**To Schedule a Tour of St. Clair Music Box Collection – call the library – 903-885-4926**

“The reason for a hobby is to create a diversion, to take the mind off one’s troubles – to take the nose off the grindstone, so to speak.” - Leo St. Clair

Born in the Sulphur Bluff area to a storekeeper, Mr. St. Clair shipped off to join the Navy around 1919. During one of his first assignments, he was boson for the Royal family of Belgium on their visit to the states, and he dropped one of the pieces of luggage. Horrified to hear the clink of a music box falling out of its case and begin to play its tune on the ground, he apologized. As a token of goodwill and to commemorate the occasion, the family gave him that box. Please see the Queen’s Throne, a royal chair that tips backward to play “Faust” from the opera. So began Mr. St. Clair’s collection.

As a child, he never forgot the musical picture album his grandmother had and opened on rare occasions to play it. Music boxes originated in Switzerland, with chords in a box. The small music boxes captured the hearts of the country and the world and all kinds were made.

After the Navy Mr. St. Clair went to work in Wichita Kansas at Bucks Inc. department store from 1925 – 1961 as design director for animated displays.

After retiring back to Sulphur Springs, he volunteered his services in community organizations in decorating assistance, organized direction for local arts and crafts shows, volunteered in programs for needy children and helped with Christmas displays for commercial areas. Mr. St Clair was awarded Top Civic Award in 1975 by Sulphur Springs Chamber of Commerce.

 “The purpose of living is to meet as many people as you can and make them as happy as you can.” – Leo St. Clair

Collection has been featured on TV shows, articles, trip advisor, websites, and national registries. Many people look to the se registries and plan trips around these fascinating collections.

With his music box collection, gifts of aesthetics and volunteer of time, Mr. Leo St. Clair made the world a more beautiful place.