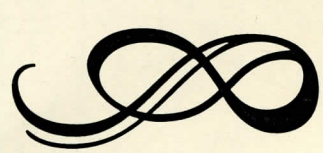


# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



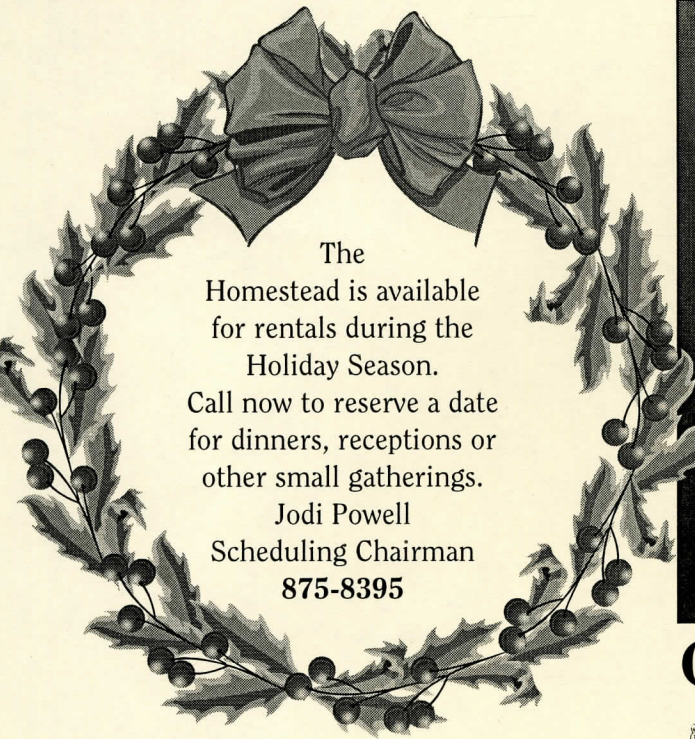
# GAZETTE



Vol. XXX, No. 2

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., 125 N. PINE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS

November, 2005

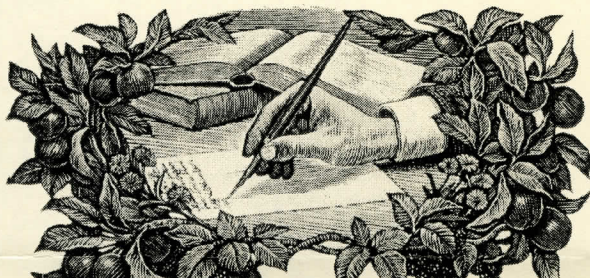


The  
Homestead is available  
for rentals during the  
Holiday Season.

Call now to reserve a date  
for dinners, receptions or  
other small gatherings.

Jodi Powell  
Scheduling Chairman  
875-8395

## *A Note from Your President...*



## **Our English Jumble Sale Was Successful!**

Once again we turned your generous donations of rummage into cash for the Homestead! On September 17th, we held this year's rummage sale and made over 2,100 dollars in profits.

We were blessed with perfect weather, great volunteers, and an appreciative crowd of shoppers. An event like this demands much sweat equity: countless hours of collecting and marking donations – advertising the event – recruiting and organizing the workers; but the end result is rewarding.

We thank all who have been involved in

putting this sale together, especially our donors! Your enthusiastic response to our request for rummage made this sale a success!

We also thank the large group of MacArthur honor students who – under the leadership of Tom Durbin – showed up at 6 a.m. the day of the sale and formed a workers' chain to move our "merchandise" from the Homestead basement out onto the driveway! Teenagers at 6 a.m. on a Saturday – not grumpy, but smiling, willing helpers!!

Thank you all!!!

The Jumble Committee

## A Surprise Tour

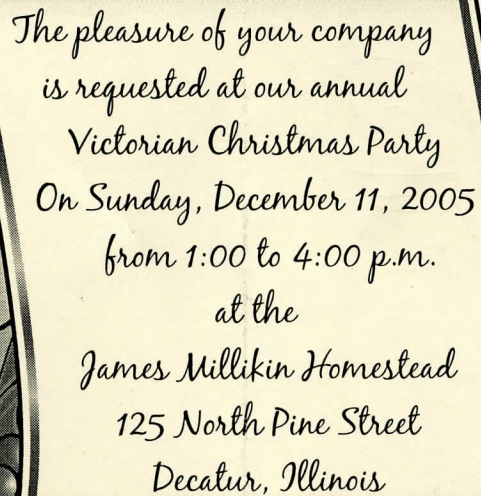
We have just completed a successful Jumble Sale resulting proceeds of \$2,000. This profit will be added to our maintenance and restoration funds. I extend a deep personal expression of gratitude to all those who donated, helped pickup, delivered, priced, labeled, displayed items and helped clean up after this event. I also want to acknowledge the generous assistance of Mr. Thomas Durbin and the National Honor students from MacArthur High School who arrived at 6:00 a.m. the day of the Jumble and helped carry out all the sale items stored in the Homestead basement. Their help was invaluable.

An "Awareness Committee" has recently been organized. Its members include representatives from the historic sites of Decatur. Included are the Governor Oglesby Mansion, the Macon County Historical Society and the James Millikin Homestead. Its objective is to support and cooperate with each other in creating an awareness of these and similar entities and their programs for the public. The Committee is also involved in "The Looking for Lincoln" project.


We are preparing for the Homestead's annual Christmas Tea and Boutique on Sunday, December 11th, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will feature a beautifully decorated Homestead, a lovely Victorian Tea and a Boutique of reasonably priced gifts and delicious edibles. This yearly party is open to all and is our "Thank You" to our community for its support throughout the year.

I wish each of you a meaningful holiday and a New Year of Peace.

Ann Seidman  
President

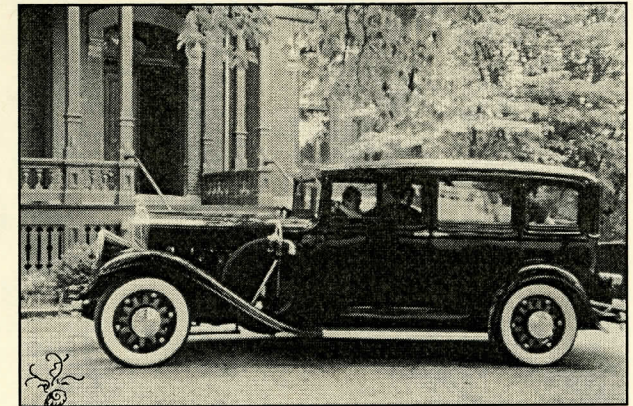


*The pleasure of your company  
is requested at our annual  
Victorian Christmas Party  
On Sunday, December 11, 2005  
from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
at the  
James Millikin Homestead  
125 North Pine Street  
Decatur, Illinois*



**Please be sure to check the date on your address label that includes your membership expiration date. We are urging everyone to update his or her membership before the end of the calendar year. We are grateful for any assistance that you provide in helping us maintain this beautiful part of Decatur's history.**

**Ann Manuel  
& Rosemary Idleman  
Membership Chairmen**



**I**t was a double WOW day for the volunteers conducting a tour of the Homestead on July 13 at noon. A large group "from Chicago" arriving separately in cars was expected. And they came in cars. Did they ever! They arrived in Pierce Arrows! The lady who made the arrangements was from Chicago.

The rest - 50 people - came from all over the world. Some were from England, some from Spain, and some from South America. Nametags noted that the people visiting the Homestead in this group were from Maine to California and everywhere in between.

It was the Pierce Arrow Society's Annual meet centering this year in Springfield. Their four day event started with us at the Homestead! They chose us! Hugs and hellos among them indicated that "meet and greet" among members began on the lawn of the Homestead!

Eighteen Pierce Arrows parked in front of the Homestead. Each was custom made; no two were alike. How they did shine with importance! The Pierce Arrow people were delightful, friendly, and so thrilled to have a chance to tour the Millikin Homestead as we were thrilled to welcome them. It all was a pleasant surprise for the Homestead volunteers. It certainly was the best tour ever. Perhaps it should be called a triple WOW!

Marty Grohne

# IF YOU OWN A SATIN PEAR, A NEEDLEPOINT ROSE...

...a gilded walnut or a pleated paper fan, you've probably been coming to the Victorian Christmas Tea at the Homestead for almost thirty years!!

Since neither records nor evidence of the way in which the Millikins celebrated the holidays exist, there were no decorations for use for that first Christmas Party on December 4, 1977, so the Committee early in the year asked members to collect pine cones, buckeyes, acorns and hickory nuts for making "natural decorations" – perfect for that initial celebration in the partially restored Homestead.

In the following year festivities grew to the point of opening "Mrs. Millikin's Trunk" to reveal handmades including the satin pears, embroidered muslin ornaments



and crocheted snowflakes – some for sale and some to grace the big tree in the north parlor. Fabric dressed Victorian paper dolls were deservedly placed prominently among the branches.

An innovation in 1979 was the diamond shaped needlepoint rose, followed in 1980 by a counted cross-stitched replica of the Homestead. Subsequently there were flower filled doily cornucopias, decorator items made from shards of the replaced slate roof, paper roses and those remarkable origami stars that hang on the tree as if suspended in air.

There are many more examples of "fancywork" done for the love of the Homestead: a hammered brass house shaped piece, ribbon and lace Christmas stockings

and a favorite; the cotton Santa with the rosy paper face! Certainly not to be discounted are the candies and cookies from some of Decatur's most talented kitchens.

When you come to the tea this year, take a long look at the tree and the decorations in all the rooms and you may see some of these lovingly created "new" heirlooms. Look closely and a bright-eyed cotton Santa may greet you with a wink!

Lou Snelson  
Historian



**Open House**

The Homestead  
will be open on  
Sunday, December 18th  
from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Our Christmas Boutique will be held during our Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 11, 2005. We will feature delectable candies and cookies, scarves, ornaments and other beautiful gift items. All are reasonably priced for the discerning shopper. We look forward to serving you.*