

THE SOONER TUNER

August 2001

Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reno. What can one say about Reno? If one would include the finest technicians and tuners from such company as Steinway, Kawai, Mason & Hamlin, Yamaha, Siler, and Fazioli (just to name a few) then add independent techs and tuners along with those who manufacture tools—and let's not forget rebuilders, etc.—you would end up with a mix of the world's finest craftsmen.

These are individuals who make it or break it by doing the work they teach. One feels confident that these people don't just talk about their craft but are daily proving their teaching by doing the work themselves.

These national meetings are not ordinary, but extraordinary! Now I must admit that my first job once back in the saddle brought me back to reality. It was, of course, a lovely Concorde spinet. Even a spinet couldn't dampen my enthusiasm, although it was sobering. I am looking forward to seeing all at the August meeting at Edmond Music.

Sincerely,

Ben Davis, RPT

NEXT MEETING

When

Thursday, August 16, 8:30 a.m.

Where

Edmond Music, northeast corner of Broadway Extension and South 33rd Street in Edmond

Technical Presentation

What sets apart a good technician from an excellent one? Just a little. Small details make a big difference. Ben Davis will demonstrate one of the most difficult yet crucial areas of regulation: tone building.

Extra Feature

A comment from one of our Reno attendees was, "I learned that piano technicians are just like pianos." Come to the next meeting to find out who said it and why.

REPORT FROM RENO

Norman Cantrell RPT, our Chapter Delegate and an instructor at Reno received high ratings on his class entitled "Why Regulate? It's Just a Vertical." This class was a favorite of Reno convention-goers as it also was last year among techs attending the Texas State Regional PTG Convention. You know a class like Norman's was good when you hear people talking about it in the hallways and when other instructors refer to the presentation in their own classes. In his presentation Norman demonstrates several new techniques to make vertical regulation easier and more accurate.

Family Note From Valerie Crawford

On July 26, 2001, my dad, Robert Crawford, became one of the 350,000 men in America this year who are diagnosed with prostate cancer. The type he had was fast-growing so we scheduled surgery for a week later. At the time of this printing he is in the hospital recovering from surgery and doing well. We are thankful that the cancer had not spread so far as to make his condition inoperable. Six weeks time could have made the fatal difference. I've long thought that if a beginning piano technician couldn't have a piano tech for a father the next best thing would be to have an aeronautical engineer like I do for a dad. You would not believe how many airplane tools double for use in a piano.

The Sooner Tuner
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