

## Illinois man in LR to track relics of war

BY ETHAN C. NOBLES  
Democrat Staff Writer

Jim Dryden, a collector of Japanese and German World War II relics, will be in Little Rock today to add to his collection.

Jim Dryden, of Hawthorn Woods, Ill., began his collection about 20 years ago.

"This is basically a hobby with me that has gotten out of hand," he said. "I had an uncle that was involved with the war in Japan and he brought me some samurai swords and I had another uncle that gave me a German knife. ... I was intrigued with the quality in craftsmanship."

"I'm a history buff," Dryden said. "World War II was interesting because of the way everyone pulled together. ... It was a unique time in U.S. history and in the history of the world."

Dryden, who refuses to sell any of the items in his collection, concentrates on collecting Japanese samurai swords and German military hats and uniforms, medals, military documents, knives and "things like that."

He hopes to start a museum in Arlington Heights, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, so he can display his collection.

The museum would educate youths about the war, Dryden said.

"The war brought us together and taught us a lesson," he said. "I hope to construct a picture of the war with these items and teach them what it was all about."

Dryden said that there are plenty of World War II items around for him to purchase.

"Most GIs brought back items as war souvenirs," he said. "Now, their psychological connections with those items have worn off and they'd rather see the items go for a good cause than see them collect dust in the attic. ... It was easier to collect items 20 years ago, when I first started, because they were in abundant supply."

People interested in selling World War II paraphernalia to Dryden can reach him at