

THE SOONER TUNER

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



November 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I heard a story this summer that I've looked forward to sharing with the chapter. It is about a piano technician who has made a significant contribution to our profession and who entered the business in a rather interesting way.

The Electronics Design Center at Harvard has been known for producing many high-tech electronic solutions to problems of all kinds, including industrial, military and home convenience items. The growing space program in the 1960's leaned heavily on this team of creative minds to make gadgets that operated the extremely complex spacecraft and communications systems which guided them. When Johnson became U. S. President, a lot of the assignments of such design tasks were shifted to Texas, Johnson's home state. The Harvard center had less interesting and substantial work to do and morale dropped in response.

At about this same time, the Design Center Director happened to call his piano technician to schedule a tuning for the piano in his home. On the tuning day, ice and snow covered the steep driveway leading up to the house, and the technician slid off of it and damaged his car. He swore never to return and tune that piano again!

Having previously been (see President's pg.3)

MEETING IN REVIEW

The October 17th meeting was held at Norman Cantrell's shop, The Piano Clinic. The meeting involved a brief discussion time at the onset. The discussion was an open forum on piano repairs encountered in the field. There were 12 total in attendance including two first time guests; Michael Brown and Gerald Payne. Welcome guys! Gary Bruce gave a brief report from TSA and the class he taught there. The committee reports were read and approved. There was discussion concerning the recognition of Bob Qualls, Jesse Lyons, and Albert Evens for 35 years of continued membership in PTG. The discussion ended in a recommendation to make notice in the newsletter of their accomplishment. The business portion then concluded. Ross Trawick gave a technical presentation on the removal of key bushing cloth for rebushing.

The Sooner Tuner

A monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG.

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play" health plan is proposed in the works. What does all this mean? Simply put, we will survive in spite of the White House and whoever occupies it. There may be a need for harder work but if you want your business to grow that is only to be expected. By the way George Bush never called me up to tune his piano and I don't think Bill Clinton will either.

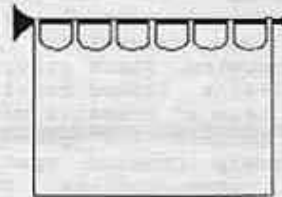
Norman Cantrell, ED.

NORM'S NONCENTS

As I prepare to write this column we have just had elections in this great land of ours. I will not tell you for whom I voted, but it doesn't matter now anyway since the election is history. I guess we need to look at how a new administration can and will affect the business of piano tuning. Currently it remains a fairly unrestricted and unlegislated form of commerce. I hope it will remain so but I will predict a little more government intervention into our lives in the next few years.

Those of you who include refinishing as a part of the services you offer can expect a move to water based finishes and away from solvent based ones. This could also result in some changes in the materials available for voicing especially if you like to make your own "juice" from acetone and keytop material.

Among other changes I anticipate is an inflationary period in the next four years. If history repeats itself this is not too outlandish a prediction. You may also expect to see changes in your tax structure and a "pay or



CONGRATULATIONS

In case you missed it in the fine print of the last Journal, three of our local chapter members have been honored for 35 years of membership in the PTG. These fine gentlemen are Jesse Lyons, Bob Qualls and Albert Evans. Thanks for all your contributions to PTG over the many years you have served. Each of you has contributed on not only a local level but also regionally and nationally. Congratulations to you all!

PRESIDENT'S

Interested in how pianos were tuned, and being trained to translate human needs into electronic solutions, the Director decided to go to school to learn how to tune his own piano and to explore designing and improved electronic tuning aid. He trained there in Boston and had a piano technician business for about three years. After that he shifted back to his electronics career and pursued the tuning instrument with the knowledge he acquired about inharmonicity, stretch factors, and so forth. The product of his research is the only tool in the trade to compute a tuning based on these variables which it measures on each piano.

Most all of you will know by now that I am writing about Dr. Al Sanderson, designer of the Sanderson Accu-Tuner. As an owner of one of these instruments I am impressed by their functions, although I am learning of their limitations as well. The best use I have made of it personally to date is to record my own aural "master Tuning" of the stage grands at OU which I have re-used many times. Several of you are much more knowledgeable and experienced at putting the Accu-Tuner into full use, and I would encourage anyone inclined to share that experience.

I'm glad that it was icy that day and that Dr. Sanderson decided he didn't need to rely on someone else to tune his piano. (But I will still discourage most people from trying to tune their own piano, and I will certainly watch out for steep driveways this winter!)

I look forward to seeing you at the chapter meeting.

David Bohazo, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

The November meeting will be held on Thursday the 19th at 7:00 p.m. in Shawnee. There are two sets of directions for getting to Keith McGavern's depending on which direction you are traveling.

Directions coming in on Hwy 177:

Exit Kickapoo spur to Kickapoo (third signal light), turn right half mile to Wallace (Citgo Food Mart corner), turn left half mile to Union (second stop sign), turn left half block to 824 North Union (small white house with security lights, west side), pull in drive.

Directions coming in on I-40:

Exit Harrison (Holiday Inn location) south three miles to Wallace (Sonic Drive-In corner), turn right half mile to Union (first stop sign), turn right half block to 824 North Union.

I am sure that car-pooling can be coordinated if you will contact another member or bring a prospective member to the meeting with you and save on gas. The topic of this month's technical is hammer shank repair. Keith asks that you bring damaged hammer shanks with you for demonstration purposes. Please bring the broken part as well as an adjacent shank for a pattern. This could be a way to get your customers piano repaired at no charge to you.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Christmas banquet to be held at Good Eats Restaurant. I am told that the food is excellent and the prices are quite reasonable. Plan to come as this is always a good chance to get to know other members families as well.

TECHNICAL TIP

How do you approach center pin work? Many times a lubricant can be used to free an action center but there are times when that will not work. The result is a need to replace the center pin and ream the bushings. There are several approaches and schools of thought on the best method. I will explore the method I use. I have found that the best reamer available is a center pin rolled between two files. This makes a non-tapered reamer which is quite inexpensive and easily obtainable in any size required. This is not any new revelation but what do you use to hold the reamer you have just created?

There are pin vices available from supply houses and hardware

stores but I prefer to use a pin vice which I construct from a replacement 1/4" drill chuck. These are available from any good hardware store. I make a handle for the drill chuck by simply placing a 3/8" fine thread bolt about 1 1/2" long into the base of the drill chuck. If you cut the hex head off of the bolt you can also use this assembly in your drill press to hold those very small numbered drills while doing small work. The reason I like the drill chuck for a pin vice is that the mass of the assembly actually aids in reaming the bushing cloth. It is larger than most official pin vices and fits my hands better.

Norman Cantrell, ED.

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