

THE SOONER TUNER
Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
FEBRUARY 2004

COMING EVENTS:

The next meeting of the PTG will be held Thursday, February 19, 2004 at 8:30 AM at Accord Piano Gallery at 7001 N. May Avenue in Oklahoma City. Greg Lynch will present the technical. Please come and help finalize the planning for the TSA Convention, which is next month. See what you can do to help make this event a huge success. We need you!

MARCH: TSA CONVENTION – March 11-14

For detailed information, refer to the website: <http://www.ptg.org/tsa/seminar/hp.html>.

RECENT BUSINESS MERGER

Polygram Records, Warner Brothers and Keebler are merging. The new company will be called: Poly-Warner-Cracker

TECH TIP:

Just recently two questions were asked about doing or not doing a pitch raise. Here are those questions and my responses:

Is it a bad idea to skip the pitch raise if the piano is say, 15 cents flat? How about 20 cents flat?

Yes, it's a bad idea if you want a piano to be in tune.

Where exactly is the edge of the earth, in your experience?

There is no edge if the pitch location needs to be changed.

Keith McGavern, RPT

Shawnee, Oklahoma

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I found a \$100 bill in a piano the other day! I promptly gave it to the lady of the house and told her it was her bill, and she would have to pay it! Sometimes there are treasures to be found inside pianos. Sometimes there are even bigger treasures to be found by gaining more knowledge about the inner workings of pianos. Our upcoming Seminar in March is such a treasure! For those who cannot always find it possible to travel across the country to attend National and Regional PTG Seminars and conventions, this will be a golden opportunity to learn more about our wonderful profession without having to travel afar. We have a great lineup of classes and instructors, so why miss out?

Bob Scheer

Edmond, Oklahoma

President, Oklahoma Chapter

WORDS OF WISDOM:

Always read things that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully; it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If you can't beat your computer at chess, try kickboxing!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BIG UPCOMING EVENT!!!

It's just around the corner....

March 11-14, 2004 TSA Convention

Does a PTG convention have a “keynote” speaker????

Be there or be square!?!?!?!?

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don’t have a leg to stand on!

OUR CONNECTION MAKES US STRONGER!

I was reminded recently how our sharing in this profession makes us stronger. I was asked to tune a Mason and Hamlin console. The customer was complaining about how light the touch was on this piano. His son hated it because just touching the keys caused unintended notes to play, particularly in fast passages. I explained that a good grand would be a far better practice instrument for someone with his son’s talent. I showed him how a group of springs in the vertical action had to do the job that gravity naturally does in a grand action. The springs in this piano had clearly become weaker with age. We spoke of replacing at least the hammer return springs.

Having not replaced a whole set of these before, I decided to call Norman Cantrell to see if he could help me estimate the time this job might require. After we visited a few minutes about this, he reminded me that I could first try the lower budget, conservative approach of bending the springs to restore their capacity. I had done this many times in the past, but it had been long enough ago that the idea sounded foreign. Once I began the process of bending the hammer return springs, jack springs and damper lever springs, it all seemed familiar again. The job was definitely a success. The touch weight actually increased from about 24 grams to about 44 grams, and the customer was very pleased. Time will tell how stable the improvement might be.

I could think of this experience as being about forgetfulness, but I prefer to see it as continuing evidence of our need for one another. We gather monthly to share ideas, techniques and stories that encourage us to grow, explore, learn and relearn the multifaceted business that we embrace. I appreciate all of you.

David Bonham, RPT
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Man who runs in front of car gets tired. Man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

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

War does not determine who is right. War determines who is left.

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