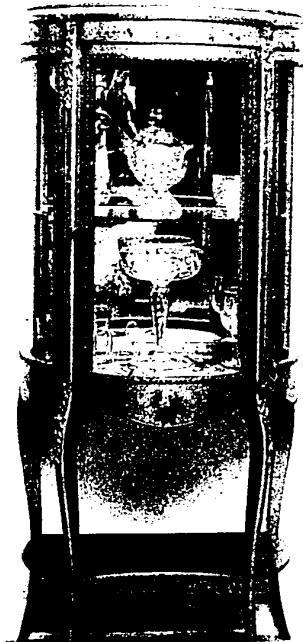




BERNIE THOMPSON finally consented to pose with a collection of hardware, old bottles and spoons which he has unearthed over the years around his property. Some of the hinges must have been brought by original Farmington families from

the eastern states. They have not been greatly harmed by their stay underground because they are made of low carbon steel. At far left is a candle holder Bernie made to solve a puzzle in a book about antiques.



THIS GRACEFUL CABINET has been in June Thompson's family for a long time. Though it has a decided French air about it, June declares that it is an American piece.



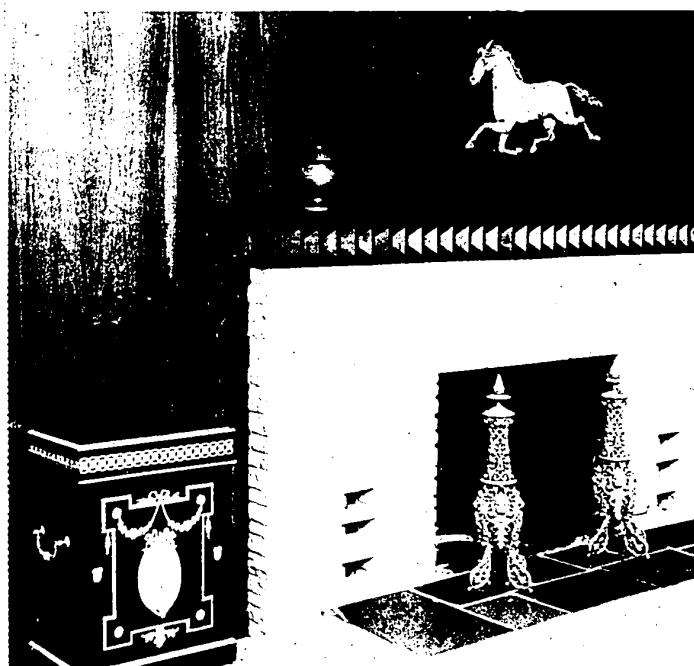
PART OF AN extensive woodenware collection makes an interesting alignment of shapes. From left they are a cup of quassia wood, a lignum vitae sander used for sprinkling sand on wet ink, a sugar bowl of generous proportions, a shaker probably used as a sander, a measure and a traveling ink well of the Civil War period.



THIS IS THE greater part of June Thompson's ironstone collection. She wanted to concentrate on the daisy and wheat pattern foreseeing no difficulty in acquiring it, but it seems to be in scarce supply, and thus far she has only the tea plates in that design.



HOW MANY BASSET HOUNDS have an antique tea canister to dispense their daily ration of dog chow? The Thompson pet does; the container once held tea for sale to grocery store customers of an earlier era.



STAR OF THIS SETTING is the Louis XVI chest of ebony and ormolu, a really striking piece. It bears the signatures of the 18th century cabinetmakers who produced it. The unusual pierced metal andirons are a rarity also.



## Couple Share Love Of Antiques

By SHIRLEY BERGER

In at least one Farmington home, a large portion of enthusiasm for antique collecting is shared by both husband and wife.

While June Thompson devotes her time to increasing her collections of pressed glass, ironstone and woodenware, husband Bernie is busy adding to the decor of their Peardridge home with his hand-carved door panels, handcast weathervanes and chests carved from century-old wood.

His next attempt will be to duplicate, as authentically as research makes possible, an old-time grandfather clock.

Judging from the success he's had with his other projects, this too will be accomplished with style and flair.

BERNIE ALSO has fun setting right some records when errors of other antiquarians become obvious to him. He reproduced a particular candle lamp (handsomely too) when the writer of a text on antiques couldn't understand how the original one could have utilized the Gothic pattern when it hadn't yet come into use. When Bernie inverted the lamp frame on his reproduction,

the puzzle was solved, because it then became the popular tulip pattern much more appropriate to that era.

Being a researcher of such a thorough turn of mind, Bernie was even able to explain how to determine the approximate age of wood from its saw marks. This knowledge serves him in his manufacture of the small chests which he hand carves. Mostly he utilizes wood salvaged from old houses which have been razed around the original North Farmington community where the Thompsons have lived for 16 years.

If the sawmarks are irregular, chances are the planks were cut by a pit saw; if they're evenly spaced, a water-run sawmill probably did the work.

Another mystery he solved might be called the enigma of the tomahawks. Some engraved blades were being sold in the East as food choppers since no one seemed to know exactly what they were. From his reading, Bernie identified them as tomahawks that had been given to the Indians in the war of 1812 by the British;

this explained the engraving and the Sheffield steel.

AN IMPORTANT feature of the family room is an enormous, hump-backed wooden chest which dates back to about 1708 and has worn out three separate pairs of hinges. There are rope burns at the back which hint at a probable trip by covered wagon or stage.

Bernie became heir to the chest when the ladies on the farm next to his family home in Pennsylvania realized that he might be interested in it and its contents, the men folk in their own family having gone the way of all flesh.

Among many other items, the chest contained two books about the Civil War written by Horace Greeley, volumes I and II of "The American Conflict." Bernie thinks that they are probably obsolete now that the myths and legends have taken over. They are a strictly on-the-scene report of events as they actually happened.

Another really ancient article tucked in a corner of the room is a French music box containing a repair slip dated

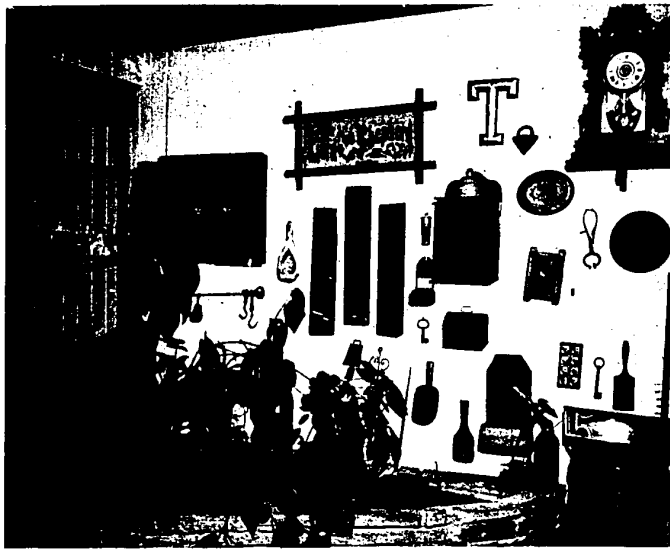
1789.

Curled away in the attic is a large Oakland County map which the Thompsons treasure highly. For some time, since it bears no date, they puzzled over when it could have been published, but a picture of the identical map in a Birmingham paper answered their question and placed the document back in 1857.

Some additional research on Bernie's part corroborated this date because the name of the Unitarian minister Rev. Henry Haywood on the map, agreed with the date on a wedding certificate for which he was the officiating clergyman.

JUNE, AS A member of the Farmington Quarters continues to add to her knowledge of antiques and their history. Bernie studies continuously dipping into one subject after another.

Both are adding a rich dimension to their lives which are now somewhat slower of pace with both Marcia and "Dutch" away at school. Kimberly is a student at Dunckley Junior High and adopts a tolerant view toward her parents' multiple hobbies.



HERE IS A WALL of infinite variety. At left, part of June Thompson's sparkling pressed glass collection is visible. Patterns include the Grecian key, Garfield drape, Dunca, Argos, double loop and many others. In the center, under a sampler which is a family keepsake, are some European cookie molds, and at far right is a Pennsylvania "fancy chair" which Bernie restored from a drab, unpromising condition.