



# GAZETTE



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JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March, 1981



## 1981 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

The 1981 membership drive will be launched at the end of March, according to Celeste Lambert, the Homestead membership chairman.

Mrs. Lambert, her assistant Paulette High, and their committee have been hard at work to make this year's drive the most successful ever. The Homestead has been very fortunate to have its membership increase every year, and it is hoped that this year will be no exception.

By early April all members will receive a notice from the membership drive. Dues are due by April 30. Homestead dues remain as follows: individual, \$15; family, \$25; patron, \$100; and life, \$1000.

While Junior Welfare Association and Millikin University have underwritten the costs of restoration, the ongoing existence of the Homestead is totally dependent upon the support of its membership. So please take a moment to rejoin the Homestead—we need you!

We also need your help in making our membership grow. Please encourage your friends to join with you. Pamphlets with membership blanks are available at the Homestead.

## ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 23

The annual meeting of James Millikin Homestead, Inc. will be held Thursday, April 23, 1981, at 7:30 P.M. (Please note time; previous annual meetings were at 7:00.)

The business portion of the meeting will include election of members of the Homestead board

## HOMESTEAD PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5

The final program in the Homestead's mini-series is set for April 5 at 1:45 P.M. The topic is architectural detail of the nineteenth century. Two films illustrating different aspects of architectural detail will be shown.

The Victorians liked rich variegated surfaces. The film entitled "Graining and Marbling" illustrates the arts of false wood and false marble.

The second film, "Ornamental Ironwork," differentiates and describes the techniques of cast and wrought iron. It provides an overview of the differences in processing.

Both films are "process" films in that they show how something is made; however, they are not "how-to-do-its" in the ordinary sense. Rather than the typically tedious "step one, step two," these films capture the creativity of the craft and the skill of the craftsmen.

Lou Snelson is in charge of this program, and Barbara Abbott and her committee will serve refreshments.

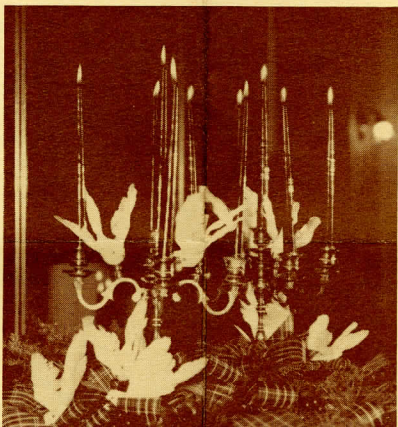
## SPRING CLASSES BEGIN AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Nearly 400 children have registered for the spring session of classes being offered by the Carriage House Learning Center.

The session began March 16 and will end May 18. Classes range from Easter egg decorating to ponies to counted cross stitch. The classes are tailored to meet the interests and abilities of various age groups. If you were unable to attend registration but were interested in a specific class, there are a few openings left, and there will be a second



*The Homestead's Christmas tree reigned supreme in the south parlor. The cost of the tree was very generously underwritten by Dean and Marilyn Madden, who selected the tree in Dor County, Wisconsin, and brought it back for all of us to enjoy. It was lavishly decorated with white doves, tiny lights, plaid ribbon, and handmade crocheted snowflakes.*



## MINI-SERIES WELL ATTENDED

Three of the four programs scheduled as a mini-series at the Homestead have already been presented this winter, and they were very well attended, according to Ann Seidman, program chairman.

On January 25th, Debbie Erlanson, director of planning for the Decatur Housing Authority, spoke to a group of 30 on the various means individuals could employ to obtain low cost federal money for private restoration. Debbie and her husband David (a Homestead board member) were the first in Decatur to obtain a grant to restore a private dwelling. Following her program, Joanne Carey provided refreshments.

A second program was scheduled on February 15th. Martha Wait, manager of Wait's Picture Frames and Art Supplies, displayed reproductions of Victorian wallpaper and frames while she spoke on this topic. Joanne Carey again provided refreshments.

The third program in the series was held March 8th. Wes Whittingham spoke to a group of more than 30 on styles of decorating and the furniture and design of the Victorian era. He also talked on customs of the period. Sherry Wiant and her committee served refreshments.

Only one program in the mini-series remains (see related article: "Homestead Program Scheduled for April 5"), and Ann Seidman is to be congratulated for formulating such an entertaining and informative series. These programs have been without charge and were open to the public.

## BELL PULL MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVER

## HOMESTEAD USE CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Scheduling chairman Susan Shade reports that the Homestead is being utilized more often and by more different groups than ever before.

During the past year the Homestead itself has sponsored several programs and tours for both its members and the public at large. Among these were the "Mr. and Mrs. Millikin at Home" project for all local third graders; "Harvest at the Homestead," a fall festival and open house for the public; and the annual Victorian Christmas Tea for Homestead members. The Homestead also sponsored a mini-series of lectures on various subjects relating to restoration and the Victorian period.

Numerous other groups have utilized the Homestead for both tours and meetings. It has hosted P.E.O. chapters, book clubs, girl scout and brownie units, and several civic organizations. It has also served as a meeting place for various needlework classes sponsored by both Richland Community College and The Bell Pull.

The Homestead has also been the scene of many private social occasions. It has been used for a wedding reception, luncheons, evening receptions, and dinners. The grounds were used for an outdoor concert.

As the Homestead restoration nears completion, use of the facilities is expected to increase even more, according to Mrs. Shade. The kitchen is now fully equipped with a large stove, a refrigerator, and a dishwasher. There is table service for fifty, as well as punch cups and plates.

Use of the Homestead is encouraged. Its restoration was undertaken with a two-fold purpose: to preserve



The business portion of the meeting will include election of members of the Homestead board of directors and officers of the board.

The program for the annual meeting will be presented by Carola Rupert, director of the Macon County Historical Society. Entitled "Amusing Decatur 1830-1915: Past-times and Playtimes," the program promises to be most entertaining.

Following the program, refreshments will be served by Nancy Shoop and her committee. Ann Seidman is overall chairman of the annual meeting.

### RESTORATION FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

When restoration of the James Millikin Homestead was first conceived as a project for Junior Welfare Association, it was projected that restoration would take a minimum of ten years. That was in 1975.

Today, only six years later, completion of restoration is in sight. Both the breakfast room and the Snowball Room (the northeast bedroom) have been added to the growing list of restored and furnished rooms.

Shutters have been hung in the Bell Pull, the upstairs hall, and the bedrooms. They are now being stained and finished. The small bedroom directly above the Bell Pull is presently under renovation. Upon its completion, work will begin in the last room, the south-east bedroom.

Mrs. Ruth Prust, chairman of the Homestead board, has projected completion of the Homestead restoration by mid-summer. Restoration is nearly four full years ahead of schedule, and hearty congratulations are due to Millikin University, to the membership of Junior Welfare Association who have conducted so many successful fund-raising events, and to the community at large, which has so generously supported this project.

If you were unable to attend registration but were interested in a specific class, there are a few openings left, and there will be a second session for some classes. If interested call Julie Allen at 428-3508.

The Carriage House chairmen are already in the process of planning the summer series of classes. Children will receive the class schedules through their schools later in the spring.

The Carriage House is a learning center sponsored by Junior Welfare Association as a not-for-profit service project.

### SLIDE PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

The next time you are in charge of obtaining a program for an organization, you might consider the Homestead's slide presentation. It contains slides that document the progress of the Homestead's restoration, showing both the "before" and "after."

The slides are accompanied by a trained Homestead volunteer who is prepared to comment on the slides and to answer any questions pertinent to the history of the Homestead.

For further information, contact Susan Shade, 422-1709, or Ruth Prust, 422-2967.

### HOMESTEAD BOARD HOSTS TRUSTEES

On March 20, 1981, members of the Millikin University Board of Trustees and their spouses were the guests of the board of directors of James Millikin Homestead, Inc., at a Victorian dinner at the Homestead.

The guests were given an opportunity to step backward in time to the grace and elegance of a bygone era as they were served individual courses by their hosts, who acted as "servants." During the dinner they were entertained by John Bielenberg, who played selections by Bach on his violin.

The dinner was conceived as a special way to say thank you to Millikin University and its trustees for their generous support in making the restoration possible.



*The mantel pictured above beautifully illustrates the decorating motif used this year by Marilyn Madden and her committee for the Homestead's Victorian Christmas party. Red candles, green and red plaid ribbon, white doves, and greenery were used throughout the Homestead.*

### VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

The Homestead's annual Victorian Christmas Party for its members was a resounding success. Approximately 400 people attended the party held on the afternoon of December 7.

Ruth Prust and Peg Smith Luy served as co-chairmen of the refreshments, which were delicious. The guests enjoyed wassail, tea, or coffee, and a lovely assortment of pastries.

Marilyn Madden, Ann Condon, and Joan Williams spent many hours in decorating the Homestead, and their efforts were outstanding. As numerous members commented, the Christmas decorations seem to be more beautiful every year. A different theme is used each year; this year's motif featured numerous white doves and plaid ribbons and bows.

Mrs. Millikin's Trunk, the Homestead-sponsored Christmas boutique held in conjunction with the party, was very generously supported by the Homestead members. Betsy Empen and Linda May, the boutique co-chairmen, reported a net profit of \$1,500.00, which will be used for Homestead-sponsored activities. Mrs. Clark Waldmier won the miniature Christmas room that was made for the boutique.

### BELL PULL MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVER

The Bell Bull is celebrating its fifth anniversary this spring, and it has been more successful each year, according to the out-going general chairman, Betsy Empen.

Located in what was James Millikin's library in the Homestead, the Bell Pull has both grown and changed over the years. It originally dealt almost exclusively in needlepoint.

Today the Junior Welfare-sponsored shop still has needlepoint kits, canvas, and yarn, but it has added an extensive line of counted cross stitch supplies. It carries 15 different kinds of material in varying colors and the complete line of DMC embroidery floss. With more than 70 different books in stock, it has what is probably the widest assortment of counted cross stitch books available in the area. Constantly changing samples offer new ideas to needleworkers.

The Bell Pull is supervised by four co-chairmen. The chairmen for 1981-82 are Diane DeVore, Caroiyn Likins, Joan MacIver, and Linda Robertson. It utilizes approximately 60 different volunteers each month.

The Bell Pull was founded through a loan from Junior Welfare Association. This loan was repaid in full in 1979, and since then, The Bell Pull has been able to contribute approximately \$2,000 per year to the ongoing maintenance of the Homestead.

well as punch cups and plates.

Use of the Homestead is encouraged. Its restoration was undertaken with a two-fold purpose: to preserve something of our local heritage, and to provide an on-going, useful facility. The rental fee is nominal, based on the number of persons attending. A group of 20 is charged fifteen dollars. For each increase of ten people, the fee is increased in five dollar increments.

For more information on using the Homestead, contact the scheduling chairman, Mrs. William Shade III, 422-1709.

### THE CASE OF THE MISSING DOOR

Homestead board chairman Ruth Prust has requested help with a rather unusual problem. A door that belongs in the breakfast room is missing, and the Homestead would very much like to recover it.

The door originally hung on the west wall (adjacent to the kitchen). It is a glass door framed by wood and opened to a built-in shelf area. It measured approximately 2½' x 4'.

The door was in poor condition and someone nicely offered to repair it. Unfortunately, a record of who has it has been lost. In all probability it is repaired and waiting in someone's home workshop, overlooked.

So, please check your home workshops and if you should remember anything about this door, contact Ruth Prust at 422-2967.

### REMINDER

### ANNUAL MEETING

of the

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.

APRIL 23, 1981

7:30 P.M.

AT THE HOMESTEAD



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

A wide range of opportunities for volunteerism is available at James Millikin Homestead. Whether you prefer individual work at home, working with people, or even physical work, we can use your talents. For example—

— Ruth Prust would like to train more people as guides and docents.

— Ann Seidman is looking for people to work on the Christmas boutique for next year.

— Lots of people will be needed soon to help with moving, sorting, and cleaning the furniture presently stored in the southeast bedroom; contact either Ruth Prust or Brigitta Kapp.

— The program committee will need several volunteers to chair and hostess their numerous activities for the 1981-82 year. These include "Harvest at the Homestead" (the fall festival), the Victorian Christmas Party, and the annual meeting, as well as any educational programs that may be scheduled. Contact the present program chairman, Ann Seidman.

### JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD

IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE LAST SUNDAY  
OF EACH MONTH

MARCH-OCTOBER 2-4 P.M.

This coincides with the monthly open house of the Oglesby Mansion

**ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT  
A NEEDLEWORK CONTEST  
WILL AGAIN BE HELD  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE FALL FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 4, 1981

Check in The Bell Pull soon  
for rules

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE COMPLETES WORK

Steve Graliker, chairman of the nominating committee for the board of directors of James Millikin Homestead, Inc., has reported that his committee has successfully completed the slate of nominees for the 1981-82 board.

Ann Seidman and Barbara Hicks will be retiring from the Homestead board after several years of service. Nominees to replace them are James Alpi and Brigitta Kapp. In addition, Barbara Dunn, Steve Graliker, and Susan Shade have been nominated to serve second terms on the board.

The slate of nominees for board office for the coming year is as follows: Chairman, Susan Shade; Vice Chairman, Barbara Dunn; Secretary, Bobbie Wolfe; and treasurer, Kathy Farrington.

Board nominees and officers will be voted upon at the annual meeting on April 23, 1981.

Members of the nominating committee were David Erlanson, Kathy Farrington, Judy Grieve, and Bobbie Wolfe.

## "LOCAL COLOR" GIFTS AVAILABLE

A variety of gifts reflecting Decatur's history may be found in The Bell Pull.

There is a Homestead-sponsored mini-cookbook, "Visions of Sugarplums," which contains numerous old fashioned recipes which have been handed down in local families. The victorian illustrations are particularly delightful. The cookbooks sell for a bargain \$1.50.

There are also a few of the limited edition silk-screen prints of the Homestead. These two-color prints sell for \$10.00.

And for those who enjoy needlework, the Bell Pull carries several Decatur designs exclusively. A needle-point picture of the Homestead, designed by Steve Spangler, comes complete with yarn. Linda Robertson has also designed original graphs of the Lincoln Homestead and of Decatur's Transfer House.

So, the next time you need to buy a present, remember the things we have that are uniquely Decatur, and you'll be supporting the Homestead at the same time.

## "MR. AND MRS. MILLIKIN AT HOME"

Set for May 4-8

For the third consecutive year, James Millikin Homestead, Inc. is sponsoring its "Mr. and Mrs. Millikin at Home" program for all area third graders. During the week of May 4-8, hundreds of children will get a glimpse of life as it was at the turn of the century.

The children meet "Mr. Millikin" in the parlor, and they see "Mrs. Millikin" preparing for a party in the dining room. They learn about housework without today's conveniences from maids stationed throughout the house.

This program is very popular with both teachers and students, and its effectiveness was made very obvious during a recent tour with some Dennis School fifth graders. Though it had been two years since they had visited "Mr. and Mrs. Millikin at Home," several of them were quick to notice the changes in the house, and they even asked about "Sophie," who was one of the very entertaining maids!

This year's "Mr. and Mrs. Millikin at Home" is being chaired by Adele Glenn.

## TWO BOARD MEMBERS RETIRING

After serving two terms each, Ann Seidman and Barbara Hicks will be leaving the board of directors of James Millikin Homestead, Inc. Both Mrs. Seidman and Mrs. Hicks have been very active members of the board.

Mrs. Seidman has served as co-chairman of the membership drive for two years, and more recently she has been chairman of the program committee for three years. She has been chairman of the Christmas boutique and served on several internal committees.

Mrs. Hicks has also served on several board committees, as well as acting as treasurer for two years and, more recently, as secretary of the board of directors.

Both Mrs. Seidman and Mrs. Hicks have contributed greatly to the growth and development of the Homestead and the board is most grateful to them for giving so generously of their time and talents.