

THE SOONER TUNER

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



APRIL-MAY
1991

COMING EVENTS:

May 16 Thursday 7:00 (note time change)
Chapter Meeting at Ross Trawick's shop, 3200
N. Bartel in OKC. Ross will be presenting a
"Spring Seminar" on dealing with various
action springs. Several important business
items will be discussed, including a report
from the Nominating Committee on a new slate
of officers. We will be updated on developing
plans for the '92 Regional Seminar we are
hosting next spring. We will take a look over
the past year and see where our strengths and
weaknesses have been, in order to help us
focus on a productive course for the coming
year. Let's all be present for this event!

June 15 Saturday 10:00-12 We are considering
trying a morning schedule for a summer
Saturday meeting. Plans will be confirmed at
the May business meeting. A breakfast
meeting at a restaurant is one possibility.

July 13-17 National PTG Seminar in
Philadelphia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

"Little Things"

Often in our work it is the little details
that make the big difference. I was reminded
of this recently. I was working on a Steinway
"B" and the owner complained that A2 didn't
feel "even" with the other notes. This is a
piano that I had rebuilt and had taken great
pride in my regulation, yet she pointed out
the problem and after I swallowed my pride I could
see that she was right.

What was the problem? A damper lever
was engaging late, at about the same time as
let-off (that will really make things uneven)
and a hammer was engaging the backcheck at a
lower level than its neighbors. When those two

things were corrected the problem was gone,
and I had a vivid reminder to watch the little
details closely.

John T. (Tim) East, RTT, President

DOGS OR DAGS?

(reprinted from Dallas Piano Wire, 10/90,
originally by Richard Seaman, RTT, Deerfield,
IL.)

What do you call the wooden block that
holds the back of the grand action down?

Websters New Collegiate Dictionary says:

- dag 1. a hanging end of shred
2. matted or manure-coated wool

- dog 1. a highly various carnivorous
domesticated mammal, etc.
2. a worthless fellow, etc.
3. any of various usually simple
mechanical devices for holding, gripping, or
fastening, etc.

I have never run across any manure-coated
wool used to hold down a grand piano action. I
therefore conclude that "dog" better describes
what I do find being used for that purpose. So
regardless of what many "Piano Technicians" say,
I think "dog" is the word to use.

EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT: I can't help but
follow that with something I learned recently:
How would you describe an agnostic, dyslectic
insomniac? Maybe it would be someone who
stays up all night wondering if there really is
a dog.

TECHNICAL TIP:

I would like to share with you some developments from the ongoing saga of pinblock plugging. When drilling the 1/2 inch hole in the block, use a Forstner type flat-bottom drill bit. This bit can be purchased at Westlake Hardware, or Ace Hardware, or any of the good mail-order tool stores. The cheap jobber-type drill bits tend to tear up the wood surrounding the hole. I learned the hard way.

(thanks to Tim Hast)

FOR SALE:

Two Upright Pianos, \$200 and \$250
Nathan Sobel, Assoc. 329-6971

From David Bonham, 721-0566:

Ivers and Pond Upright, new hammers
and keytops, nice oak cabinet. \$650
Newman Upright \$300

Schulte Upright, refinished burled walnut \$850

Yamaha console, excellent condition \$1800

Emerson Upright with pressed copper panels in
music rack. Very unique and attractive. \$600

Possible lead on Yamaha G3, walnut 6' grand

RENTALS: Pianos by month or by event. Range
from \$20/mo upright to \$300/event Steinway grand



MEETING SCHEDULE:

I was unable to attend the April Chapter Meeting because of a weekend commitment. I think we made an informal schedule change sometime last fall when we stopped alternating our meeting times between Thursdays and Saturdays. Particularly in the summer months several of us find Saturday afternoon meetings difficult to coordinate with family plans, and I would like to bring this up for consideration at our May Chapter meeting. Please let the group know of your current needs and preferences on this matter. The change to Thursday for this month was an executive decision made between the president and the host of the meeting.

EDITOR:

David Bonham, RTT
8104 N. Brookside Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
405-721-0566