

The Inter-Mountain

ERCC receives old-fashioned organ



Submitted photo Pictured is the Estey Organ that was recently donated to ERCC. The organ was made in 1850 out of solid oak.

ELKINS — The halls throughout Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center will now be filled with the melodic sounds of an antique organ thanks to a recent donation.

The 1850 oak pump organ is the newest addition of the facility's musical ensemble and will be played for the residents as part of Nursing Home Week activities. Additionally, ERCC's Human Resources Director, Grace Roy, will play a concert for the residents at the Mother's Day Tea on May 9, Shaver said.

"This is just a beautiful piece of musical history," Shaver added. "And it's a wonderful addition to our facility."

The pump organ was donated to ERCC by the Anthony V. "Chip" Rettzo II, now retired but previously long-time piano tuner for ERCC pianos. Chip's father, Anthony "Tony" Rettzo, received the organ about 65 years ago after singing in a wedding in Marlinton. The bellows were replaced about 15 years ago and the reeds were cleaned, otherwise, the organ is all original. In its current condition, the antique musical instrument is worth \$1,200 to \$1,500.

"After all of these years, the organ is in great shape and it just sounds wonderful," she added.

ERCC has a long standing tradition of enriching the lives of its residents with music and art. The theater company Old Brick Playhouse has often performed at

the facility and musical guests have also been brought in to entertain the residents, Shaver said.

Shaver went on to say that it was always nice to see ERCC be honored with donations from the community.

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