## **Antique lovers** change locations

H. George Bickelmann appropriately lives in what may be the oldest farmhouse in Oakland County.

The antiques expert who recently shut down his Birmingham antique store to devote more time to appraisals has settled into the vintage yellow farmhouse on Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

The farmhouse was reportedly built in 1830.

"It isn't a matter of great comment whether it's the oldest," the cultured, antimated Bickelmann said. "We just love all the properties of the pr

antmated Bicketmann and his wife, Jean, a fashion illustrator, who shares his feeling for the house; its setting and, the furnishings of many countries and periods collected over their 43 years of

the furnishings of many countries and periods collected over their 43 years of narriags. "We've been collecting since 1939. It gets to be a disease. Everything has been shared," he says with feeling, "I detect authenticity. Jean decides it it goes in our home," he laughed. "I have the instinct, he has the knowledge, "Mrs. Bickelmann agrees. Their taste could be called eelectic, in that there is no inclination to furnish rooms in one style or time period. An American federalist-style mirror (1815-1830) is flanked by 18th century French wrough time home the comment of the

FOR BICKELMANN, the appraisal business is merely the next stage in his full life. Born in New York City, he became a

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photographer just like his father, his grandfather and his grandmother. He met Mrs. Bickelmann when he was photographing fashlons and she was drawing them for Bloomingdales. World War Il brought them to Detroit, where Bickelmann was chief tool engineer at Des50to, working on dive bombers. He re-entered the photography business after the war, then opened H. George Bickelmann Antiques in 1869.

1969.

He closed the store in November, transferred his efforts from the Birmingham to the West Bloomfield Historical Society and went full tilt into

appraising.
"This is one of the most interesting phases of my life," he says.
Bickelmann's speciality is furniture—Renaissance furniture to the present Renaissance furniture to the present and any form of art except non-objective. He has a particular knowledge of candlesticks and Delft china. He generally refers people to others who know art and cut glass, weapons, guns and jewelry.

Bickelmann will share his knowledge with the community in a talk entitled.

Bickelmann will share his knowledge with the community in a talk, entitled "Dollars and Jense in Collecting Antiques" est for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8 at the Orchard Lake Community Church, 5:171 Commerce.

He will also determine age and verify and the state of the audience. The evening is sponsored by the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, Donation is \$1 per person.

BICKELMANN HOPES to raske a positive contribution to the Greater West Bloomtided Historical Society. He likes communities like Birming-ham, Plymouth and Northville where vintage homes have been preserved to display local artifacts and present a sense of past community life,

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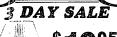


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