wonderful. I am on the staff of it (being vice president and an assistant editor) and I just adore it.

I am trying hard to take it easy this week since there isn't any school, thank goodness.

My sister Yonia (she's nineteen) was looking over "Betsy and Joe" when she remarked I look something like Betsy. Well, that's nice, but I don't know.

My life is something similar
to Betsy's, but yet it's very
different. City life. But I feel
if I knew Betsy, Percy, Fido and
all the others very well from
your vivid descriptions. I only
wish I could of been around
them. Happy New Year!

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Kemp

January 1, 1950.

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I'll begin my letter by wishing you a very "Happy New Year" and by hoping you'll write some more books about Betsey.

I have just finished reading "Little Women" and oh, it was grand. I guess you have read it and share the same feeling as me.

Well, my ^{new} year's resolutions are all made, I hope to carry them out. And I intend to write a book. I know, I always say it, but never do it. I think if the book is based on the same time of year as it is, it will come along much better. I want to base it about 1910 in Philadelphia so I can look up old newspapers, etc.

After reading "Anna Pavlova" by Gladys Malvern I want to get A. Pavlova into my story. I really never knew how much books could do for a to-be-writer. The Main Free

(2)
Library in Philadelphia is a wonder-
full place. It's a gigantic
building, all marble inside and
with dozens of rooms.

We had nice holidays
here. No snow for Christmas, but
snow the day after Christmas. I
baked all kinds of cookies for
a close cousin in the Air-Force.
I received some lovely presents. One
of which was a gold ring with
two hearts on it. I've always wanted
a ring and was thrilled to receive
it.

School begins again tomorrow.
I missed the famous Mummers
Parade today.

Is Joe - DeLos Lovelace?

Write, if you have time.

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Demp

29 S. Redfield St.
Phila., 39, Penna.



Miss Maud Hart Lovelace
63 Myatt Road
Garden City,
New York.

January 2, 1949 [1950]

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

The last time I wrote you I said my friend Ann had not come. Well, she did come, the day after I wrote on Thursday. What a wonderful time we had! We went to the theater and saw "Oliver and Kicking," a musical revue. We greeted in the new year banging foot lids and horns (blowing them.) We made cookies and actually ate them, saw movies and ate popcorn. We couldn't be separated. Ann left tonight. We were to see the new year's parade, but it was canceled.

Ann and I went to the library. I looked up old Ladies Home Journal, January and December and every other month from 1909 and 1910. I saw the article "do Christmas cookies from one batter." I especially looked for it.

Tomorrow old school starts again, but I'm looking forward to graduation.

I'm going to keep a diary this year, even if it kills me.

I wish you a very Happy New

Year and best of luck to your writing

Your affectionate reader,
Filiby Damp.

February 13, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I received your graduation card and "thank you" very much for sending it. It was so beautiful and the daisies made me think of Betsy, Pacy and Tib and the hills.

I have read "Parney's House-party." It was wonderful! Please write more about Betsy and her trips to California and when she sold her first story. Could you tell me the name of the magazine and the date? I'd like to look it up in the library.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the "Nautilus."

I am now in 10th in Highschool. Highschool is so hard and it is so big! There are two buildings and about 3600^{pupils} in the school and I keep getting lost. My subjects are five periods of Latin, five of Geometry, five of English, five of Biology, four of Gym, one Hygiene, two cooking and two study periods. I am trying to

work myself on the school newspaper.

Graduation night did go off from perfection. Later Billy Sternman took me out.

In English we are reading the poem *Clocks Garden* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Geometry is... well I just can't understand it. Latin's okay. Biology is fun. I wish I had gone to Highschool with Betsy and the "Crowd."

I hope you have a happy Valentine's Day and receive many valentines.



That ↑ is my school seal. West Philadelphia High School.

Perhaps you would like a picture of me on graduation night?

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Kemp

April 30, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I know you must be busy now. I hope your book is coming along fine.

Highschool, for me, is getting complicated. My main worry is Geometry. I just can't understand it, just like Betty.

They say that Spring has come, but it has been raining so much that it's hard to believe.

I keep sending work into magazines, no go, yet!

I don't know if I wrote you or not that my friend Ann again moved.

My dancing lessons are coming along better now.

I'm planning to have a birthday ^{party} next month & invite my friend Ann down & have about 15 girls altogether. Oh and by the way, Happy related Birthday wishes

to you.

Hoping to hear from you
soon, I remain-

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Dempf.

WHITE & WYCKOFF
HOLYOKE, MASS.





May 24, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I was very glad to hear from you. I hope you had a nice time in San Diego visiting Julia.

The weather is turning much warmer.

I am going to have a birthday party on May 27 (my birthday is really May 28) and there will be sixteen girls all together. I'll be fifteen.

Just as you said Highschool

is complicated. Just like Betsey, I can't understand Geometry for the life of me.... and tomorrow we have a test on 130 pages of Geometry!!!

My friend Ann moved to Germantowne, which is a part of Philadelphia, and we've had such fun! She slept over my house and I've slept over her apartment. She is coming tomorrow for the weekend and to help me celebrate my birthday. We're both going to bake the cake. Heaven help us! She calls me everyday and we just gab about school and such. Mr. Linn (Ann's father) drove us to Willow Grove (an amusement park) and we had fun. We went to Valley Forge and saw General Washington's Headquarters.

Right now I have "Betsey In Spite of Herself" borrowed from the library. I guess it's about the 25th time I've read it and I still say it's wonderful! I'm dying to read "Emily of Deep Valley" and I hope it comes out soon.

Hoping to hear from you soon,
I remain

Your affectionate reader,
Libby Kemp.

Strolling on the Boardwalk at Night, Atlantic City, N. J

63



77073

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

We're in Atlantic
City till next Sunday.
I hope your book is
coming along fine.

I'm at:
105 S. Albion Place.

Yours affectionate
reader,
Libby
Demp



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POST CARD

Mrs. H. L. Lovelace
63 Wyatt Road
Garden City, N.J.

August 20, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

I've now quite recovered from
a very hectic and enjoyable vacation.

You must be very busy with
a new book. I'm just dying to read
your "Emily of Deep Valley."

My poems just won't sell.
I've sent them into Seventeen, Senior
Prom, Women's Day, etc., but so far
I get back in reject slips. (I guess
I've got enough of them to paper
a house.)

I bet your books are more
popular than ever now. I tell all
my friends about them and they all
listen too!

Except for my vacation this
summer has been pretty dull for
me. I visit my friend Ann Linn
now and then for a couple of days.
She is coming here this week
and I know we'll have lots of

fun because we always do.

Right now it is hot here, but
some breezes are blowing thru.

I hope your family is coming
along well.

Hoping to hear from you
soon.

Your affectionate reader,
Lily Demp.

P.S. Please write another book
about "Betsey" real soon.

September 26, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

School is in full swing now. My subjects are English, Latin 4, Biology 2, Geometry 2, cooking, hygiene, gym, and I work in the school library three times a week. I've joined the dramatic club too. I can't wait for the football games to start. We have to have book report tests on October 9, and I was so delighted to find "Early Candlelight" on the 10th reading list so I got it out of the main library. I am so amazed to find "E. C." an historical novel. I also got out of the library "Charming Sally". I have never read either book before. They are both so entirely different than the Betsey Facy books. Please write more about Betsey. About when she visited California, when she went to Europe, when she married Delos and on on.

I am getting terribly interested in dramatics. I am reading plays. Several people have told me I have dramatic + emotional talents so I'm taking a fling at it. But I love writing most, you know. I wrote a poem about a blind girl called "The Blind Girl" and sent it into Seventeen magazine. I also drew a perfectly horrible picture of the blind girl, but since

② I'm no artist I couldn't help it. Miss Neville wrote me again and told me how much time one must spend doing reference work. I know it's hard because I've looked up newspapers from 1903 and the Ladies Home Journal from 1909-1910. I wanted to see what Betsy read then. I know every detail must be true. Someday I want to write too, professionally. First books about "carefree times" and then a very, very powerful book about Prejudice and Anti-seminism. I can't see why people hate one another because of religion. And then some day I want to visit Mankato, but I'm afraid that won't be for many, many years. I just looked up Mankato in my encyclopedia and it must be a wonderful place. In 1910 it's population was 10,365, just when Betsy was in high school.

Where I was staying Labor Day (Remember, I wrote you from there) in Albany, (about 36 miles ^{west of it} ~~about it~~, I mean) there were dozens of old books and stuff. But I was dying to visit the attic, but it was very cobwebby. I had a wonderful time there. I'll never forget it.

In school, I'm not very good in Geometry

③ and I hoped pass it this term.

Now, here's the poem wrote.

① The Blind Girl ②

Her face is young,
Yet very old,
It shows pain.....
And strength.....
And love.....,
She cannot see
Ours lovely world,
But feels along her way.
She hears footsteps
And voices.....
And touches things
To help ~~her~~ her see,
But the world
Behind her eyes
Is black.
Her heart feels sad
Because she cannot play
With others of her age,
She heard their laughter.....
And voices
Singing and rejoicing.
Although she strives
To see.....
And dreams of
Walking.....
Without chitching
Walls,
And

Chairs.
She loves those
Who help her see
By ways of hands
And speaking.
She loves those
Who put a friendly
Arm
About her drooping
Shoulder.
Her day has no sun
Her night no moon
For each is just a
blank,
Yet she goes on
Her lonely way,
And feels the path
Flat she must take
thru life.
She does not know
Which way it leads,
Or whom she'll
meet
Along its way
She hopes and prays
Her life will be a
Useful and happy
one.

(cont.) (next page)

Her trembling hands
Are cold and smooth,
They are her eyes
And thru them
She looks out upon
The world
And grasps
Just what it
Offers her.

W.P.

I'm hoping the poem
will sell, but I'm
getting awfully
used to reject slips.

How is your daughter Merien and your
husband? Please write me whatever happen-
ed to Joe. I know you must be terribly busy,
but perhaps you can find a few moments
to write to someone who admires your
writing a great deal. I hope so.

Your affectionate readers,
Libby Kemp.

October 30, 1950

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

Well, fall is here, but as I write to you it's more like Indian Summer.

I did read *Early Candlelight* and I really loved it. I cried in the part when Dee saw Narcissus as a lion. I liked the ending too. Is the story really true?

Reports came out today and I was so surprised that I passed everything - Even Geometry!!!!

In *Life* magazine I read something about a teacher named Miss Estelle Parrish of Mankato. Did you know her?

I'm reading the *Pine In The Tree* and I love it and soon I hope to read *Emily of Deep Valley*.

The routine of my weekends was broken this week by a football game (my school won), a halloween party and a wedding. But I still would

have liked to live and be fifteen
when Betty was. Is Joe, DeLoe?
I think he is and yet I think
he isn't.

My regards to your daughter
and husband.

Your affectionate reader,
LeRoy Demp

Dear Mrs. Lovelace:

December 11, 1950

I received your Xmas card today and I was so glad to hear from you. The picture was so very nice, too.

I am sorry you were ill, but I'm glad to hear you're better now.

Well, Christmas is certainly in the air. I have a great deal of shopping to do. In such a large city as Philadelphia there are so many stores to buy from that it is really very hard to decide on presents. The stores and streets have all been so beautifully decorated!

Today reports came out and although I passed everything (even Geometry) I think I could have done better.

Next term I am dropping the Academic course (which I have now) and instead I'll take the commercial course

with bookkeeping, shorthand (and typing plus the requirements. I can't go to college, but the shorthand and typing will certainly help me in writing. I'll take a course in journalism in a night school. I want to be a writer more than ever now even though nothing of mine has been published yet.

Christmas Greetings

AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

I like dramatics too, but writing is first, last, and always with me. While in the school library I found an article and picture of you & your husband. It was in *Unity* & *Haycraft's Twentieth Century Authors*. I thought you looked very lovely and charming.

My oldest sister Bella is going to marry

near as perhaps one always receives.
great! Did you know Cindy & D.L. and her
for "Dolor"? I'm dying to know.
it reminds you of your Christmas in
Drop of Valley a letter.
Write me when you find a little
time, from you writing and wrapping.
P.S. Don't my high school days are
as exciting as today is.
your affection to readers,
Lilly Damp