

# THE SOONER TUNER

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



\*\*\*\*\*

February 1993

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How often are we given the opportunity to do everything on a particular job?...no time or money limits--no need to coax or persuade the owner of what needs fixing. Not often, if ever, I suppose. In my case, even if it is my own piano, I don't seem to get around all of what might be needed as beneficial.

I've concluded that it is important to stretch myself at times to do what often doesn't seem to come naturally; to strive for excellence in a new and therefore somewhat uncomfortable arena. The most recent example of this for me was not in tuning, regulating, or voicing, but in communicating with some of the people I work for at OU. Ours is a service business and I'm often reminded that my calling is to service people rather than pianos. I had to clarify a number of attitudes, feelings and commitments which I felt had been ignored or denied recently, leaving me uncomfortable in my job situation. I don't know what will result from my initiatives, but I am relieved for having stretched myself beyond my "comfort zone" and done my best.

I hope to go to the Arkansas Chapter Spring Seminar in four weeks. Let's make it a fun fellowship and learning time for those of us who can go together! P.S. I

have found a Yamaha U-1 for a law student who has probably talked with most everyone in our whole group during his search.. He told me what I already knew, that we are an exceptional group of men--caring, generous, and with an amazing level of sharing with each other as we respond to people's needs. I thought you might want to hear that.

David Bonham, President

## MEETING IN REVIEW

### THE MINUTES



In attendance: Gary Bruce, Bob Franks, Jesse Jones, Norman Cantrell, Keith McGavern, Nathan Sobel, David Bonham, Tim Hast, Bob Qualls, Gerald Brown, Jesse Lyons and guest Ed Hamby.

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. Invocation by Tim Hast. The minutes and treasurers report were read and approved.

The next meeting will be in Norman on Saturday Feb. 20 at 2:00 p.m. It will be held at the O.U. Piano shop. The technical will be by Gene Black on key repair.

March 12-14 is the South Central Regional Seminar at Fort Smith, Arkansas. (see Minutes pg 3)

Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
1992-93

President David Bonham  
721-0566

V. President Tim Hast  
359-0440

Secretary & Treasurer Nathan Sobel  
329-6971

### MY BAD DAY

Have you ever had one of "those days?" It was a Friday, and that was the only good thing about it. It was cold, cloudy, wet and dreary. I was nursing a cold and feeling like I could use a week of bed rest in Hawaii. My first appointment was one of those where the lady left the door open with instructions to come on in and tune the piano. Her husband worked nights and she asked me to not ring the doorbell and wake him up (like tuning the piano wouldn't!). I'm always a little nervous in a situation like this; I can see the headline in the Daily Oklahoman: Piano Tuner Shot Between the Eyes While Breaking Into House. The quote in small print would read: "Yeah, I shot that sorry piano tuner as he walked right into my house. Imagine that! You'd think someone told him just to come in and make himself at home!"

I made it through the first tuning, which was a Kimball spinet. You know on a Kimball spinet the unisons are never in tune for more than 22 minutes, but this one didn't matter because they had giant fish tanks on either side of the piano, and the roar from the water pumps was loud enough that they would never notice whether or not the unisons were any good. I know they

sounded great to me, an inspiration for "A Little Water Music". I just can't Handel it today!

Well, the tunings the rest of the day went from bad to worse, with a Kawai that had to be pitch raised, to a Baldwin that had never been tuned since it was bought 15 years ago. But don't worry, the mice that had lived in the piano had made good use of it. After doing a 110-cent pull up and re-tune, I was ready for a shower. You know that "icky" feeling you get when you work in a mice-infested piano. If I had wanted to work with doo-doo all day long I would have been a plumber, or a politician.

Then came my last tuning of the day. Way out in the country where you locate the house by celestial navigation and some natural landmarks like "300 feet east of the red barn on the south end of Billy Bobs from." I located the house and out comes "Lobo" the dog from Hell, a 400-pound mix of Chow and something demonic. I normally get on well with dogs but since "Lobo" thought the "H" on my hood stood for "hors d'oeuvres" instead of "Honda", I opted to sit in my car and honk the horn until a little 4-foot tall elderly lady with black hair (blacker than I have ever seen before) came to my rescue. She had a little stick that she used to (see Bad Day pg 4)

C M DUCKS  
M R NOT DUCKS  
S A R  
C M WANGS  
L I B  
M R DUCKS

**NORM'S NONCENTS**

I hope you all had a good Valentines Day and were able to give that special someone a special expression of your affection. As you know I have been exchanging newsletters with other chapters. Some of you may recall the Newsletter Contest which we entered last summer. We were not the winners of the contest but I have begun to exchange with Mark Stivers, editor of The Valley Technician whose newsletter did win first place in the contest. After receiving my first edition of the Valley Technician I can see why and how they won. I will be bringing a copy of this issue to the next meeting so you can see and appreciate the talent contained within.

One of the things that they do in the Sacramento Chapter is to have annual awards to those who have contributed articles for publication in the newsletter. In that vein I would like to thank Tim Hast for his continued contributions to our newsletter. I would also like to urge, compel, plead with but not beg other members of our chapter to consider writing an article or two for this fine (almost award winning) publication. I'll do my best to give you the best.

Norman Cantrell, ED

**PIANO PROVERBS**

♥♥ When your spouse tells you "I love you" it is not a good idea to respond with the word "ditto" ♥♥

The Sooner Tuner a monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter PPO; Norman Cantrell, Assoc. Editor. All articles may be copied without further permission unless specifically noted. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor, The Sooner Tuner, 2251 NW 17th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mark your calendars for this Saturday as the date with 2:00 p.m. as the time for our next meeting.



The meeting will be held at the OU Piano Shop with our own Gene Black giving the technical on Key Repair.

Next month there is no scheduled chapter meeting as we are encouraging as many as possible to attend the Spring Seminar in Fort Smith. This one is as close to home as possible so plan now to attend. Also note that the hotel room rates are as reasonable as I've ever seen for a convention hotel.

**Minutes (cont.)**

Tim has been asked to teach a class at the national convention on Pinblock Plugging. National will pay for the hotel for two nights. Tim has asked the chapter to consider paying the round trip airfare for him. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Tim Hast for Bob Qualls to be the delegate at the 93 national convention. This was seconded by David Bonham and Gary Bruce. It was approved by the chapter.

Norman asked for more articles for the newsletter.

Technical was given by Bob Qualls. He talked about his many years experience and showed us some of his tools that he started with and has used over the years.

**Bad Day, cont.**

whack "Lobo" on the nose as he would lunge at me. She insisted that he didn't bite, but every time I turned away from him to head toward the door of the house he would come in for the kill. She would whack him, and I would get a foot or two nearer the house before I would have to turn around and face the dog, wielding my tool case as a shield between me and the jaws of death. I finally got inside, and "Lobo" gave me a parting look of disdain, as if to say, "There is always a next time, and you are dead meat."

This piano was not much better than the mouse palace Baldwin I had just come from. After a pull-up and a retune, I escaped out the front door, while "Lobo" was in back chewing on the plumber. The next thing I remember was stepping in the back door of my house and promising myself if I ever had a day like this one again, I would throw my tools in the creek and take up yoga for a living.

Tim Hast, RPT

---

The Sooner Tuner  
2251 NW 19th  
Oklahoma city, OK 73107