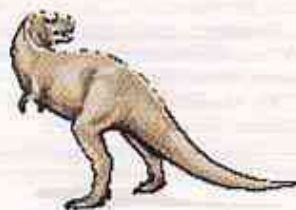


**"THE SOONER TUNER"**



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731  
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.  
October '97

**NEXT MEETING**

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING DATE\*\*\*\*  
IT HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED**

October 15th, Wednesday

TIME:

8:30AM

LOCATION:

Norman Cartrell's place, 405-525-7762

DIRECTIONS:

From I-40 & I-44 go north to 23rd, exit east 1.3 mile to Villa,  
then south to 19th, then east to 2251 NW 19th

**\*\*\* TECHNICAL \*\*\***

"Recycling Old Uprights"

by Ross Trawick, RPT and Norman Cartrell, RPT

\*\*\*\*\*

Norman Cantrell, President..... 405-525-7762  
Ross Trawick, Vice President..... 405-427-6663  
David Wallace, Secretary..... 405-755-4221  
Gary Bruce, Treasurer..... 405-348-3213  
(E-mail address: garybrucegang@juno.com)  
Keith McGavern, Newsletter..... 405-275-8600  
(PO Box 1585, Shawnee, OK 74802-1585)  
(E-mail address: kam544@ionet.net)

### LAST MEETING

Great meeting at the "Tree Stump Ranch!" A huge metal shop building is now the official hang out of David Wallace, Associate and Company. A short business meeting, bull session, coffee and donut break, special guest (Pepper), and three fast state-of-the-art mini-technicals by David Wallace, Associate and Keith McGavern, RPT made the meeting well worth while. Thank you David W. for hosting the September meeting. Next month's meeting should prove to be a romp with the pairing of Trawick and Cantrell in the same corner. :-)

Follow-up to let-off technical for grands: The next day I came across a grand where the Spurlock Action Let-Off Jig would not fit to my likens, adjusting let-off with the action in the piano was nigh impossible, and I was 50 miles away from home. The ~~Faithful~~ Regulation Guide saved the day. That little \$6 investment earned my total respect plus some whopping \$\$\$\$. You can never have too many tools to get the job done! Believe me...Editor

### MISCELLANEOUS

Texas State Association Seminar, October 10,11,12, Forth Worth, Texas, contact David Reed 1-817-735-4420, or Anna Scott 817-572-3434 for information  
Should be a most excellent event!

### 1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

November 20th, Thursday at 8:30AM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy October Greetings to the Oklahoma Chapter, PTG. We have made a slight change in the meeting schedule as per Ross Trawick's request. Since Thursday the 16th is the beginning of fall break for many of us, it was decided to move the meeting to Wednesday, the 15th. Still at 8:30 AM and still at my shop.

It was a very interesting weekend in September when we administered the tuning exams. It was an education in many ways, and I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank each of you who helped in the administration of the exams. I would especially like to thank Walt Connell, RPT from Dallas who spent 2 1/2 days of his time to administer the tests. Whoever said CTEs (Certified Tuning Examinars) are in it for the big bucks is quite mistaken.

One of the things I learned is just how much variance exists in seemingly perfectly good tuning forks. One candidate brought along three A440 forks and all three were far enough out of compliance that none were usable, and a loaner fork was issued. The tolerance for the tuning exam is only 1 cent deviation. In fact the only fork that was dead on was Walt's A fork. My C fork tested perfectly on Saturday, but on Sunday when it was time for my exam, it was .4 cents off. This is still in tolerance, but shows how a shift in temperature can change things. It would be interesting to bring your fork to the next meeting and have it tested. Even if you use the Accu-Tuner, you still need a back-up fork for when your batteries die, or it decides to go on vacation.

I would like to offer congratulations to Herman Jenkins, Tulsa Chapter, and Ben Davis, Oklahoma Chapter, for passing the tuning exams. For those of you wondering, I did pass the CTE exam. It will be some time before I am fully certified as a CTE, but it is the first step. Overall, it was a very good weekend with very good results.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

**PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF**  
*"The Strangest Things Can Happen!"*

Date: Fri, 25 July 1997

During my travels which take me all over the state of Montana, I once was in a very small rural community tuning pianos that hadn't been serviced since "Genesis 1:1". While working on one of these instruments, a man asked me if I had ever known a Mrs. Fisher (name changed to protect the innocent). I said that I didn't, at which point he started talking about her as if she had been one of the world's greatest pianists.

Expecting possible relief from the seemingly endless list of lower quality pianos, I asked him what her piano was like (hoping for a description of a good instrument), at which point he described in detail to a "ghat's eyebrow" a SQUARE PIANO. I immediately asked him where this instrument was. (If it took 5 flat tires I was absolutely NOT going to get to where ever that piano was.) He then told me something that I will never forget. "That's a bit of a different story - you see, when she died a couple of years ago we took her piano, gutted it, and buried her in it." I promptly extended my hand to his saying, "I wish that they were all that far under."

John Fortiner  
pianoserv440@juno.com  
Billings, MT  
"I make house calls"

**PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF**  
*"Unique polyester repair experience!"*

Date: Mon, 11 Aug 1997

Just a quick note to all of you that have customers with poly finished pianos - especially the black ones. A customer of mine, for who I have done rather heavy poly repair on the lid of her piano, related how her piano's lid became damaged.

I am sure that all of you have seen those spherical glass paperweights. Well - she had 6 of them on the lid of her piano when the sun hit them. Guess what - a magnifying glass effect!!!!

She and her husband could smell smoke, but it took them more than 1/2 hour to find that the source was their piano's lid (thanks to those little "harmless" glass weights). For what it is worth you might want to remind your customers about this possibility. The greatest plans of mice and men .....

John R. Fortiner  
jfortiner@juno.com  
Billings, MT

**rec.music.maker.piano newsgroup**  
*"Learning how to tune a piano"*

Rather than get into an involved post on the subject of tuning, I'll make it easy on both of us. Go to the main public library of any large city in your area. They undoubtedly will have a large section, maybe an entire room, devoted to nothing but music. In the card catalog, look up "Pianos: tuning and servicing." In a large library you may be able to find several dozen books on the subject. Maybe more. Check out and read a couple of them. They'll give you a more complete over-view of what's involved in tuning a piano than I could ever hope to do in a single Usenet post.

At the back of most books you'll find a list of suppliers from which you can buy the necessary tools needed for tuning by mail order. If you have a large music store in your area which specializes in pianos, you may be able to purchase what you need through them. It's unlikely that they will have the tools on hand, but they should be able to order them for you. No problem.

Learning the basics of how to tune a piano is relatively easy. It's putting those basics into practice that's so time consuming. In that respect it's something like learning to play the piano. At the beginning you learn the notes, fingering and counting and then you spend YEARS trying to learn to put it all together correctly. Once you learn how to set a temperament and tune a piano you'll probably have to tune somewhere between 500-1000 pianos before you gain enough proficiency to tune for someone who really has a good ear. In other words, learning to tune well takes LOTS OF CONSTANT PRACTICE!!!!

Les Smith  
lessmith@buffnet.net

≤ PIANO TECHNICIAN JOURNAL ≥

**Blast from the Past**

the Lyons Roar, No. 13

by Jesse Lyons, RPT  
Oklahoma Chapter member  
Guild Sustaining

***"Broken Agraffes"***

(PT Journal, August-September 1969, page 13)

If you have had trouble breaking agraffes on grand pianos, I invite you to share my "crying towel" with me. Sometimes the broken shanks of these agraffes turn out with little effort, and sometimes, in spite of all tools available, you can have more than your share of trouble with them. I have twisted off drill bits, easyout bits and finally have had to rethread the hole in the plate to insert an agraffe with an oversize shank.

But here is a good idea from the Stephens Brothers in Oklahoma City: They suggested a left-hand (turning counter-clockwise) bit, used in a reversible drill. They say it works beautifully. Using such a bit, one thing is in your favor: if a left-hand bit is run into the top of a broken shank of an agraffe and it turns the broken shank at all, the turn will be in the turn-out direction instead of the other direction which would tighten the shank as would be the case with a standard right-hand bit.

Reversible electric drills are now available at nearly all tool shops. To obtain a left-hand drill bit you may have to place a special order with your hardware dealer. The Butterworth No. 660 line is stocked in most large city hardware stores. I understand that left-hand bits may be obtained from Hart Industrial Supply, PO Box 1925, Oklahoma City, Okla. The bit size is 1/8".

If you do not have an electric reversible drill, put the left-hand bit in your hand drill and bore the hole by turning the crank as you would to back out an ordinary right-hand drill bit. This will turn the bit in the proper direction. But you must have that left-hand bit or nothing will turn.

If the broken shank of the agraffe protrudes far enough above the plate so that a screwdriver slot may be made in its top using a short section of hacksaw blade, the shank can be screwed out with a screwdriver.

## The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)  
from

Keith McGavern, RPT

### Definition of Perfect Pitch:

Throwing a banjo in the toilet without touching the rim.  
(author unknown)

.....

"You never realize how short a month is until you pay alimony."  
(marquee sign at Phillips 66 station, Ada, OK)

.....

You might be a redneck if...  
Your dog brings shoes home, and you wear them.  
Someone tells you have food in your teeth and you take them out to see.  
You stare at the orange jusice container because it says "concentrate".  
(from OBU's Community Newsletter, Our Day)

.....

"We sit on the shore and build our castles out of sand...  
Today I got washed away and it's a long walk home again."  
-Mellowdramatic Wallflowers-

.....

"Right now I'm having amnesia and deja vu at the same time.  
I think I've forgotten this before."  
(author unknown)

.....

You know when you're rocking in a rocking chair, and you go so  
far that you almost fall over backwards, but at the last instant you  
catch yourself? That's how I feel all the time.  
(author unknown)