

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



## GAZETTE



(Vol. VII, No. 4) *should be VIII, No. 1*

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

September, 1983

### Kapp's Corner A Message from our President

After having spent two months back home in Austria this summer, I feel like a kid starting back to school. Trying to pick up where I had left off regarding my job at the Homestead finds me not 100 percent with it yet but trying to get back into the swing!

In my absence the rest of the Homestead board met twice and carried business on as usual. (What a disappointment it is to find one is not irreplaceable. . .they did just fine!)

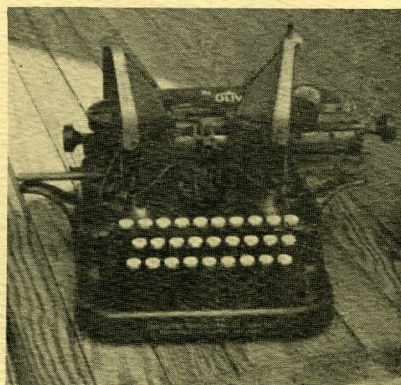
The Homestead NEVER closes for vacation. The board members have year-round duties. We slow down in summer, true, but as you know from your own houses, you just cannot disregard ongoing needs of a home. There are day-to-day little problems that come with managing a house and my hat is off to all the people who didn't skip town like me but weathered an extraordinary hot summer and held down the fort. Thank you!

Let's try for a great year and please keep supporting the Homestead in any way that suits your interests, talents, and available time. Without your support. . .we cannot function.

—Brigitta Kapp

### Scavenger Hunt Yields Surprising Millikin Finds

A highlight of the April 28th annual Homestead meeting was the completed restoration of the Millikin library and adjoining bathroom. With the cooperation of many helpers everything was in place on time and the board thanks all who helped.



The latest computer? No...this is the turn-of-the-century typewriter from the recently completed library in the Homestead. (Picture taken by Brigitta Kapp)

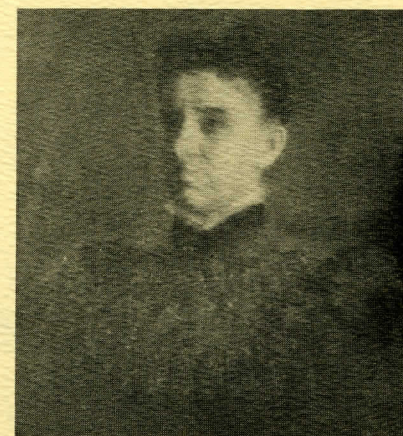
The icing on the cake was the fact that Millikin University generously agreed to bring back to the library the furnishings which once stood there. Mr. Millikin's desk, three upholstered chairs, a turn-of-the-century typewriter, and pictures suitable to the home were all put in place the afternoon of the April meeting.

Another exciting find came about June 14 as Jerry Redford of Millikin University and Brigitta and Lucien Kapp met at the University. They scavenged through the dormitory attic where many paintings and odds and ends were stored ever since the Homestead ceased to be Millikin's art center.

Two portraits of Anna B. Millikin were the trio's glorious find! One shows Anna as a young woman and the other was painted in 1895. One painting had a lot of grime and took some cleaning before the three realized what they had stumbled onto!

All are urged to visit Anna at the Homestead. She is "receiving" during each monthly open house or at any other Homestead occasion.

—Brigitta Kapp



This portrait of Anna, painted by Mannheim in 1895, now graces the Homestead. It is one of two discovered during a recent scavenger hunt at Millikin University (Picture taken by Brigitta Kapp)

### Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Host Third Graders

The perils of Sophie in the kitchen, the rigors of a cattle drive recounted by "Mr. Millikin," the nervousness of Mrs. Millikin as she prepares for an important dinner party. . .all were very real to the county third grade students who toured the Homestead during Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days, the first week in May.

Started in 1979, the week-long event offers students a tour of the home. Twenty-two volunteers acted as the Millikins, the maids, the pump organ player and tour guides during the tour. Children's and women's clothing of the time was displayed. The children also received a farewell cookie, donated by Peter's Market.

Children are prepared for their visit with information sheets about the Homestead and are asked to write thank you notes to the Millikins when they return to school.

Five students' works were judged the best by Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days volunteers and the five and their parents were guests at a reception before the June Board meeting.

This year's winners and their schools were: Jenny Reining, Stevenson; Freya Baker, Ben Franklin; Theresa Smith; Muffley; Keith Brown, Durfee; and P.J. Tewell, Washington. Each received a book from the Little House on the Prairie series.

—Sally Tyler

### Homestead Rentals Benefit Members

Renting the James Millikin Homestead can be quite a bargain! The Homestead provides a charming and elegant setting for weddings, receptions, luncheons, dinners, showers and tours.

### Homestead Lists Several Wishes

Among items currently being sought by the Homestead are a 5 by 7 to 8 by 10 foot oval braided rug for the kitchen. The one currently there is really in need of being replaced.

Also on the Homestead's list is an

### Homestead Board Completes Busy Summer

As President Brigitta Kapp mentions in her column, the Homestead does not close down in summer. Board meetings are convened the first Monday of each month.

During May, the board heard the

## Homestead Brunch's Victorian Flavor Leads to Encore

The success of last May's Homestead brunch will be repeated Sunday, October 2. Two seatings at 11 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. and 12:45 until 2 p.m. will be offered. Tickets are again seven dollars a person. Each seating will be limited to 50 people.

Brunch fare with a Victorian flavor will again be offered during the champagne brunch. In May a breakfast casserole, chicken divan crepes and homemade baked goods were featured.

Reservations are due by ~~Monday~~, September 24. Members may make reservations by sending the form along with a check to:

Kathy Farrington  
2460 South Taylor  
Decatur, IL 62521

For further information, members may phone Sally Tyler at 423-4690. Proceeds will be used for continued maintenance and projects of the James Millikin Homestead. The May brunch brought in around \$400.

VICTORIAN BRUNCH  
Sunday, October 2, 1983  
James Millikin Homestead  
\$7 a person

Make checks payable to:  
James Millikin Homestead

Send to:  
Kathy Farrington  
2460 South Taylor  
Decatur, IL 62521

Seating Preferred:  
11 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 12:45 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations \_\_\_\_\_

tions, luncheons, dinners, showers and tours.

Since April, 1983, the Homestead has had 32 rentals and a brunch given as a money maker by the Homestead board in addition to the monthly open houses.

While this represents a substantial income, it still is not enough to pay for all heating, air conditioning and rental-related expenses.

Thus the board has decided to remind members of the benefits of using "our" Homestead. The sheets attached to this copy of the GAZETTE provide information on Homestead facilities and rental fees. It is designed for members' own information and for sharing with friends and neighbors.

For additional information and suggestions, Barbara Hackel, scheduling chair, may be reached at 423-4122.

—Barbara Hackel

## Volunteers Needed At Victorian Brunch

Homestead members have two excellent opportunities to assist with Homestead projects this fall. The board has planned two brunches, one October 2 and one November 6, Millikin University's Homecoming.

Invitations to the November 6 brunch have been sent to Millikin alumni and three seatings of 50 each are planned. This requires a lot of organization and people power!

The May, 1983, brunch was organized and manned almost exclusively by Homestead board members. Frankly, the group needs assistance.

Jobs to be completed include baking, assembling brunch dishes, setting up the Homestead the day before the brunches, serving, washing dishes and cleaning up.

Anyone who would like to offer that physical support President Kapp speaks of in her column will be gladly offered a job. To volunteer for either the October 2 or November 6 brunch, members may reach Sally Tyler at 423-4690 after September 17.

—Sally Tyler

in need of being replaced.

Also on the Homestead's list is an old-fashioned looking punch bowl. Candle holders or candle sticks would be welcomed as donations.

Marilyn Madden, procurement chair, may be contacted at 422-1304.

—Marilyn Madden

## GAZETTE Ideas, Articles Accepted

Editing a newsletter does not mean writing a newsletter. The Homestead board and, most especially, Sally Tyler, newsletter editor, welcome any suggestions for articles or articles that any Homestead member or person from the community may want to write. Pictures would also be a welcome addition.

Prospective GAZETTE reporters should send articles and ideas to: Sally Tyler, 1420 West Sunset Avenue, Decatur 62522.

—Sally Tyler

## Homestead Board Who's Who Listed

Anyone who has ever tried to find some information and been shuffled from person to person before he finds what he needs can appreciate how frustrating that can be. This can happen to Homestead members, too. Saving this list of board members and their specific jobs may save time later.

Brigitta Kapp	president, restoration chair	428-9527
Joan Chiligris	vice president, volunteer chair	877-5771
Joan Cordes	secretary	428-9092
Kathy Farrington	treasurer	423-4697
Jim Alpi	house chair	423-8423
Marlene Donaldson	program	429-0776
David Erlanson	house chair	429-2728
Stephen Graliker	membership assistant chair	423-8557
Barbara Hackel	scheduling chair	423-4122
Maxine Kopetz	corresponding secretary	1-864-3296
Marilyn Madden	procurement chair	422-1304
Dorothy Smethers	star volunteer	877-6143
Lucy Smith	membership chair	423-2413
Deborah Staley	documentation	422-5942
Sally Tyler	newsletter & publicity chair	423-4690

—Joan Cordes

—Lucy Smith

## Christmas Boutique Plans Progressing

The annual Victorian Christmas Party is highlighted by items sold in the Christmas Boutique. This year's event, December 4, is no exception.

Volunteers are currently needed to complete items to be sold at the Boutique or to come up with ideas for hand-crafted Victorian ornaments they would like to make themselves.

Planners for the party itself are also needed. Volunteers need only telephone Brigitta Kapp at 428-9527 to have a part in this elegant annual event.

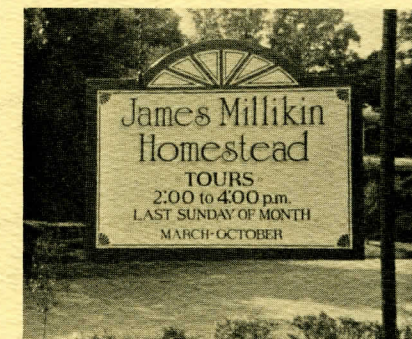
—Sally Tyler

## Homestead Membership Reaches 240

Three new life memberships are among the 240 new and returning members of James Millikin Homestead, Inc. New life members are Marie and Gansel Bennett, Maxine and Robert Kopetz, Ruth and George Prust.

Memberships, both new and renewed, are still being accepted by the Homestead. The information on the back serves as a reminder of benefits and categories of membership and as a form for joining the Homestead.

A complete list of Homestead members will be published in the November issue of the GAZETTE.

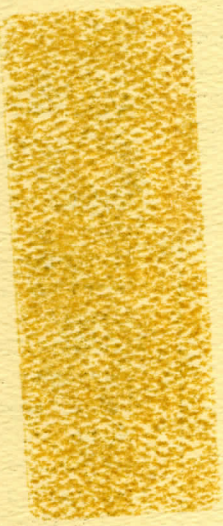


The Homestead is easier to find. . . thanks to this sign erected on the lawn this summer! (Picture taken by Brigitta Kapp)

23

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Permit 226

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

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JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.

Student Membership . . . . . \$5.00 per year  
Individual Membership . . . . . \$15.00 per year  
Family Membership . . . . . \$25.00 per year  
Patron Membership . . . . . \$100.00 per year  
Life Membership . . . . . \$1000.00  
(payable over four years)



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Participation in preservation of the historic heritage of Decatur.
- Advance notice of Homestead-sponsored tours and programs.
- Subscription to The Homestead Gazette.
- Invitation to the annual Victorian Christmas party.

Please make check payable to  
James Millikin Homestead, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1501  
Decatur, Illinois 62525

Student Member       Family Member  
 Individual Member       Patron  
 Life Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is tax deductible.