Curb pup's biting habits,

Page 1, Section B

CHAT ROOM



## Consider 'La France' for visit before millennium

here is just one very special place in the world where you can look up in awe and experience this public display but affectionate countdown to the new "millenaire" ate countdown to the new 'millennire'

La Francel It is just one of the many
ways the French have joined in with
the rest of the world community, celebrating and welcoming the new millennium. This countdown, which
appears on the second level of the Eiffei Tower, changes daily, subtracting
the number of days (jours) to the year
2000.

the number of days (jours) to the year 2000.

As I saw this display for the first time last spring in Paris on this most renowned monument, I reminded myself of the beautiful legacies the French left to the world at the turn of the last century. Architecturally, La Tour Eiffel, L'Opera de Paris and La Basilique du Sacre-Coeur are still monumental treasures that continue to amaze and mystify countless visitors. Furthermore, culturally, I believe that the Masters of Impressionism — Monet, Renoir, Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Pisarro, Sisley and Cezanne — embodied and opened everyone's eyes to the coming of change and the new 20th century in their paintings. their paintings.

### A passion for culture

A passion for culture
Giverny, the home of Claude Monet, continues to be a source of inspiration to me and in my cultural lessons for my French students. Each time I travel to France, my love of this country's culture and language becomes even more passionate.

What French legacies will be created at the turn of this century? Already, the "curo" is changing European history economically and even perhaps geographically, Modern structures continue to rise and continue to be either embraced or disadained by the public and critics (The way the French love and hate their buildings still hasn't changed from the last cen-

# History buffs show and tell for fun

From vintage photos of the Farmington area to German army field glasses, history buffs have fun with old things.

BY KATHE O'DONOHUE SPECIAL WRITER

The handful of inch-long iron spikes and a closed-ended wrench were passed around the room while Ruth Trombley invited those in attendance to guess

around the room while Ruth Trombley Invited those in attendance to guess the nature of the items.

Most people wouldn't care, but this group of history buffs, members of the Farmington Historical Society, became animated. After a half dozen respectable guessee, Trombley explained they were spikes that screwed into horsoshoes used in the early 1900s for horse racing on frozen lakes in her native Minnesota.

The annual show-and-tell night held recently at the downtown library was informative and fun for the history enthusiast. The society meets the fourth Wednesday of each month and is open to anyone. Member Nancy Leonard explains that the group's goals include "promoting the history of Farmington and Farmington History of Farmington and Farmington History of Farmington and Farmington History. He society is separate from the Farmington Historical Commission, which is appointed by city council. Leonard each supposited by city council atmosphere was evident this night, peppered with good-natured banter, camaraderie and an obvious affinity for history.

An eclectic assortment

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An eclectic assortment of antique
morabilia was presented, including
books describing the "super highways"
of Oakland in 1923, with pictures
showing Woodward Avenue traveled by
vintage autos. Photos shared by local
historian Ruth Mochlman showed
stark, unsettled land west of Farmington Road at the turn of the last century. Pictures of area residents at that
time reflect somber, unexpressive faces
that bid the observer to discover their
stories and wonder about curious clothing and hats as well.

Gus Siegmund presented a 2 1/2 foot

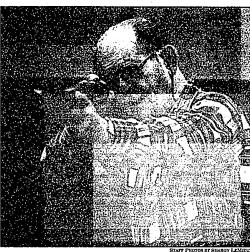
long marine telescope, circa early 1800s. He described it as somewhere in the vicinity of "20 power" and having a tiny gate that covers the objective. Siegmund also brought a walnut and brass tool he referred to as a "gentleman's lovel."
The avorage carpenter wouldn't have owned this. hebbyists had fancy tools such as these," he explained. The belonged to someone from the middle or upper class.

A pair of field glasses from the German army dating around 1915 was displayed by Gue's brother, Bob Siegmund. They were approximatoly eight power and still functional. Siegmund said

"such glasses were made in great quantities for the military service." He recalled playing with them as a child.

### Steeped in history

Steeped in history
The plethora of historical markers
scattered throughout town is testament
to the fact that Farmington is steeped
in history. Nancy Rickert, whose home
appears on the Historic Home Tour,
noted that she descended from General
Robert E. Lee and as an interesting
side note, she related that her sister's
husband is a descendant of Ulysses
Grant.
Others spoke of Farmington area set-



Who's there? Above, Gus Siegmund talks about his nautical telescope, At right, Brian Golden pretends his trolley car money changer is a flute.



# Show salutes local connection to Underground Railroad

Come celebrate Black History Month Sunday at the Farmington site that was once a part of the famed Underground Railroad.

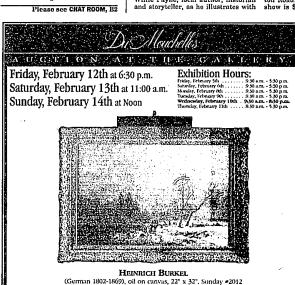
The Longacre House presents John Willie Payne, local author, historian and storyteller, as he illustrates with

and \$3 for students.

Originally a Victorian farmhouse owned by Abolitionist Palmer Sherman, the Longacre House grounds served as a station for runaway slaves near the end of the Civil War. Sherman helped 13 slaves escape to Canada.

Farmington's participation. He pre-micred the production in 1995, after six years of research and writing. "I got interested from an assignment

Picase see RAILROAD, B3



This month's auction features a Grand Blanc, MI collection of fine French and Chinese furniture mattle sculptures and pedestals, European bronze sculptures, 19th and 20th oil palating; including Frank Duvan. Mor features is a funcion Park, MI collection of over 225 circus posters from he 1930's; 19th c. Continental religious oil paintings removed from Hotel-Dieux Grace Hospital in Windson particular circle particular and Disker and other fine furniture from the M. Sagendorf Trust of receival lead of Coldwater, MI, Session II.

Di Mouchelles Fine Arts Appraisers and Auctioneers since 1927

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A 15% Buyer's Prendum is added to each lot sold up to and including \$50,000 and 10% over \$50,000 and is subject to 6% Michigan Sales Tax. Illustrated caudogs mathable at the Gallery for \$20.00, postpaid \$35.00 Express Mail and Overseas \$33.00, Annual anbectipions \$75.00, International subscriptions \$135.00 FREE VALET PARKING ALL SALE: DATES \* Free Parking Wednesday Evening Exhibition

