



ODEAN “DEAN” JUKAM

December 31, 1939 – March 25, 2018



2018 - 2019

ASHRAE IOWA CHAPTER'S HISTORY PROJECT
Submitted by Luke Miller

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By: Luke Miller, 2018-2019 ASHRAE Iowa Chapter Historian

It was with great sadness on March 25th of 2018 when former ASHRAE Life Member Odean “Dean” Jukam passed away. People that knew Dean well, will remember Dean for his work ethic, wealth of balancing and controls knowledge, affection for flying and tractors, and troves of stories.

Odean Jukam was born on December 31, 1939 in Carthage, South Dakota to Clarence E. and Ardis (Hegdahl) Jukam. Dean’s work ethic started at a young age while growing up on the family farm in rural Howard, South Dakota.



In 1958, Dean graduated from high school. Upon graduation, he attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Dean earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After earning his degree, Dean and his wife Sharon moved to Hartford, Connecticut in 1962. Dean began his career with Pratt Whitney. By now Dean’s roots were growing in the HVAC community. After a short time, Dean relocated to La Crosse, Wisconsin to begin training with the Trane Company. In 1964 a new Sales Engineer position opened up in Des Moines, Iowa for Trane. Dean and his wife Sharon relocated to Des Moines, Iowa and began their family.

After a few years, Dean pursued his destiny. Dean purchased a young company, Systems Management and Balancing, Inc. from Einar Dahl, Junior (former Iowa Chapter Past President 1968-1969) in February of 1970. By the fall of 1970 Dean’s company achieved certification by the Associated Air Balance Council (AABC) as an independent testing agency. The company that Dean leaves behind today still requires all of their eligible technicians to be AABC Certified. A history project was submitted in 2004-2005 about the legacy of the firm Systems Management and Balance, Inc. Specific information related to the business can be found in that document.

The first large project under Odean Jukam’s leadership to be tested was in the summer of 1970. A new post office located at the intersection of Second Avenue and University Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa was constructed. The facility now serves as the main post office for the Des Moines Metro Area and surrounding communities. In 1974 Dean opened up a branch office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His primary focus was the Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska markets. Dean was known for his love of flying. Over his career Dean’s outreach extended to approximately 30 states in some capacity. One marquee project out of state was a cooling tower performance test for the manned space shuttle launch pad in Cape Kennedy, Florida.

Dean continued his professional career with Systems Management and Balancing, Inc. In the year 2000, the Minneapolis, Minnesota branch office was sold to a longtime employee. On October 1, 2002 James “Jim” E. Hall purchased the Des Moines Office. Dean continued being involved with the business up until his death last year.

Dean was known in the local market place as a guru of pneumatically controlled systems. His career saw many advancements in the evolution of HVAC Systems. He kept current over the decades with updated technologies and equipment. His career spanned over the era of squeeze bulbs and oil filled manometers to DDC controls and digital manometers. Dean seemed to always have the answer or was willing to roll up his sleeves to find the answer.

I had the privilege to work with Dean in 2008-2009. Systems Management and Balancing, Inc. was our test and balance agent for a new hospital we were constructing. Even while being considered “retired” Dean was onsite almost daily helping the mechanical team complete the closeout of the new 232,000 square foot hospital located in West Des Moines, Iowa. Our friendship formed on that project.



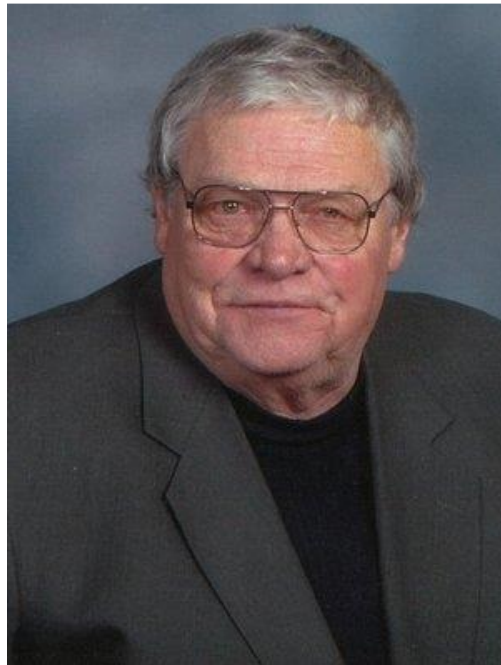
Dean always had a story to share. Dean was an avid collector of John Deere Tractors and a member of the Central Iowa Tractor Club. He would travel to show his collection off in parades and tractor rides. He loved to put a smile on a child’s face.

As mentioned above, Dean had a passion for flying. For many years he enjoyed flying small airplanes. Dean would give local elementary kids rides in his airplane. His passion evolved over time. Eventually Dean moved to an acreage in Menlo, Iowa. He built a landing strip next to his house and officially named it “Jukam’s Landing.” Many of his friends and neighbors called it “Jukam International Airport, home of Norwegian Airlines” to pay homage to his proud Norwegian roots. The landing strip is still registered to date as Jukam’s Landing.



Until his passing, Odean Jukam was an active participant of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Alumni Association and supporter of Iowa State University. He maintained his professional involvement with the Associated Air Balance Council (AABC), Associated Air Balance Council Commissioning Group (ACG), Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA), as well as an ASHRAE Life Member. Dean was an Honor Roll level donor with ASHRAE RP until his death.

Odean Jukam's infectious laughter, love for tractors and flying, stories, and wealth of mechanical knowledge will greatly be missed by those that had the opportunity to meet him. There will be a hole in the ASHRAE Iowa Network as we move forward.



Sources:

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Google Earth

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