

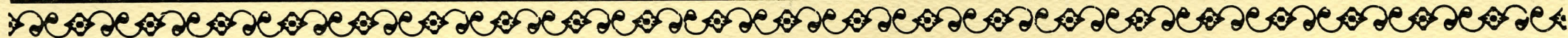
THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. VII, No. 3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

April, 1983



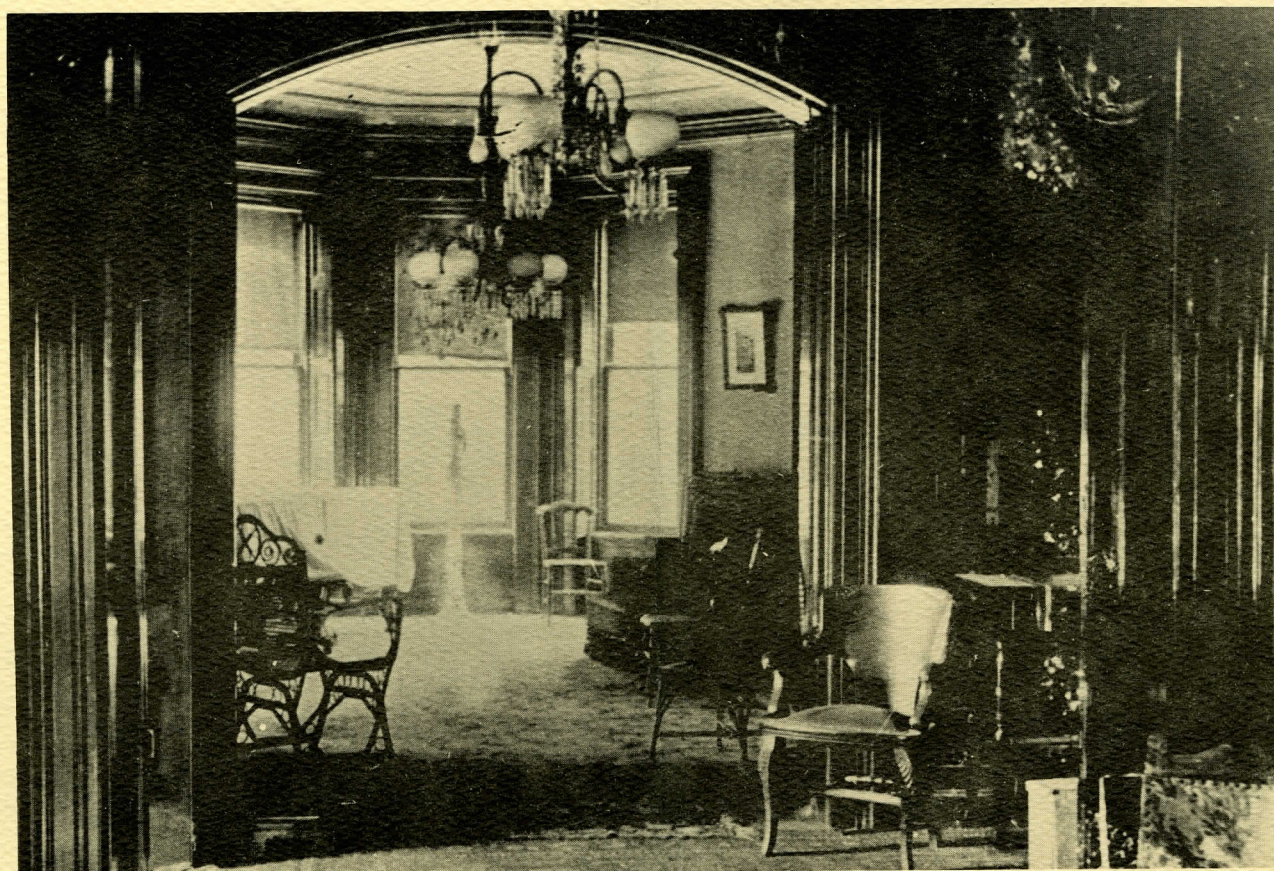
YOUR INVITATION

The 1983 annual meeting of the James Millikin Homestead will convene on Thursday, April 28 next at 7:30 p.m.

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

A program will follow, which will recognize our close ties to Millikin University and to the Birks sisters who have donated period costume pieces to the Homestead. The program, titled "The Wonders of Wedgwood", will be presented by Mary Turner, director of Millikin University's Birks Museum. Her program will feature slides of Wedgwood pieces that will be on display at the museum from April 10 to May 24.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting by your board members. Hope to see you in the parlor.



Public Open Houses To Resume

With the arrival of spring, we look for the arrival of many visitors, as the Homestead resumes its last-Sunday-of-the-month open houses. If you are looking for a short and pleasant Sunday outing, make note that, on Sunday afternoon, March 27 and on Sunday afternoon, April 24, between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00, the Homestead will be open and staffed with guides to welcome you as you wander back through history.

Two "New" Rooms Loom!

After Junior Welfare generously handed the Homestead the remaining Bell Pull money and vacated their shop site, the Homestead had two options:

- (1) Use a minimum amount of money and give the library and adjoining bath a superficial "facelift".
- (2) Do a correct, albeit more expensive, restoration, which would mean giving the walls the same treatment as the other rooms (new canvas), refinishing the woodwork throughout, and turning the small empty room into the period bathroom it once was.

The board has chosen the second option. Leonard Edwards, who has "done" the rest of the house, is working on the two rooms. The floor in the bathroom needs to have an old, odd, and very visible patch removed. Then Russell Swartz will

A SHORT LIST OF WISHES

Remember your last scavenger hunt? You were given a list of odd articles to find, and you went dashing off to locate them and be the first to return for the prize?

Here is your list for today: an old-fashioned-looking punch bowl, tablecloth 108" long (or longer) and candle holders or candlesticks.

RESTORATION RESUME'

Brigitta Kapp and husband Lucien have so much enthusiasm for the restoration of the Homestead that, for the work they have done, the "finds" they have made, the bargaining they have accomplished, the infectuous joy they spread whenever they speak of the "doings" of their Restoration Com-

scones. Starting in the Homestead attic, she and Lucien found filthy-looking old metal things that looked like scrap metal, but lo! a carload of elbow grease and brass polish and there emerged an intricately etched swing-arm brass wall sconce, such as once brought gas (thus light) into James and Anna's rooms. Corners

gorgeous old globes which were needed to complete the gas jet lighting. Brigitta and Lucian, Lucien's mother, and Ruth Prust are donating the funds for this project. It is hoped these delicate and beautiful brass pieces will be mounted in time for your visit to the annual meeting.

on your '83 returns!

so they can repay them.

At March board meeting, as Brigitta talked about those funny little gas pipes sticking out of the Homestead walls at odd places, and how visitors were so puzzled by them and always questioned what they were, she got launched into a tale of the trail of the gas jet

searching for original period light fixture parts. A "plug" is due here for Mr. Robert Moore of Mt. Zion, an electrician who collects and sells all sorts of beautiful old light fixtures and parts. He gave Brigitta and the Homestead special discounted prices for parts, added sconces and

so she (are you listening out there?), the Homestead is still searching and wishing for two large ceiling fixtures for the upper and lower halls. If you can recollect an old fixture stored in your or your grandma's attic that might remotely resemble Mrs. Millikin's (see old photo of her hall above), do give Brigitta a call.

The new working toilet is being ordered from California. An old-fashioned high tank model, it should fit perfectly into the high, contrasting wood panel area which Mrs. Millikin included when she laid her "new" contrast wood floor in her downstairs bath.

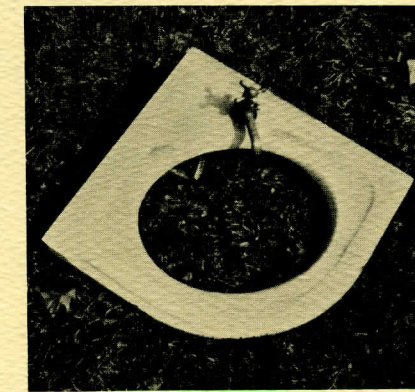
A light fixture, hand decorated by Mrs. Millikin, which presently hangs in the upstairs apartment, will be moved downstairs to the bath.

The sink has been cause for worry.

An old marble top was generously donated, but when taken to Chapman Marble in Springfield, Kapps were told that the acid-caused disfigurements could not be polished out without almost destroying the top. Then Mr. Chapman "allowed as how", for the Millikin Homestead he would be happy to donate an old marble top. See the picture of the good looking corner unit which was selected from many proffered. With a custom-built cabinet beneath, which George Chiligris has offered to make (aren't people great!), it should almost exactly duplicate the little corner sink that Mrs. Millikin installed so many years ago.

The library ceiling and wall work is progressing nicely and we hope that all restoration in here will be completed for your viewing by annual meeting date.

Mr. Millikin's desk, which occupied this room during their years of residence, is presently being used as the reception desk in the Kirkland art gallery. This is not all that bad. But somehow we feel Mr. Millikin would be delighted if he could have his desk back home again. (Also his mantel clock. But that is a whole other story for another issue!)



(IN) MAY WE SERVE YOU

Brunch with a Victorian flavor will be served Sunday, May 22 at the James Millikin Homestead. Your hosts, the Homestead Board members, will offer three seatings: at 10:15 and 11:45 a.m., and at 1:15 p.m.

The menu will feature an egg and meat dish or crepes, fresh fruit, homemade baked goods, and other brunch fare. Although it is not definitely set at this time, the menu will be finalized and announced at the April 28 Annual Meeting.

Reservations are to be opened to Homestead members first, with a reservation deadline of May 2. The brunch will then be opened to the public if all seatings are not filled. Tickets are \$7 per person.

Homestead members may make reservations by sending the form, along with a check, to Kathy Farrington, Treasurer, 2460 South Taylor, Decatur, IL 62521.

For further information, members may phone Sally Tyler at 423-4690. Proceeds will be used for the continued maintenance and the projects of the Homestead.

1983-84 Board Slate

The nominating committee, consisting of Chairman Bobbie Wolfe, Judy Mason, Susan Shade, Ruth Prust, and Jeff Taylor, will present at the annual meeting the following slate for the 1983-84 year:

President: Brigitta Kapp
Vice President: Joan Chiligris
Secretary: Joan Cordes
Treasurer: Kathy Farrington

New appointments to the board, for a three-year term are:

Maxine Kopetz
Lucy Smith
Dorothy Smethers

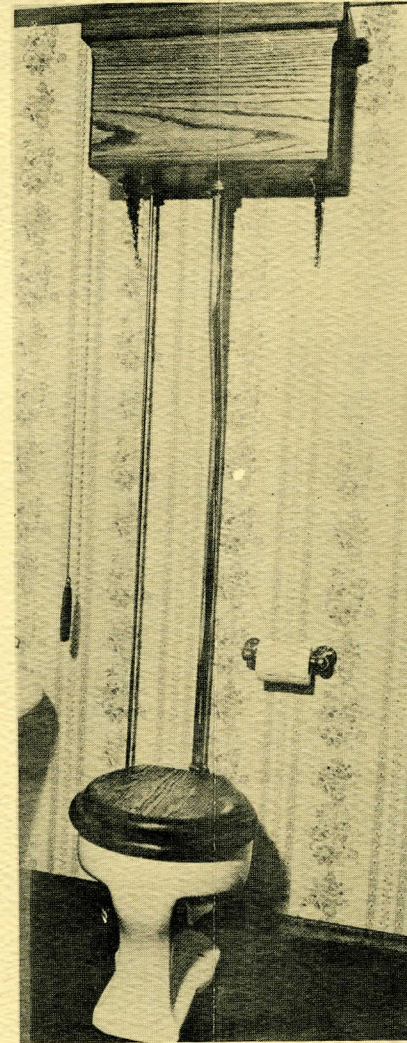
Reappointed to a second three-year term are:

Kathy Farrington
Marilyn Madden

Appointed to complete the term of Barbara Dunn, who resigned, is Debby Staley.

Continuing on the board through the 1983 year will be in addition to the above: James Alpi, David Erlanson, Stephen Graliker, Barbara Hackel, Susan Shade, Jeffrey Taylor, and Sally Tyler.

Retiring from the board after many years of almost irreplaceable dedication are Ruth Prust, Bobbie Wolfe, and Jeffrey Taylor. The Millikin Board is a working board, and Jeff has been Secretary, Bobbie has been, in her 6 years of service, Vice President, Secretary, and Chairman of Documentation. And Ruth, also a six year member, has been, seemingly forever Chairman of Volunteers, President two years, two years in the part of Mrs. Millikin for the school visitations, and Food Chairman for the Victorian Christmas party many times. All three are going on to other community or business commitments, and we will miss them, desperately for a while. Be sure to thank them when you see them in person.



For Whom Did The Bell Pull? The Bell Pulled For Thee!

It was only after many hours of deliberation that the four Bell Pull Chairmen felt it necessary to recommend to the Junior Welfare Board that the Bell Pull, ensconced in the Homestead library for six years, should close. For the past six years, many people had been able to depend on the Bell Pull for the finest in needlework supplies. In turn, Junior Welfare was able to use the profits to help fund their projects in the community, which, of course, included healthy quarterly contributions to the restoration of the Homestead.

Many close friendships were formed during the eleven hundred hours that the Bell Pull was open each year...a benefit which cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Nor can we measure the admiration and respect for tradition that many people were able to develop as a result of being located in the prestigious Homestead. For this, the Bell Pull chairmen and volunteer staff all say "thank you" and wish the Homestead well in future preservation efforts.

Diane De Vore, Bell Pull Chmn.

Training Talk

Have you been searching for that perfect job for which you KNEW you were qualified? We have it for you! Of course, the pay leaves something to be desired, but where else can you have such fun! We're talking "time machine" here!

Ruth Prust, departing board member and Chairman of Volunteers, is going to offer two last volunteer training sessions before she escapes our grasp. Any of you who are at all interested in learning

more about the Homestead, or about historic preservation, or about helping visitors appreciate Victoriana, are invited to come to the Homestead on April 25, at either 9:30 a.m. or at 1 p.m., for a mini-course in how to be a docent. (Do you need to look that word up? The writer did!)

It would be nice if you could phone Ruth in advance to tell her you are coming (422-2967), but if you decide you can make it at the last minute, just pop over.

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

Sunday, May 22, 1983

James Millikin Homestead

\$7 a person

Make checks payable to:
James Millikin Homestead

Send to:

Kathy Farrington
2460 S. Taylor
Decatur, IL 62521

Seating Preferred:

10:15 _____ 11:45 _____ 1:15 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

of reservations _____

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Decatur, Ill. 62521
Permit 226

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.
P.O. 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525

Of Love, Philanthropy, and the 1040....

In the spring, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love, a CPA's to thoughts of 1040's, and every worthwhile organization in and out of town to thoughts of fund/membership drives. And you feel, don't you, that you are on everyone's hit list!

Well, one supposes, it could be worse; we could live in a city with vast numbers of gorgeous old Vic-

torian homes, each the adopted darling of a league of avid supporters, all clamoring for your cash. But Decatur, thus far, only has two jewels in her Victorian crown, so you can make your contribution to history without having to sell the children!

One of these beautiful homes belonged to a governor, one to a philanthropist. May we suggest

you follow in James' philanthropic footsteps and do your little bit toward supporting his home? You may be assured that your board squeezes every one of your hard-earned and much-appreciated pennies.

Also worthy of note: the dues for membership have remained the same since the organization's founding. And, of course, all this largesse on your part, is tax deductible.

As the restoration of the home is nearing completion, underwriting funds pledged for that purpose have ceased, and the ongoing expenses of the dwelling are totally supported by the membership. Please take a moment to snip (as in coupon) and sign (as in check).

If you have any questions concerning your membership, or need additional coupon forms for friends, please contact Diane Lehn at 794-5350, or Brigitta Kapp at 428-9527, or Barbara Hackel at 423-4122.

Students	\$5.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00

Patrons	\$100.00
Life	\$1000.00

Clip and send with check for

TO JAMES MILLIKIN: FROM A FELLOW PHILANTHROPIST
(For James Millikin Homestead 1983-84 Membership)

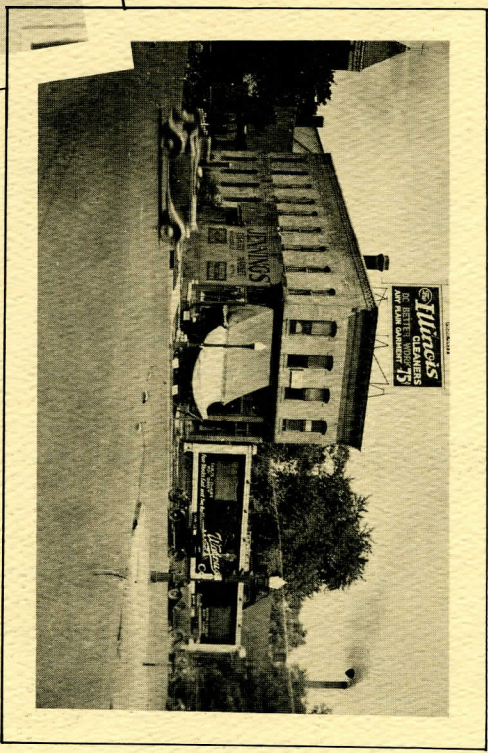
to James Millikin Homestead, Inc., P.O. Box 1501, Decatur, IL 62525

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____
Telephone _____

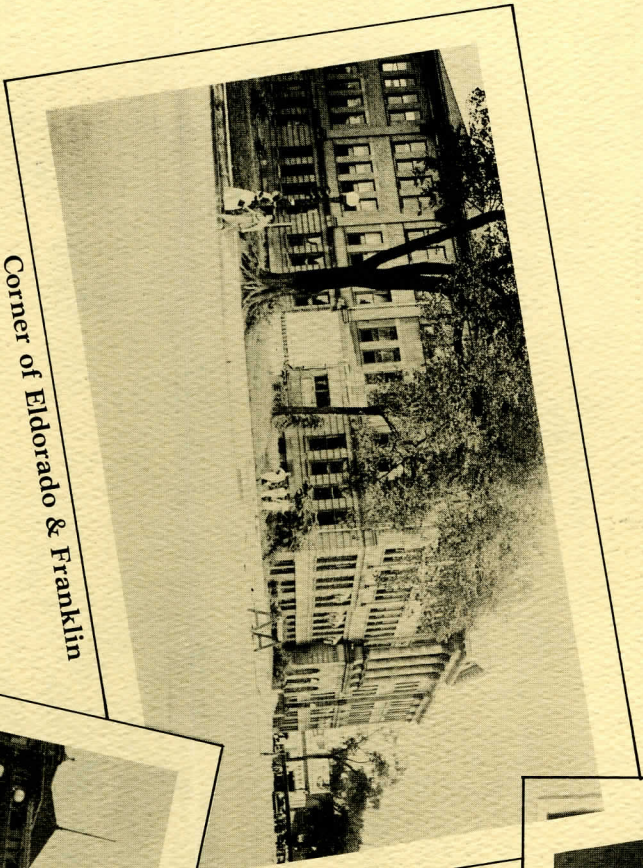
(All tax deductible, of course! Thank you!)



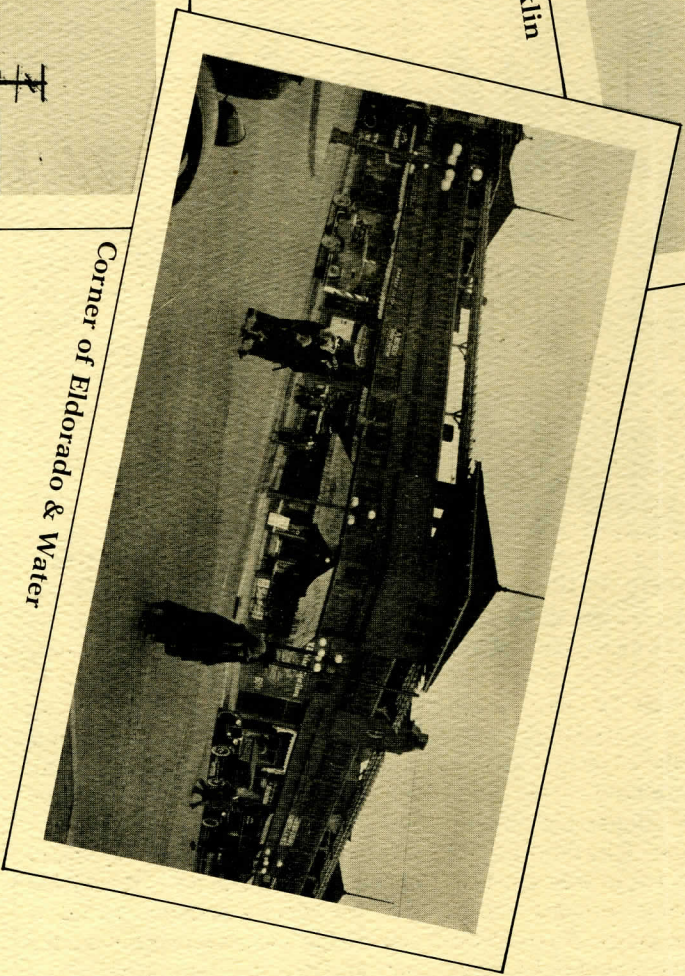
Remembrance Corner... (circa 1935)



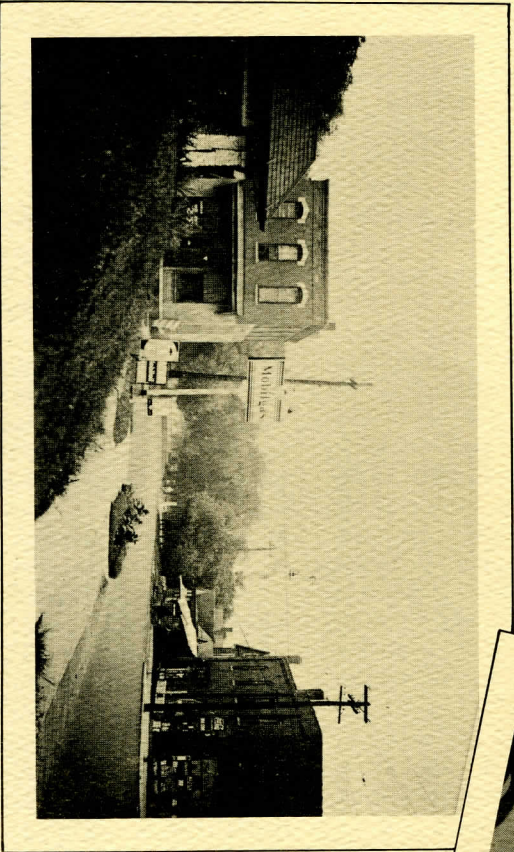
Corner of Eldorado & N. Main



Corner of Eldorado & Franklin



Corner of Eldorado & Water



Corner of Eldorado & Monroe