

THE SOONER TUNER

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



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

MAY 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last night, while helping me move some pianos, my 14 yr. old son, Wes heard me say with some exasperation, "I told Norman I would have my President's Message to him by tonight and I haven't been able to do it yet." He said, "Dad, isn't this president thing a bit much? I mean, you have been doing it a long time and maybe you should let someone else do it a while."

"I'm not sure anyone else would do the job better," I heard myself say.

"I don't mean that," said Wes, "I just think you should focus right now on what you get paid for, and get things taken care of."

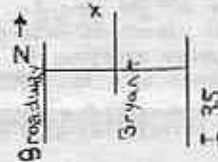
"Are you talking about my conversation with that woman where we picked up the grand?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, "I mean it was nice but it is not what you get paid for."

I thought about the fact that he was showing more interest in money than usual. He is paying off a Whitewater-Frontier City season pass and a \$150 fine for an accident that (see President's pg. 3)

MEETING NOTICE

MAY 21ST CHAPTER MEETING
2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
AT TIM HAST PIANO SHOP
GRAND DAMPER INSTALLATION AND
TRIMMING



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NORM'S NONCENTS

I apologize if this issue of the newsletter is catching you off guard as far as scheduling but I have had another round of programming interruption on my computer. I would encourage all of you to have a backup copy of all important information. I would now encourage everyone to have a back up copy of your back up. For some reason my back up copy had a glitch and I was a week getting things straightened out.

I would like to address two topics this month and they come from opposite ends of the technological spectrum. In other words something old and something new. As for the old, I have been involved in replacing a set of hammers on a square grand. This is the first complete set of hammers I have done on a square and the experience has been interesting to say the least. In case you didn't know you can order replacement hammers from Schaff. The replacements took eight weeks to arrive after I had sent a set of numbered samples which included every other hammer.

The replacements look somewhat like a set of upright hammers with longer square tails with an octave or so of regular grand hammers for the top octave. They come unshaped and must be sanded down to a diamond shape with one exception. One side is concave with the other convex and they resemble a wooden salad spoon. This is necessary to allow clearance as they move toward the strings. I have averaged about

five minutes per hammer to fit and shape each one. I have also replaced all of the hammer shanks which required a simple jig to bore out the old shanks. Perhaps the most challenging was the fact that I had to make new flanges and butts for eight notes robbed off the ends. The processes I incorporated to do this will be the subject of the technical presentation in June. While most of us don't have to make our own parts every day the discussion will include older standard pianos for which replacement parts are no longer available and what to do for them.

As for what is new I have been using my Super Glue for quite a few things lately and thought I would share some of the uses. I have used it to replace ivory keytops. I used it to reglue a key broken at the keybutton. I even used it to glue the buckskin on the new parts for the square grand. The thing all of these uses have in common is the fact that the set up or cure time is greatly reduced and the need for quick accuracy in assemble is required. The broken key for example was reglued in a customer's home as the first item of business. I used a card over the split and a spring clamp to help join the parts. The card was to keep the clamp from being stuck to the key. I then proceeded to insert my temperament strip mutes. By the time they were in the key was dry enough to reinstall in the piano. Using the traditional glues I would have to complete half my tuning before they were dry which can be inconvenient if the broken key is in the middle of the temperament octave. The same time savings were experienced with the keytops. It isn't a miracle cure-all but if you have never tried the Super Glues they are well worth looking at.

Norman Cantrell, ED

PIANO PROVERBS

Everything is changing. People
are taking the comedians
seriously and the politicians
as a joke.

President's

(from pg 1)

could have set the Doris Campground at the Wichita Wildlife Refuge on fire. I thought about my not having talked with him about what satisfactions I have received from my PTF involvement that money can't buy and how I'm preferring the role of President for the last three years to that of serving as Newsletter editor the preceding three years. And I thought about how I put MSW before RPT on my business card, along with the words Consultation, Family Systems Analyst, and "I'd like to help you realize your dreams." We talked about vocation versus occupation, the former being one's calling and the latter being one's means of paying the bills. People work or healing is my calling whereas piano work is my occupation. He understands a whole lot for his age, and I love this kind of time we get to spend together. How lucky I am!

I'm reminded how much focused concentration a good tuning requires, and how it can be healing to me on a deep level as discord gives way to harmony. It's hard, stressful, sometimes healing, it usually earns me money, and its probably why you and I know each other.

David Bonham, President

WANTED:

Member input is needed at this months chapter meeting to plan the summer schedule. The question arises whether to have a chapter meeting in July or cancel and all attend the National Convention. Also when to have the summer picnic/party, in July or August. Let us know now!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 21 CHAPTER MEETING AT HAST PIANO 2:00 P.M. TOPIC--GRAND DAMPERS: INSTALLING, REGULATING AND TRIMMING

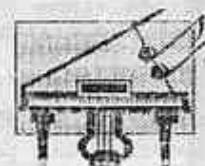
JUNE 16TH 8:00 A.M. AT CANTRELL'S PIANO CLINIC 221 N. DOUGLAS AVE. TOPIC--MAKING PIANO ACTION PARTS FOR OBSOLETE ACTIONS. ALSO ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

JULY 7-10 37TH ANNUAL PTF TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN KANSAS CITY

TUNER TALK

WITH

Bob Barnhoff



Dear Bob:

I have been following your column since its debut. I am wondering just where you get your incredible wisdom. I often tune in to Oprah and Phil and you are far superior to them. You are even approaching the level of my all time hero Rush Limbaugh. Just how do you do it?

Amazed in Altus

Dear Amazed:

First let me say thank you for your support and admiration. You have grouped me with some of the most famous. I am fortunate enough to have been raised by exceptional parents, who allowed me to attend school all the way through Junior High. I have continued my studies at Stans All Night Bookstore--Home of Marvel Comics. I also listen to Rush.

Bob

Okie Doakie Piano Supply

The Sooner Tuner is proud to announce the grand opening of Okie Doakie Piano Supply. Okie Doakie Piano Supply is here to offer you a few of the items you may not be able to get from just any piano supply house. For instance this month's special is our own secret formula for instant success in selling a piano cleaning. We heartily recommend the use of our Dummy Mouse® line of selling aides. The basic kit comes with one Dummy Mouse® in one of four realistic "dead" poses. These are of course perfectly harmless mice prepared by our finest taxidermists but your customer will never know the difference.

In addition to your Dummy Mouse® you will receive as a part of our basic kit one container of Mouse pellets. These are the finest mouse pellets collected from pianos worldwide. They come in an easy to dispense shaker and can be added either on top of the keys or along the base of the pedal board. These are easily placed in the piano when your customer is out of the room thus giving you the perfect opportunity to convince her just how badly her piano needs a thorough cleaning. If you feel your customer is not up to the sight of a real "dead" mouse use just the mouse pellets. They come in handy too when you want to be called back for a sticking key service call. Place the pellets on top of the keys and you will be assured of a return trip which will obviously not be your fault.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

by Joe Mehaffey

One of my customers recently accused me of scratching her piano. I said, "I *couldn't* have done that--that's an old scratch." she wasn't convinced, so I took a screwdriver and drew a line with it. "That's what a *new* scratch looks like."

Which brings me to my topic for this month--what do you do when you are fleeing from an angry client?

•Whenever you're tuning make sure the front door is unlocked and slightly ajar. If you have to fiddle with a deadbolt, you'll *never* get away.

•When you decide to run, grab only your most important tool case. You'll need one hand free to open doors and fend off adversaries.

•What do you do if your client is catching up with you? Some people toss a chair or bicycle to trip her up. But it is easier to carry a wad of paper which is printed like a hundred-dollar bill on one side. Fold one over, and then let it fall as if by accident. Usually, your client will stop to pick it up. If not, you're dealing with a real nut case.

But never use the fake bills to buy anything. That would be totally unethical.

From the April edition of The Valley Technician.

The Sooner Tuner
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