



FRANKE TOBEY JONES

Meet Resident Ray Mitzner

Wood has been a part of Ray's life from boyhood: He says the work of cutting wood to heat his family's farmhouse and melt ice in the live-stock tanks was not easy. He believes he inherited his love for woodworking from his grandfather who was a cabinet maker from Germany. When courting his wife, Marlys, he did not make a love spoon, but he did design and construct a laminated curved leg wood chair which obviously had the successful bid of winning her favorable attention!

Ray earned his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering specializing in farm structures, and was registered as a professional structural engineer. His first workplace was in St. Paul, MN working with large glue-laminated wood timbers. After that he was employed by the American Plywood Association, first working in agricultural building design, then research for industrial uses, and finally European marketing. All his working career, Ray used wood for hobby work and home remodeling.

Ray and Marlys currently reside in the Tobey Jones building where Ray is an avid user of the Woodshop. He says, "In the two years we've been here, I am especially pleased to have the Woodshop as my 'Mancave!' This, however, is only one of the many activities here at Tobey Jones. For instance, the Art Room is next door to my 'Mancave' and I get to see all the beautiful creations people are making. We ooooooh and aaaaah over each other's work all the time! The Wood Shop is well equipped and supplied with donations of various woods." He modestly says his work "tends to be not truly creative but more innovative of something I have seen and want to modify and improve on."

Ray's work can be seen in the Resident Art Gallery which contains several samples both in the lighted cabinet and on the wall. One of his pieces is a beautifully carved love spoon made of Washington yellow cedar and fashioned in the Welsh design.



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