Musée Bourdin

A museum within a plumbing shop is where the record files and photographs of the *"Billy Bourdin Historical Collection"* are on display. Billy is not withholding when he finds a responsive person in the community who needs his support and sharing of his extensive heritage and data files. Billy's retention for names and event happenings brings Pass Christian's heritage alive to all who visit him.

Through the years, his photograph collection extends past the walls of his plumbing shop. Many more are encased in large albums. In safe storage, Billy has maintained the original source material of nearly a century of editions of past local newspapers, as well as magazine and periodical articles and anything else printed about the Pass. Since 1985, he has studiously made selective xerox copies, which he has clipped, sorted, and compiled into almost 1,000 categories of chronological events and of personalities who have been significant to Pass Christian's heritage. Each file of information is maintained and upgraded in separate folders with protective plastic page shields and stored in large file drawers with a system that would make a librarian proud.

No one, whether local resident or out-of-town visitor, has ever left his place without having been well impressed and more informed. The following is a typical commentary that speaks for all of us who know Billy Bourdin!

"During a recent, unexpected visit to Pass Christian, Mississippi, my husband and I encountered an amazing local historian, Mr. Billy Bourdin, who has spent decades collecting the stories of his area. He has personally photographed in addition to collecting photographs from others – and information about hundreds of houses and buildings in Pass Christian, a quaint village on the Gulf of Mexico and has, as well, researched the lives of the inhabitants. All this he does for the love of gathering history. His office is a veritable museum which should be appreciated by all lovers of knowledge about the past"

Billy Bourdin is a Legacy unto himself!