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# THE CINCY SOUNDBOARD

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CINCINNATI CHAPTER – PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD

Oct., 1998

“ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT”

VOL III, NO. 3

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## GOODBYE ROLF!

TRAVERSE CITY HERE HE COMES

Well folks, it's finally happened. After threatening to leave for years, Rolf and Nancy have finally escaped Cincinnati, moving to Traverse City, Michigan at the beginning of this month. For those who missed it, a wonderful going away party at Bob Siegfried's house followed the September meeting. Dave Jackson cooked some delicious food, and Bob and Helen provided great hospitality and libations as well.

Rolf's service here in the Cincinnati chapter was marked by excellence and by a willingness to go the extra distance to make sure that any job in which he was engaged was done right. This was as true when he was a fledgling member as it has been since his election as Regional Vice-President. He has guided this chapter through some of the toughest moments any chapter in this organization is likely to encounter, and has helped heal the wounds these trials caused. Whenever a new project came up, it seemed that Rolf was the instigator, and even if it wasn't his idea, it seemed like he was always the one to follow through and somehow find the time to do the work. Whether it was a Regional Seminar or a project piano, Rolf was more often than not in charge. His devotion to his new post as RVP has been evidenced by the excellent job he has been doing, and if his past performance on our local level is any indication, he will soon be known if not already as one of the finest RVPs in the country.

We will sorely miss Rolf's presence here in Cincinnati both as an active member of our Guild Chapter, and also as a good friend and comrade. He leaves big shoes to fill, and we can only hope his business brings him to our fair city on a regular basis.

For those who wish to keep in touch, or maybe send an X-mas card, Rolf and Nancy's new address is:

8788 Pheasant Run  
Traverse City MI 49684  
(616) 946-2040 e-mail [pianos@traverse.net](mailto:pianos@traverse.net)

## ESSEX ABDICATES

### MESSAGE FROM EL PRESIDENTE

10-12-98

Dear Cincinnati Chapter  
Members and Friends,

I regret that my work will be taking me out of town on Tuesdays from now on. That makes it impossible for me to serve as chapter president any longer. I will submit my resignation this month.

You know me well enough to know that I will gladly serve in any way I can. So keep in touch. I'll see many of you on the weekends.

Sincerely,

*Nevin Essex*

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## HOLIDAY DINNER

We have reserved Arnolds Bar & Grill on Saturday, Dec. 5 for our annual holiday dinner. Things will be pretty much the same as last year (with menu variations of course), so put it on your calendar now!

**CINCINNATI  
CHAPTER OFFICERS  
PIANO TECHNICIANS  
GUILD  
1998-1999**

**PRESIDENT**  
*Nevin Essex*

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
*Lawrence Becker*

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**THE CINCY SOUNDBOARD**

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Send subscription requests, materials and comments to:

**THE CINCY SOUNDBOARD**

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**DIARY OF A  
WANDERING  
PIANO TUNER**

*By Nevin Essex*

**WEDNESDAY**

I was on my way across southern Arkansas in the late fall afternoon. It was 97 degrees in the shade, but there wasn't any shade. Some of the cotton fields were so large and flat I could see the curvature of the earth. The water situation seemed to go from one extreme to the other. Some places it was dry and the farmers had set up irrigation systems. Other areas were swamp. There were signs along the road identifying Ducks Unlimited wetlands. The terrain in the wetland areas was dead flat. There were no flood plains. The rivers were flooded and the water had spread out for miles and was only a few inches deep. The roads were only a couple of feet above the water.

As I drove I heard popping sounds like it had begun to rain in huge drops. But the sound was grasshoppers flying into the windshield. Before long I couldn't see and I had to stop to wash the

bug buildup off the glass. But the mosquitoes were so thick I couldn't get out of the car until I had covered myself with insect repellent.

I was expecting to stop at a customer's home near a small town called Tomato, Arkansas. Population 143. I turned off the main road at a crossing near a general store and drove over a railroad track. I went about 1500 yards down a dirt road to a small white house with a tin roof. Much of the paint was blistered off the siding. There were no signs of life outside. No pets, no lawn furniture, no cars. Just the little house in the middle of a field with an air conditioner humming in the window.

***“That’s the thing, you know, stuck in this chair. You ever try to pick up a girl when you have a wet diaper?”***

I knocked on the door and waited. I could hear a man's voice talking to me

***(Continued on page 3)***

DIARY

(continued from page 2)

from inside but I couldn't hear the words. A minute later the door opened part way and stopped. A few seconds later it opened the rest of the way. A thirty-something man in a wheel chair motioned for me to come inside and grumbled about the sticking door. He introduced himself as Ed. He said he had a problem with his piano and it was driving him crazy. Funny ringing sounds.

Ed started talking to me while I was working on the sticky damper action. He told me about his accident. He was drunk and passed out at the wheel. He ran off the road and drove right through his neighbor's house. The neighbor wasn't hurt, but Ed broke his neck. He said he would never use his legs again, but he had regained the use of his arms. Even some use of his fingers. That's why the piano. Sometimes his sister would take him to town and he could roll himself around in his chair and and he would see all his friends. Merrill, the barber. And Jody, who had been a cheerleader when Ed was a football player, who now worked at the grocery store. On the piano was a Christmas card from Bill Clinton. I didn't ask any questions.

I saw a big screen TV and VCR in the corner. "What's your favorite show?" I asked.

"Oh, I like Star Trek and Perry Mason re-runs. I hate those stupid angel shows, though. And I like those shows with blondes, Baywatch and stuff, you know what I mean? And I get videos. That's the thing, you know, stuck in this chair. You ever try to pick up a girl when you have a wet diaper?"

"I guess not," I said. "But it could have been me. I mean, just that easily."

"You got that right," he said.

I finished the work and watched Ed play the piano with one finger on each hand. He was heroic. I said goodbye and promised to send him a video.

It had started to rain while I was working. As I drove away in the dusk I could see that the water had been rising. It was right up to the edge of the road.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Cincinnati Chapter PTG  
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1998

Attendance: 10 RPT's, 3 Associate's, 1 Visitor's = 14  
Nevin was not present.  
Lawrence Becker ran the meeting.  
There were enough RPT's for a Quorum  
Meeting was called to order at 7:55  
Minutes were read and accepted.  
Treasurers' report was read and accepted. The bank is currently charging a service

charge, however the interest is offsetting the charge.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Old Business

Rolf brought damper heads from the project piano that need to be finished. The piano is strung. The action needs to be regulated. Lawrence and Dave will take care of the regulation. Lou Proske will do the final tuning. The concert will be held on November 21. The piano will be promoted as the Michael Baney Piano. There will be go publicity for the chapter. There will be one plague on the piano listing the Arts Center, Michael Baney and Cincinnati Chapter. The price was accepted by both parties at \$6900, including a dolly, bench, and cover.

New Business

Lawrence read a humorous letter he sent to Tom Jones (Jazzou) after Jazzsou suffered from a recent illness. He then read a response from Jazzou.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47

Technical was given by Rolf on "Valuing Life and Work: Assessing the Cost of Your Time". The technical was followed by a going away reception for Rolf, as this was his last meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Shoemaker,  
Recording Secretary

**THE CINCY SOUNDBOARD**

*Eric Wolfley, Editor*

*2206 Ohio Ave.*

*Cincinnati, Ohio 45219*

***SPECIAL NOTICE!***

***BY SPECIAL INVITATION  
Of The Dayton Chapter***

***CHARLES WALTER  
WILL BE APPEARING***

***On November 19***

***At***

***HAUER MUSIC  
120 S. Patterson Blvd.  
Dayton Ohio 45054***

*Come see and hear the new  
Charles Walter grand piano  
And  
Speak with the man himself!*

***For more information contact:  
Doug Atkins at 1.800.544.2837***

***THIS MONTH'S MEETING***

***LOCATION:***

*Baldwin Piano & Organ Co.  
422 Ward's Corner Rd.  
Loveland, Ohio*

***DATE:***

*Tuesday, Oct.27*

***TIME:***

*7:30 PM*

***TECHNICAL TOPIC:***

***The Mobile Office***

*Managing your business on the go  
using cell phones and laptops*

***VISITING INSTRUCTOR:***

*Robert Bussell  
From the Indianapolis Chapter*