

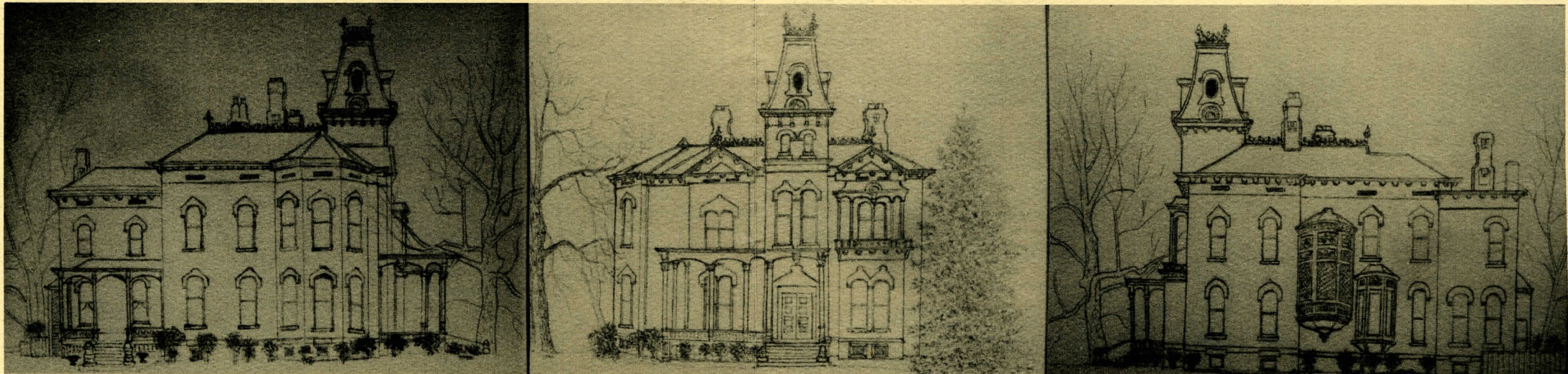
THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. IX, No. 3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

April 1985



A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

I want to thank every one of you for helping make 1984-85 such a great year for the James Millikin Homestead. Our first year totally on our own! Although we miss the gals from Junior Welfare Association, they haven't stopped supporting us or our projects. As you know, JWA rents the Homestead library as its business office. The Association also uses the Homestead for various projects and meetings, so their presence is still felt. Through the years many Junior Welfare gals have volunteered at the Homestead. We hope this will also be true for years to come.

Looking ahead to 1985-86, I think we are going to have a very good group of individuals working together on the board. As I welcome Kathy Green (Mrs. Jerry), Marilyn Loufbourrow (Mrs. Duane), Nancy Talbot (Mrs. Vernon), and Betty Braun (Mrs. William) to the board, I want them each to know how much we all ap-

The last newsletter initiated this special feature, "The Homestead As Others See Her", when it told of a mini-quilt made by folk artist and board member Dorothy Sellers depicting the Homestead in quilt and applique. This issue is proud to feature the Homestead in triptych, a pen and ink work owned by Rob and Maxine Kopetz, who display it in a place of prominence in their country home in Oakley.

BREAKFAST ROOM TO BE HISTORY ROOM

Because we've had offers from many of you to share your fascinating old pictures and other historic memorabilia, and because we have several like items filed away at the Homestead, and because we know

TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US

Who is the artist, and why did he do this large work? These are mysteries. All Rob can recall is that over a decade ago, the Soy Cap bank had an art show in its lobby, and this large work (approximately a yard across by 20 inches high) was being shown there - and bore an acceptable price tag. Rob has a strong interest in early Decatur landmarks, and he also admired the work for its detail, so he went away a happy buyer.

"Barn with a Brain" Report

On Saturday, March 9, Carriage House registration took place with 77 classes for spring 1985 quickly filling the bill for many eager parents and children. The total number of sessions looks like 131. Classes ranging from a

Some of the details are puzzling, too. For instance, no one remembers a fence around the back door, as shown here. Was there such a fence once upon a time, or is this artistic "license"? The work is not signed; instead there are four initials, which appear to be P-something-something-G. Does anyone have a clue as to who this might be?

LOOKING BACK IS FUN. . .

. . .and re-reading the names of the Decatur citizens who have served on the Homestead board over the past ten years makes it all very clear why we have come as far as we have. What we have here is a collection of "movers

Don't You Wish You Were 8 Again?

Soon the exciting spring tradition at the Millikin Homestead will begin. On April 29 and 30 and May 2 and 3, the happy third-graders from the Macon County schools will arrive, and as the yellow school buses pull up and park along Pine Street, the youngsters tumble off to start the long walk up the front curving lane of the Homestead drive. Their first sight of the architecturally beautiful home stirs their interest and enthusiasm, for many have never seen a home like this. The costumed maid greets them warmly and gives details of the grand old trees and draws their attention to the "bullseye" dormers and the magnificent oriel windows.

Stepping inside brings from them little sighs of the grandeur of another era. Mr. and Mrs. Millikin and staff project a living history that makes each volunteer glad she (he) was asked to act the part. These eight helpers show the graciousness, industry and strict-

William) to the board, I want them each to know how much we all appreciate their acceptance of a board position. This is a WORKING board...and we have four terrific new workers!

Just as I am anxious to welcome the new board members, it is hard to say goodbye to those who have served so long and with such dedication in the past. This year we say goodbye to David Erlanson, past president and long-standing member of the House Committee. Goodbye to Joan Chiligris, past vice president, scheduling chairman, and fantastic brunch helper. Goodbye to Sally Tyler, publicity chairman and several times brunch chairman. Goodbye to Marie Bennett, past recording secretary and loyal supporter of every project and Homestead function. Thank you all for your years of hard work and support. You will be missed.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you members at the annual meeting on April 25. A special bonus that evening will be the program by Bobbie Wolf. Afterwards there will be a delectable variety of refreshments baked by board members and Homesteaders. All to often attendance at the annual meeting is less than we anticipate, and I'm hoping this won't be the case for the 1985 annual meeting. We've got a terrific program and tasty treats, so won't you please plan on joining us? I'll be looking for you.

Barbara Hackel, President

Report of Nominating Committee, Spring, 1985

The following board members and officers are submitted for your approval:

President: Barbara Hackel
Vice-president: Kathy Farrington
Secretary: Mary Ann Clark
Treasurer: Betsy Empen
Three year board term:
Kathy Green
Marilyn Loufbourrow
Nancy Talbot
One year board term:
Betty Braun

This slate will be voted upon at the annual meeting April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Homestead Nominating Committee
Maxine Kopetz, chair
Brigitta Kapp
Betsy Empen
Kathy Farrington

several items filed away at the Homestead, and because we know there are others of you who will come upon an interesting old piece of Decatur history while you're doing the spring cleaning, we've decided to consult the ghosts of the kitchen staff, whose breakfast room it once was, and ask if they would mind if we used the old walls and shelves and cupboards therein to create a sort of mini-museum of actual Victorian history.

The kitchen ghosts heartily approved (providing we include some ghost-writers in the collection!), so, in honor of our Tenth Anniversary, we will be commencing this special project, under the loving and careful attention of board member, Marilyn Loufbourrow. If you have such items as old photos, old books, old clippings - even your great aunt Phoebe's old love letters - that you would like to donate, or loan, or allow us to copy, we thank you for helping us prolong our heritage. Contact Marilyn Loufbourrow at 423-1328; she'll be so happy to hear from you! Those of you who don't have Decatur roots but would like to help work on this fascinating project, you call Marilyn, too!

James Millikin Homestead Starts Tenth Year

It hardly seems possible that it has been nine years since Jeannine Schaub conceived the idea of working with Millikin University to ensure that this historic home would be preserved and used once again by the community. We have covered a lot of ground since the first meeting held on April 22, 1976.

As we begin this tenth year, we have plans and dreams to make the Homestead even better for our members. One plan, just getting started, is to turn the breakfast room into a 'history' room. We will display photographs, documents, and memorabilia relevant to the Homestead's history. For those of you who helped mold the past nine years, and for those of you who have recently joined our ranks, we hope this will be a fascinating walk through our history. This will be a permanent display, scheduled to be completed by early summer. At that time, our membership will be invited to a special anniversary reception to view the new 'history' room.

children. The total number of sessions looks like 131. Classes ranging from a "Just For Two's" class for pre-schoolers to classes for Easter crafts and Mother's Day and Father's Day specials were available. Popular new classes, "Belly Botany" and "Which Way Back" will be taught at Rock Springs Center. Both classes offer a new look at outdoor fun and safety. Spring '85 will be a learning and pleasure time for both young and old, with classes like "Grandma and Me" offered as a 'do together' craft class.

March 9 also was a proud day for Carriage House in that five state boards and associations, including the Illinois State Board of Education, cited our learning center as one of the top 20 volunteer Alternative Education Programs in the state of Illinois. Junior Welfare is proud of both the "Barn with a Brain" and all the people who make it work for our community.

Susanna Papa, Program Chair
Junior Welfare Carriage House

Other dreams include landscaping, labeling the trees on the grounds, and installing authentic outdoor lighting.

How much gets done depends largely on you. If you can contribute to our special Anniversary Fund, it will help provide the means for our dreams. We hope you will be generous and fill out the coupon below, mailing it with your check. Or, if you prefer, bring it with you to the annual meeting. Remember, your contribution to the Homestead is tax deductible.

Yes, I can spare a little extra for the
10TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

Name _____

Address _____

Amount enclosed _____

(to Millikin Homestead,
Box 1501, Decatur)

have come as far as we have. What we have here is a collection of "movers and shakers". We don't know the origin of that phrase, but with these folks, it must mean they moved mountains to get the Homestead restoration under way and then shook dollars out of some very deep pockets to complete their dreams. As some finished their terms, others came on to serve. Their years of service vary, but all deserve our thanks for a sometimes thankless job!

Original Board of Directors, 1976:

Jeannine Schaub
Dorothy Morey
Adele Glenn
David Jack
Dean Madden
John Hall
Marge Evans
Ann Seidman
Ellen Sheffer
Barbara Hicks
Val Grohne
Linda May
Jerry Jackson
Mrs. Paul Benner
Barbara Hostetler

1977 New Board Additions:

Ruth Prust
Rita Jerger
Barbara Wolf
Jeff Taylor

1978 New Board Additions:

Susan Shade
Barbara Dunn

1979 New Board Additions:

Roberta Pilcher
Dennis Travis
Phil Wiant

1980 New Board Additions:

Kathy Farrington
Marilyn Madden
David Erlanson
Steve Graliker

1981 New Board Additions:

James Alpi
Brigitta Kapp

1982 New Board Additions:

Barbara Hackel
Joan Cordes
Joan Chiligris
Sally Tyler

1983 New Board Additions:

Maxine Kopetz
Debby Staley
Lucy Smith
Dorothy Smethers
Betsy Empen
Marie Bennett

1984 New Board Additions:

Mary Ann Clark
Olive Langsdorf
Marilyn Womeldorff

volunteer glad she (he) was asked to act the part. These eight helpers show the graciousness, industry and strictness that guests to the home might have experienced a century earlier.

The nicest surprise for these eager little guests seems to be the delicious cookie passed out to each one as they leave through the kitchen door. Their appreciation and enhanced sense of Decatur's early history is reflected in the letters they write back to Mr. and Mrs. Millikin. They show their own good manners to have been an honored guest at the storybook home.

Mary Ann Clark, Program Chair

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD
IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
THE LAST SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH
MARCH-OCTOBER 2-4 P.M.

This coincides with the monthly
open house of the Oglesby Mansion

MEDIA, WE LOVE YOU!

Have you noticed a familiar place on television lately? The Homestead has been featured on "Pride of the Prairie" public service announcements on WAND-TV, Decatur. Taping in the home was completed before Christmas with Marlene Pufelow of Illinois Power in charge. Literally hours of effort goes into a taping, and the results can be counted in seconds, but the crew did a beautiful job, filming in the front hall and both parlors and the dining room. In the few seconds which got on the air, the camera managed to show the beautiful Christmas tree and other holiday decor, and, that which particularly fascinated the Illinois Power folks, the dining room chandelier of the Millikins, which was, of course, set up to use both gas and electric power, in case that 'new fangled' invention, electricity would fail in the middle of dinner.

WCIA-TV, Champaign, has been good to us, also. In addition to our feature piece on PM Magazine, the Homestead was also used as background for a WCIA story on the annual AAUW/Antique Show in Decatur. Models wore authentic old gowns from the renowned AAUW costume collection, against the beautiful Victorian backdrops of the Homestead.

Sally Tyler, Publicity

PERSONAL
Thanks to Bob and Debby Staley for donating the Victorian Christmas tree for the south parlor. Dollars the board didn't have to spend on a forest giant freed up dollars to spend on other permanent pretties with which to decorate in coming years.
YARD SALE
The date has been set! Saturday, June 8, from 8 to 4, we'll be setting up shop for a dandy big sale of those wild, weird, and/or wonderful household donations you'd like to see go to a worthy cause, our grand old lady at Pine and Main. If you're spring cleaning now and would like to set it out for us, call a board member and we'll arrange to get your donated goodies out of your house and into James'.
WANTED
Are you old enough to remember cloth diapers? Is it possible you still have some tucked away somewhere? As you know, old cotton diapers make fabulous dust cloths for old antique furniture. Hint, hint. Call Brigitta Kapp (428-9527) if you can, er, diaper us!

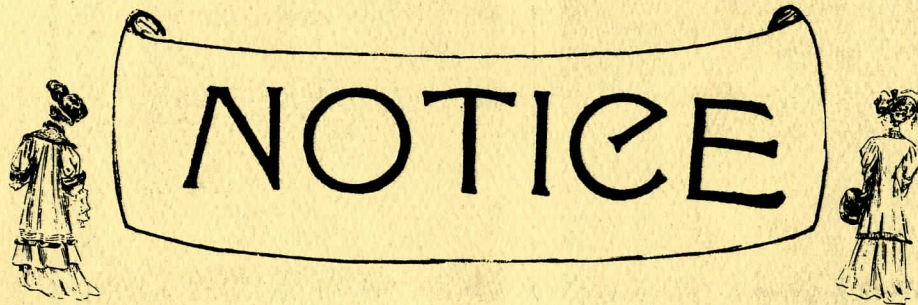
In the Beginning, There Was Val Grohne, Laughing Through Her Tears!

As the Homestead begins its tenth year, it seemed like a propitious time to look back to our "book of Genesis", to the initial reconstruction report compiled by Val Grohne, the original Junior Welfare Association Home Project Chariman. She wrote the most detailed and informative - and at the same time absolutely hilarious - annual report of this most difficult year. Because there could be no homestead for the community unless there was a live-in caretaker, the first order of business for JWA was the creation of an apartment on the premises. As Val tells it,

"This area received immediate attention. It was determined that the original servants' quarters located at the back (west end) of the second floor would be best suited for this purpose. "Working with the project architect and the consultant on the plans for the apartment was truly an experience to remember, if not exactly cherish! There is not enough paper in Decatur to allow me to put down all the problems that arose and arose again during this time....Will the little girl from the sticks find a source of harmony and relative happiness in the face of this dilemma? At any rate, walls and per-

manent fixtures were constructed and affixed in their most appropriate positions by R. W. Kayhs Construction Co. under the authority of the architect and Millikin University. Junior Welfare then contracted with the same company to repair and paint the interior walls of the apartment. Carpeting was ordered by JWA for the apartment, and a new apartment-sized stove and refrigerator were purchased, as were appropriate light fixtures, by the Association. Voila! One very attractive and pleasant caretaker's apartment."

Stay tuned to future newsletters for the ongoing saga of Val and her valiant band of volunteers, as she recounts looking gloomily forward to twenty years of 8-hour-a-day, 8-day weeks of stripping and sealing, peeling and plastering, repairing or replacing the ravages of time in the rest of this old house.

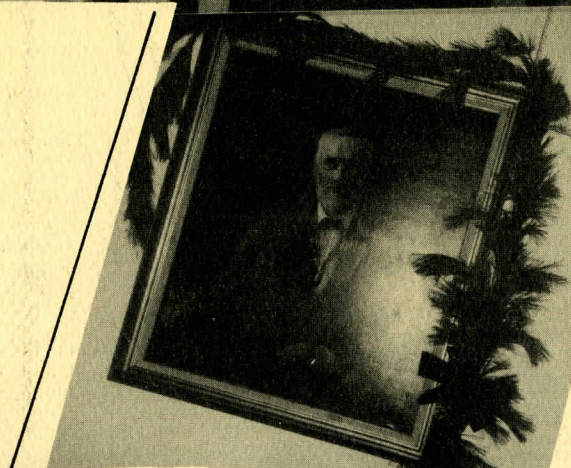
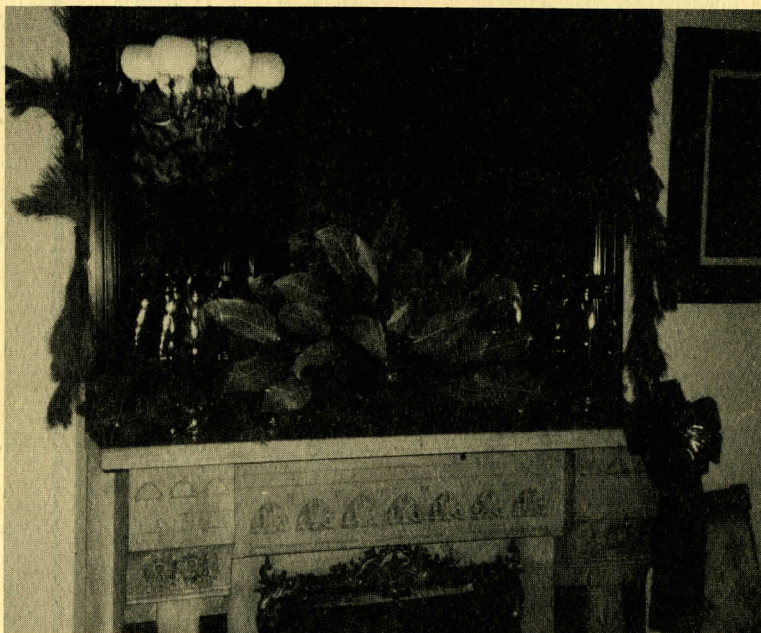


Plan to attend the annual meeting of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. on Thursday, April 25, 1985. The meeting will start promptly at 7:30 p.m. and begins with a brief summary of the 1984-85 fiscal year. New Homestead board of director members

will be elected at this meeting. The speaker for the annual meeting will be Bobbie Wolf. She will present a program called, "The Christmas of '88". This is an actual accounting of a house party held in rural Illinois during the Christmas season of 1888. The era

and the season come alive through the vivid imagery penned as a thank-you letter to the hostess of this extended, seasonal party. Bobbie is a charter member of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc., and has served two terms on the board.

We hope many of you will be able to attend this meeting and delightful program. Come and meet the people who represent your Homestead. A tempting array of refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Kapp
#5 Millikin Pl
Decatur, IL 62522

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APR 185

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

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.
- A tax deduction to feel good about!

♡ As Spring Membership Drive Begins. . . ♡

You will all be receiving a little love note from Membership Chair, Maxine Kopetz. Every year we say this, but, truly, this is the year we need you the most! Our roof is falling out; our foundation is falling in; please, don't you be falling away! Starting our new membership year, we have 313 members. If each of you renew - and convince a friend to join - just think what good shape we could be in! Both literally and figuratively, we'd have no more bats in our belfry!

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.