

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXIV, No.3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March 2000

Oriel 2000 - Splendor in Glass



Melotte-Morse-Leonatti, the firm working on the first of our three oriel window panels, invited the Homestead board to visit its workshop in Springfield to observe the project's progress. We were impressed with their thorough and meticulous approach. Approximately 2000 pieces of glass have been cataloged and numbered. A rubbing of the overall design and an exact drawing have been made. Much of the brown glass used around the perimeter of the window had cracked and crumbled over the years. This is most likely the result of that particular batch cooling down too rapidly in the production process. New compatible hand made glass has been located at a Chicago firm and will be used where needed. The original glass and leading will be left in place wherever possible.

We hope to have the panel reinstalled in May or June. Mr. Ralls Melotte will speak at our annual meeting and provide interesting details about the project and gladly answer any questions you have about restoring leaded glass in general. Come to the annual meeting and learn more!!!

The workshop of Melotte-Morse-Leonatti, Stained Glass, Inc.
Springfield, Illinois

A Note From Your President...

*The 2000 Annual Meeting
will be held
Thursday, April 27, 2000
at 7:00 p.m.*

*James Millikin Homestead
125 North Pine
Decatur, Illinois*

*Light refreshments will be served
preceding the business meeting.*

*Program
Stained Glass Restoration
by
Mr. Ralls Melotte
Melotte-Morse-Leonatti
Springfield, Illinois*



The Homestead has had a busy winter season! It started with our annual Christmas Tea, December 5th and continued through most of December with Holiday rentals.

In January the board got together for a relaxed dinner, recharging for the months to come.

Please, read the article in this newsletter telling about our new schedule for opening the home every weekend starting in March and going through October!

In April we have our annual meeting, and in May we again offer Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days for the third graders of Macon County.

You see, we "spring" into Spring 2000 with a multitude of varied activities! Come, join us - be it at the annual meeting, an Open House, as a tour guide, or as a volunteer for the third grade program! We need you and "WE WANT YOU"!!

Sincerely,
Brigitta Kapp
President



Mr & Mrs. Millikin Days Are Coming Soon!



May 1st-May 4th (Monday-Thursday) the third graders of Macon County are invited to come to the Millikin Homestead for a half hour visit with Mr. and Mrs. Millikin and their household staff. Approximately 35 volunteers are needed for this 4-day re-enactment of life in an earlier Decatur.

Those of you who have helped in the past, have come to expect a call from us asking for your continued help! Those of you who have not participated before, why not try it? We need not only "actors", but also volunteers for guiding the school groups through the house. It is a very rewarding and fun experience that has benefited both our young visitors and Homestead volunteers each year since 1979!!

Millie Gonzalez - 422-4556
Brigitta Kapp - 428-9527
Co-Chairmen

Committee Reports

Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days

In May, over 900 Macon County 3rd graders visited the Homestead during our 21st year of this event. The children always love our theatrical endeavors in bringing history to live.

Mary Hill
Brigitta Kapp
Co-Chairmen

Victorian Christmas Tea

The annual Christmas Teas was held December 5th from 1 until 4. Approximately 250 individuals enjoyed traditional refreshments. The Homestead was beautifully decorated by Tim Valentine from Valentine Antiques and Flowers, Monticello, Illinois this the second year that Mr. Valentine has generously given his time and talent to prepare the Millikin home for this very special occasion.

Ann Seidman
Chairman

Victorian Doll Tea

The fifth annual Victorian Doll Tea took place on June 19, 1999 at the Homestead. The weather was so delightful we even had some tables set on the front porch!

Eighty-nine guests attended in three seatings. There were door prizes generously donated by Haines and Essick, Red Geranium, Jane Jurgens, and the China House, as well as two raffles this year. Raffle I was a Tea for Twenty won by Joan Perdue Jack, and Raffle II was a miniature Victorian cottage hand decorated and donated by Ann Seidman and Margaret and

Chuck Kransberger. It was won by Sarah Gemlo.

JBj of Champaign donated an exquisite porcelain doll with a wicker carriage which was a silent auction item.

A child's tea set on loan from Betsy Ross was a special display as it was given to her grandmother by Anna Millikin. Also shown in the upstairs rooms were doll collections by Anne Pondelick, Susan Phillips, Marny Elliott, Barbara Rowe, and Anna Gerstner. Marny Elliott displayed a doll house, and Susan Strahle displayed a doll house and vintage miniature porch.

The Garden Club of Decatur created beautiful centerpieces of lovely antique teacups filled with nosegays. Delicious sandwiches, fruits, and homemade cookies were provided by Board members and members of the Homestead to accompany the traditional Earl Grey tea and lemonade.

Each small guest received a unique hollyhock doll, fashioned by Bill McGaughey and his helpers, Peggy Duerr Miller, and Erin Jacoby.

Our members were once again very supportive with donations of food and time for another memorable Victorian Doll Tea.

Thank you!

Lou Snelson
Marilyn Shroyer
Co-Chairmen

Scheduling

Start planning your special event or party now! The Homestead was a busy place in 1999. The home hosted many special occasions including several weddings. The majority of our rentals occur in November and December so now is a good time to get

organized and book a date. I look forward to hearing from you and would be happy to help in any way. Phone 422-4395.

Alice Brock
Chairman

Volunteers — A New Program for the New Millennium!

Starting this year, the year 2000, the Millikin Homestead will be open 2 days a week, 2 hours a day, for \$2.00 admission!

The Millikin Homestead will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with an admission of \$2.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.

The first Open House Weekend will be March 25 and March 26. The Homestead will be open every weekend thereafter until October 28 and 29, 2000.

We hope this new schedule will allow you, and all Decatur citizens, as well as visitors, a convenient opportunity to visit this beautiful, historic Decatur site.

If you have not visited the Homestead recently, we invite you to attend an Open House to visit with old friends and see the new additions to the Homestead.

Anne Pondelick
Lou Snelson
Co-Chairmen

Grounds

Looking forward to spring, we will see some 200 bulbs blooming, small and large, enhancing the garden area. Perennials have been planted this past fall with hopes of an early start in May. Additional perennials are

on order for March and April planting, as well. Annual will be mixed in for fall color.

We received compliments on the garden color this past year. I will work to improve planting to in some way represent the color and texture as the famed Victorian gardener, Gertrude Jackyl, would wish. (How's that for name dropping!)

Millikin's Grounds Department mention how nice red geraniums would look in the front edge of the flag pole plantings. "Great idea," said I, "you give them, I'll plant them." Result, 105 red geraniums looked great. I hope for the same this year.

We regret the loss of the 100 year plus aged Norway Spruce that guarded the north side of the Carriage House for these many years. Seems that it was just too attractive to the big bolt of lightning and Millikin was kind enough to remove it, sparing us the sight of it's slow death.

We plan to plant two young white pines this early spring. One to go northwest of the reconstructed oriel window to give protection from late summer sun which was believed to be partially responsible for the damage over the years. The other white pine will go in an area approximating aforementioned removed spruce. Last fall a young Washington Hawthorn was transplanted from the tree nursery to a spot in the southwest lawn. It should show nice color in a year or two. A stately young pin oak now in the nursery is waiting for a place on the lawn. Your suggestions as to its placement will be appreciated.

Millikin's lawn care is appreciated as before and their snow removal has been outstanding. We hope their efforts for controlling late summer weeds and dandelions will be successful.

Bill McGaughey
Chairman

PACA Packed the Door!



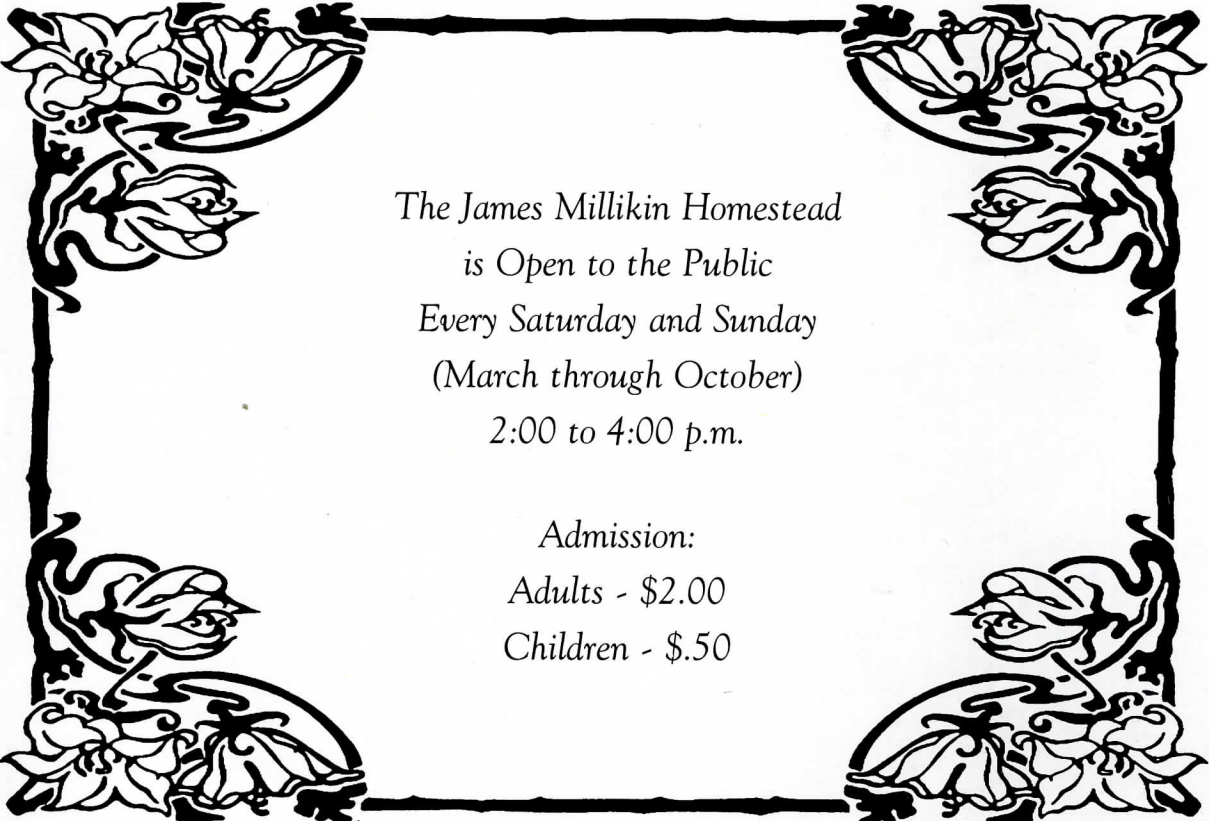
The Millikin Homestead thanks PACA for providing a period replacement for our deteriorated back door at the kitchen entrance!

PACA is the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County. This not-for-profit organization was formed in 1981 to help protect and preserve the architectural heritage of that area.

PACA continually works to renovate buildings and to save others from demolition. If demolition is "unstoppable," PACA tries to save all worthwhile architectural details and offer the salvaged parts to the general public at a very modest price. Any income is used to offset the cost of operating their large salvage warehouse and to promote awareness of historic preservation. The whole operation is staffed by dedicated volunteers.

Since the Homestead is also a not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to historic preservation, PACA gave us the door at no charge. We thank them most sincerely!

If you are interested in visiting their warehouse to learn more about donating and/or buying items, call 217-359-7222. The Salvage Warehouse is located in downtown Champaign at 44 East Washington Street. Their hours are Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-noon.



*The James Millikin Homestead
is Open to the Public
Every Saturday and Sunday
(March through October)
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*Admission:
Adults - \$2.00
Children - \$.50*

Millikin Homestead 1999-2000 Board of Directors

Alice Brock
Ginger Fombelle
Millie Gonzalez
Robert Hantel
Mary Hill
Penny Honnold
Julie Jacoby
Brigitta Kapp
John Krigbaum
Anne Pondelick
Carolyn Rau
Ann Seidman
Marilyn Shroyer
Lou Snelson
Heather Stoa

Officers

President — Brigitta Kapp
Vice President — Bob Hantel
Secretary — Marilyn Shroyer
Treasurer — John Krigbaum

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: Seeking new board members for the 2000-2003 term. No experience needed; enthusiastic compatible male/female, should be over 21 years of age (no upper limit!), apply under "Equal Opportunity for Preservation Lovers" 428-9527

Non-Profit
Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Decatur, IL 62521
Permit 226

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

Mission Statement

The Mission of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. is to restore and preserve the interior of this irreplaceable Decatur landmark, thereby raising community awareness of our historical heritage, and promoting preservation for future generations.

Membership

It will soon be time for many of you to renew your membership in the James Millikin Homestead. The date on the address label of this newsletter indicates the expiration date of your current membership. We greatly appreciate your past support and hope we can look forward to the same support in the future. As we approach the end of our fiscal year (March 31, 2000), we will be sending a reminder letter with a form to return to us. If you have any address corrections or questions about your membership status, please contact Penny Honnold at 429-4842.

Penny Honnold & Julie Jacoby
Co-Chairmen

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member — \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron — \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member — \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business — \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member — \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life — \$1,000.00 (May be paid in four annual installments) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend — \$50.00 | |

Make checks payable to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____