

The Sooner Tuner

Newsletter for the Oklahoma Chapter



JANUARY 88

During these frozen post-holiday times it's very pleasant to remember our dinner at Jimmy's in December. Our meal and fellowship later at the Haste's provided a fitting end to the technicians' year. Thank you to all who worked in preparation. You are rewarded with success.



JAMIE MARKS TIME

Habla Espanol?

The big news this month, as many of you have heard, is that we are losing Jamie Marks to a job in Mexico. He recently accepted the position of Quality Control Director for the Pratt-win Corporation in Juarez. A number of you received notification of this job opportunity around Thanksgiving.

I heard Jamie's news two weeks ago. I was shocked and disappointed—as though a rug had been pulled out from under me. I've known him less than a year, but had come to respect and appreciate his experience and gentle and generous spirit. I know many of you have known him and worked in his shop for years, and I'm sure your sense of loss is even greater.

After my initial feelings subsided a bit I was able to consider the positive side of this move for Jamie and Becky and their two children. To leave Edmond after forty years (sixteen in this profession) takes courage. Jamie doesn't even speak Spanish yet! Leaving both their families, friends, a substantial clientele, a beautiful shop and a nice home on a lake (unfortunately the lake is under the house, according to Jamie yesterday, but anyway)...Pulling up such deep roots hurts a lot. But the opportunity to design this new

position for Baldwin and make headway in the need for improved piano manufacturing is exciting. Working for the larger corporation also brings greater security and retirement benefits. And for all of us who remain here, we have an advocate—a direct line to an important person in one of precious few surviving piano corporations in America. Pratt-win manufactures piano parts and assemblies for Baldwin, Kimball, Sohmer, Charles Walter and several Canadian firms. In addition to improving quality control, including a piano technician at this level of design and manufacture is fantastic—and long overdue. Look out Japan!

Jamie may be at this Saturday's meeting to tell us more. When I asked for a comment to print, he said he was going to miss us a lot and he wanted us to know how much he has appreciated having us around to learn from. He's been both a good student and a good teacher in our chapter. He is looking forward to hearing from us and even touring us through the plant (he has one machine to show us that is about the size of a house). If we stop by his place in Edmond in the next seven to ten days before he leaves, we need to be ready to be put to work. He has a lot of project loose-ends to tie up.

When we have the address in El Paso where they will be renting a home, we will publish it.

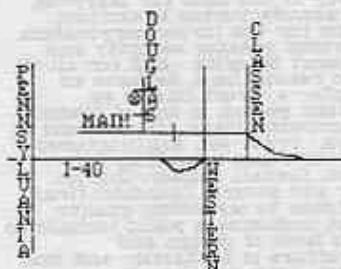
Godspeed, Jamie



Pipes and Players

Are you familiar with the basic workings of pipe organs? Do you know how to properly tune a piano to match the pitch of a pipe organ? (Baptist churches come to mind...) Could you repair or rebuild a pump (reed) organ? And how familiar are you with piano player mechanisms?

These are areas of specialty of Norman Cantrell, who will present the technical this Saturday. The chapter meeting will be at the regular 2:00 p.m. time in Norman's new piano shop, The Piano Clinic, at 201 N. Douglas Ave (not Douglas Boulevard), OKC. This is two blocks north of Main St. and two blocks west of Western. Ph. 272-9687



Presidential Pearls

Do you realize...

The significance of earning money? The trust bestowed on people who service pianos? The time necessary to become of any relevant value in a given profession? The varying concepts of piano tuning, piano service, piano care? The need to be in touch with those who know what you have need of?

These are some random statements made by one who is constantly learning how to define and shape his allotted space in time. Ever searching to trim the excess fat from the overbearing accumulation of unnecessary trivia that can too easily become a millstone around one's neck.

If the weight of the piano world seems to be causing a slight droop in your shoulders, come to the next meeting. Be with others who have realized that by associating, one tends to stand up straighter. Facing the same old problems in a brand new way is nothing to complain about.

Homeward bound.

Keith McGavern, RTT
Chapter President

Notes:

Russell Olds, RTT had a stroke a month ago. He is home and recuperating. The Oklahoma Chapter wishes you a speedy recovery.

Keith McGavern, RTT is teaching an interim piano tuning course this January at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Two books: PIANO TUNING: A Simple and Accurate Method for Amateurs by J. Cree Fischer, and Passion for the Piano by Judy Granger have been chosen for reading and study. Also a beginner's tuning kit will be issued.

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We invite your contributions, comments, and suggestions. Contact us by the first day of each month to have information included in the next issue.

