

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.

JUNE 2004

COMING EVENTS:

JUNE – The next meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of the PTG will be held June 17, 2004 at 8:30 AM at Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, located just east of Eastern on Memorial. Gary Bruce will present a technical on acrylic key repair. In addition to this, there may be a mini tech presented.

JULY – There will be no meeting during the month of July due to the National Convention, which is being held in Nashville, Tennessee. You are all encouraged to attend this Convention.

Over the years I have accumulated quite a surplus of piano tools. Several tuning hammers and assorted regulating tools. I would like to sell these tools at a nominal price, or if anyone knows of a training facility or a struggling apprentice who needs them, I would be willing to donate them.

One of the tuning hammers originally belonged to Dean Frederick Holmburg. It was loaned to me by Dr. C.B. Minner (who was a friend to Holmburg) when I first started tuning in 1945. That was during World War II and it was impossible to buy tools at that time. After Minner died, his wife gave the hammer to me. I may not be willing to part with that one.

It is difficult for me to make an 8:30 meeting in OKC, especially on workdays, which may be any day for me. I do most of my University work on Saturday and Sunday to avoid teaching schedules. I will try to make a meeting and bring the tools. If anyone is interested please contact me.

Don Stephens
Norman, OK
321-0806

INSPIRED WORK IS THRILLING.

FROM THE PRES:

Summertime and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin and gasoline is high! This is a great time to take a trip, spend time with family and friends and take a short break from the maddening rush. As self-employed individuals, without paid vacations, it makes it more difficult to take time off; however, life is way too short not to do so. Why not plan a long weekend going somewhere you've never been before or doing something you've never done? Enjoy life! It's summertime!!!

Bob Scheer, RPT
Edmond, Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Chapter now has its own official website on the PTG (Piano Technicians Guild) server. The new location for the Oklahoma Chapter Archives is: <http://www.ptg.org/chapters/oklahoma/>

The information for this website is being compiled and organized by Keith McGavern. Any old newsletters, chapter minutes, treasurer reports, knowledge of past chapter officers that any of you have in your storage areas, please consider bringing to the next chapter meeting for Keith to add to the Archives. It will be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your help. Thank you also to Keith for all of his hard work in putting this together.

LAUGHING AT THE WRONG TIME IS STILL GOOD FOR YOU.

HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED TO ANY OF YOU?

The doorbell rang and the lady of the house discovered a workman, complete with tool chest on the front porch. "Madam," he announced, "I'm the piano tuner." The lady exclaimed, "Why, I didn't send for a piano tuner." The man replied, "I know you didn't, but your neighbors did."

TECH TIP

QUESTION: On a grand piano with original parts, what are the implications of the drop screws being turned up all the way, and there still being excessive drop?

RESPONSE: The knuckles are most likely flattened and need to be bolstered. After bolstering the knuckles some minimum regulation will need to be done, such as hammer distance to strings, let-off and drop.

Keith McGavern, RPT
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Since we are approaching our National Holiday, July 4th...

It is time to realize that we're too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams. We have every right to dream heroic dreams...No weapon or arsenal in the arsenals of the world is as powerful as the moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.

The crisis we are facing today...does require...our best effort and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds, and to believe that together with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us. And after all, why shouldn't we believe that? WE ARE AMERICANS!

From Ronald Reagan's 1st Inaugural Address

I apologize in advance to all of you who may have heard this before. My husband David groaned when he found out that I was including this in the newsletter this month. But I happen to think it is such a cute story. I first heard this when I was a junior in high school and it made such an impression that I have never forgotten it. So, I'm hoping that maybe some of you haven't heard it and if you have, I hope that you will still enjoy it even if you've heard it repeatedly...

Barbara Bonham
Newsletter Editor

THE PIANO TUNER

Tom was a music lover who had learned to play the piano when he was a child, but didn't play much any more. He wished that he had a piano of his own. One day his dream came true. He found a baby grand piano at a flea market. It was in pretty sad condition, but Tom could tell that it was a fine piano. He purchased it and had it restored so that it looked like new.

Now that the piano was beautiful to look at, he needed to have it tuned. He looked in the phone book and found a piano tuner with an interesting name. "Hans Appernachadi," the ad read, "Piano Tuner Extraordinaire. Your piano will NEVER need to be tuned again." Tom decided to give the guy a call. An elderly gentleman answered the phone. A moment later, Tom was told that Mr. Appernachadi (pronounced ah-per-nock-a-dee) would be there first thing in the morning to tune his fine piano.

Sure enough, Appernachadi was there first thing in the morning. He meticulously tuned every string on the piano and replaced any broken or damaged ones he could find. Finally, he told Tom he was finished.

"What are the damages?" Tom asked. The old man replied with an exorbitant figure that made Tom's head spin. "Why so much?" The old man replied, "The ad said that your piano will never have to be tuned again. That's why I charge so much for my work."

Well, the old guy really knew his stuff because the piano sounded AWESOME! Tom was overjoyed with the results. Several weeks later some of Tom's friends came over and took turns playing the instrument. They pounded and abused it until the wee hours of the morning. To Tom's chagrin, the next morning, the piano was horribly out of tune. Much to his embarrassment, he decided he better call the tuner back for an encore. He dialed the number and the man answered on the second ring...

"Ah yes, I have caller ID, I see it's you Tom. What can I do for you this morning?"

"Uh, I had some friends over last night and they were pretty rough...I'm afraid my piano is all out of tune again."

"Sorry," the old gentleman replied coldly, but APPERNACHADI ONLY TUNES ONCE!!!!!"

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers for the 2004-2005 year was held at the May Meeting. The following people were elected: President – Bob Scheer, Vice President – Ben Davis, Secretary – Keith McGavern, Treasurer – Gary Bruce,

“I AM YOUR FLAG”

I am the silent sentinel of your Freedom.
I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.
I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.
I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody swamps of Vietnam.
I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White
Crosses, row upon row.
I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst all I have been respected.
My Red Stripes...symbolize the blood spilled in defense of the glorious nation.
My White Stripes...signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.
My Blue Field...is indicative of God’s heaven under which I fly.
My Stars...clustered together unify 50 States as one for God and Country.
“Old Glory” is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.
Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and fortunes.
Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.
Keep alight the fires of patriotism; strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.
Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for
all mankind.

Compliments of Colonel Daniel K. Cedusky, USAR, Retired

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

If you know anyone serving our country in the Military, be sure to thank them for defending our freedom.

GOD BLESS THE USA

President – Bob Scheer
Vice President – Ben Davis
Secretary – Keith McGavern
Treasurer – Gary Bruce
Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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