

The Sooner Tuner

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG

November

2000

ψ President's Message ψ

I've been thinking about the meaning of the word "guild" and what its origin and historical meaning was, in order to have a deeper understanding of its function in life today. To accomplish this I went to a 1954 set of Encyclopedia Britannica and came away realizing the subject was far too complicated, and possibly too boring for our readership to enjoy in this newsletter. Lucky or not consider yourself saved by the bell. However, the very first paragraph in the Encyclopedia Britannica is a general explanation and informative so here it is.

"GUILDS. (The spelling guild is now the common English spelling, but there are many reasons for preferring the older spelling gild.) Mediaeval guilds were voluntary associations formed for the mutual aid and protection of their members. Among the guildsmen there was a strong spirit of fraternal. Co-operation or Christian brotherhood, with a mixture of worldly and religious ideals—the support of the body and the salvation of the soul. Early meanings of the root gild or geld were expiation, penalty, sacrifice or worship, feast or banquet, and contribution or payment; it is difficult to determine which is the earliest meaning, and we are not certain whether the guildsmen were originally those who contributed to a common fund or those who worshipped or feasted together. Their fraternities or societies may be divided into three classes: religious or benevolent, merchant and craft guilds. The last two categories, which do not become prominent anywhere in Europe until the 12th century, had, like all guilds, a religious tinge, but their aims were primarily worldly, and their functions were mainly of an economic character."

Interesting, don't you think? I've often said, "I wish I had joined and attended Piano Technicians Guild meetings 15 years earlier." Now why would I say this? I believe that my knowledge and income would have increased much quicker because of the amount of information available for the taking. Knowledge in this case is the ability to do, not just to know about.

In our guild organization we have a good number of members who not only know about, but also know how to do, as demonstrated by the last few meetings by Bob Scheer and Peter Krauss. It would truly be folly to think any one person has all the answers and for this reason I am thankful for each and every one of our members and can only have pity for those who do not avail themselves of this vast storehouse of living knowledge. This is the gift of our Guild to our members and our society and I believe if each member would reflect upon it they would come to the same conclusion. At some point in our lives we all play the role of giver or receiver. Hope to see you at the November meeting.

Ben Davis, RPT

IN THIS ISSUE

NORM'S NONCENTS

PIANO PROVERBS

PTG CALENDAR

The Sooner Tuner

Is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. Norman Cantrell, RPT Editor. All articles may be reproduced without further permission. Please credit the author and publication. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 6730 Embassy Circle; Lawton, OK 73505

"All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed fact are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not the views of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements and opinions have been adopted by this chapter or the Guild."

Norm's Noncents

Let me start by apologizing for not getting the October newsletter out. When I was getting ready for TSA at the first of October I overloaded my schedule and never really recovered until sometime in late October. I would like to take a moment to report on what happened at TSA. There were 114 in attendance at Shreveport this year. This includes spouses and guests. Our own Valerie Crawford took the plunge and joined PTG at this convention. It is my understanding that her formal vote of approval happened at the October Chapter meeting. I taught a class on Vertical Action Regulation which seemed to be received quite well. This is the same class I taught at Albert Evans shop last spring. During the business meeting of TSA, I was elected to serve as Vice-President. I am still not sure just what I have gotten in to but I am willing to learn. Next years convention will be held in Arlington, TX so it should be easy to attend from a travel standpoint. The following year it is to be hosted by the Texhoma Chapter. We are looking at the possibility of having it in Lawton.

Bob Qualls also made it down for the banquet and was recognized while there. A couple of people from the Tulsa Chapter were also in attendance, Travis Jenkins and his wife Cynthia. I was able to attend a couple of classes and once again came away with a good feeling about our industry. Stacy Yoak from Baldwin gave a great overview of the changes and improvements Baldwin made when they moved the grand factory from Conway to Truman, Arkansas. Larry Crabb's class on Taming Paperwork was helpful to keep me on target. He basically reminded us to break our busy lives down into manageable parts and try to do a few things each day rather than being overwhelmed by the whole picture. I'm still working on it but I think it will help in the long run. All in all TSA was a great experience.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

A Thanksgiving Piano Proverb

Help me to realize that although I cannot do everything to alleviate the suffering in the world, I can do something. And even if that something is a very little thing, it is better than turning my head and walking away.
Ken Gire, *Instructive Moments with the Savior*

Calendar

November 16

Chapter Meeting

Voicing Hard Hammers

Keith McGavern

4006 Fontana, OKC

Directions: On NW Highway at the Grandy's in the 4100 block turn north at the light. Proceed toward the apartment complex at the rear. At the Gate house turn right (east) one block to a second gate the gate code is 9999. If you get lost call David Bonham at 721-0566.

No December Meeting

Chapter Meeting Dates for 2001

January 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

Topics and meeting places to be announced

Meeting time is 8:30 a.m.

Chapter Officers

President, Ben Davis 405 277-3022
bjdpiano@aol.com

Vice Pres. David Bonham 405 721-0566
davidbonham@home.com

Secretary, Keith McGavern 405 275-8600
kam544@flashnet.com

Treasurer, Gary Bruce 405 348-3213
garybrucegang@juno.com

Newsletter, Norman Cantrell 580 355-5003
nvfhgcan@brightok.net