

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of the Oklahoma Chapter
of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.



JUNE, 2000

President's Message

I have talked with several of you in the last few days and the feeling seems to be somewhat consistent from everyone. That is, it is nice to have life slow down just a tad after a busy school year. This is always a good time to take a day off to go fishing or the like. It is also a good time to catch up on paper work, shop projects and honey-dos.

Well I guess it is time to call an end to my presidency. I have served in this office for the past four years. It has been nice to welcome a few new members into our fold in that time period. We have also had a few people move out of the area and of course Jesse Lyons has passed on. People and organizations all go through cycles and phases. The Oklahoma Chapter is still strong in numbers and we still hold meetings monthly. It has been a while since we had a project like a seminar or rebuild to focus our attention and perhaps something like that can be adapted in the future. I still think we have a great chapter for several reasons. I suppose our greatest strength is our willingness to share information with one another and bail each other out when one of us gets stuck with either a problem or a time crunch. We are willing to refer services to our competitors one day and help explain how a procedure works the next. I don't get that same feeling from other chapters in other areas of the country. After having moved out of OKC I have come to realize the quality of work being done there. By and large the pianos are receiving more than adequate service. That being said, don't slack off in quality and continue to strive for excellence in your work. It is amazing what an extra five minutes built into your service call to just take care of a few "little things"

overall performance of your customer's piano. Thanks for putting up with me a president. I will continue to be around to help in any way I can in the future.

Sincerely, Norman Cantrell, RPT

The nominating committee has met and presents the following persons for office for the year 2000-2001:

PresidentBen Davis
Vice President.....David Bonham
Secretary..... Keith McGavern
Treasurer.....Gary Bruce
Newsletter Editor.....Norman Cantrell

The election will be at the June meeting on the 15th. The floor will be open to entertain other nominations at that time. Your input is vital!

Next Meeting:

June 15
Soundboard Crack Repair
With Bob Scheer
3309 Hunting Hawk Circle
Edmond, OK 73013
341-8668

Sludgebegone

Sometimes knowledge just gets lost, even when it's somewhere in the literature for everyone to read. Every once in a while I hear or read a discussion of what to do about "Steinway sludge," the green stuff that makes old actions sluggish. Solutions to this have varied over the years. First it was "replace all the affected action parts," so lots of topstack sets got thrown away at huge expense to owners. Then it was "repin all affected parts," so lots of technicians burned up their time in the dreadful process of repining sets of shank/flanges and repetitions. Now it's Protec (\$180 a gallon) to clean and lubricate. Nobody ever seems to remember the elegantly easy, cheap fix.

Around 1969 PTG President Ken Kadwell wrote a journal article to report his success in using common dry cleaning fluid (Picrin, Zep-Solv, etc.) to dissolve verdigris (the green stuff) and restore flanges to perfect working order. I read this article around 1980 when I inherited a pile of old journals. It's always worked perfectly, with no recurrences.

Dry cleaning fluid comes in a gallon can for about \$20. Makes me wonder if Protec is just a dry cleaning formula with teflon or nylon added. You remove the topstack, use a needle tipped applicator bottle to squirt the fluid on each bushing for 5 seconds while vigorously exercising the flange. Sometimes use a second application and more exercise. Where the part swings freely, move on. I did a set of shank/flanges this way last week. It took 45 minutes and the fluid cost less than 2 bucks.

Steinway used paraffin to "permanently" lubricate action flanges and various parts of the pedal systems, from sometime in the late 1800's

through the 1930's. Worked great for a while, but eventually the paraffin reacted chemically with center pins to produce the green stuff, which can make an otherwise perfectly good piano action feel stiff, heavy and unplayable. Every year I find 2 or 3 of these pianos that have been sleeping in a parlor for decades because they can't be played and no one has known how to fix them. The effect of fluid cleaning plus regulation, tuning, and voicing is miraculous and fun—the piano wakes up.

Peter Krauss



June PTG Meeting



The mission of the Piano Technicians Guild is to promote the highest possible standards for piano service by providing members with opportunities for professional development by recognizing technical competence through examinations and by advancing the interests of its members.

Chapter Officers

Norman Cantrell	President
David Bonham	Vice-President
Keith McGavern	Secretary
Gary Bruce	Treasurer
Ben Davis	News Editor

The Sooner Tuner

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