

"THE SOONER TUNER"



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
April '95



NEXT MEETING

April 8th, Saturday, 9AM
Hast Piano Shop, 3631 North Bryant, Edmond
405-359-0440
(Donuts & coffee will be available)

EVALUATING PIANOS FOR REPAIR

By David Bonham, RPT
How to go to a customers home and make
a thorough evaluation of the needs of that piano.

MAY MEETING

May 11th, Thursday, 7PM

David Bonham, President.....	405-721-0566
Tim Hast, Vice President.....	405-359-0440
Darin Niebuhr, Secretary.....	405-329-2970
Norman Cantrell, Treasurer.....	405-272-9687
Keith McGavern, Newsletter.....	405-275-8600

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TECH TIP

When tuning the unisons in the upper 1 1/2 octave,
I use both aural and electronic skills.
What with false beats, room noise, and personal stability,
I am assured of "nailing" those unisons as best is possible.

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Heard at the February meeting that WD-40 (of all things) is useful
in removing those pesky tuning stickers that outlive their usefulness.

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NOW HEAR THIS

• DAVID NELSON, 25, manager of a Big Boy's in Toledo, on the theft
of his restaurant's fiberglass Big Boy statue, which was dismembered
and scattered around town, along with notes reading "Big Boy is dead":

"He's friendly, always smiling, ready to greet our customers. I
mean, what kind of person would do this to him?"

(from Fortune, April 17, 1995, page 24)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two weeks ago I responded to a call for a tuning. The piano was a Wurlitzer console. The woman explained that it had a "very heavy touch", but it was built that way and it can't be changed. She was more or less quoting two technicians who had evaluated it in the past. I was curious about this description, and hopeful that I could figure out a solution to the action problem.

I don't know how many times I've done what clients told me couldn't be done, but not enough apparently, because I'm really drawn to these situations. "It can't be brought all the way to standard pitch" is one of my favorites. "Watch me" is what I want to say, although in the back of my mind I'm thinking, "Did that technician know something I don't know?"

Back to the Wurlitzer...the touch was indeed exceedingly heavy. But the touch weight measured around 60 grams--not way out of line. Stop here and see if you can guess the problem.

Give up?

Remember touch is measured with the dampers lifted (pedal depressed). It is the weight required to depress the key and get the hammers close to the strings. With the pedal down the keys felt normal. With the pedal up however, the touch weight was much higher.

The problem was the damper springs, they were way too stiff. By bending them to relax them I was able to make the action feel normal. (I also did some lubricating of action parts and adjusting of damper spoons to cause the dampers to lift a little later.)

What a satisfying experience it is to find such an "unsolvable" problem and take care of it. It made my day.

David Bonham

LAST MEETING

HAD A GREAT TIME AT GRANDY'S ON NW EXRESSWAY. AFTER
EVERYONE PICKED THEIR FAVORITE FOODS FROM THE
BREAKFAST BUFFET (MORE THAN ONCE FOR SOME FOLK),
WE GOT DOWN TO A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON

MUSIC TEACHERS AND THEIR NEEDS

LED BY BEN DAVIS.

SOME FREE MATERIALS WERE HANDED OUT, AND ALL US LEFT
BETTER INFORMED ABOUT OUR INTERACTING ROLES
WITH MUSIC TEACHERS, AS WELL AS MUSIC DEALERS
AND PIANO MANUFACTURERS.

THANK YOU BEN, FOR YOUR PART IN HELPING
MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER!

1995 Scheduled Meetings

June 8th, Thursday, 8AM

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Another item from Fortune, April 17, 1995, page 6
(about Walt Disney World)
by Geoffrey Colvin, Executive Editor

"...The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror may or may not sound like someplace you would like to plunge from the top of. Knowing it's a new ride at Disney World might cause you to feel more secure...the multimillion-dollar Tower is engineered so you'll reach the bottom in one of its passenger cars faster than if you just step off and fall. Gravity is scary enough for skydivers, but not for Disney..."

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And yet another item from Fortune, April 17, 1995, page 195
(about a value discipline)
by Michael Treacy, author of The Discipline of Market Leaders

"...winning today means picking one of three disciplines--best price, best product, or best service--and then outdistancing the competition.. To deliver this kind of unmatched value to your customer, you have to back it up with an unmatched way of operating your business..."

"...How do you know which of the three disciplines is right for you? To find out, you need to answer three basic questions: (1) What do my customers want? (2) What are my competitors doing? (3) What strengths do I possess that would give me a natural advantage?..."

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IN CLOSING

Recommended Reading

Editorial Perspective: *Profession And Image* by Steve Brady, RPT
(PT Journal, March 1995, page 2)

This article served to remind me of the incredible quality
of people that exist in the PTG.

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

Nothing in fine print is ever good news.
(from marquee sign at Williams Transmission, Shawnee)

It is good to remember that the tea kettle,
although up to its neck in hot water, continues to sing.
--author unknown

The company you keep determines the trouble you meet.
--unknown church marquee

"Human felicity is produced not so much by great pieces of good fortune
that seldom happen, as by little advantages that occur every day."
--Benjamin Franklin (1791)

"It is possible to make no mistakes and still lose."
Captain Pickard, Federation Starship Enterprise, to Data

"You have two lives; the life you learn with and the life you live with after you learn."
(from the movie, *The Natural*)

"Television is an invention whereby you can be entertained in your living room
by people you wouldn't have in your house."
(David Frost, published in Reader's Digest, March 1995, Points To Ponder, page 138)

It's not the pace of life that scares me,
it's the sudden stop at the end.
(from a 'No Fear' T-shirt)