

# Woodworkers Club

## CLUB OF HOUSTON

VOL. 5, NO. 1

JANUARY, 1989

### Officers

Bill Hochmuth - President 774-1733  
Bill Sallans - Vice President 465-0291  
Bill Baker - Sec./Treasurer 667-8381  
Steve Procter - Newsletter Editor 728-1459

### Board of Directors

Sharon Buckley - 944-6739  
Zatis Murphy - 469-3563  
Don Richardson - 661-1365  
Gary Wallace - 855-3408

### DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting was another smash success. There was enough roast beef on my plate for three people, and yet I had to save room for the pecan pie. For any one who may have been unable to attend here's hoping we're back next year.

Our officers were installed with a flourish. The judges were having such a tough time awarding ribbons that they kept the head honchos making speeches.

There was a lot of genuine fellowship--this is one event where the membership really gets a chance to talk to one another.

### BEST OF SHOW AWARD WINNERS

#### Practical Project

First Place: Zatis Murphy---Coat Rack  
Second Place: Sharon Buckley--Spice Rack

#### Original Design

First Place: Ken Wallis-----Bowl  
Second Place: Robert Sandlin---Train Set

#### Craftsmanship

First Place: Bill Hochmuth---Table  
Second Place: Rudy Kremer---Hope Chest

#### Household Utility

First Place: Ken Wallis----Maple Furniture  
Second Place: Louis Fernandez--Entertainment  
Center

#### Misc. Category

First Place: Bob Soderblum---Quilt Rack

We would like to thank Andy Anderson, Larry Polzer and Don Richardson for their excellent judging.

### CHARITY SHOW NEWS

We will be presenting the check for the proceeds from the Charity Sale at the January meeting. This charity sale enjoyed a number of sales after the official mall sale closed down, that is just fine. We want to see all the donated items finding homes, and extra money for Make-A-Wish is what its all about.

### NEW BUSINESS

A big reminder--its dues time, and its \$18.00 this year, as previously explained. If you want that newsletter to keep coming, you'd better get your money to Bill Baker, our new Secretary-Treasury. We'll accept cash, check, blood whatever. Just get it to us.

### SAFETY

By Zatis Murphy

There are many numbers connected with our lives. Numbers for social security, zip codes, telephones, bank and charge accounts, car registrations, employment, street addresses, and on and on. Following are some numbers for you to think about. These represent the estimated total number of hospital emergency room cases nationwide associated with various products. The product itself may or may not be the cause of the accident. All the products are found in and around the home.

HOME WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT: miscellaneous workshop equipment, 31,777; power tools, except saws, 24,341; power saws, 64,895; manual tools, 106,807. Using the right tool and using it correctly can help keep you from becoming injured.

HOUSEHOLD CONTAINERS: cans, 167,851; glass bottles and jars, 82,054; paper and plastic products, 35,829. Watch out for sharp metal edges on cans, broken glass, metal staples, etc. Protect yourself from cuts.



**STRUCTURES AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:** nails, tacks, etc., 214,656; glass doors, windows and panels, 190,547; nonglass doors and panels, 295,842; stairs, ramps, landings and floors, 1,439,020 !!! That last statistic clearly points out the need to keep your work area (and the rest of your home) free from clutter. Also be quick to clean up any liquid spills that might cause someone to slip and fall; remove those tripping hazards.

These are just a few numbers taken from a long list published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. I tried to select those products that could be related to woodworking. Many other products around the home offer potential hazards. If we all stress "Safety First" in our woodworking and make it part of our planning and our doing.....it is easy to extend safety thinking to the rest of our daily routines. **DON'T BECOME ONE OF THESE STATISTICS!**

#### **BUY AND SELL**

Ronnie Derks has some 5/8" thick 5" wide x short lengths of Ponderosa Pine, he also has a Ringmaster for sale.

Murray Gordon has a complete Shopsmith system for sale, Shopsmith Mark V Upgraded, 12" Thickness Planer, 11" Band Saw, 18" Jigsaw, 6" Belt Sander, 4" Jointer and many accessories. Total List Price of \$4,232.50 his selling price--\$2,500.00.

Power Tools for sale from the estate of James D. Bradley, M. D. Various tools for a list see Bill Hochmuth at the Jan. Meeting.

Large box full of Antique tools and some not antique. Some priced, others make offers. Call 466-1223 or see Bob Soderblom at January meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A bit of vendor news: Michael Chandler is not going to be selling as many smaller items as he used to. I understand that Fine Woods bought some of his inventory. Next time your in the market for a \$50,000 numerically controlled saw, give Michael a call. We hope Michael will continue to be a resource for the club in the future. He has generously donated meeting space and programs in the past.

More vendor news-- Shopsmith has finally come to town. It always seemed odd that Shopsmith didn't put a store in a city of 2 million, but I guess they finally caught on. Our club was originally founded around Shopsmith owners.

Be sure to check out advertisers when you're in the market for woodworking materials, tools or supplies. They may surprise you with a selection of things you might not know about. Always identify yourself as a

woodclub member so they know their advertising is working. The advertising is a good method of communicating with our membership, and helps support our club activities.

#### **SHOPSMITH DRAWING**

Shopsmith had a special drawing for the members of the Woodworkers Club. At the Dec. 10th seminar on the Traditional Pony (Rocking Horse) by Lewis Jewell, Dick Link shopsmith manager had Sharon Buckley draw a members name for a 3 day Woodworking Course---the winner is Don Sloan-- Congratulations and thanks to Shopsmith for there support of our club.

We want to Welcome Shopsmith as a new Advertiser in our Newsletter.

**WE WANT TO THANK ALL OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND WISH THEM ALL A SUCCESSFULL--- 1989---**

#### **MEETING PROGRAMS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH**

The February program will have many aspects of woodworking. Galvin Blackwell who heads up the carriage restoration shop at Friendship Ranch will tell us about his day-to-day operations. He will share some of the techniques he and his co-workers use to repair and restore carriages.

In March, one of our members, Joa Bruggeman will demonstrate the technique she uses in chip carving. This promises to be a special opportunity to observe a talented practitioner turn out carvings with draftsman-like perfection.

#### **THANKS**

By Sharon Buckley

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your President for 1988 and I know that all the officers and Board of Directors feel the same.

This Club as any club is only as good as its members. I have been in many clubs but have enjoyed this club the most.

Everyone is willing to share and help each other. Our main objective is education, fellowship and fun.

The success of this club is due to all of its members. Those members that have shared there knowledge and expertise, and those:

Members who have donated there time and skills to the various clinics;

Members who promoted our club to recruiting new members and new advertisers;

Members who contributed with ideas and suggestions;

Members who hauled around the library, name tags and the coffee pot;

Members who wrote, typed, printed, mailed and contributed articles to our newsletter;

And to all the members who contributed items as well as there time for the Charity Sale.

**THANK YOU ALL---FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR**



## JANUARY MEETING

WHEN: JANUARY 14TH 9:00 A.M.  
WHERE: HOUSTON WOOD AND TOOL  
5857 W. 34TH STREET

PROGRAM: Signs and Success

The featured speaker for the meeting on January 14th will be Fred Collins. Fred will travel from Bandera, Texas where he is the owner of The Workshop to tell how he uses cypress wood in his shop. He makes signs and furniture. One of his specialties is freehand routing of signs: he will demonstrate how he does it. Also, he will tell how his operation in Bandera has grown in dollar volume and employees. Grab your folding chair and ear protectors, see you on January 14th.

**DIRECTIONS:** The January meeting will be held at the Houston Wood and Tool inc. which is located at 5857 W. 34th Street. Our host will be Mike Klekar. To get to Houston Wood and Tool take the Northwest Freeway (US Hwy 290) to the 34th Street exit. Go west on 34th Street beyond Antoine, 5857 is on the south side of the street.

**BRING YOUR FOLDING CHAIRS AND EAR PROTECTORS !!**

## NEWSLETTER INFO

THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER  
LAST DAY FOR PUBLISHING---JANUARY 23, 1989

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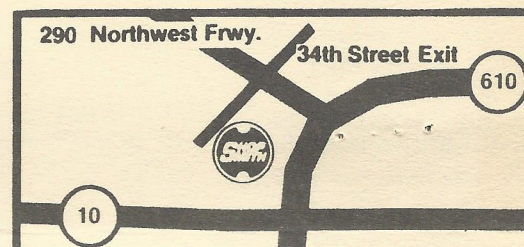
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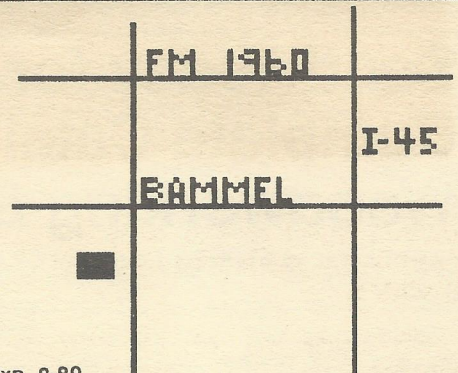
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Exp. 8-89



# Texas City unlikely home to master organ builder

By MARY ANN KREPS  
Houston Chronicle

**TEXAS CITY** — When Ella Edinburgh began her search for an organ builder who would create "the very best for God," she had no idea it would end only 10 miles away with a master organ builder in Texas City.

As Edinburgh, organist for a Dickinson Catholic church, walked into Karl Mayer's tiny shop, the first thing that caught her eye was the quality of a cabinet he had crafted that stood near the door.

"I thought to myself, 'Ah hah, here's a man of quality,'" Edinburgh said. "I just knew immediately that was it."

Mayer, 40, a West German native who came to the United States seven years ago, builds pipe organs — the kind built for hundreds of years in Europe and used by such famous composers as Mozart — in a tiny metal building along an industrial strip of Texas 146 surrounded by noisy auto mechanic shops and refinery service companies.

"Most people don't think a person exists who builds organs," Mayer said in his thick German accent. "Everybody has to learn his profession. Mine is not much different. But people just see the end product. They don't see me getting dirty and disgusting."

The dirty and disgusting part didn't bother Edinburgh, organist for Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Dickinson, a small, conservative church where High Mass is still sung in Latin on Sunday mornings to organ accompaniment.

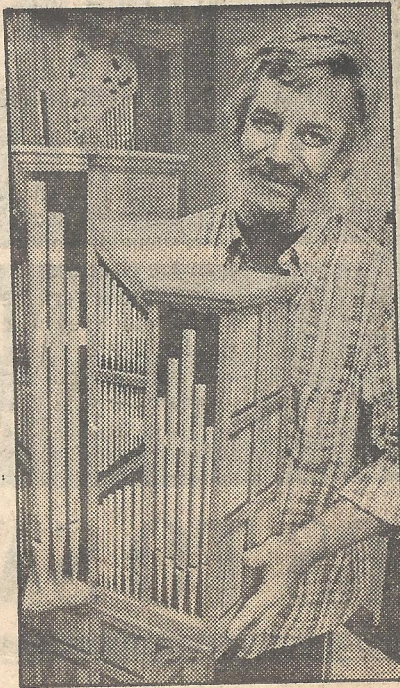
"I had talked to many, many organ builders, all finely dressed and trying to sell me their goods," Edinburgh recalled.

But two years ago when she stumbled into Mayer's sawdust-littered shop and he greeted her in dingy work clothes, Edinburgh was more impressed by his gentle manner and the quality of his handiwork.

"I was looking for the best thing we could give almighty God. You cannot imitate the true sound of pipes," Edinburgh said, explaining she wanted a mechanical action organ for its quality and durability. The church's electronic organ is on its last legs, she said.

"He is extremely meticulous in his work," she said of Mayer. "Everything is perfection."

That perfection does not come cheap. The 19-foot-tall slider chest tracker organ Mayer is crafting for Queen of Angels parishioners will cost \$140,000, more than half of which already has been raised



John Everett / Chronicle

Karl Mayer considers the organ the "king of instruments."

through fund-raising projects, Edinburgh said. Mayer is donating \$10,000 worth of tin pipes — 1,300 of them — which he orders from Europe. They are the only part of the instrument that will not be handcrafted in his workshop.

"I would suspect he is going to be famous one day," Edinburgh said. "He's got a reputation that is growing rapidly."

Mayer, who has traveled Europe, Japan and Africa repairing and restoring organs, settled in Texas City four years ago because he and his wife Heidi had friends here and grew fond of the weather — at least half the year.

"When I first came to Texas City and stayed for a few weeks in May, it was incredibly humid — like somebody hit me with a board on my head," he said. "I still can't stand it."

"But I wanted to live in a part of the country where they don't have any winter. So we go to Texas. It's always warm there and nice," he said, as he ordered his huge black German shepherd, which he named King Ludwig after a German monarch, out of the way.

Mayer knew no English when he arrived in the United States and has learned the language from watching *Wheel of Fortune* and other television shows, he said with a chuckle.

Texas City friend Madeline Reinsch, who became friends with Mayer through his wife, recalled

how communication was difficult when he arrived. "I know no German. He could speak Afrikaans, but he knew little English," she said.

Mayer applied the same concentration to picking up English as he does his work, she said. "Karl is very dedicated. When he works, he works. I've seen him sit there for hours. He can make furniture too. He does extremely beautiful work," Reinsch said.

Mayer discovered his love for the organ — which he described as the "king of instruments" — while a boy in Gotzing, West Germany, near Munich. There he pumped the bellows for his father, a school principal who played the organ in church.

After nine years of study and apprenticeship, Mayer became a master organ builder and traveled Europe, Japan, Africa, Ohio and Houston installing and restoring organs and working for organ companies. "It's one of the most interesting types of work you can do today. There's no instrument where you have this much variety and can play so many types of music like an organ," said Mayer.

Mayer, an opera buff, plays piano, violin and some organ, but won't call himself a musician. His 70-hour workweek doesn't give him time to play.

In Starnburg, West Germany, he once restored an organ used by Mozart.

"It makes you feel good to have something in your hand which is that old and has that kind of history," he said.

The classic mechanical action designs that Mayer uses creates a chain reaction from the key the organist presses to the valve creating the sound.

Modern electronic organs use electronic circuits to operate the valves and have magnets that fail after 10 or 20 years, he said. Those instruments may be cheaper to buy initially but they have a relatively short life span, Mayer said.

"A mechanical action organ, if made right, is nearly service free," he said. "There are organs in this world 200 years or older and still in excellent condition."

Mayer, who also builds organ parts such as custom-made keyboards using ivory or cow bone, has found a niche for his business in the United States. "Till now, those things had to be imported from overseas," he said.

Although Texas City may seem an unlikely spot for a European-born master organ builder, Mayer said his business could be anywhere.



ANNUAL DUES

DEADLINE JANUARY 31, 1989

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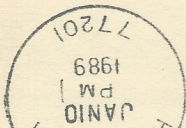
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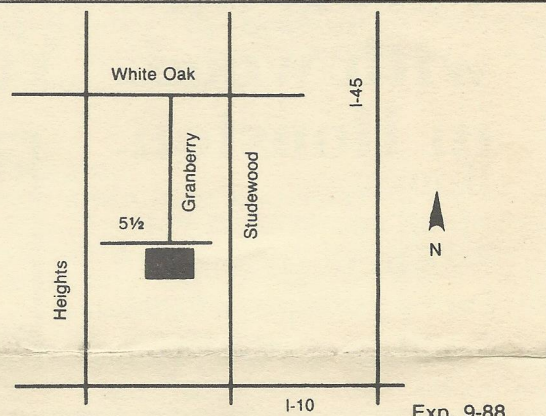
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