

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. II, No. 3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March 1978

RESTORATION WORKS PROCEED IN FRONT HALL AND KITCHEN

Mrs. Carolyn Likins reports that plaster and woodworking is proceeding in the hallway and that wallpaper will be put up soon.

Estimates have been received by the committee for work in the kitchen. It is expected to cost \$5000 to \$6000. The kitchen will be restored but functional.

Ellen Sheffer and Luann Unks have been "treasure hunting" in Mr. Dick Heise's basement. They have found a back hall fixture and other electrical goodies. He may be able to obtain prisms for them, but there is still a need as explained in the last issue of the Gazette.

Thanks to the Architectural and Historic Sites Commission and the city for the \$5,719 we were recently granted to complete the driveway from Pine to Main. We hope to soon be out of the mud thanks to grantwriter Barbara Dunn.



ANNUAL MEETING TO BE APRIL 27

The annual meeting of James Millikin Homestead, Inc., will be Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. A candlelight Victorian Musicales will be the program according to Mrs. Dorothy Morey, chairperson.

The musical program is prompted by the recent gift of a Harmonium, pump organ, which is located in the North, Zonta Parlor. The Harmonium was a gift of Mrs. Ray Bass to Millikin University. They secured her permission to allow it to be in the Homestead for the community to hear and enjoy.

New board members nominated are Mrs. Barbara Dunn and Mrs. Susan Shade. Retiring members are Ellen Sheffer and Barbara Hostetler. The nominating committee chaired by Mrs. Adele Glenn with members Mr. Jeff Taylor, Mrs. Ann Seidman, Mrs. Carolyn Likins, and Mrs. Maxine Kopetz, will also propose a slate of new officers at the meeting.

Refreshments will also be served.

**THE GREATER DECATUR
MUSIC MACHINE TURNS ON**

APRIL 13, 14, 15

**SHAKERTOWN AT PLEASANT
HILL, KENTUCKY —**

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE TOUR

HOMESTEAD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

The membership drive began March 1 and will run through April 27, the annual meeting.

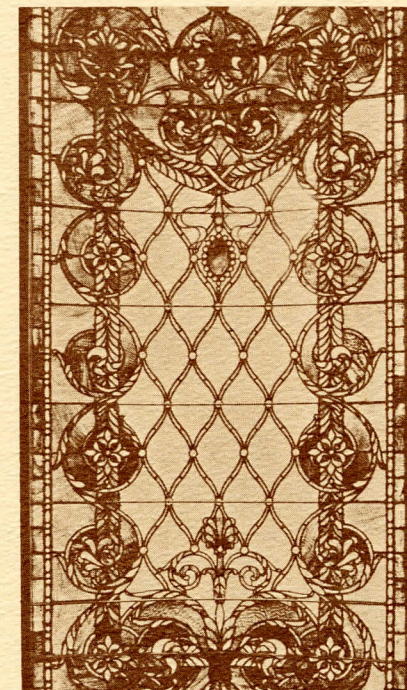
Last year's drive gained 114 new members over the first year's membership. We now have 303 members. The 1977-78 membership breaks down as follows:

9 Life members	3 new
26 Patrons	8 new
152 family	58 new
113 Individual	45 new
3 student members	

The membership committee chaired by Linda May and Ann Seidman indicate that they have solicited by mail 2200 persons. They urge current members to renew and invite a friend to participate.

Membership entitles us to participate in programming and trips as well as contribute to ongoing restoration and projects such as the Historic Walk and the Christmas Party.

Special thanks go to the committee assisting Ann and Linda. They have earned a gold star for "stuffing." They are Patti Toney, Kerry Keneipp, Betty Carlson, Joan Chiligiris, Sharon Dillow, Jean McCane, Marilyn Schoettle, Karen Tener, Pat High, Carolyn Hale, and Helen Masey. Special thanks to Barbara Dunn, the dedicated



Oriel Window at JMH

GLASS TO HIGHLIGHT HISTORIC WALK, MAY 7

Sunday, May 7, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. we will have an opportunity to leisurely stroll through spring flowers and view the exteriors of homes in the historic area surrounding the Homestead. We will be able to enter and view art glass and stained glass in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Jon French, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Lee and Mr. and Mrs. William Dutton as well as the Homestead.

A descriptive brochure is being prepared about the area and the homes. Call Olive Millikin Uni-

OUR JMH CARETAKERS — MARY AND PHIL POLITE

James Millikin Homestead certainly is not an old Victorian building to Mary and Phil Polite. They find it a charming home. Mary says, "As I drive in I have a feeling of home; that big, old house is home." Phil echoes her statements that living upstairs in their cozy apartment and caring for the Homestead has been "unique" and "fun."

For a little more than a year these Galesburg newlyweds have had the responsibility of security for the home. They also do set-up for meetings and functions and light cleaning. They also assist in opening and closing the Bell Pull and the Carriage House.

Mary, a graduate of Augustana College, teaches science and physical education at St. Patrick's elementary school. She also coaches girls sports. It is Mary who may be seen through the parlor window playing the piano. She also enjoys the guitar and takes dancing.

Phil, a graduate of Illinois State University, is a stock broker with his brother for C. R. Davis and Co., located at 366 W. Prairie. He is also involved in real estate. He professes to be Mary's assistant coach at St. Pat's.

Both admit after living in the home they have become interested in antiques. Through Phil's real estate business they have visited many new homes. Mary says, "They just don't have the same charm or beautiful woodwork." Both have become addicted to older homes.

They believe that the Christmas party has been the real highlight of their time as caretakers.

When asked a question prompted by the inquiry of a little child, both laughed and assured all youngsters that the Homestead is not haunted. "There are no ghostly figures at JMH."

MUSIC MACHINE TURNS ON APRIL 13, 14, 15

Junior Welfare Association is sponsoring gala evenings of entertainment at the Decatur Club. Entertainment is designed to tickle your fancy regardless of your taste.

The "Sh-boom Room" will feature an original musical "Remember Sh-Boom" directed by Jeannine Schaub. Cindy Shepard is the musical director and Darlene Wittenauer and Shirley Stanley are doing the choreography.

The "Cactus Corral" will feature Sonny Campbell of WDZQ and his band. There will be a film "The Adventure of Landmark Moll" written and directed by Bill Madden and Nancy Roucher.

"Herald Square" features Broadway music by Six Flags performer, Mark Briemer.

"Save our Soul Mission" is a speakeasy featuring jazz pianist Jeanne Kitrell and John Becker on the banjo. Both are from St. Louis.

For those who become patrons there will be "Curtain Call Cafe," which is a late buffet on Friday and Saturday. There will also be a western supper served in the "Cactus Corral."

Patron entertainment will be string music with Leo Pondelick.

Most room costs have been underwritten by local business and industry and through program advertising. Therefore it is hoped that ticket sales, for the most part will go directly back into the community through Junior Welfare projects, specifically the continuing restoration of Millikin Homestead.

Tickets will be going on public sale at Enloe's Southtowne, The Bell Pull, and the Bloomin' End. They are also available by contacting Mrs. Jane Anderson, 422-1228, or Mrs. Susan Zick, 423-1321.

Ticket price is \$25.00 per couple, \$12.50 per person; for patron,

HILL, KENTUCKY — HOMESTEAD HERITAGE TOUR

April 22 and 23 Dean Madden offers us an opportunity to step back in time and visit a restored Shaker Village. We will spend the night in rooms furnished with straight Shaker furniture, hand-woven rugs and curtains and revisit Shaker traditions and homes.

The trip will also feature a visit to a most unique antique shop, and lunch at the Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The Beaumont Inn is listed in **Country Inns and By Ways** as one of the finest places to dine in the country.

The trip will cost \$74.50 including chartered bus, four meals, and overnight lodging at Pleasant Hill. The trip is contingent on 30 persons having sent a \$10.00 deposit to Mr. Dean Madden by April 8. The address is P.O. Box 191, Decatur, 62525. The balance is due April 15.

The Maddens report that the curator of Colonial Williamsburg developed this area.

Those interested will leave Fairview Plaza at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday and return at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Numerous persons have traveled to Springfield and New Harmony and been on other tours with the Maddens. Their expertise makes any trip very special.

Dean assures us that while the living quarters may be in the Spartan, Shaker tradition, the trip will be "a delightful, gourmet treat."

\$40.00 per couple, and \$20.00 per single.

General chairpersons for this event are Sue Shade and GiGi Shafter.

Tener, Pat High, Carolyn Hale, and Helen Masey. Special thanks to Penny Honnold, who did all of the initial typing and a "lion's share" of the work.

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - SMASHING SUCCESS

Claudia Taylor, general chairperson for the Victorian Christmas party, reports to us that over 75% of the membership came to the party on December 4.

Thanks goes to those who made the decorations, especially Ruth Prust, who also helped to sew caps and aprons for the young people who acted as maids and butlers at the Open House. They were Sheryl McKee, Laura Petrucha, Melissa Talbot, Cynthia Prust, John Hennelly and Scott Hicks.

The theater department of Millikin University also should be thanked for loaning the butler costumes of the 1880 period.

CLASSIFIED

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: People interested in serving as guides for the Homestead are urged to attend the meeting for volunteers March 28, 9:00 a.m. At that time restoration information and information about the Millikins will be given. There will be an opportunity to learn about other ways to help the Homestead, such as phoning, addressing, and baking.

WANTED: WARM WEATHER
So that our Haviland program by Jane Jurgens and Ginny Cannon may be rescheduled. It was cancelled due to bad weather and illness. We hope to have it in May at the Homestead.

A descriptive brochure is being prepared about the area and the glass by Gail Olson, Millikin University Art Department; Miss Charlotte Meyer, Historian and author; and Mr. John Hall, expert on historic glass.

Guides will be trained in two sessions. Persons interested in learning more about the area and working the tour day, please contact Claudia Taylor, 429-7858.

Tickets are priced at \$2.50 with only 500 available to sell. Homestead members will have first opportunity to purchase them, before they go on general sale.

Millikin National Bank has generously offered to pay the expenses of this tour.

Committee members are Claudia Taylor, chairperson; Jeannine Schaub, Gail Olsen, Charlotte Meyer, and Ludien Kapp.

FOR SALE: Craft skill for minimal cost. Mrs. Marilyn Miller will offer us an opportunity to learn how to make the beautiful crocheted snowflakes which adorned our tree at the Homestead this past Christmas. Classes will be held at the Carriage House, when there is sufficient interest. Please contact the Carriage House, 422-8413, or Mrs. Susan Zick, 423-1321.

WANTED: To make our Home more lovely. The Homestead board indicates that there is need for runners for the front hall, pots and pans for the kitchen, a tea service and candelabra for the dining room, and photographs of the interior of the Homestead when people were there. Donations will graciously be accepted.