

## Egon Hofer is PVRC's 'Resident' Piano Player

The story of how Egon Hofer became a pianist is the classic tale. "My mother made me take piano lessons when I was a child. I hated those lessons and she held a little stick to keep me practicing."

Egon's disdain for the piano lessons remained through his grammar school and high school years.

However, he finally met his inspiration while at Biola College where he studied with Professor Gordon Hooker. The professor's lively style of playing chords with his left hand while creating melodies with his right hand, showed Egon that there indeed was enjoyment to be had playing the piano.

When Egon returned to Dinuba, he followed the example of the professor who also was the pianist for the large Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles. Egon started Saturday night Youth for Christ events at Dinuba High

School and an average of 800 young people would attend and listen to the quartet Egon led and to speakers at the events.

Around 1950 Egon became a founding partner of KRDU radio station, the first applicant for a religious broadcasting license in the United States.



**A natural at the keyboard:**

*On a recent tour to Hanford, PVRC resident Egon Hofer warmed up the magnificent Fox Theatre organ with a song.*

He eventually became part of the Kings Messengers Quartet who played for many years in the service clubs, Retirement Communities and Churches, continuing to play with the lively style he learned from Professor Hooker.

As a retiree, he decided to travel by Honda motorcycle

and logged over 150,000 miles throughout the United States, playing the piano in many churches and other venues along the way. At age 71 his last and proudest trip was with friend John Krause, as they rode from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Brooklyn Bridge.

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## Palm Village's 'Resident' Pianist

And this tale brings us to our current Palm Village Retirement Community Hero.

For the enjoyment of all who reside and work at PVRC, Egon plays the piano in the upstairs hallway, choosing from his repertoire of over 150 memorized songs. His first experience playing in retirement communities was at Pleasant View Nursing Home where his mother was a resident.

He states that playing for his mother brought him more delight and joy than almost any other venue he played. And now it is all of us who are blessed with the delight and joy his piano playing brings to Palm Village.

*Left: Egon on piano, with grandson Jeremy on flute*