

The Sooner Tuner

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Chapter PTG

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Ψ President's Message Ψ

This is more of a confession than story. It probably won't help any of our members, but then again?

I was working in a church tuning pianos. These pianos had been tuned fairly regular, by not only myself, but also other tuners. On this particular day I was to tune a piano in the choir room and the adult education facility. Little did I know what awaited this unsuspecting tuner.

Mehlin and Sons made a few pianos which had plates made of aluminum or at least its' primary ingredient is aluminum. The piano in the adult education facility was such a piano. Having tuned this particular piano before, and remembering it with a certain fondness that one remembers such instruments, I proceeded to prepare it for tuning. At this point in my work I noticed a hammer whose felt had come loose from its wood molding. Further inspection revealed at least ten more hammer heads suffering from the same malady. Just at this moment of revelation the gentleman who made arrangements for these tunings appeared.

He, of course, wanted to know how it was going, that is, the tunings. I, in my most cavalier demeanor announced to him the problem at hand at which time he quickly wanted to know the cost of its' repair. Now I've never been very quick on my feet, but this day I could have made a turtle look like Michael Jordan or maybe an ape look like Einstein. In any case I bid the repair about a hundred dollars too low.

Having already done the damage to my profit, I began the removal of the finely crafted spinet action only to notice the hammer, wippen,

damper, and jack flanges were made of the most beautifully yellowed plastic.

TO BE CONTINUED

Ben Davis, RPT

Meeting Notice

The June meeting will be held on the 21st at 8:30 a.m.

We will meet at Valerie Crawford's place in Tuttle. Directions on back page.

We will discuss the delegate responsibilities for Council at the National Convention.

Norman Cantrell will present a technical on Teardown for Rebuilding. This system will apply to all types of repairs and will help you keep track of costs and materials to insure a profitable job.

Oops I forgot the dang disclaimer!
See last month's issue if you need it.
Simply cut it out and past it in this space.

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Norm's Noncents

Well the time has come to hang up my computer and go on into the editorial sunset. As I reflected on my involvement in writing for our chapter it occurred to me that I am probably the most read piano technician in Oklahoma. This comes from having served two stints as newsletter editor for a total of 6 or 7 years (I've lost count) along with having written a President's Message during my five years as President. You guys are probably quite tired of my ramblings by now. I remember the old days of typing the newsletter out on an electric typewriter followed by several years of learning how to use the computer. All in all it has been a great experience. I am not retiring from tuning or leaving the country but I will be taking a leave from the leadership in the local chapter for a while.

I am in the process of buying a house in Lawton and will close on it the day before our chapter meeting. My new address will be 2111 NW Dearborn, Lawton, OK 73505. I will have a new home phone but the phone company has not yet let me in on the number. My shop will

remain in the same location and my business phone will not change.

I would like to thank all of you who have sent contributions over the years. Thanks also for putting up with all my writing. I think it will be possible to still order some of your favorite items from Okie Doakie Piano Supply for the time being. I will leave the editor's chair in the capable hands of our own Valerie Crawford. She was duly elected to that post at the last chapter meeting. The only other change in the officers is in the office of Vice-President. That role will now be assumed by that old fiesty guy himself Mr. Bob Scheer. He will be responsible for all the programs and technical presentations. If you have any good ideas I am sure Bob would like to hear from you. Even if you don't have any ideas call him from time to time just to see how he is doing. You will at least tie up his phone line so his customer's can't get through and they might just call you instead.

Thanks again for all your support.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Directions to Valerie's place.

From OKC go south on I-44 to the Tuttle/Minco exit (Hwy 37) CHECK YOUR ODOMETER at the exit.

The ramp ends at a stoplight. Go through the stoplight (on green) Continue west on Hwy 37 for exactly 10 miles until you come to a gas station named "KIDS" on the right side of the road. Turn left (south) here at Frisco Rd. Now go exactly 3 miles. At Fox Lane (it will be at the second stop sign) turn right and go a few blocks to the second road which leads off to the left (paved road). Then turn left and go exactly 1/2 mile until you see a house under construction on the left side of the road. That's us. Our living quarters are in the barn while my brother is building the house, so you might want to come to the meeting just to enjoy the rustic surroundings. Valerie's number is 381-2840 in case you need it.