

# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

## GAZETTE

Vol. III, No. 4

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

April 1979

### "OLD CLOCKS" TO BE MINI SERIES TOPIC

"Old Clocks" will be the final topic in the James Millikin Homestead's current mini series.

The program will be given at 7:30 p.m., April 18 in the home of JMH board president John L. Hall, 356 W. Decatur St. Dr. Hall will share his knowledge concerning all sizes and shapes of old clocks and show guests his extensive personal collection. Additional entertainment will be provided at 15-minute intervals, when dozens of clocks in the Hall collection announce the hour, quarter hour, etc.

Tickets to the program are \$3.50 and are available from The Bell Pull or from Debby Hennelly (429-6839). Mrs. Hennelly is chairman for the mini series.

Members who have enjoyed the series and would like more programs to be planned for next year are urged to tell board members. If you have suggestions for future topics, please let someone hear from you.

### LAFAYETTE SQUARE TRIP SET FOR JUNE 9

A trip to Lafayette Square in St. Louis is being planned by the JMH program committee for Saturday, June 9.

The Nob Hill of St. Louis during the Victorian Era, Lafayette Square was nearly destroyed by the great cyclone of 1896. What was rebuilt housed boarders and transients, and beautiful mansions became multiple

### JUDGE WEBBER TO SPEAK AT 4TH ANNUAL MEETING

Judge A. G. Webber III may tell you something you don't know about early Decatur at the fourth annual meeting of James Millikin Homestead, Inc. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. April 26 in the Homestead.

Presenting the program for the evening, the distinguished guest speaker will share his collection of anecdotes about Decatur and some of its often colorful early residents. His topic is "The Life and Times of James Millikin," which has been described as a witty and affectionate look at the man who gave so much of his time and energies to Decatur and at his interesting collection of friends.

To further lure our members to the meeting, a private showing of Mrs. Millikin's china is planned. Serving pieces and dishes collected through the years will be on display at the meeting.

Barbara Dunn is chairman for the event, and Lou Snelson is in charge of decorations. They invite all members of JMH to attend the program and to stay for refreshments.



**WRIGHT HOME AND STUDIO**—Frank Lloyd Wright completed his home in 1890 and his studio in 1899 in Oak Park. Pictured above, it is one of the buildings featured on a tour planned for Homestead members and their guests next month.

A brief business meeting will be conducted by President John L. Hall, and new board members will be elected to three-year terms. Ending terms on the board of directors are Adele Glenn, David Jack, Dean Madden, Dorothy Morey and Jeannine Schaub, all eligible for re-election.

### MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD SCHEDULES BUS TRIP TO FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOMES ON MAY 19

A unique opportunity to explore 10 interiors of buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries is being offered during a special tour planned by the Millikin Homestead program committee on May 19.

The house tour in Oak Park features six structures by Wright and six by other architects. Only two buildings are normally open to the public.

A chartered bus will leave from the Homestead at 7 a.m., following boarding at 6:45. It will return to Decatur around 8 p.m. Cost of the all-day program is \$25, of which \$12.50 is tax deductible. (Proceeds from the tour ticket benefit the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation, a National Landmark.)

Price covers transportation, including shuttle bus service between buildings on the tour; expert commentaries, a map of the tour route, background material and a list of restaurants in the area.

Reservations may be made by mailing a check for \$25 to Joanne Carey, 20 Lincoln Place, Decatur, Ill. 62522. They are limited to 38, on a first-come basis.





The Nob Hill of St. Louis during the Victorian Era, Lafayette Square was nearly destroyed by the great cyclone of 1896. What was rebuilt housed boarders and transients, and beautiful mansions became multiple dwellings.

Migration of potential restorationists to the Square began in 1969, and by 1971 the area was declared the first historic district in St. Louis. "New pioneers" moved in and restored the homes to their former grandeur.

Once a year, residents of Lafayette Square allow 10 of their homes and gardens to be opened to the public. Your tour ticket allows you to glimpse the past in the mansions that are once again family homes. Several antique shops and luncheon spots are also located in the area.

A chartered bus will depart from the east end of the A & P South Shores parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and leave St. Louis at 4:00 p.m. Cost of the trip, which includes tour ticket, is \$15. Reservations may be made with Mrs. Dudley Wolfe, 91 Faries Park, Decatur, Ill. 62526. Mrs. Wolfe is chairman for the trip, with Mrs. Don Roberts assisting her.

#### FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE FURNISHINGS TO JMH

by Luanne Unks

We are delighted that the following persons have graciously contributed to the furnishings of the Homestead:

Mrs. Charles H. Ruedi donated a lovely damask tablecloth and matching napkins and a lacy cloth for a small table.

Mrs. Nina Grant presented a footed vase, which is now on the mantel in the Zonta Room.

Ms. Estella Launtz loaned us a gold framed pastoral picture handed down from her grandparents.

Dr. and Mrs. Howard Beede gave an American oriental carpet, which had been in their family.

An anonymous donor gave two lovely beveled mirrors.

Thank you for being part of our project!



**'MODEL' VOLUNTEERS**—Betsy Empen, left, and Kerry Keneipp model the new look in spring aprons above. They and all volunteers in The Bell Pull needlework shop in the Homestead have begun wearing the handsome brown aprons with the needlepoint inset when they work their two-hour shifts. Aprons of the same style are offered for sale in the shop. Mrs. Empen is new staffing chairman for The Bell Pull, and Mrs. Keneipp serves as treasurer. Kathy Farrington is the shop's general chairman, and Linda Robertson is responsible for ordering and inventory. Proceeds from the shop go toward Homestead maintenance.

#### PROGRESS PLEASES RESTORATION GROUP

by Nancy Mitchell

When James Millikin Homestead, Inc.; Junior Welfare Association and Millikin University defined their respective responsibilities for the James Millikin Homestead in 1975, I doubt that anyone envisioned the tremendous progress that's been made by 1979.

The major work has been completed on the main floor and the stairwell. Some of the planned "finishing touches" include: a functional stove in the kitchen (we're looking everywhere), period furniture and accessories and repairs to the hall tree. Wall sconces for the main hall have been ordered as well as hardware.

The second floor work is moving right along, also. There will probably not be any further major work for the rest of this year along these lines, but rather an emphasis on providing the best use of the upstairs space. The tentative overall plan is to furnish the Snowball Room as a period bedroom and redo the larger south bedroom to serve for classes and meetings, possibly in period furniture, as Mrs. Millikin's library.

The restoration committee is anxious to have your thoughts, recommendations and donations.

#### BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE AN EXTRA PARING KNIFE?

by Ruth Prust

Our cupboards are bare!

The Homestead kitchen is almost finished and ready to be used to serve teas or light lunches for small groups who make arrangements with Connie Nelson. But, unfortunately, we don't even have a paring knife on the premises! So if, as you start your spring cleaning, you find that you have several usable items such as pots, pans, utensils, etc., the Homestead would be delighted to get them.

We also are in dire need of silverware. We would love to have some that "looks Victorian," but we will be most happy with anything that resembles a knife, fork or spoon. It is our hope to have sufficient flatware for serving 50 or more persons, and we don't expect to have it all match. We will be glad to receive even two or three place settings or even odd spoons.

The volunteers of the Homestead are also in need of a slide projector and screen. Our slides are in a "carousel" type holder. Please get in touch with Ruth Prust, 422-2967, if you have any of these items.

Price covers transportation, including shuttle bus service between buildings on the tour; expert commentaries, a map of the tour route, background material and a list of restaurants in the area.

Reservations may be made by mailing a check for \$25 to Joanne Carey, 20 Lincoln Place, Decatur, Ill. 62522. They are limited to 38, on a first-come basis.

Included on the tour will be the Frank Lloyd Wright home and studio, the two apartments over the Wright studio and garage, Unity Temple, the Edwin Cheney house and the Adams house. Queen Anne and Prairie styles will be represented in the buildings, all completed between 1870 and 1916.

Other architects represented by buildings on the tour are E.E. Roberts, J. S. Van Bergen, T. E. Tallmudge and V. S. Watson.

In connection with the trip, Mrs. Carey has arranged for Victoria Behm, director of the Wright Home and Studio Foundation, to visit Decatur and give a lecture on April 19. Ms. Behm will discuss Wright and his work at 7:30 p.m. in the Decatur Public Library. Her program is free and open to the public.

#### ANNA B. MILLIKIN'S INVITATION SENT TO DECATUR THIRD GRADERS

by Adele Glenn

A personal invitation from Anna B. Millikin (through the James Millikin Homestead board) to visit the Millikins at their home has been delivered to third-grade students in all Decatur schools.

The project, scheduled during the week of April 30-May 4, is a part of the children's study of early Decatur history. Several schools have accepted the invitation to "go back in time" to the days of the late 19th century when Mr. and Mrs. Millikin were leading citizens of the booming little town of Decatur.

The guests will be met by a guide who will point out the trees planted by James Millikin soon after he bought the land from Captain Allen and dreamed of building his home there. She will tell the children about the architecture of the home, the balconies, the mansard roof, the cupola, the oriel window, unique door knobs, the carved ceilings, etched glass and other features so different from the houses of today.

"Mr. Millikin" will describe his early life as a sheep drover, the founding of the Millikin bank, his determination to found a school to give boys and girls a better chance to equip themselves for a useful life.

In the Bicentennial Room (south parlor), there will be a short song fest around the old pump organ

before the students meet "Mrs. Millikin" in the dining room. She will be busy setting the table with her best china and crystal for a "company" dinner. With the help of a maid, she will take time to explain the preparations they made for guests—without the help of any electrical appliance!

In the kitchen another maid will be busy with the many chores involved in maintaining a large household at that time.

In the yard outside, the committee is planning several surprises for the children. That committee, inspired by a suggestion from Dean Madden for this project, and chaired by Adele Glenn, includes Anne Faxon, Helen Fairweather, Esther Post, Marilyn Madden, Donna Canham, Brigitta Kapp, Erin Ferguson, Mim Amdal, Charlotte Meyer, Ann Beall and Bernie Murfin.

Mrs. Faxon (422-0287) has been handling scheduling for the schools, and Mrs. Glenn and O.T. (Jack) Banton have been working on scripts for the characters. They are grateful for the advice of other interested friends, including Kitty Lindsay, Helen Masey, Jan Stankovich, Millie Turner, Ruth Prust, Jeannine Schaub and Jesse Peters.

The committee welcomes advice, volunteers, costumes, makeup, props, etc., which can be borrowed for the week.



JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.  
125 N. Pine St.  
Decatur, Illinois 62522

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