



CLAYTON ILES

Clayton, a resident of Dry Creek, La., and retired State employee of thirty years, started playing horseshoes competitively in 1975 at local festivals in his area and in Texas.

His father-in-law, Mr. Sid Plott, a Charter member of the LSHPA Hall of Fame, got Clayton interested in sanctioned play in 1983. He became a member of the LSHPA in 1984.

Clayton was able to pitch the 1-3/4 turn shoe from 1975-1984 and converted to the 1-1/4 turn shoe in 1985, both of which he mastered enough to become a very competitive and successful player. He had been known to practice for Tournaments during that time by pitching 1000 shoes a week.

Clayton held Tournaments in his back yard in order to sanction new players and built five courts in DeRidder in 1986 where he was Tournament Director for the Tournaments held there.

He has been a member of the Cajun Horseshoe Pitchers Club since its inception in 1986, and has spent much of his time teaching the game to many of its members. He has been playing in that Club's League since 1993.

He competed in three World Tournaments from 1985 to 1987 in Lafayette, Indiana, Ainsworth, Nebraska, and in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where he placed fifth in his Class.

In 1985, Clayton became the first State Class "A" Singles Champion, winning in Harahan. That same year, his daughter, Claudia, won the first Women's State Class "A" Singles Championship. They were presented their plaques by none other than Mr. Sid Plott, a proud father-in-law and grandfather.

Clayton was named Sportsman of the Year by the Cajun Horseshoe Pitchers in 1995, 1998, and 1999.

He was presented an award by the Beauregard Youth Association for his continued services to that group from 1966 to 2001.

Over the years, Clayton has been an organizer, avid competitor, and teacher of the game of horseshoes in the State.