

# THE SOONER TUNER

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



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

NOVEMBER 4, 1993

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last week I spoke with Bob Johnson, our regional vice-president. He shared an idea that he has been developing for Oklahoma piano technicians, and I think you will enjoy getting in on this. We all work with tools, and some of our best sharing times involve new tools or uses of tools in our trade. That's why we used the name "tool show" in our regional event two years ago, and it's why most every successful workshop/ seminar committee enlists at least one piano tool and parts supplier to display his wares.

Bob has spoken with Bob Marinelli of Pianotek about coming to Oklahoma some Saturday in March for a one-day workshop. Cost would be minimal, and would include lunch. The principle technical focus would be on key repairs. All persons involved in piano service throughout Oklahoma would be invited and encouraged to attend, PTG affiliated or not. We might find some recruits for our chapter and subscribers to the Sooner Tuner in the process.

(see President's, pg. 3)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 11, CHAPTER MEETING  
EDMOND LIBRARY, 10 S. BOULEVARD  
3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.  
VIDEO PRESENTATION

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK BANQUET  
AT DAVID BONHAM'S  
DECEMBER 3 AT 6:30 P.M.

## *in this issue...*

<i>President's Message</i>	<i>pg 1</i>
<i>Norm's Noncents</i>	<i>pg 2</i>
<i>Piano Proverbs</i>	<i>pg 2</i>
<i>I've Got Rhythm</i>	<i>pg 3</i>
<i>Bob Barnhoff</i>	<i>pg 4</i>
<i>Mailing label</i>	<i>pg 4</i>

The Sooner Tuner is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.; Norman Cantrell, Associate Editor. All articles may be reproduced without further permission. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 2251 NW 19th; Oklahoma City, OK 73107.

**Oklahoma Chapter Officers  
1993-94**

President	David Bonham 721-0566
V. President	Tim Hast 359-0440
Secretary & Treasurer	Nathan Sobel 329-6971

## NORM'S NONCENTS

Let me begin this month by sharing a loss I have suffered and we as PTG have suffered. As you know I exchange newsletters with other chapters across the nation and even with the Vancouver chapter in Canada. I received last month's Vancouver Beat and was shocked to learn that their newsletter editor, Robert Bayley had been killed in a car accident. I have never met Robert personally but after corresponding with him over the last three years through the newsletter I feel I knew at least a part of him. He was the first newsletter editor with whom I exchanged newsletters and he has published a couple of my articles in their newsletter and I have published a couple of his. I will miss him and his wit and would like to dedicate this issue to his memory.

After this brief dedication I would like to discuss the subject of writer's block. Writers block is that sudden lack of further ideas which plague a writer from time to time. While writing this column for instance on more than one occasion I have suffered from chronic writer's block. This usually results from fatigue, a rather uninteresting broadcast of "WORLD NEWS TONIGHT", or

some other related phenomenon. I have come to realize that this may in fact be one of the contributing factors to the recent lack of contributions by the readership. While writer's block can be overcome by plagiarism or even nonsense a more positive solution is when subject matter of substance can be brought to bear upon the written page.

While I in no way claim to be an authority on the available solutions to this malady, I will explore some possibilities. One can always move to another subject trying to glean some inspiration. If this is found unpalatable I suppose one could always do something utterly distasteful, like cleaning the toilet in a public school, in order to more fully appreciate the simplicity and beauty of writing as an alternate career.

I suppose that if one were to suffer from an over abundance of writer's block there would be no further communication. That would indeed be an unprofitable situation unless it occurred only to political speech writers or the writers of infomercials. Let's all hope that this editor is not further infected with this disease.

Norman Cantrell, ED. )

### *PIANO PROVERBS*

*It is better to remain silent  
and be thought a fool,  
than to open one's mouth  
and remove all doubt.*

## *I've Got Rhythm!*

I hate to work in the evenings. Many times a customer will call and want me to tune their piano, but they don't get home until 7:00 p.m. They are trying to get me to work on Saturday or even worse, to work late in the evening. My biological clock is set to work less and less efficiently later on in the day, and I would prefer to work early, so this is what I have started doing. For those customers who want me to come after work or on Saturdays, I offer to come in the morning BEFORE they go to work, no matter how early they need to leave. I tell them that if they trust me, I will lock the door or punch the garage door opener and run out through the garage. If they need to leave at 7:15, I try to arrive at 7:00. This way I can meet them, get started, and know about what the job is going to take. I work best early in the day, and if I start early, I will be considerably ahead by noon.

Recognizing what time of the day you work most efficiently is important. A person who is an early bird will do his best tuning during that early part of the day. The night owls (like our esteemed President Bonham) thrive on afternoon and evening work, and that is alright too! The compromise between working when our biological rhythms allow us to do our very best work and agreeing on a good time for tuning our customers pianos is important to the quality of the job, and being able to do the business that shows up at our door or phone.

We had a great meeting at Grandy's in October. We had some good fellowship, we learned about phone etiquette and Norman made a good point about checking our own answering machine messages. I am still trying to get Rush Limbaugh or Ronald Regan to do my tapes for my machine.

Tim Hast, RPT

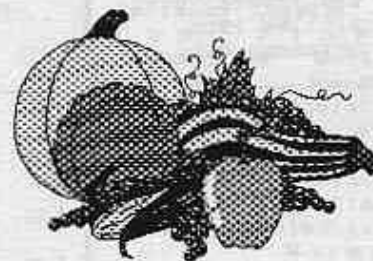
## PRESIDENT'S

(from pg 1)

We need your collective knowledge of who is out there tuning and repairing pianos to formulate our invitation list. Albert Evans is putting the list on his computer, so call him or mail him names you have or bring them to our next chapter meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the Edmond Public Library next Thursday. I have rented two videotapes from the National PTG office to provide our technical input this time. Each is twenty minutes long. They cover areas of stress (plates, pinblocks, etc.) and action center work. See you there!

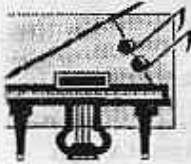
David Bonham, President



# TUNER TALK

WITH

## Bob Barnhoff



Hello this is Bob Barnhoff and this is Tuner Talk. Let's check the mailbag for this month.



Dear Bob:

I was wondering why more piano tuners don't advertise on television during the late night news. I have noticed a relative flood of car dealerships using this time slot and I think there would be some potential in this market.

Advertising In Antlers

Dear Advertising:

I think you would be unwise to use this advertising medium especially during the time slot you mention. The cost would not be the major obstacle for most of the wealthy tuners I know, but the visual impact of all those piano tuners parading around in peoples living rooms might be overwhelming. Let's face it the general public isn't prepared for the precision, expertise, and overall professionalism of the average piano technician.

Bob

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