

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. XXV, No. 3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March 2001

A Note From Your President.

As I write this, birds fly north, crocus and early daffodils are pushing through the soil, the days are getting longer and milder - all signs of spring approaching.

The Millikin Homestead "Rites of Spring" mean readying for various activities - our Open Houses every weekend starting in April, the Annual Meeting of the Homestead Membership later that month, the yearly Mr. & Mrs. Millikin program for the third graders of our area schools in May, and the popular Doll Tea in June!

Our fiscal year ends in March; in April we'll welcome several new members to our board and sadly see others leave. Bob Hantel and Lou Snelson have served six years, and serve they did! They have contributed greatly and tirelessly to the Homestead and we thank them sincerely for all their work. Mary Kay Thompson who came to the board last year, resigned due to changes in her work schedule. We regretfully accept her decision and hope that she can rejoin us again in the future.

We would love to see many of you during the oncoming months - at the Annual Meeting, any Open House, Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days, or at the Doll Tea! Come as a visitor or volunteer - the Homestead is here for all of us to enjoy!!

Sincerely,
Brigitta Kapp

St. Nick Delivers in the "Nick of Time"!

The day before our Victorian Christmas Tea we watched with great excitement the re-installation of the first restored glass panel in the oriel window. As good as new (or actually better!) the long absent panel took its rightful place on the stair landing; gleaming, sparkling, and ready to weather another hundred years or more.

Why might it be better than new? When the panels were originally put together, the leading used was a very pure "modern" product. An improvement! Its soft lead formula most likely contributed to the extensive buckling of some glass sections, especially the bottom ones, since much weight rests on them. Now, all newly assembled with a more resilient lead mixture, the window should never again have undulating waves rippling through its glass! We will make a note to check on that in 2100!!

Thrilled with the restored panel, the Homestead board voted at the February board meeting to go ahead with the second one. The cost for the next panel is considerably more than the first because Melotte-Morris-Leonatti, the Springfield Restoration firm, informed us that they had greatly underestimated the time and labor involved. The new price is based on the actual time it took to restore the first panel.

We expect work to begin in the next couple of months; maybe we'll have another St. Nick delivery this coming Christmas! What an exciting possibility! Anticipation is one of the great rewards of restoration!

The Restoration Committee

Victorian Doll Tea Alert

Dear Members and Friends,

The 6th Victorian Doll Tea will be held Saturday, June 9, 2001. There will be two sittings this year at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Tickets will be \$8.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Where else can you enjoy a delightful afternoon with dolls, doll houses, doll furniture, doll lovers, lovely surroundings, and scrumptious food? It is a unique event indeed!

We will have door prizes and raffles at each sitting. One raffle will be for a Birthday Tea for Twenty, and the second raffle will be for a miniature wardrobe and accessories created and hand decorated by Ann Seidman.

If you want to make a reservation, please call Bob Hantel at 233-4500.

Hope to see you there!
Ann Seidman
Marilyn Shroyer
Co-Chairmen



A Golden Opportunity

Starting in April, everyone will have the opportunity to view Millikin Homestead's magnificent Jewel. After many months of waiting, the south panel of the stained glass oriel window has been re-installed. The panel is aglow in tones of green, blue, and red, shining like emeralds, sapphires, and rubies, all set in golden tones of glass. Although located on the north wall of the Homestead, the window shimmers and glows as if the sun were shining through it. The window is truly the sparkling Jewel in our treasured house, the Millikin Homestead.

Now you may visit the Homestead to see the latest renovation. The Homestead will be open to the public every Saturday and Sunday, starting the first weekend in April and ending the last weekend in October.

The first Open House Weekend will be April 7 and 8. The Homestead will be open from 2 PM to 4 PM every weekend thereafter until October 27 and 28, 2001. There is an admission of \$2.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

We invite you to attend an Open House on any Saturday or Sunday and see the Homestead's Golden Jewel.

Anne Pondelick
Volunteer Committee



Victorian Christmas Tea

Approximately 350 individuals attended the annual Christmas Tea on December 3, 2000 from 1 to 4 p.m. Traditional refreshments were served. Various musical groups entertained the group during the afternoon. The Mansion was beautifully decorated by Brigitta Kapp. Volunteers and Board Members staffed the affair.

Ann Seidman

In Remembrance

Joan Cordes

1926-2001

Beloved Board Member

Treasured Docent

We shall miss her.

News on the Grounds

Spring will bring on the bulbs that have been planted the past two falls. Next summer we can expect colorful hollyhocks for the Victorian Doll Tea. Also many of the annuals and perennials will be colorful in the planting areas at that time; however, the gardens are most exciting after midsummer. We can expect another twelve-foot sunflower this year as well as some smaller colorful ones.

Our biggest project will be the straightening of the flagpole. It seems that strong winds this past fall and winter have given the pole an unpleasant (unpatriotic) tilt. Watch for results!

Bill McGaughey
Grounds
Chairman

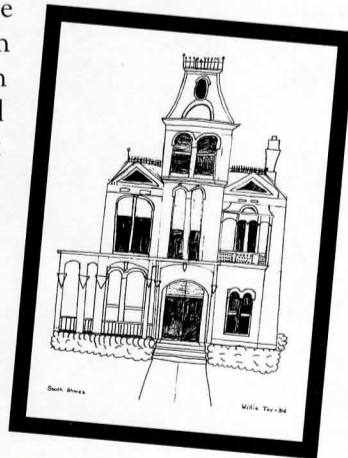


Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Entertain Soon

Mr. and Mrs. James Millikin will again be "at home" to Decatur and Macon County third graders on April 30th through May 3rd. Ever since 1979, third graders have been invited to tour the Millikin Homestead and to "visit" Mr. and Mrs. Millikin and their household staff.

As in earlier years, about 35 volunteers are needed to re-enact life as it was years ago. Many of you have helped during these exciting four days, and we are asking for your help again. In case you have not already had the opportunity, your help would be appreciated, also. Whether you are an "actor" or a guide leading the children through the home, you will be rewarded by a very enjoyable experience that benefits you and old alike!

Julie Jacoby - 429-0230
Millie Gonzalez - 422-4556



Sketched by Willie Toy, South Shores School

The 2001 Annual Meeting
will be held Thursday, April 26, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.
James Millikin Homestead • 125 North Pine, Decatur, Illinois
Light refreshments will be served preceding the business meeting.

Program
"Historic Stenciling"
presented by Ed Walker who is a faculty member of the
Millikin University Art Department

Millikin Homestead 2000-2001 Board of Directors

Alice Brock
Millie Gonzalez
Wyllene Griffy
Robert Hantel
Penny Honnold
Julie Jacoby
Brigitta Kapp
John Krigbaum
Ann McEvoy
Donna Meinhold
Anne Pondelick
Ann Seidman
Marilyn Shroyer
Lou Snelson
Mary Kay Thompson

Officers

President — Brigitta Kapp
Vice President — Bob Hantel
Secretary — Marilyn Shroyer
Treasurer — John Krigbaum
Grounds — Bill McGaughey
Restoration — Lucien Kapp

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

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

- Make checks payable to:
James Millikin Homestead, Inc.
P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, Illinois 62525
- Individual Member — \$15.00 Patron — \$100.00
 Family Member — \$25.00 Business — \$200.00
 Friend — \$50.00 Life — \$1,000.00
(May be paid in four annual installments)

Make checks payable to:

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

(Membership is tax deductible)

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

Thanks to all of you for your support this past year. It will soon be time for our Annual Meeting and our membership drive. Please note that the date on your address label is the expiration date of your membership. We sincerely hope that you will continue to support the James Millikin Homestead by renewing your membership. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members also.

Julie Jacoby & Penny Honnold
Membership Co-Chairmen

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events:
<http://www.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead>

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Permit 226

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