

THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY

GAZETTE

Vol. 1, No. 4

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC., DECATUR, ILLINOIS

April 1977

COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the Homestead are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting, to be held at the Homestead at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28.

Mr. Vernon Talbott, Jr., has invited Mr. John R. Paul, co-owner of the "Prairie Archives" shop in Springfield and a member of the staff of the Illinois State Museum, to speak to us about Victorian Arts (especially books and prints) in the latter part of the Nineteenth century. Mr. Paul will also have a display of this type of Victorian art.

The nominating committee, chaired by Mrs. Thomas Hostetler and including Mrs. G. Richard Locke, Mrs. Walter Morey, Mrs. Clarence Glenn and Mr. Harold Irish, will present a slate of new officers and Board members.

Board members whose terms will expire on April 28 are Mrs. Hostetler, Mrs. Paul Benner, Mrs. Bruce Grohne, Mrs. John May, and Mr. Jerald Jackson.

MILLIKIN FURNITURE BEING RESTORED

In the midst of the restoration of the interior of the Homestead, we have not forgotten the furniture!

We have a delightful assortment of the Millikin family furniture and are in the process of restoring those items that will be used in the two parlors.

Mrs. Millikin's parlor suite, a settee, and two balloon-back chairs, are being re-upholstered in black horsehair, which was the original covering. These pieces are walnut and have been repaired and refinished by Mrs. John Kalapis.

A large walnut Lincoln rocker,

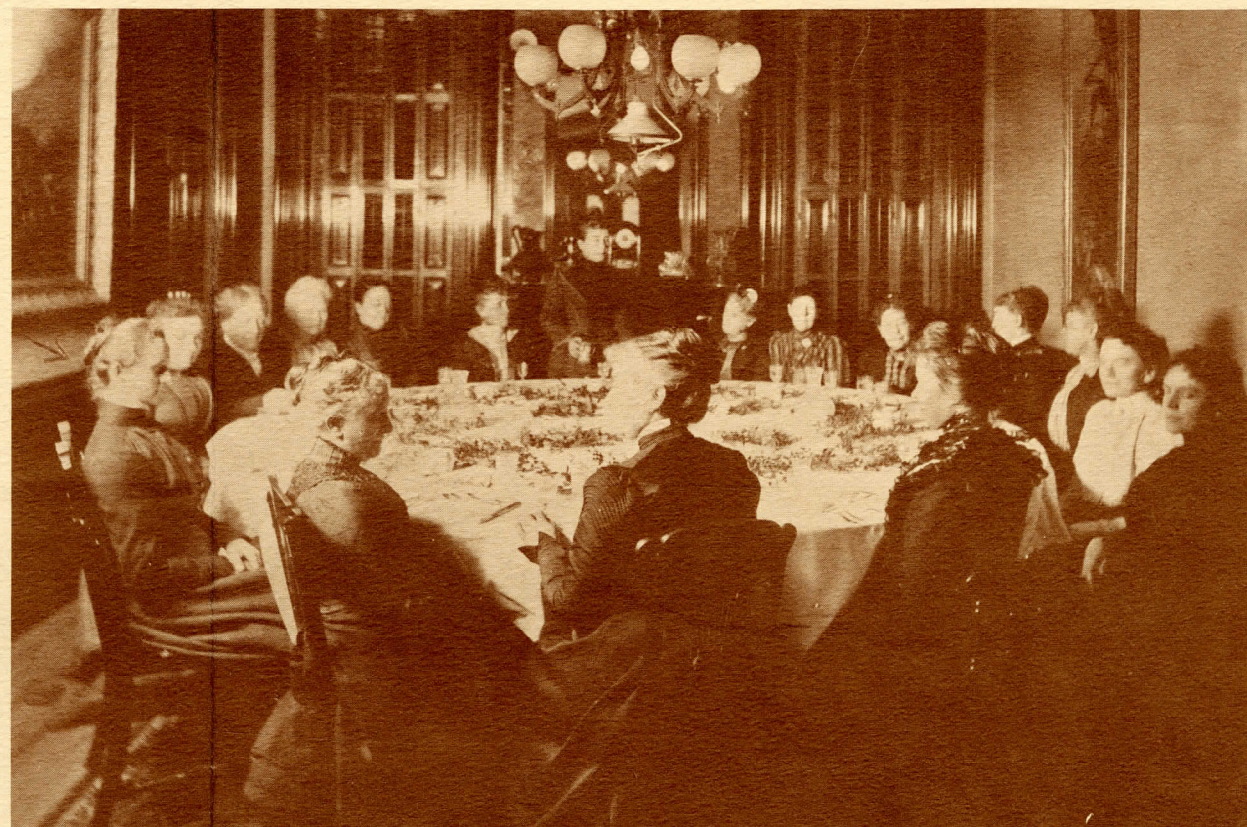
CARRIAGE HOUSE CLASSES FILLED EARLY

On March 5 the Carriage House officially opened its doors—the response from the community was overwhelming!

Almost every session of the scheduled arts and science workshops were filled on registration day and additional classes had to be added to meet the demand—much to the delight of the co-chairmen, Linda Kehart and Nancy Roucher!

Twenty-five workshops for preschoolers through adults are scheduled from now through April, including Pottery classes for all age levels. (Pottery was the single

ART CLUB MEETS AT MILLIKIN HOME



(Picture courtesy of Mrs. Lynn Bohon)

A Cuban Luncheon on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Arts Class was held in the dining room of the Millikin Home in January, 1900. Standing in front of the mirror in the center back of the picture is Anna B. Millikin. To her left is Mrs. Alethea Allen Quinlan, and proceeding clockwise around the table are Mrs. Ann Thomas Hutchinson McReynolds, Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison Bering, Mrs. O. Z. Green, Mrs. Mamie Hallock Roach, Mrs. Charlotte Gillett Barnes, Miss Bell Ewing, Mrs. Carrie Elsum Cloakey, Mrs. Elizabeth Jack Wells, Mrs. Mary Wilder Barnes, Mrs. Sue Cecil Bohon, Miss Jeanette Rogers, Mrs. Caroline Sargent Gastman, Miss Alice Roberts, Mrs. Minnie Parker Hostetler and Mrs. Anna Jack Roberts. Four members who were absent were Mrs. Lucy H. Nelson, Mrs. Cynthia Walston, Mrs. V. G. Hatch, Mrs. Sarah Wilder Hill.

**PATRONESS WORKSHOP
EVERY WED. UNTIL MAY**

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC. NOW ONE YEAR OLD

by Mrs. Robert C. Schaub, Jr., President

James Millikin Homestead, Inc., is now a year old, and for an infant,

A large walnut Lincoln rocker, also recently repaired, is being covered in moss green velvet, typical of the period. A gold painted "fancy side chair" is also being reupholstered and several tables are being refinished. We hope the parlors will reflect the Millikins' taste and love of the arts.

The dining room has been completed except for the floor refinishing. The Millikins' dining room suite, in the Eastlake period, will be returned to the room and placed on a lovely antique Sirapi rug. The doors to the room have been rehung and boast two beautiful etched glass panels.

We have received two walnut side chairs from Miss A. Helen Harder — a most welcome donation!

We also have on loan from Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hostetler, an antique Oriental rug in blues and rust.

The interior shutters for both parlors and the dining room are now hung and completed. They are excellent reproductions done by Monte Holl of Elwin, and if you have not seen them, please come by the Homestead! It's worth the trip!

DESSERT ON HOMESTEAD LAWN FEATURE OF TOUR

Junior Welfare will sponsor a Bouquet of Homes tour on May 17, with dessert on the lawn of the Millikin Homestead.

Homes to be included will be those of Mr. and Mrs. Art Ploeger, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bear, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Redmond, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lewallen.

Tickets are \$3.50 for the tour and/or \$1.50 for dessert, and are available from Junior Welfare members. The Homestead will be open for tours from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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Other workshops include Crystal Growing, Chemistry, Cooking for Kids, Astronomy, Growing Bonsai Trees, Metric Cooking, Poetry writing, Carpentry, Drawing, Solar Energy and Pre-School sessions in Art, Science and Music.

"Saturday Drop-ins" — afternoons when children can come and participate in whatever is happening for 50 cents — were held twice.

Two schools are participating in special workshops arranged during school hours. Our Lady of Lourdes is having a 6-week session on Fridays and Holy Family is having a 4-week session on Wednesdays. The Neighborhood Arts Program, sponsored by Richland Community College and the Decatur Area Arts Council, is coming to the Carriage House on Wednesdays and Thursdays for Pottery and Jewelry-making.

Volunteers from the DOVE program have added another dimension... one retired man donated his services to teach an electricity class... an enthusiastic 74-year-old woman is doing clerical and phone work.

The next four-week session of workshops will begin in May, with registration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27.

Please come and visit the classes! And if you'd like to be an instructor, offer an idea for a class, help plan the program or be part of the active committee... we welcome you to an exciting adventure!

The first Patroness Workshop was a busy, happy day for the women sewing gingham aprons, stuffing calico wreaths for the Fall Festival in the upstairs bedroom of the Homestead on April 6.

The Workshop will be held every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and all Junior Welfare Patronesses are urged to come. All of the articles made will be sold at the Fall Festival in October. The proceeds from the sale will be retained by the group for the purchase of gifts for the Homestead.

The committee in charge of this workshop is Barb Hostetler, Ann Condon, Jean Hubbard, Joyce Diehl and Ann Condon. Bring a sack lunch and spend the day or drop in for the morning or afternoon. Coffee is available.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR PROJECTS

Any homeowner who has talked to a plumber, painter, roofer or carpetlayer lately knows about soaring costs for maintaining a home. Restoring a home is even more challenging to a budget!

To find projects that may bring in money, a Ways and Means committee has been appointed. It is headed by Mrs. Meredith Watts, assisted by Mrs. E. Herbert England, co-chairman; Mrs. Dudley N. Wolfe, Mrs. G. Richard Locke, and Mrs. William H. Keneipp.

The committee welcomes suggestions and ideas from members.

WELCOME NEW CARETAKERS

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Philip Polite as our new caretakers. Phil is also working as a stock broker with William C. Burnside, Inc., and Mary is also teaching classes at the Y.W.C.A.

James Millikin Homestead, Inc., is now a year old, and as an infant, it is surprisingly strong and promising.

It would be pleasant to be able to tell you that Howard Hughes had mentioned us in his will and that our money worries are over. But I was born on George Washington's birthday and just can't tell a lie.

What I can tell you is that we're making progress — The House is beginning to look like a gracious Victorian home once more. People are collecting in the Zonta and Bicentennial rooms for meetings. Classes are being held in the upstairs room that was once Mr. Millikin's bedroom. Groups of architects have explored the house from the basement up, while groups of teachers admired the beauty of the stained glass windows. The house is slowly becoming what we have dreamed it would be — a "special" home, used and loved by all of us in the community.

The fourteen directors that have served with me this year have been a joy to work with. They have volunteered to do all sorts of unlikely things and have kept their sense of humor throughout the year. We owe our gratitude to departing Board members, Gale Benner, Marge Evans, Valerie Grohne and Jerry Jackson. Each has given a good share of work and a great deal of talent.

The directors thank you, our members, for joining in the effort to keep the James Millikin Homestead in Decatur's present and in its future. "To renew ties with the past need not always be daydreaming," wrote Strunsky. We are not daydreaming: we're getting ready for a bright future!

HOMESTEAD SPONSORS BUS TRIP TO NEW HARMONY, IND. APRIL 20

Historic New Harmony, Ind., established as a religious community more than 160 years ago and recently restored at a cost of \$21,000,000, will be the destination of the next Homestead bus trip.

Busses will leave the Homestead at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, with expected return at 9:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by sending checks (\$12 per person to members, \$14 for non-members of the Homestead) to Mrs. Jeffrey Taylor, 538 Bradley Court, Decatur, 62522. (Checks should be made payable to James Millikin Homestead, Inc.) There will be no refunds on reservations unless cancellation is received one week prior to April 20.

Master tour tickets are available upon arrival. Brochures detailing New Harmony's history and architecture, as well as a map for a walking tour will be provided on the bus. Luncheon is not included but is available at the Red Geranium Restaurant.

BELL PULL TO HAVE 1ST ANNIVERSARY SALE

Many crewel and needlepoint kits, original canvasses, canvas bags, etc. are now on sale at the Bell Pull at 25-50% off the original price to make room for new merchandise until April 23.

Among the new items which will be available are Latch-hook rugs, crewel and needlepoint kits featuring Sesame Street characters, as well as new patterns for tennis racquet covers, purses, sandals and trays with handworked inserts.

WOULD YOUR FRIENDS LIKE TO MEET AT HOMESTEAD?

One of the responsibilities of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc., is the scheduling of all events in the Home and on the grounds.

For a minimum fee of \$15 you are invited to schedule a meeting of any group who might enjoy seeing "our house" and grounds. A guided tour can usually be arranged at no additional charge.

