

THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Due to personal family business David was unable to write his column for this edition of the newsletter. David spoke with me and wished me well in preparing the newsletter. He is looking forward to the meeting this Saturday. We all look forward to next month's message from the president.

Norman Cantrell, Ed.

MEETING IN REVIEW

Our last meeting was held at the OU piano shop. David Bonham gave an interesting review of the Steinway which had been used by Vladimir Horowitz. The piano used all original Steinway parts but the regulation had been greatly altered to achieve the desired touch and tone. The review brought several interesting discussions on grand regulation, touch, and tone.

The business discussed included an appeal by Genia Carter the Southeast Regional Vice-President. The appeal was for disaster relief for the victims of the recent hurricane, specifically piano technicians from the Florida chapter. A motion was made and carried authorizing a check in the amount of \$50.00 be sent to this fund. If any of you would like to donate personally to this cause the address of the person in charge of the fund is:
Colette Collier, RPT
12113 Somersworth Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902

The Sooner Tuner

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1992-93

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PTG midnight shopping for Christmas. It is the date of the annual PTG Christmas banquet. This year we will be dining at Good Eats Restaurant (no joke). I am informed that you can eat like a king at peasants prices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter will be this Saturday October 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Cantrell's Piano Clinic. The address is 221 N. Douglas Ave. in Oklahoma City. There will be a technical presentation although there was no confirmation of subject or speaker at the time this edition went to press. If all else fails, programs and arrangements has offered to teach us all the Lombada.

November offers us an opportunity to take a short road trip to Shawnee. Keith McGavern has invited us to his place and has even offered to present the technical on vertical hammer shank repair. The title of this informative technical is as follows: "Give me your tired, your weary, your broken, your splintered and I'll take care of you from the head to the butt!" This promises to be quite exciting and will take place on Thursday November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for December 3rd. No it is not

AVAILABLE AND WANTED

1902 Hamilton Upright--\$375.00 plus tax. Solid as a rock. Art case. Original ivories. A-440. Bench included. Contact Keith McGavern.

Piano Journals: One hundred and seven (107) journals dating from 1947-1959. Excellent condition. \$3.00 each (5% discount for the lot) plus postage/shipping. Contact Keith McGavern, PRT at 405-275-8600 or 1-800-359-4211 (toll free).

Steinway B, Louis XV cabinet finished with 23K gold leaf. Rebuilt with genuine Steinway parts. Has matching music cabinet and long bench, \$30,000.00. Contact Tim Hast, 359-0440, for additional information. A commission will be paid for assistance with this sale.

NORM'S NONCENTS

Have you ever considered the impact of first impressions. It really is true that you never get a second chance to make a first impression. This was brought home to me recently as I encountered two different pianos. The first was a grand piano a customer called me out to service which had been "rebuilt." I do not know who performed the surgery on the piano. I was impressed, but not in a positive way. The second encounter was with a piano from Canada, a LeSage. I did not recall ever seeing a piano of that make before so I took a few minutes to give the piano the once over. I first noticed a Pratt-Read compact action and keys. The stringing was neat and the piano tuned rather nicely. The cabinet was nicely styled and the finish was quite adequate. I had made another first impression.

The first piano made me ask questions such as, "Who was this idiot?" and "Where did he learn his trade?" The second piano made me ask questions also; questions like "Are other pianos from this company as consistent in quality?" The reason to ask questions like these is that we never know where a piano we repair will end up. Despite their weight and the fact that they require "twelve big guys" to move, they do move around. The next time you make a repair on a piano ask yourself if it is the best repair you can make given the variables of the situation. I dare say it is better to refuse to make some repairs rather than do a halfway job simply because

your customer isn't willing to part with a few extra dollars. Don't make the assumption that, "No one will ever see this."

Canada is a long way from Oklahoma. I was positively impressed with the piano I saw from that country. Should a piano you have repaired or rebuilt be moved out of your neighborhood, what will the next technician's impression be of your work?

Norman Cantrell, ED.

PIANO PROVERBS

Maybe no two snowflakes are alike, but most snow jobs seem pretty much the same.*

No matter what season it is, the family tree is the only one that can always be counted on to produce some nuts.*

* From The Vancouver East, October 1992, Volume 2, No. 4