

The Sooner Tuner

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



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH, 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well it is March Madness in full swing! If you like basketball there is plenty to watch and cheer for. I guess it is also March Madness in the life of piano tuners as well. I know I certainly had a week that was determined to drive me mad. I had to go to Municipal Court on Monday to explain to the City of OKC why I hadn't yet painted the back of my garage. Yes this the same building I am in the process of tearing down in order to build a new shop. I have begun to relate to Arlow Guthrie in his folk tune Alice's Restaurant since I took several color glossy photographs with me to court as evidence and was basically in court on a "paint rap." All turned out somewhat well with a continuance being granted before my next appearance.



On Tuesday I was working in Tahlequah and while driving back into town from a tuning in the outskirts blew a tire on my car. This resulted in a delay in my schedule for the day and a missed appointment. When I returned to OKC on Thursday I had to settle a domestic dispute between my growing children. Friday and Saturday were rather uneventful until Saturday night when my wife informed me that our refrigerator had ceased to function and our food was in danger of spoiling. So off to the appliance people to purchase a new refrigerator. I guess you need to replace your refrigerator every twenty years or so whether it needs it or not. All of this is to offer some explanation as to why the newsletter is late. While this is not just an

apology it is also an explanation. While it really doesn't have a lot to do with tuning pianos it hopefully relates some of life's little curves. Perhaps some of your customers have had an equally hard time of it before you show up. Try to realize that all of us have events which shape our outlook on life on any particular day. Hope to see you at Keith's on Thursday!
Norman Cantrell

Meeting Notice

**March 11, 1999 in Shawnee at
Keith McGavern's place
824 North Union
I 40 to Harrison south 3 miles to
Wallace (Sonic Drive In) West to
1st stop sign Union, North 1/2
block Park in drive on north side
TECHNICAL--Looking at a
Sympathetic Vibration &
Bolstering knuckles**

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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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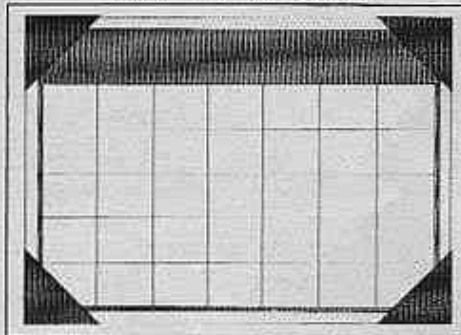
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MEETING IN REVIEW

The February meeting was held at David Bonham's place with seven in attendance including 3 visitors. The upcoming OMTA convention was mentioned along with a need to decide what to do concerning advertising or a booth at their convention in Tulsa this June. Norman promised to enclose specific information about ad costs as soon as it was available. See the insert in this month's Sooner Tuner. We will need to make a decision at this month's meeting concerning cost and ad type if any so be prepared to discuss it this month.

David gave an interesting technical presentation demonstrating the temperament he uses when tuning. A comparison was also offered by Norman and Keith contributed by demonstrating a temperament using the Reyburn Cyber Tuner. Comparisons were made in the progressions of various intervals between the temperaments as to which was smoothest, most pleasing, etc. This demonstration was on the Schimmel grand which has been set up as our exam piano so it was a good instrument for this demonstration.

1999 PTG Calendar



March 11 Chapter Meeting
Keith McGavern's Place
824 N Union
Shawnee, OK

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

The difference between Santa Clause
and a Piano Tuner is that Santa
gets into your customer's home at
least once a year.

Perspective

Please understand that this article is not meant to be a warning against the evils of a bad diet, but just a story that may or may not be applicable to anyone else's business or lifestyle. I would not feel free to write about this except the recent articles in the journal concerning pressure point therapy seem to make the subject acceptable and possibly even helpful.

For my entire piano tuning career I have had pain in my right hand, arm, shoulder, and back. Now I know some people have more pain tolerance than others and I had resigned myself to living with this problem until the fall of 1998, at which time it became less tolerable or almost unbearable.

I considered returning to piano sales or maybe teaching, but I enjoy the tuning business and did not want to give it up until I had exhausted all my possibilities for healing. I had experimented with diets over the years and had noticed physical and mental changes with changes in my eating habits, so as a last ditch effort I decided to try a few changes in my daily consumption of food.

First of all as I describe the changes it will seem a little fanatical or severe, and the only thing I can say is that if pain becomes intense enough one becomes rather desperate in their desire to end it. So here is what I did. First I cut out all caffeine drinks including coffee, soft drinks, tea and chocolate drinks etc. etc. Second, I cut almost all sugar out of my diet. Third, I have eliminated most meats from my diet but not all. Fourth, I now eat mainly whole grains, greens, and other vegetables cooked in a variety of ways and also tofu prepared in different styles.

After about three weeks the pain in my back subsided and then my arm shoulder and hand became better and now I have only a slight bit of pain in my right hand. For me, it was a minor miracle. This style of eating is macrobiotic in nature and if anyone would like to discuss it I would be happy to visit with them.

I know it is not for everyone but it indeed helped me. Till next time.

Ben Davis, RPT

"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"

Input Needed!

Your input is needed to determine what our involvement needs to be in this years Oklahoma Music Teachers Association State Convention. We have received a letter from OMTA concerning advertising in the convention program. Last year we had a full page ad on the inside cover of the convention brochure. You can view a copy of last years ad as the insert in this month's issue of The Sooner Tuner. An ad of this size would cost \$65.00 in the program or if we asked for it to be placed on the inside cover once again the cost would be \$100.00.

If you have any feelings or input concerning our involvement the deadline for placing such an ad is April 10th. This will be discussed at this month's meeting. If you are unable to attend and would like to relay your feelings or opinions please contact one of the officers.

OAKIE DOAKIE PIANO SUPPLY

Have you ever wondered just what some of the greatest safety concerns are for piano tuners in the spring time. You guessed it, lightning strikes. Since this is an ongoing problem especially for tuners next to large windows tuning vertical pianos with the tuning lever extended above the top of the piano, we here at Oakie Doakie Supply have come to the rescue once again.

It seems Melvin in R. A. D. had a brother in-law named Clem who was recently out of work. Since Clem needed a job and we needed a live test subject Clem was chosen to study the effectiveness of our latest version of Piano Tuner Lightning Grounding Device or PTLGD for short. We had rather certain that Clem's left ear will eventually begin to grow back in a normal direction after that incident with the first prototype. The results of our tests have recently been

published in the AMA Journal under the title of The Health Benefits of Lightning Strikes in the Workplace and reprints are available when you order your own PTLGD. There are two versions available. The basic PTLGD just clips on to the back of your shoes and dangles innocently down to the ground. The probes on the back only extend a small 12 inches from your shoes and are barely noticeable to most of your customers.

The deluxe PTLGD comes with an extra long cord and a clamp to attach to your customer's cold water line under the bathroom sink. This version guarantees absolute safety in even the worst raging thunderstorms. With spring showers just around the corner you need to order yours today.

Basic PTLGD	\$19.95
Deluxe PTLGD	\$89.95

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