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Oiled Walnut Contemporary 5-Pc. Bedroom American of Martinsville	\$53.00	\$439
Drexel 5-Pc. Bedroom - Triple Dresser, Mirror, Bed, Chest on Chest, Night Stand	674.00	\$499
Thomastville 4-Pc. Walnut Bedroom	414.00	\$329
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Antique Hobby Becomes Business

BUSY COLLECTOR - Jean Cohen displays some of her antique jewelry.

It was about eight years ago that Jean Cohen, of Livonia, went with a friend to visit the home of a Birmingham dealer in antiques.

She was fascinated at the array of lovely old pieces, and came home with a hand-carved wooden shawl, about two feet long and used to scoop grain at least a century ago.

Today, that shawl hangs on the wall of the cozy red-and-black den in the Middle Belt road home of Jean Cohen and her husband Murray, a display designer. Keeping it company are countless pictures, clocks, chests, stoves and lamps of an earlier day.

THE COHENs' home is furnished largely in fine antiques. The garage holds up with chests, tables and chairs. Some have overflowed into the basement. Shelves and cupboards are lined with fine old china and glassware. Boxes and display cases hold a fine and ever-changing collection of antique jewelry.

And Mrs. Cohen is a full fledged antique dealer, whose business is named, appropriately enough, "The Wooden Shovel."

"IT'S A FASCINATING business," Jean said. "I've learned a great deal, by reading, by talking to other dealers and mostly by trial and error."

Recently she has specialized in antique jewelry.

"It's easier to go to shows and exhibits with cases full of jewelry, than it is to transport heavy furniture," she explained.

"Also, I can get new pieces by advertising in national dealers' magazines and having people send them to me for appraisal. Or by looking over the collections of people I meet at the various shows."

"That beats standing out in the cold through long farm-house auctions."

Jean said she loves to go poking around for new pieces in the summer, but in cold weather figures there must be easier ways to keep her stock built up.

WHEN SHE BUYS new pieces of jewelry, her first move is to get them cleaned up.

"I don't dare delay, or I'd have a hopeless backlog of pieces to be cleaned," she said. "Besides, I always feel as

though I can hardly wait to see how it looks."

When the gold and silver pieces, jeweled or enameled, have been cleaned, sometimes she finds small repairs necessary, like replacing tiny pearls that may be missing. These Jean can often find in another piece of jewelry not suitable for sale.

Gold jewelry has to be checked to see if it is solid gold or filled. This can be done by means of a tiny file and a chemical solution. "But I'm getting more experienced now, and can usually tell without testing," Jean said.

JEWELRY, LIKE other old things, officially enters the antique category at age 100, but Mrs. Cohen has found that pieces that old are very hard to locate. Most of the ones she collects and sells are 50 to 70 years old, and the best-selling price range is from \$5 to \$20.

Although the emphasis is now on jewelry, there still are some furniture pieces at the house—notably a handsome game table of inlaid wood awaiting repair work by Murray Cohen or refinishing by either husband or wife.

In recent years, as daughter Cindy became Mrs. Robert Speer and moved across the street, and son Richard went to Tennessee, another interest has claimed a good part of Jean Cohen's time. Four years ago she took up painting.

"I never had done any art work, although I always felt I could," said this attractive grandmother of two.

SHE STARTED taking painting classes at Detroit Arts and Crafts, later switched to Madonna College where she has enjoyed studying various painting styles and experimenting in her own work.

She's a member of the Metropolitan Creative Art Guild and has sold some of her paintings and entered a number of shows.

HANGING in the Cohen den, not far from the wooden shawl, is a tiny miniature on ivory that pulls together Jean Cohen's two big interests.

The small portrait of a man dates back to about 1850 and bears a signature of the French

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