

The Sooner Tuner

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



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

JUNE 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well school is out and Summer has begun. It is time for the big piano sales to commence in hopes that a certain amount of cash flow will be had in otherwise a slow time of year for piano sales. It is however a good time to schedule those action repairs and major work on certain teaching and performance pianos. I hope all of you can make a good living this summer but be sure to schedule some time off for yourself and your family. You know what they say, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." If that is the case you can imagine just how dull piano tuners would become if they never took some time off.



If you are looking for something else to do this summer it is not too late to register to go to the national convention in Kansas City. The convention hotel is full but you can get lodging elsewhere. You better call now for reservations.

I promised to publish the proposed "Mission Statement" which is to be voted on in council at the National Convention. It reads as follows:

The mission of the Piano Technicians Guild is to promote the highest possible piano service standards by providing members with opportunities for professional development, recognizing technical competence through examination and to advance members' interests within the music community.

You can meditate on it at your leisure and bring your comments to the next meeting or let me know what you think before July.

There are several issues to discuss at this month's meeting in regard to just how the delegate, namely me, should vote. So come prepared to voice your opinion.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Meeting Notice

Thursday June 17, 8:30 A.M.
Northwest Baptist Church
3030 NW 23rd
Park in East Lot
Officer Elections
Delegate InfoExchange
Technical: Setting Up Shop
Presented by Norman Cantrell

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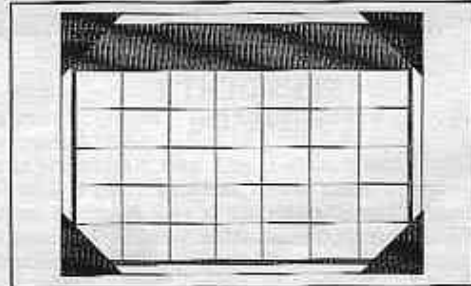
Meeting in Review

Last Month's meeting was held at Norman Cantrell's shop with a good group present. Jack Wyatt our Regional Vice President was there along with several people from Tulsa. Several items were discussed which will be voted on in Council at the National Convention. Included in the discussion was the \$1000.00 death benefit currently offered by PTG. There are a couple of proposals on the agenda both of which would eliminate the insurance concept of the death benefit. One would replace the death benefit with a simple disbursement gift. The other proposal would eliminate the insurance policy altogether. The reason for these proposals twofold. First the figure of \$1000.00 might have been significant twenty or thirty years ago but is now a token amount in life insurance terms and thus is not a significant "benefit" of PTG membership. The second reason is simply the cost of maintaining such a program. Currently there is only one company which will carry this coverage and it is quite expensive. We will discuss this issue once again this month and your input will be useful for Norman at Council in July.

Following the Business portion of the

meeting Jack presented a wonderful technical on Turbo Charging the Vertical Action. This was a real money maker for customers with demanding vertical pianos. If you missed it you missed a good one!

1999 PTG Calendar



June 17 Chapter Meeting
Northwest Baptist Church, OKC
Setting Up Shop by Norman Cantrell
Officer Elections

July 21-25 PTG Convention
Kansas City, MO

August 19 Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

September 16 Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

October 8-10 TSA
Waco, TX

October 21 Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

November 18 Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

Piano Proverbs

I have noticed that folks
are generally about as
happy as they have made
up their minds to be.

Military Intelligence

by Mitch Kiel

(The following is a reprint from "Soundboard Buttons", Newsletter of the Twin Cities chapter and "Hammer Tales" newsletter of the MIN-KOTA Chapter, PTC by way of "The British Columbia Beat", newsletter of the Southwest B.C. Chapter PTC.)

A few years ago, two guys walked into the piano store where I tune. They introduced themselves as sailors from the nearby U.S. Navy base. They'd been ordered to rebuild a piano at the Officer's Club. They were at the piano store because they wanted to buy parts, including hammers, dampers, strings, everything (including 7 cans of black enamel spray paint). Qualifications: one guy had an uncle (long dead) who was a tuner. Piano: 80 year old 5 foot non-descript piece of crap.

For 30 minutes I tried to dissuade them, but once the military makes up its mind... So I ordered them parts and insisted they also buy Reblitz and a few tools.

Before their parts had arrived, the sailors returned with the keys for me to recover. As he handed me the box of keys, the smarter(?!!) sailor said, "You guys were right to try and warn us. Working on pianos is harder than I thought. It was really hard to get these keys out of the piano!"

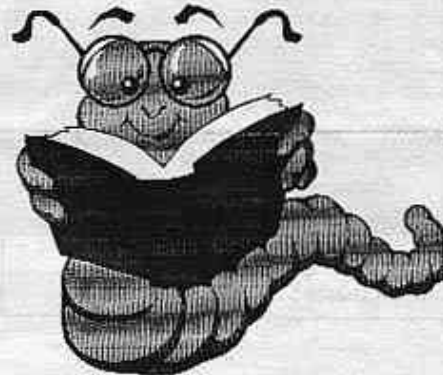
"Oh, really? How'd you do it?", I asked.

"Well first we cut off all the strings and lifted out that heavy yellow metal thing. Then we unscrewed and removed the long rack with all the hammers. And finally, we lifted the keys out through the top."



Technical Tip

A handy addition to your tool box can be had from the paint store. Pick up one of those paint can openers which resembles a screwdriver blade on one end with a bottle opener on the other. The hook on the blade end can be used for a couple of things. It is really handy to get in between the tuning pins to lift coils when replacing a string. It can also be used as a string hook for leveling strings prior to voicing. Best of all if you buy a can of paint to spruce up your house this tool is free of charge.



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OAKIE DOAKIE PIANO SUPPLY

Have you ever been dissatisfied with the sound of your piano and wondered if the problem might just be solved by changing the scale design. You could try one of those new computer scale design programs but we have a better suggestion. We here at Oakie Doakie Supply have seached the world over and have come up with the ultimate solution to your problems. We are pleased to announce the addition to our staff Mr. Klauss Fenner world renowned scale designer. Mr. Fenner comes to us from a long family history of piano

manufactures and designers. His grandfather Heinrich Fenner is responsible for the famous Butterfly Grand Piano Scale. His uncle Ludwig Von Fenner was responsible for the Famous La Petite pianos. Klauss holds engineering degrees from the prestigious Designwerks Institute and Mail Order Supply College of Trenton New Jersey along with a an Associates Degree from MIT (Milwaukee Interscholastic Tech). Please feel free to take full advantage of Mr. Fenner's world renown expertise in solving your piano scale needs.

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