

# The Sooner Tuner

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1999  
JANUARY, 1998

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well I hope all of you had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. I trust all of you were good little tuners and Santa was good to all of you with a lot of presents and stuff you always wanted.



Our weather has certainly been diverse and since the temperature has managed to get into the single digits all those pianos that were in tune before Christmas have now gone South indeed. In addition there is quite a storm brewing in Washington D.C. with all the attention surrounding the Impeachment Proceedings. If that weren't enough to concern yourself with there is always the furor over the Y2K problems. My old computer will have to be tossed shortly just so I can function in the new millennium.

What does that have to do with tuning pianos and our businesses in general? It just goes to show that we cannot simply bury our heads in the sand and hope that the way we have done business in the past will always get us by in the future. Our customers are more technically savvy all the time and as such expect a higher level of service in a shorter amount of time. Information is available at an amazing rate of speed and our customers are busier than ever.

As the turn of the century draws closer you need to plan now to stay abreast of the latest information and techniques. Plan now to involve yourself in the opportunities in Kansas City this summer. Look into opportunities for continuing education here at home in the form of classes and seminars you can take. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Chapter Meeting  
January 21 8:30 A.M.  
Norman Cantrell's Shop  
1311 N. Youngs-OKC

Exit I-44 at NW 10th Eastbound  
Take 10th approximately 1 mile to  
Youngs (Past light at Villa) then turn North  
go 2 1/2 blocks North to shop located on the west  
side of the street. Additional parking in the rear.

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is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.; Norman Cantrell, RPT and Ben Davis, RPT, Editors. All Articles may be reproduced without further permission. Please credit the author and publication. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 2251 N. W. 19th; Oklahoma City, OK 73107

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## Christmas Banquet Report

Last December 17th the annual Christmas Banquet was held at the Hometown Buffet on NW Highway. A small group met for dinner and a very good time of celebration of the season. The food was good and the fellowship great. If you missed it this year you missed a great time. Perhaps you can make the next chapter meeting. There won't be as much to eat but the fellowship will be great!

\*All expressions of opinion and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author as listed and are not to be regarded as expressing the views of this Chapter or of the Piano Technicians Guild unless such statements or opinions have been adopted by the Chapter or the Guild\*

## 1999 PTG Meeting Schedule

January 21 Chapter Meeting  
Norman Cantrell's Shop  
1311 N. Youngs, OKC

February 18 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

March 11 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

April 22 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

May 20 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

June 17 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

July 21-25 PTG Convention  
Kansas City, MO

August 19 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

September 16 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

October 8-10 TSA  
Waco Texas

October 21 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

November 18 Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

## Piano Proverbs

Music is like an icy sidewalk  
if you don't "C#"  
you will B flat

## A Look at Life

Sometimes, it is life's occurrences which make the funniest stories. What it is about human nature that makes us laugh at the misfortunes of others has been intensely studied by all kinds of folks without credible results. The author of this story, which is simply too embarrassing and bizarre no to be true, remains anonymous for obvious reasons.

Calling in sick to work makes me uncomfortable because no matter how legitimate my illness, I always sense my boss thinks I am lying. On one occasion, I had a valid reason but lied anyway because the truth was too humiliating to reveal.

I simply mentioned that I had sustained a head injury and I hoped I would feel up to coming in the next day. By then I could think up a doozy to explain the bandage on my crown.

As the Daily routine prescribes, I was taking my shower after breakfast when I heard my wife, Deb, call out to me from the kitchen. "Ed!" she hearkened, "The garbage disposal is dead. Come reset it." "You know where the button is," I protested through the shower (pitter-patter), "Reset it yourself!"

"I am scared!" she pleaded. "What if it starts going and sucks me in?"...Pause..."C'mon, it'll only take a second." No logical assurance about how a disposal can't restart itself will calm the fears of a person who suffers from "Big-ole-scar-machinephobia," a condition brought on by watching too many Stephen King movies. It is futile to argue or explain, kind of like telling Lloyd Bentsen Americans are over-taxed. And if a poltergeist did, in fact, possess the disposal, and she was ground into round, I'd have to live with that the rest of my life.

So out I came, dripping wet and buck naked, hoping to make a statement about how her cowardly behavior was not without consequence but it was I who

would suffer.

I crouched down and stuck my head under the sink to find the button. It is the last action I remember performing. It struck without warning, without respect to my circumstances. Nay, it wasn't a hexed disposal, drawing me into its gnashing metal teeth. It was our new kitty, clawing playfully at the dangling objects she spied between my legs.

She ("Buttons" aka "the Grater") had ben poised around the corner and stalked me as I took the bait under the sink. At precisely the second I was most vulnerable, she leapt at the toys I unwittingly offered and snagged them with her needle-like claws.

Now when men feel pain or even sense danger anywhere close to their masculine region, they lose all rational thought to control orderly bodily movements. Instinctively, their nerves compel the body to contort inwardly, while rising upwardly at a violent rate of speed.

Not even a well trained monk could calmly stand with his groin supporting the full weight of a kitten and rectify the situation in a step-by-step procedure. Wild animals are sometimes faced with a "fight or flight" syndrome; men in this predicament, choose only the "flight" option. Fleeing straight up, I knew at that moment how a cat feels when it is alarmed. It was a dismal irony. But, whereas cats seek great heights to escape, I never made it that far. The sink and cabinet bluntly impeded my ascent; the impact knocked me out cold.

When I awoke, my wife and the paramedics stood over me. Having been fully briefed by my wife, the paramedics snorted as they tried to conduct their work while suppressing their hysterical laughter. My wife told me I should be flattered.

At the office, colleagues tried to coax an explanation out of me. I kept silent, claiming it was too painful to talk. "What's the matter, cat got your tongue?" If only they had known.

# OAKIE DOAKIE PIANO SUPPLY

Have you noticed that it is once again time for Science fair projects to be performed by your children at school. This annual event can leave even the most imaginative parent at a loss as to what to do next. Sure they have all those "Science Project" books in the library but who wants to keep on doing all those same old tired experiments. We at Okie Doakie Supply have come up with the answer. We are proud to introduce a new line of Grand Piano Kits. That's right for only \$2995.00 we will send you all the

components in kit form for a \$40,000 grand piano. You and your brilliant prodigy can have hours of fun and together time assembling your own grand piano. With all the diagrams, string scales and action specifications you will have all of the background information for a smashing Science Fair project. If you order today we will enclose a 32 page pamphlet on the history of the piano at no additional charge. Who knows you just might win the \$50.00 first prize at your school!

