

A visit to the Henderson's home in Southfield can be like a trip into the history books. Their "keeping room" (kitchen) is dominated by a brick fireplace with a rack hung with Shaker pegs.

In a cupboard, at right, is Mrs. Henderson's collection of Dedham pottery and the hutch table top can swing over, making it into a high bench. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)

## Teddy Bear rocks in an 18th century chair

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Brenda and Don Henderson don't really own a time machine, but you might think so.

Stepping into their Southfield home is like taking a step back into another century.

Each room in their rustic ranch home is furnished with the 18th and 19th century antiques they collect.

From their favorite 17th century "settle," to Shaker chairs and Dedham pottery, each piece has a history and is special to the couple.

More than two years ago, they moved into the house, but only after a long search for an area that "would lend itself to our kind of antiques," Henderson said.

The house is set back from the unpaved street, tree lined and countrified. Once inside, a cheery fire lends warmth.

"We always have a fire in," Mrs. Henderson said.

Married for nine years, the couple has two children: Matthew, 7, and Heidi, 2. Antiques, their refinishing, research and collecting are interests the parents share.

"Antiques have always been in my background," Mrs. Henderson said. "I began collecting on my own very early."

She said when she began dating her husband, he took one look at her parent's antique-rich home and "just went crazy."

SEVEN YEARS ago, they made antiques their business and have spent full energy at it since.

"I do furniture finishing and repair and combine that with my knowledge of antiques," Henderson said. He added both of them travel the entire country selling at shows and buying pieces as well.

"It's a full-time job," Mrs. Henderson said. "We always try to come back with a full van load of pieces. And we average about three shows each month."

For the fifth straight year, they will show this weekend at the Bolstford Inn Antique Show beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

The show will feature collections of brass and primitives and the Hendersons will offer a number of pieces including a single door corner cupboard from the early 19th century, a pine dry sink, a Windsor stool with "skinny" legs and a small baker's cupboard with pull out dough board.

"It's not a large show," Mrs. Henderson said, "but a nice one. Bolstford is a quaint setting for antiques. They open up the old carriage house and it will

draw a lot of people."

Henderson said knowing antiques is a matter of reading and reading and touching and touching.

"You have to open drawers, and feel wood and keep open to learning new things always," he said. "We just finished a six-week course at Greenfield Village and they took off the ropes for us so we could examine every piece of furniture."

FOR MRS. HENDERSON being a businessperson becomes difficult when it comes down to parting with a piece she has come to love.

"Like most people, we are always trying to upgrade the furnishings in our home, and sometimes we don't mind selling something," she said. "But some dealers will just strip their home, even take the paintings off the walls for a sale and I just can't do that."

Their favorite piece is the oldest thing they own, a wooden "settle" from the 17th century.

"It's from out east and probably is of Pilgrim origin," Henderson said. "Settles were usually placed near the fireplace. They have a high back to keep drafts away."

Their master bedroom is furnished with a cannonball four poster rope bed in cherry wood from the 19th century, a tavern table with a stretcher base, and an 18th century Windsor rocker with spindles at the back.

The Henderson's own several Shaker chairs with their characteristic ladder backs and Mrs. Henderson collects Dedham pottery.

"It's called that because it comes from Dedham, Mass.," she said. "It's all done by hand with a crackly finish and is very expensive and very hard to find."

She added it's being reproduced now, but her collection is only of the original pottery.

Their ever-burning fireplace, which is two-way facing the living room, has a rack from a Shaker school house.

"SHAKERS were very immaculate," Henderson said. "They would pick up everything in a room, hang it on the pegs and then proceed to clean the floor."

Other historic pieces in their home are two hutch tables, in the "keeping" area, and a collection of antique toys gathered by Mrs. Henderson.

"The tops on the hutch tables flip back and it makes into a wooden bench with a tall back, something like the settle," Henderson said.

One cupboard holds a large array of early stone ware and a tiny rocker from Pennsylvania is a neat example of a ladder backed chair.

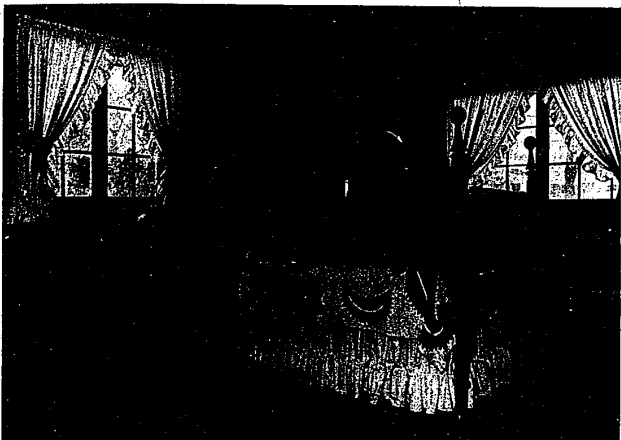
Over the living room fireplace, a stern-faced woman from another era (Continued on page 23)

*"We'd like to buy a plot of land large enough to build an authentic old village. We'd develop a complete community of people who would live as people lived 200 years ago."*

— Brenda Henderson



An antique doll in an antique chair, both belong to Heidi Henderson, 2. The doll is German, made by Kestner, with a bisque face.



A cannonball four poster rope bed in cherry wood from the 19th century dominates the master bedroom.



Don and Brenda Henderson's dream is to someday found a village where people will live like Americans lived 200 years ago.