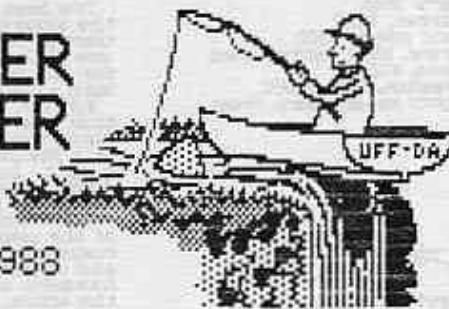




the SOONER TUNER

JUNE, 1983



Netzow - The Final Chapter

After many months of infrequently disturbed repose as a home for spiders, the infamous Netzow upright has been placed in a permanent home. For the sum of \$200 the rather rich-sounding relic went to reside in Oklahoma City, where it will be well used and loved. Thanks to all who contributed to its reconditioning, moving, and tuning. Many lessons were learned through the experience, some having to do with piano work.

Now, on to the Chickering grand. Decisions must be made at the next meeting determining the chapter's involvement in that piano's rehabilitation.

Coming Events

- * June 25 - "Joining" by David Bonham.
- * July 7 - Possible Cook-Out with Jamie Marks as guest technician.
- * July 18-22 - National Convention in St. Louis.
- * August 20 - "Refinishing Hints" by Jim Yagger.
- * September 17 - "Undetermined" by Ben Bailey. (in hiatus)

New Offices & Officers

The suggestions and nominations of our nominating committee were presented at the May meeting. A new office was created and new labels for Vice-President were approved. In the subsequent vote the following list of officers were elected by acclamation:

President - Keith McGavern
Vice-President for Programs and Arrangements - Tim Hast
Vice President for Membership Development - Gary Bruce
Secretary/Newsletter Liaison - David Bonham
Treasurer - Carol Bannemann

Meet: NATHAN SOBEL

Our newest member was born in California, grew up in Oklahoma, returned to California, and now is one of us. A trained musician (PFT - University of Oklahoma), he arranges, records, performs, teaches, conducts and tunes. He got started in tuning out of frustration with having to have someone tune his performance piano once a month. He received his technical training in piano technology at the San Francisco School of Piano Technology. Rounding out his life, Nathan enjoys water sports, ice skating, and snow skiing. Board games (especially Risk) and travel also rank high in his leisure time pursuits. He is also involved with Theatre Norman. Welcome to Nathan Sobel!

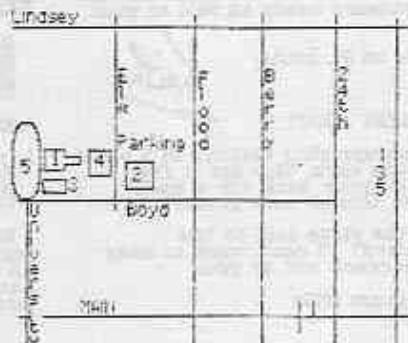
What's Next?

The subject of the June 25th technical is something of continuation of the regulation demonstration begun by Bob Schrey. David Bonham, at his shop on the University of Oklahoma campus, will present a class on tone regulation. Be forewarned. This class is not for the squeamish as there will be much juicing and needling. The shop location is Holmberg Hall Room 110.

Map legend:

- 1 - Holmberg Hall,
- 2 - Catlett Music Center,
- 3 - Jones Art Center,
- 4 - Fine Arts Center,
- 5 - Parrington Oval

Lindsey



The Ads

From Yeager's Shop:
Whitney spinet, \$550
Melodigrand spinet, \$500
Kimball grand, 1906, reconditioned,
refinished, \$3200
Baldwin Hamilton, 1906, \$1900
Two uprights needing work, free!



Presidential Pearls

Availability...

This is a term that has arrested my attention in the past few months. As I ponder this word, I realize that it has played a important part in my life for many years. In fact, I have based the piano service I give largely on the sole premise of availability.

There are times when customers don't want to wait for a piano tuner to accumulate enough calls before a service trip can be justified. Yet, on the other hand, the same customers are somewhat reluctant to bear the additional cost of only having their piano serviced.

I made my decision long ago to go where others want me. When they want me, rather than make them wait. And if those few are willing to absorb the extra expense, then I most certainly can bear to go into their lives and perform piano service with a plus.

Now this isn't a get-rich-quick scheme. However, it does serve to demonstrate one more excellent reason why there is room for anyone in piano service who fills a particular need that others for some reason or another fear to tread.

The real beauty of this profession lies in the artistry of the individual with imagination and insight to recognize a special niche and capitalize on it, all the while serving the customer's needs as well as your own.

Meet me in St. Louis.

A handwritten signature that reads "Keith".

DIDJA HERR ABOUT...

...The two uprights talking in a piano shop? Una says, "How did it feel laying on your back for a week?" Answer: "Grand, just grand."

...What the plate said to the soundboard? "I don't want to hear another crack out of you."

(PPIJ, August 1973)

Technical Forum

I've been giving some thought to the assertion, in the Technical Forum ("Sooner Tuner," p. 88), that Steinway's use of Swedish steel is responsible for the "superior" resonance and tone with a resultant tuning instability.

Firstly, such an assertion implies that the composition of the wire plays the dominate role in the sound of a Steinway piano. No doubt it has a part. But, so does the amount of down-bearing; the composition of the plate; the position of the bridge; the composition, thickness, and flexibility of the soundboard; and the composition, manufacturing method, and chemical treatment of the hammers; as well as the regulation of the action, the ambience of the room, and placement of the piano in the room.

Secondly, competition is fierce between the manufacturers of high end pianos. They are quick to adopt non-patentable methods and materials that result in improved qualities in their own pianos. And, I doubt that the lack of Swedish steel in professional pianos of other brands is due to its exceptional cost or lack of availability. I think that they may either have other goals in mind or that the superior traits of Swedish steel is overstated.

The assertion sounds to me like another statement put out by a manufacturer for the consumption of an ignorant and gullible public. - M.W.



Feel free to send your replies, comments or question to us. - Ed.

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We invite your contributions, comments, and suggestions. Contact us by the first day of each month to have information included in the next issue.