

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



GAZETTE

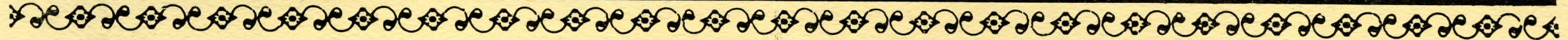


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JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March, 1984



Kapp's Corner Rental Policy Changes Outlined

We have encouraged the use of the Homestead for social functions, and the response was far greater than expected! This winter has been our best and yet most worrisome. Best—because we made a nice profit from rentals. Most worrisome—because the wear and tear on the house is alarming. The interior and the furnishings of the Homestead, made a hundred years ago for residential use, don't hold up well under constant heavy use. The Homestead is like an antique dress that cannot stand being washed and dried frequently...no matter how carefully it is done.

At the March board meeting, our rental policies were updated. After much discussion and a vote of ten pro and 2 con, the following policies were adopted:

1. limit the number of people attending a party to 40 to 50
 2. charge \$5.00 per person for every rental
 3. minimum rental: \$40.00
 4. enforcement of present rule of payment in advance
- \$40.00 refundable security deposit for all rentals

6. tours: public tours free; tours by special arrangement: \$1.00 per person/\$20.00 minimum; \$10.00 for tour in conjunction with rental

No changes were made regarding open houses, Homestead sponsored affairs, Junior Welfare events or Millikin University events.

Please look kindly upon our decisions. They are the result of experiences gained this past year and were not made lightly. Remember we are all volunteers trying to preserve this home and yet make it available to the general public. We still want to have a well-preserved house 10, 20...100 years from now! This piece of old Decatur deserves a "special and careful treatment" even if that means restrictions!

Thank you for your understanding.

-Brigitta Kapp

P.S. If you would like more information regarding the changes, call me! I feel a strong sense of obligation towards the Homestead and will gladly enlarge on the reasoning that prompted the new rules. Phone 428-9527.

Third Graders To Tour Home

"Mr. and Mrs. Millikin" will return to the Homestead the week beginning April 30 as they host county third graders for the Homestead Board's annual Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days.

Started in 1979, the week offers students a tour of the home complete with Mr. Millikin's tales of first coming to Decatur and Mrs. Millikin's preparations for a dinner party with the Oglesbys. The Millikin's maids, a talented pump organ player, Victorian women's and children's clothing, and a farewell cookie complete the visit.

Children are prepared for their visit with information sheets about the Homestead and are asked to write thank you notes to the Millikins when they return to school. Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days volunteers read the letters and choose the most interesting. The winners and their parents are invited to a Homestead Board meeting and awarded prizes.

This year's chair for the event is Sally Tyler with Mary Ann Clark the co-chair. They will be phoning Homestead Inc. members asking them to volunteer to work during the week. Those wishing to volunteer in advance may phone Sally Tyler at 423-4690. Volunteers are needed as tour guides, actors (Mr. and Mrs. Millikin, maids) and pump organ players. Morning and afternoon two-hour shifts are available on Monday, April 30 and then Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of the week.

Homestead Christmas Most Successful

In addition to an extremely busy rental season at the Homestead, the holiday season also proved a successful time for Homestead-sponsored events.

Homestead Inc. members were able to first enjoy the marvelous holiday decorations during the Victorian Tea, Sunday, December 4. Before the first member walked through the door, several had spent the entire time from Thanksgiving weekend decorating. They were Marilyn Madden, Joan Cordes, Betty Braun, Brigitta Kapp and Joann Williams.

Members were also able to enjoy and purchase the efforts of those contributing to the Christmas boutique, open in the library. Several raffles brought additional fun and revenue to Homestead holiday activities.

Mary Ann Clark was the winner of the candlewick quilt, stitched by Betsy Empen and Linda May. The catered party was won by Joan Chiligris and

Annual Meeting To Convene April 26

Election of officers and members of the Homestead Board will be among the items of business during the James Millikin Homestead, Inc., annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26 in the Homestead.

Mary Turner, a curator of Millikin University's Birks Museum, will present a slide lecture on 19th century glassware and china, following the brief business meeting. Several pieces used in the lecture will be taken from the Homestead's collection, further emphasizing the ties of the university and the Homestead.

All Homestead Inc. members are invited to attend.



Mrs. Orville J. Eilers won the free rental.



Spring Membership Drive Begins

Board Completes Busy Months

Spring Membership Drive Begins

Along with invitations to the annual Homestead Inc. meeting, members have received letters asking them to renew their Homestead memberships. This is the beginning of the annual membership drive.

Membership chair Maxine Kopetz urges present members to enlist their friends and neighbors as Homestead members as well.

Benefits of membership include participation in the preservation of Decatur's historic heritage, advance notice of Homestead-sponsored tours and programs, a subscription to the HOMESTEAD GAZETTE and an invitation to the annual Victorian Christmas party.

Homestead members also have opportunities to volunteer at such events as Sunday brunches and Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days.

Membership categories are student, \$5.00; individual, \$15.00; family \$25.00; patron, \$100.00; and life, \$1000.00 (payable over four years). Memberships are one-year.

Board Completes Busy Months

The Homestead Board has made several important decisions during recent months' meetings.

Good news was announced in November as rentals in December were completely booked. The Board also voted to be included in one of the packages being put together for the Cancer Society auction, donating use of the Homestead for a party. Final arrangements were also made for the Victorian Christmas Party and public open house.

Board members volunteered to assist scheduling chair Barbara Hackel with the tremendous number of rentals during the month of December. Thanks was given to Rob Glenn and Joan McBain for donating work in creating the annual ornament for the Homestead. It was also announced that the Sons of the American Revolution would be having a ceremony around the Stephen Decatur statue, honoring his January 5 birthday.

First discussion of the problems which have arisen regarding the many Homestead rentals was begun at the January board meeting. While approximately \$1090 was made in December rentals, the wear and tear on the Homestead and other problems offset the profit. Repair plans for the Homestead sign were also discussed and begun during this meeting.

A lengthy discussion of Homestead rental policies dominated the February board meeting. Scheduling chair Hackel presented excellent documentation of the problems and concerns the board needed to face. Board members voiced opinions and solutions to the problem and directed President Kapp to write a new policy to be voted upon at the March meeting.

The policy discussed and outlined in President Kapp's column was passed during the March meeting. It was also announced that Millikin University would be repairing and re-installing the Homestead sign. The report of the nominating committee and the decision to buy a telephone answering machine completed a busy evening's work.

available on Monday, April 30 and then Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of the week.



Millikin Alumni Invited to Brunch

The Homestead Board will again offer brunch on Sunday, May 20. The event is initially open to Millikin University alumni whose reservations will be due May 1. In the event the two seatings are not filled at this time, the brunch will be open to Homestead Inc. members and the public.

Seatings will be at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A brunch menu similar to those served in the past, including champagne, will be included on the buffet table.

If the event is indeed open to the public, an announcement will appear in the Daybook section of the HERALD AND REVIEW on Thursday May 10.

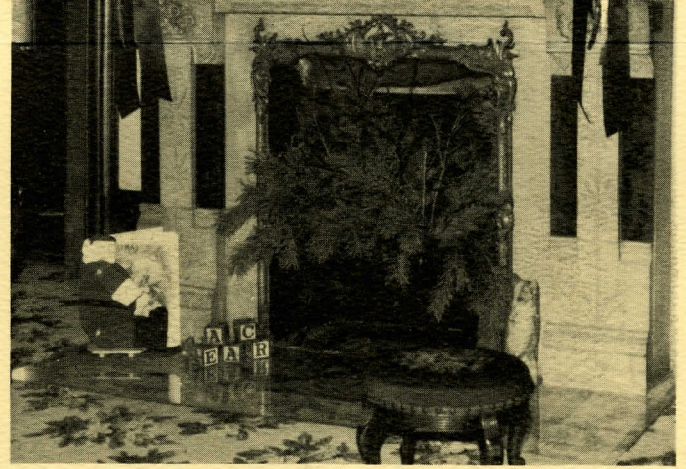
Homestead Inc. members are encouraged to volunteer to work before the brunch by baking or doing other cooking or during the event. Brunch chair Sally Tyler may be reached at 423-4690.



Technology Comes To the Homestead

A telephone answering machine will take its place among the Victoriana in the Homestead beginning in April. Those wanting information on scheduling Homestead events or other Homestead projects will only need call the Homestead telephone number — 422-9003 — to find the name and number of the current scheduling chair.

This will enable current scheduling information to be printed in Homestead brochures and eliminate the problems which occur when the current scheduling chair differs from the one listed in Homestead brochures. It will also assist those wishing Homestead information as they will automatically know whom to call by listening to the answering machine's recorded message.



The fireplace provided a focal point for decorations in the south parlor.

1984-85 Slate Announced

The 1984-85 slate of officers and members of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc., Board will be voted upon during the April 26 annual meeting.

Officers slated are:

Barbara Hackel	president
Joan Chiligris	vice president
Joan Cordes	recording secretary
Betsy Empen	treasurer

Nominated to the board for a second three-year term is Brigitta Kapp. Mary Ann Clark, Olive Langsdorf, Betsy Empen and Deborah Staley have been slated for first three-year terms.

Nominating committee members were Marilyn Madden, chair; Maxine Kopetz and Sally Tyler.

Exhibit Focuses On Millikin's Beginnings

"Millikin University: The First Thirty Years" is the theme of a special exhibit opening April 29 in the Birks Museum on the Millikin campus.

Among exhibited items will be the portraits of James and Anna Millikin which hang in the Homestead. Mary Turner, curator, has gathered other items of interest, concerning not only the university but also Mr. and Mrs. Millikin.

The exhibit runs April 29 through October 29. Hours are 1-3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2-4 p.m. Sunday. Group tours may be arranged by calling Mary Turner at 424-6337.



The tree, brought from Wisconsin, displayed the Homestead's collection of Victorian ornaments.

Homestead Board

Brigitta Kapp	president, restoration chair	428-9527
Joan Chiligris	vice president, volunteer chair	877-5771
Joan Cordes	recording secretary	428-9092
Kathy Farrington	treasurer	423-4697
Jim Alpi	house chair	423-8423
Marie Bennett	contributing member	429-5735
Betsy Empen	another contributor	877-2664
David Erlanson	house chair	429-2728
Stephen Galiker	assistant membership chair	423-8557
Barbara Hackel	scheduling chair	423-4122
Maxine Kopetz	membership chair	1-864-3296
Marilyn Madden	procurement chair	422-1304
Dorothy Smethers	star volunteer	877-6143
Deborah Staley	documentation	422-5942
Sally Tyler	newsletter & publicity chair	423-4690