

DONALD CHRISTMAN TOY MUSEUM
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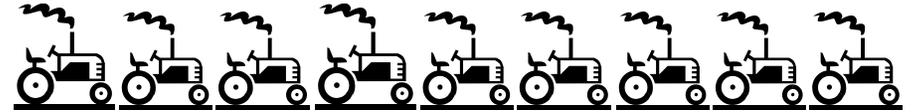
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."



OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
9:00 AM UNTIL 2:00 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

****OTHER MUSEUMS IN LAKE NORDEN ****

- *South Dakota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame
Located at 513 Main Avenue
- *The Lake Norden Historical Museum
Located at 511 Burlington Street
And
- *Kirk's School House
Located at Memorial Park - 600 Park Street



DONALD CHRISTMAN TOY MUSEUM



Donald Christman (1/25/1922-2/10/2004)



WELCOME TO THE
DONALD CHRISTMAN TOY MUSEUM

Donald Christman was born January 25, 1922 in Watertown, SD to Florence and Clint Christman. Christman passed away on February 10, 2004. His parents lived and farmed in rural Hazel, SD. Upon his father's death in 1945, Christman and his brother, Loren began farming together. Christman retired from farming on two different occasions. Both times, he decided he needed the challenge and activity of farming in his life. During the fall of 1990, a young man named Tony Opdahl helped with the harvest. In 1991, Loren Christman died from cancer. After his brother's death, Christman retired from farming for the third and final time. Upon Christman's retirement, Opdahl began operating and managing the Christman Farms.

Christman dedicated much of his retirement years to traveling and attending auctions, where he purchased antique toys, trains and dishes. He also collected prints by well-known artists like Terry Redlin and Rose Mary Mellet. Christman said that one year from Easter to Easter he traveled 20,000 miles attending auctions to purchase collectables.

Christman began collecting toys in 1984 at the age of 62. The initial collection donated by Christman to the City of Lake Norden took him seventeen years to amass. The first two collectable toys he purchased were a four row *John Deere* corn planter and an *International* combine. He began this collection in hopes that "someday the toys would be displayed in

a museum for people to enjoy." The toys were primarily purchased at auctions held in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois.

Christman donated his toy collection and Terry Redlin prints, "Best Friends" and "Harvest Moon Ball", to the City of Lake Norden on January 3, 2001. Christman chose Lake Norden because Mayor Larry Steffensen and the City Council welcomed the opportunity to provide a building and the Lake Norden Development Corporation provided the glass display cases. Christman stated "it's so nice to have the museum close to home."

The antique dish display was added to commemorate Christman's 80th birthday on January 25, 2002. An additional display case was added in November 2002. Christman donated the lighted Terry Redlin print "Purple Mountain Majesty" on February 17, 2003. Christman continued to purchase toys and add them to the museum's collection. In order to accommodate the increased number of toys Christman continued to collect, wood display cabinets were installed in the office front in June of 2003.

Christman passed away at the Lake Norden Care Center on February 10, 2004. The collection of toys, prints and dishes you see today are a realization of Christman's dream that "someday the toys would be displayed in a museum for people to enjoy."

