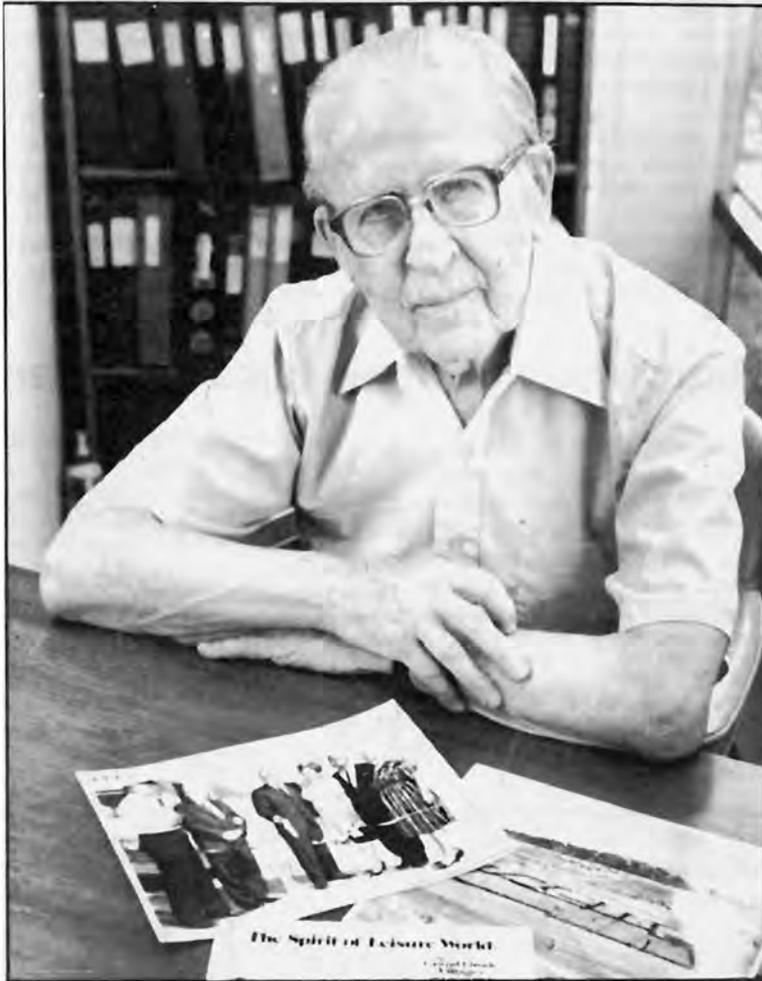


Cushman Clark offers passion for history to Society archives



David Carlson/The News

Cushman Clark with some of the items being catalogued in the office of the Leisure World Historical Society.

By Cheryl Walker
The News

For four years, Cushman Clark has been presenting Leisure Worlder of the Month honors to the community's best and brightest.

But on Aug. 12, the archivist will have to let someone else play MC--as he becomes the Leisure World Historical Society's top man for August honored for his contributions to the community.

Clark, a Historical Society volunteer for eight years, with his wife Helen, a library cataloger, and Claire Still, are responsible for the hands-on preservation of Leisure World's history: accepting, sorting, cataloguing, filing and storing hundreds of items each year for the community's archival collection including newspaper clippings, books and periodicals, photographs, videotapes, maps, oral testimonies, scrapbooks and club and governing board records.

The archives also contain items that don't easily fit in a file cabinet or library rack such as trophies, a model stage coach, original clubhouse china and resident coat and lapel pins even the 25th anniversary globe.

The Clarks and Still work on the archives every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. adding what space permits to the collection in the Historical Society suite in the Administration Building and cart-

ing excess to the Clubhouse 1 storage vault.

Clark, a civil engineer and native of Lead, S.D., has always had a passion for history. The son of pioneers, his parents came to Deadwood, in 1878, just two years after it became a city, he brought to Leisure World a lifetime of preservation know-how.

He was a member, like his father before him, of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers (19 years its secretary, one its president), the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society, the South Dakota State Historical Society the Lawrence County (S.D.) Historical Society, Black Hills Corral of Westerners and the Black Hills State University Leeland Case Library.

He also was chairman of the Indian Committee for annual Deadwood Days of (18)76 festivities celebrating the Gold Rush town's past with parade, rodeo and Sioux Indian dancing.

Clark says he grew up savoring the stories of the pioneers, learning in many cases from the participants themselves, about the discovery of gold which brought treasure seekers to the Sioux Reservation in 1874, Custer's defeat in 1876 and legendary exploits of South Dakotans such as "Calamity Jane," Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and the settlers who refused to let hardships and difficulties keep them from a

AUGUST HONOREE

The ceremony honoring Cushman Clark as Leisure Worlder of the Month for August, will be:

- at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12
- in Clubhouse 6.

chance to live their dream as ranchers, businessmen, traders or miners.

Though a Leisure Worlder since 1983, 87-year-old Clark says he's made it a point to go back to Deadwood every year. He says the experience has been more pleasurable of late since legalized gambling has been allowed on the Sioux Reservation and the mining towns have experienced a renaissance funded by tourist dollars.

Money, says Clark, could do wonders for Leisure World's Historical Society too allowing it to move into larger quarters and make available more of its collection for resident study and view.

"There are lessons to be learned from the past--and not just what mistakes were made so we can avoid them in the future," says Clark.

"Knowing the past gives us a sense of belonging to society. It gives us something to stand on."