

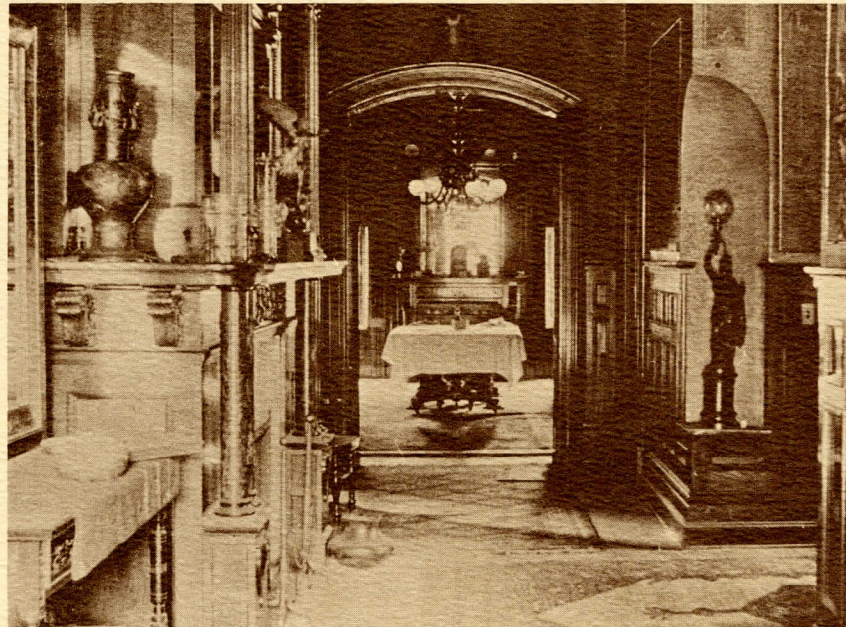
THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. IV., No. 2

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

December 1979



AS IT USED TO BE . . .

The picture above shows the dining room and grand hall as they were 66 years ago, and serves to illustrate how far we have come in our restoration.

The dining room table shown is part of the same set that we now use in the dining room. The vase on the mantel in the foreground is also in our possession. The overmantle was found in the Carriage House when restoration was begun. Claudia Miller has cleaned and polished it and a new mirror has been installed in it. Lucien Kapp is presently cleaning the canvas of the two side panels and the overmantle will be back in its place in time for the Christmas party.

The foreground shows the oriental rugs used by Mrs. Millikin in the grand hall. Though several rugs have been donated to the Homestead, unfortunately none are the right size for the main hall. So, if the Homestead has a Christmas wish, it is for three compatible oriental rugs: two measuring 7' x 9' and one 6' x 8'

BEST OF SHOW AWARDED

**A NEW CARETAKER
FOR THE HOMESTEAD**

The members of the board of

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The third annual Victorian Christmas Party for members of James Millikin Homestead, Inc., will be held on December 2 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The home will be decorated in Victorian fashion with greens and old-fashioned ornaments. Marilyn Madden is chairman of the decorations.

The atmosphere for the party will be furthered with Christmas music played on the pump organ in the Bicentennial Room. If any members are interested in being one of the organists, please contact Mrs. James May.

As in the past, hot punch, tea, and varied Christmas sweets will be served in the dining room. Shirley Stanley is chairman of refreshments.

General chairmen of the Victorian Christmas Party are Marge May and Jean Foran. In addition to Mrs. Madden and Mrs. Stanley, they are assisted by Linda May, invitations; Ruth Prust, servants; and Joan Jack, host and hostess staffing. If anyone is interested in acting as host or hostess for a room or at the refreshment table, please contact Mrs. Jack. (See related article: Christmas Boutique News)

ART AUCTION AT THE HOMESTEAD

Planned Parenthood will hold an art auction at the Homestead on November 30. Art work may be previewed at 7:00 P.M. and the auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. If you wish more information,

A HISTORY OF THE BELL PULL

Junior Welfare's The Bell Pull opened for business in the library of the James Millikin Homestead on April 20, 1976. It is of interest to Homestead members not only because it is housed in the home but also because the purpose of the shop is to help in providing continuing financial support for the Homestead.

The Bell Pull limits its inventory to needlepoint and counted cross-stitch materials, original designs, and kits. It is staffed by approximately 48 volunteers from Junior Welfare Association's active and patroness membership. The shop is supervised by four chairmen with various assigned responsibilities. Kathy Farrington serves as general chairman; Linda Robertson is in charge of inventory and ordering; Betsy Empen supervises staffing; and Kerry Keipp is the shop bookkeeper.

The shop began with a \$6,000 loan from Junior Welfare Association. With the exception of inventory, large expenditures have been held to a minimum. The furnishings were loaned or donated by members. It is currently undergoing a "face-lift" with the addition of the lovely oriental rug donated by the Wining estate. The floors will be sanded during the Christmas break, and shutters to match the rest of the downstairs rooms have been ordered by Junior Welfare Association.

When the home was built, the room which now houses the Bell Pull was a guest room; however, the Millikins eventually made it into a library. The built-in display



Pictured above are both sides of the first of an annual series of Homestead Christmas ornaments.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE NEWS

The Victorian Christmas Boutique will be held on Sunday, December 2, in conjunction with the Homestead members' annual Victorian Christmas Party. The boutique will be located in the Snowball Room on the second floor.

A wide variety of handmade Victorian-style decorations will be available for purchase. These include crystal hand-blown glass balls, hand-painted miniature ornaments, crocheted bells and bows, and some



Mrs. Marian Miller models her needlepoint vest which won the Best of Show Award in the recent Needlepoint Show at the Homestead.

NEEDLEPOINT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The needlepoint competition held in conjunction with the fall festival attracted over 150 entries. Works ranged from footstools and pillow-tops to vests and pictures. There were four categories of competition plus an overall award for Best of Show.

The winners were as follows:

Best of Show—Marian Miller

Original design—

Barbara Hostetler—1st place

Sue Stupp—2nd place

Penny Honnold—3rd place

Adaptation of a design—

Fran Horan—1st place

Izzy Brown—2nd place

Frances Traver—3rd place

Painted canvas or kit—

Louise Crames—1st place

Mary Hartley—2nd place

Ruth Greenberg—3rd place

Children's division

Laurie McCane—1st and 3rd places

Marci May—2nd place

The contest was a very popular part of the festival and served to illustrate the great versatility of this art.

The members of the board of James Millikin Homestead, Inc., are delighted to present the new caretaker for the Homestead, Susan Siefferman. Miss Siefferman is a 1959 graduate of Millikin University where she majored in broadcasting.

A native of Chicago, Miss Siefferman visited Decatur relatives often as a child, and says that she decided then that she wanted to settle in Decatur.

Following graduation from Millikin, Miss Siefferman joined the staff of WSOY. She worked at WSOY for 11 years, 8 of which she served as Commercial Continuity Director. In June, 1970, she joined the Spin Shop as assistant manager.

Miss Siefferman's hobbies include reading and music. She is also very active in First Lutheran Church where she has served as lay leader for several years.

She is very excited about "our" house and its restoration. In her words, "The very fact that Millikin and Junior Welfare have joined in this project is fantastic." We feel very fortunate in having Susan Siefferman with us and we are sure that you will too.

DID YOU KNOW...

that the sketch of the Homestead that is used for our logo, and which has appeared on our Christmas cards and notepaper, was done by Alice Flint, a well-known Decatur artist?

that our Homestead membership has doubled in its four years of existence?

that Homestead restoration has only been in process for three and a half years?

that any furnishings donated to the Homestead are documented and then evaluated by professionals and qualify as a tax deductible contribution for the donor?

that profits generated by The Bell Pull are given to the Homestead to help to defray operating costs of the Homestead? (See related article: A History of The Bell Pull)

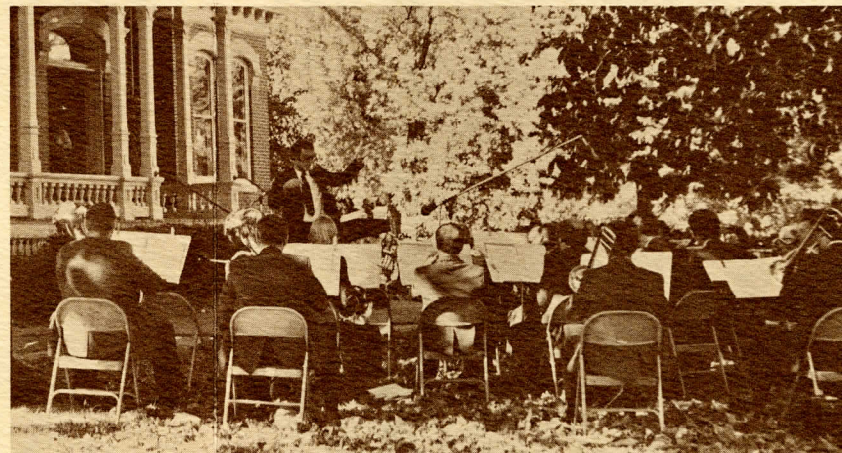
that the Homestead is open to the public for guided tours on the last Sunday of each month?

the auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. If you wish more information, contact Pam Sampson at Planned Parenthood.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The Homestead will be open to the public to display its Christmas decorations on December 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and guides will be available.

Admission is 75c for adults and 25c for children.



The Decatur Municipal Band entertained at the Fall Festival.

FALL FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

Over 300 attended the fall festival, "Harvest at the Homestead," on October 7. The Decatur Municipal Band provided entertainment on the lawn under sunny fall skies. Cider, donuts, and apples were also available outside.

The home was open for guided tours with a display of miniatures on exhibit in the Bicentennial Room. Miniature furnished doll houses were loaned by Lou Snelson, Mimi Deffenbaugh, and Betty Braun. Mrs. Snelson's house was quite elegant and realistic. Mrs. Deffenbaugh's house, while a hobby, is more than a display as her children also utilize it in play. Mrs. Braun's "house" is actually a four-tiered bookcase with glass doors.

Two miniature rooms were also loaned for display. Sue Lloyd's room featured the use of such memorabilia as the family crest from a ring. Lucy Lloyd Murphy's room contains furniture 75 years old which belonged to her grandmother when she was a child.

An additional feature of the exhibit was the energy conservation house which had been on display at the Decatur Public Library under the sponsorship of the League of Women Voters.

A very successful attraction at the fall festival was the needlepoint contest held at the Carriage House. All entries were on display. An impressive exhibit of needlepoint works by Joan Huff, the judge of the competition, was held on the second floor. Mrs. Huff, of Arlington Heights, teaches art and needlepoint and is a past winner in the American-International exhibit in Chicago.

Both the display of miniatures and the needlepoint contest were so successful that there have been several requests to repeat these events. The Homestead is most appreciative of the efforts of those loaning us their displays and those who entered the contest.

Mrs. Robert Hartley served as chairman of the needlepoint contest and Mrs. George Prust was general chairman of "Harvest at the Homestead." (See related article and picture: Needlepoint Winners Announced)

the Millikins eventually made it into a library. The built-in display shelves on the walls of the shop were an original part of the Millikin library.

The loan that made the Bell Pull possible was repaid in September, 1979, and the shop will now pay a per-centage of its gross profits to the Homestead quarterly. This money is intended to support the operation of the Homestead, particularly to be applied toward payment of utilities.

printed miniature ornaments, crocheted bells and bows, and some counted cross stitch and needlepoint tree ornaments. There are also a limited number of handpainted wooden and chalk art decorations painted by Dorothy Smethers. In addition, there will be crewel Christmas tree-top angels made and donated by Ann Seidman.

A new feature of this year's boutique is the first of a Homestead Series of Christmas ornaments. The 1979 ornament is a needlepoint adaptation of a Victorian design originally done on perforated paper. One side pictures a delicate pink rose while the other commemorates the year. It is trimmed with lace and a yarn tassel.

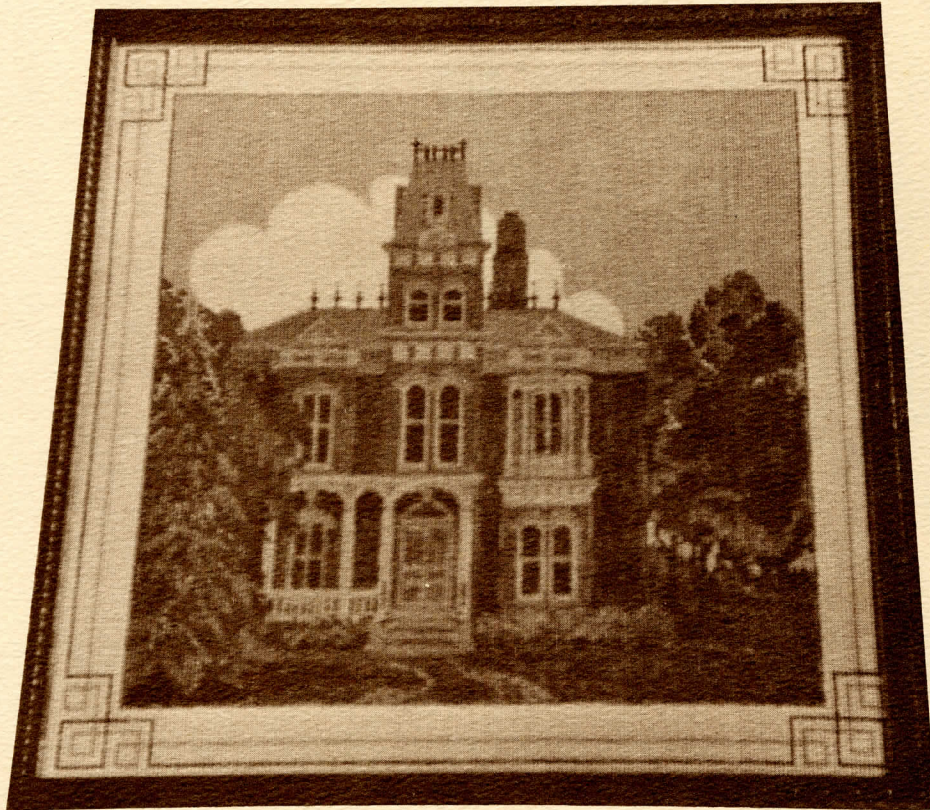
The general chairmen of the Christmas Boutique are Janet Couter, Linda May, and Ann Seidman.

SANTA HOUSE AT THE HOMESTEAD AGAIN

The Homestead will again turn into Junior Welfare Association's Santa House during December. Last year 6,776 children went through the Homestead on their visit to Santa Claus.

This year the theme of Santa House is "It's a Small World." A format similar to last year's project will be used. The tour will begin in the Carriage House where the children will make crafts and see decorations from various countries' Christmas celebrations. The tour then goes into the Millikin home. A Christmas display of toys and dolls from other countries will be exhibited in the Zonta Room. In the Bicentennial Room the children will be entertained by a puppet show featuring Santa telling Santa Mouse stories of Christmas as it is celebrated in other countries. The show was written and set to rhyme by members of Junior Welfare Association. The children will also visit Santa Claus in the dining room and see Mrs. Claus in the kitchen.

Santa House will be open on December 4, 6, 7, 10-15, and 17-19. Weekday hours are 9:30-2:30. On Saturday the hours are 9:00-5:00. General chairmen of Santa House are Sue Ann Cain, Gail Cocagne, Sharon Dillow, and Marilee Moody.



HOMESTEAD NEEDLEPOINT KIT NOW AVAILABLE

A needlepoint kit of the James Millikin Homestead is now available exclusively at The Bell Pull.

Steve Spangler, A Decatur artist and art instructor at MacArthur High School, was commissioned to paint the original canvas. Linda Robertson, one of the four general chairmen of The Bell Pull, donated her time to make the master graph from the original canvas. The result of their efforts is an outstanding reproduction of the Homestead.

The original canvas is shown in the accompanying picture and is on display at The Bell Pull. The kit includes, canvas, needle, yarn, and graph. It retails for \$30.00. It would be a great Christmas gift for Homestead fans.

THE HOMESTEAD CALENDAR

The following events are scheduled at the Homestead during the next month:

- November 25 — Monthly Open House for the public
2:00 — 4:00 P.M.
- November 30 — Planned Parenthood Art Auction 7:00 P.M.
- December 2 — Victorian Christmas Party for Homestead members
1:00 — 5:00 P.M.
- December 3 — James Millikin Homestead Board Meeting
7:30
- December 4, 6, 7, 10-15, & 17-19 — Junior Welfare Association's Santa House
- December 9 — Christmas Open House for the public
1:00 — 3:00 P.M.
- December 9 — Zonta Club 6:00 — 8:00 P.M.

If you would like to reserve the Homestead for a meeting or a group tour, arrangements can be made with the Homestead scheduling chairman, Mrs. William Shade III, 422-1709.

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Decatur, Ill. 6
Permit 222

Dec. 179

IV/2

MORE MEMBERS. . . .

The following names should be added to the Homestead membership list:

Patron

Miss Margaret Dick

Family:

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Beaman

Mr. and Mrs. James May

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mueller

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Nolan

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Parish

Individual:

Mrs. Donna Baldwin

Mrs. Graham Bradley

Mrs. Horace Garman

Mrs. Clark Kikolla

Mrs. Norbert McNamara

Mrs. J. W. Miller

Mrs. Amelia Mulrooney

Mrs. Gregory Shoop

Miss Peggy Smith

Mrs. William Zeaman

Mrs. Alfred Zick

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.
125 N. Pine St.
Decatur, Illinois 62522