

The Sooner Tuner

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG

July

2000

Ψ President's Message Ψ

Do you ever wonder about things like, "Why am I a PTG member"? The June meeting at Edmond Music is one good answer to this question. Bob Scheer gave an expertly prepared and detailed class on the use of a soundboard shimming tool from Spurlock Specialty Tools. Now I may never shim a soundboard or for that matter I may never rebuild a piano, but if I ever need this information or rebuild a piano June's meeting could prove invaluable.

Not every meeting is as stimulating for me as this last meeting although I must admit that I always learn something from every single one. It's funny and I think true, we tend to get out of life what we put into it. Maybe the same is true of our meetings. Now I know not every person will agree with me, however I think our local PTG organization has done a commendable job providing all members some positive learning experiences.

Things are never perfect, but I hope and pray that each one will contribute positively and intelligently to this next year of meetings thereby deriving the benefits from such contributions.

I hope the summer has been fun for all! Keep On Keeping On!

Respectfully, Ben Davis RPT

Upcoming Events

August 3, 2000
Chapter Picnic & Ski Party at
David Bonham's
10717 Eastlake Circle
5:30 p.m. till we drop
RSVP

October 6-8
TSA
Shreveport, LA
Plan now to attend!

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Is the monthly publication of the
Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano
Technicians Guild, Inc. Norman
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NORM'S NONCENTS

Well it is good to be back in the editorial saddle again. I hope all of you will bear with me as I am once again enjoying a learning curve with a different computer program. If you remember Y-2K which was a rather large uneven. There were certain ramifications which affected yours truly. I realized that since my old computer would reboot in 1984 with the clock set forward in anticipation to 2000 that a new machine was in order. This meant trading word processing programs for the latest, newest and most improved. HA! Sure if I take mega amounts of time to play with all the helps, read all the manuals and just plain experiment I can reproduce similar results to what I was accustomed in the past with a completely different set of keystrokes and commands. So if I miss a deadline or two in the beginning it is probably due to the fact that I clicked on the wrong icon and sent the entire newsletter somewhere into cyberspace.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Convention Highlights

I would like to present a report on some of the things which occurred at the National Institute in Arlington, VA earlier this month. I will start with some of the facts and figures from PTG Council. I realize that for many of you these are items for which you lay awake at night, losing sleep and pondering over and over in your minds. For the rest of you I will try to be as brief as possible. Regarding election of officers our newly elected president is Taylor McKinnon. Taylor has served the past year as Vice-President and should be familiar with the expectations of office. He seems like a fair and likable guy based on the two or three conversations I have had with him. Richard Bittner has been elected to serve as Vice-President moving from the office of Secretary/Treasurer. I have spent more time with Richard as he is a CTE and has served as chairman of Examination and Test Standards Committee in the past. Despite first impressions he really does have a sense of humor. Paul Munroe has been elected to serve in the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Paul has served as a regional vice president in the past and is familiar with the ins and outs of the executive board. Our own Jack Wyatt has agreed to serve yet again as our Regional Vice President. Jack is doing well and seems to have recovered from his stay in the hospital last fall. I can tell he is recovered because he is the same old Jack in every way. (You can take that to mean whatever you want.)

I was selected to serve on the Member's Rights Committee as fourth alternate which really means that the only way I will serve in that capacity is in the event of thermonuclear global warfare or an outbreak of the plague. I was also asked to remain on the Economic Affairs Committee. The majority of Council went very smoothly until a couple of issues came up. One dealt with allowing members from outside the country to join chapters in the U.S. since the bylaws state that a person has to live within a specified distance from the host chapter, city of record, some felt this was a problem. This restriction works well in heavily populated regions of the country where chapters are named for specific cities such as Dallas or Rochester, NY. One has only to peruse the membership directory to discover many discrepancies with specific cities of record including our own Oklahoma Chapter. This measure was tabled and sent back to a group of committees for further study. If this is an issue in your life let me know because one of the committees was the Economic Affairs Committee.

The other "hot" item was over the price of the CD-ROM Journal reprint. It had been decided in last year's council to allow the board and the Executive Director to set the price for the CD-ROM and to provide a price differentiation of a substantial nature between the price to be charged for members and non-members. It was brought to council again this year

Convention Continued...

and after much debate the price was set by council to reflect a price differential of the cost of national dues plus the highest known chapter dues. In other words if the member price were set at \$35.00 the non member price would be \$35.00 plus \$158.00 (national dues) plus \$85.00 (highest known chapter dues) for a total of \$278.00. As a matter of record I voted against this proposal and will be glad to explain my reasons for doing so at any time. The remainder of council business seemed to be routine housekeeping concerning language of bylaws and such as this.

Other items of interest at the convention included Dale Probst of Wichita Falls and the Texhoma Chapter winning Member of Note Award. If you missed it Dale served as chairman of the Institute Committee this year and did an outstanding job of putting on an excellent convention. On a personal note, I was also able to complete my certification as a CTE. This was a nice feeling of accomplishment on my part that has taken me almost four years to complete. At this point we will be able to set up a test piano and offer tuning exams at our local chapter. This is a much preferred situation since we can use a stable piano that has already gone through its break in period.

I also had an opportunity to visit the Piano 300 exhibit at the Smithsonian. It was really special to see a Christofori Piano, the H.O. Studley tool chest and a Chickering 33D grand piano. If some of you remember several years ago I restored a large Chickering grand with a Rosewood cabinet that was made between 1860 and 1865. There was one very similar in the exhibit and I felt a sense of dejavue at seeing it. The only difference was the styling of the legs. Everything else was the same.

I would go to the National Institute again for the following reasons. I was given a chance to renew friendships from all over the country. I was able to talk with a manufacturer about some problems I have been having with some new pianos I have been servicing lately. I received some positive feedback from people who had either been in a class I taught or had purchased a grand from me. I had the

chance to see some people take the exams this year who had been very close last year and this time they had smiles on their faces as they passed. I attended a class on grand damper adjustment and have already had a chance to put some of what I learned into practice. I saw a demonstration of a device used to lift vertical pianos by one's self so one can put a dolly under them to move them. Lastly I got to sightsee in our nation's capitol. Next year the convention will be in Reno Nevada and you can bet it will be a good one.

Norman Cantrell, Chapter Delegate

Picnic Details

The Chapter picnic will be held at David Bonham's on August 3rd and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Water skiing will be available for the athletically inclined but will have to wrap up by 7:00 so if you want to ski come early.

David has asked those planning to attend to RSVP.

The menu consists of each family bringing a meat to grill and a side dish to share. This time of fun and recreation will serve as our August chapter meeting. We will resume with regularly scheduled technical type presentations in September. If you have suggestions or would like to present a class contact David.

Piano Proverbs

The fine art of working is a lost art today—really getting in there and studying the job, reading and expanding your knowledge. Becoming an expert in your field—for the simple delight of accomplishment!

Charles R. Swindoll, *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*

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Okie Doakie Piano Supply

Yes we're back although to our loyal customers we never left. We have moved to a new location which we are very excited about. Not every piano supply house is located this close to an Army Artillery Base. Because of the abundance of government surplus property and material we have some exclusive specials. We have complete cases of practice hand grenades which look and feel like the real thing. What would a piano technician like yourself ever need with a hand grenade you may ask. This is a fair question and the answer is **accounts receivable**. There is nothing like a conspicuous hand grenade in your tool kit to speed up those late payments from some of your customers.

Do you need a new tool case? We have a great selection of used ammunition boxes in a variety of calibers to meet your every need. Light arms boxes make great small parts bins while the 65mm ammo bins are great for larger items.

We also have a line on those \$400.00 screwdrivers which we can let you have as surplus for only \$1.95 each.

Do you need a name patch for your work shirt? We have a complete barrel full of names in colorful embroidery. If you like you can even have someone else's name on your shirt so your customers will have someone else to blame if their piano sounds a little off.

Call today for a complete price list!

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