

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

## GAZETTE

Vol. XXV, No.2

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

November 2000

### A Note From Your President...

**F**or more than twenty years the Homestead has been available to the public in various ways: Homestead sponsored events, Millikin University sponsored events, Public Open Houses, private tours and private rentals. Twenty years of use has left a mark on the house and signs of wear and tear are evident.

This past spring we have increased our public Open Houses dramatically. Our volunteer chairmen willingly and enthusiastically have undertaken the daunting job of finding docents for the Open Houses. We went from one monthly Open House to eight monthly Open Houses! Our motto: In the year 2000 the Homestead will open 2 days a week, 2 hours a day for \$2.00 admission! This regular schedule has brought more visitors and has raised a modest amount of money.

From time to time the subject of discontinuing private rental was discussed at board meetings. With the additional Open Houses we felt the time was right to allow the Homestead and its furnishings a less demanding schedule. This fall we voted unanimously to suspend rentals starting January 1, 2001. Of course, all rentals already scheduled fore 2001 will be honored!

Preserving the Homestead the best we can and yet have it accessible to the public as much as possible is our ongoing goal. We hope you support our decision.

Our Victorian Tea is just weeks away! Come and enjoy the festive decorations, seasonal music, and delicious refreshments!

Brigitta Kapp

### Oriental Rug Seminar

**T**he Homestead hosted an Oriental Rug Seminar in the North and South parlor on Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 to 11:30. It was a perfect setting for participants to enjoy both the Homestead and its beautiful Oriental rugs. Tom Meyerscough, certified appraiser and worldwide author, from the Persian Rug Center in Springfield conducted the seminar, sharing his extensive background and expertise.

Mr. Meyerscough discussed the weaving process using a loom to demonstrate how rugs are made. The history, geography, and origin of hand-made rugs were particularly interesting and informative. In addition, he provided valuable tips on the care of Oriental rugs. Participants were invited to bring a rug to show and share with the group. They each received information regarding the origin, style, age, and relative value of their rugs. Following the discussion, the group toured the Homestead to view and learn about the types of rugs in each room.

Tom Meyerscough's efforts in conducting the seminar are much appreciated and a special thank you goes to Ann Seidman for providing delicious pastries for the event.

Ann McEvoy  
Ways and Means

## Marilyn Loofbourrow Memorial Fund





# From the Atlantic to the Pacific And Beyond!

**T**he past seven month season, the year 2000, people from all over the United States visited the Millikin Homestead. From the East Coast came visitors from Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont. The South was well represented by guests from Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. From the West came visitors from Arizona and California. The Mid-West was well represented by visitors from Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Of Course, the majority of guests came from Illinois, from 29 different cities and towns, in addition to numerous visitors from Decatur.

Guests from across the Atlantic and Pacific, from Europe and Asia, have visited the Homestead. How delighted James and Anna would have been to have welcomed their Victorian home these guests from Germany, from Singapore, Taiwan, and our Sister City, Tokorozawa, Japan. James and Anna would have been proud to have heard the comments from or foreign guests as they admired the charm and beauty of the Homestead.

Indeed, James and Anna would have been pleased and proud to have so many people from Decatur and Illinois, from all over the United States, and from Europe and Asia visit their beautiful home during the year 2000, admire the the art and architecture and realize that their Homestead has brought beauty and joy to so many people.

The Volunteer Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to all the docents who volunteered to serve as Tour Guides for the Open Houses on Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. from March through October. We appreciate the dedication of the many Docents who have been helping for years at the Homestead, as well as the 26 Docents who have served as Tour Guides for the first time this year. Thank you for a very successful season.

— Anne Pondelick  
Volunteer Committee



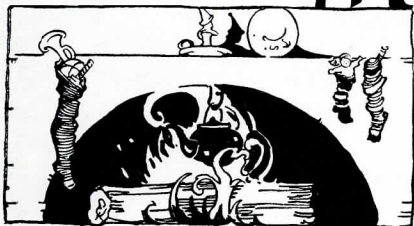
**T**hrough generous donations from Marilyn's family and friends the fund has grown to over \$2,100!! Marilyn and Duane's daughter Julie and son Galen will handle all necessary arrangements to publish their mother's historical articles. The resulting book will be an enduring tribute to Marilyn's literary prowess, and - as planned - the proceeds from sales will benefit the Homestead. Marilyn, we thank you!



*The pleasure of your company  
is requested  
at our annual  
Victorian Christmas Party  
On Sunday, December 3, 2000  
from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
at the  
James Millikin Homestead  
125 North Pine Street*

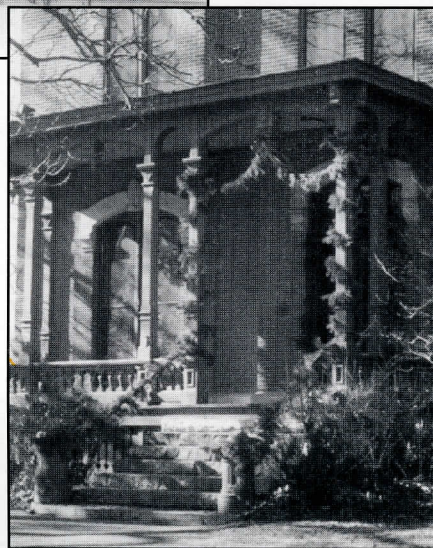
## Scheduling

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ake your holiday party plans now! There are still open dates in November and December. The house will be decorated for the holidays after December 3rd. Call soon, 422-4395.

Alice Brock  
Scheduling Chairman



*Season's  
Greetings!*



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JMH 11/2000

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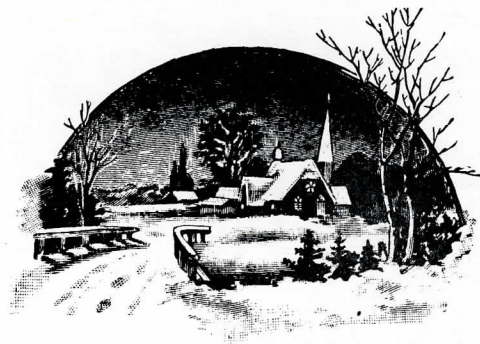
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