

# THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER  
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



MARCH 7,  
1990

## COMING EVENTS:

March 22 Thursday 7:00 Special Chapter Meeting at OU Piano Shop. Bob Flexnor, nationally known woodworking authority, will be speaking to our group about finishes. His emphasis will be on practical knowledge for our evaluating and repairing piano finishes. Can that finish be repaired, or is stripping the only solution? Is this lacquer, varnish, polyester, or what? How do you match the color and the sheen to make a good repair? How should different finishes be protected and cared for?

He plans to give us some hands-on experience on several pianos in and near the shop. The main presentation will end at 9:00, after which Mr. Flexnor has offered to stay and go into further detail with those who are available and interested.

The shop is in Holmberg Hall, Rm 110. Holmberg is just south of the museum at the corner of Boyd and University, Norman, Okla.

April 14 Saturday 10 am to 3 pm Chapter Meeting / Special Event at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Ron Lewis will be our guest speaker. See tentative schedule on page 3. A map and further details will be in the next newsletter.

April 26-29 Regional Seminar in St. Louis. The classes planned for this event sound really excellent. You should have received notification in the mail by now.

May: Possible trip to the Baldwin factory to see Jamie Marks and learn about Baldwin piano production. Let us know of your interest in this plan at the next meeting or by phone or mail.



July 7-11 PTG Annual Seminar/Institute in Dallas. It would be a shame to miss one this close! Get this on your calendar now!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I can hardly believe that we're already into the third month of this new year. It seems like time is flying by faster than ever. Of course I've had another birthday since the start of the year, and I have this mysterious belief that as we get older time really goes by faster. Not that it seems to go by faster, but rather it actually goes by faster. You see when we are born and are, for example, one hour old, that one hour represents the entirety, 100%, of our experience of time (this side of delivery).

As we age, one hour represents a lower percentage of our experience. So that by the time I hit 38 years this year, one hour only represented .00003% of my life's experience (this side of delivery). I'll let you figure out how I arrived at that statistic. Anyway, life has been extremely hectic for me and my family this year, and those hours seem to disappear faster than ever.

After three years of living in the home we spent four years building the Bruces have moved back into town. Many of you know about the problem we have had with our water (non-drinkable due to salt-water injection well contamination from nearby oil wells). That, together with other factors I won't detail here, finally took it's toll on our patience. I will continue to use the shop for my piano work, and the house is rented for the time being.



Our new mailing address is:  
817 Rollings Hills Terrace, Edmond, OK 73034

If you doubt the validity of my diminishing hour theory, try programming it into your Sanderson AccuTuner and see if it computes.

See you in Norman for the March Chapter meeting. Maybe Bob Flexnor has some sort of preservative he can spray on us to retard our aging or eradicate our cracks and wrinkles.

Jocularly submitted, Gary L. Bruce, RTT

#### TECHNICALLY SPEAKING:

An easy way to remove key bushings that don't loosen by steaming would be to pre-soak them with a strip of thin or medium bushing cloth immersed in white vinegar and a .087 bushing caul. (Lightly squeeze out excess vinegar from cloth by pulling between thumb and index finger.) Lay bushing cloth across mortise of key and insert caul into mortise. This will force vinegar into old bushing which will soften the old hide glue. Let soak for 1-2 hours before attempting removal. Cauls available from: Key Bushing Supply, 84A Main St., Kingston, New Hampshire.

For info only: 603-642-3633.

For orders: 800-388-BUSH(2874)

(Thanks, Ross Trawick, RTT, for this tech tip)

#### OKC HOSTING 1991 REGIONAL INSTITUTE?

Our Oklahoma Chapter has been requested by Gary Neale who is the South Central Regional PTG Spring Seminar Institute Director to host the 1991 Seminar once again. There has already been quite a bit of discussion on this matter but we need to discuss this further and make a decision at our March meeting as to whether we will or will not be hosts next year. If you cannot attend the March meeting and have input you would like to contribute to this matter, please contact me either by phone or mail so that your voice can be heard in our chapter.

Gary Bruce, President

#### TAX TIP FROM TIM HAST:

Tax and the Piano Tuner . . .

If you have one telephone line at your home that you use for business and personal calls,

you will not be able to deduct the cost of that telephone on your income taxes in 1990. A business line costs \$55-\$65 per month, which comes out to as much as \$800 annually. This translates into as much as \$400 savings in self-employment state and federal income-tax. In order to keep this deduction you must have a separate personal telephone service to your home. This basic service runs around \$200 per year with a \$60 hook-up fee. Well, "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's" . . . - the IRS giveth and the IRS taketh away.

#### ELECTIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS SOON:

The Nominating Committee is at work developing a recommended slate of officers for the coming year. Ross Trawick is chairman. They will present their suggestions at the April business meeting and the election will be in May (in Arkansas?)

Your current officers met again this week for one of their quarterly business/discussion sessions. Expect to hear a report at our next Chapter Meeting.

#### ADVERTISEMENT:

##### FOR SALE:

Assorted Piano Technicians Journals  
Good Condition - 1981 through 1988 - \$3.00 each

Contact Keith McGavern, RTT, 1-800-359-4211

THANKS to all you contributors this month who made it possible for me to do my job as Editor. It is so much more satisfying to not be limited by what I happen to feel like saying!

David Bonham, RTT  
8104 N. Brookside Dr.  
OKC, OK 73132 721-0566



Welcome  
Spring  
1990!