# THE SOONER TUNER

# Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc. AUGUST 2005

### **COMING EVENTS:**

<u>AUGUST</u> – The August meeting will be "**A PARTY**" on Saturday, August 20 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the home of David and Barbara Bonham, 10717 Eastlake Circle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This will be a time to get together and HAVE FUN!!! Bob Scheer will be providing some type of yummy meat. Everyone attending is asked to bring either a salad or dessert. Drinks will be provided. There will be boating, skiing, biking on the water, fishing, or swimming in the lake. So, bring your swimsuit and towel, plan to attend, relax and enjoy good friends and fellowship. Please call Barbara at 721-0566 by August 15 to RSVP so that Bob will know how much meat to prepare.

<u>SEPTEMBER</u> – The September meeting will be held on Thursday, September at 15 8:30 AM at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Keith McGavern will be demonstrated the pitch lock device. The exact location at OBU will be announced in the next newsletter.

OCTOBER – The October meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 8:30 AM. The technical will be presented by David and Barbara Bonham on wood touch-up. David and Barbara recently attended a workshop and learned some techniques they would like to share with all of you. The location will be announced later.

<u>NOVEMBER</u> – The November meeting will be held Thursday, November 17 at 8:30 AM. Ben Davis and Keith McGavern will be presenting a technical on repairing or replacing hammer flanges that have cords that connect to the hammer return spring on the hammer butt. The location will be announced later.

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### DON'T GO THROUGH LIFE, GROW THROUGH LIFE.

#### **SAD NEWS:**

Luther Stephens died on August 2 after a long illness. The cause of death was congestive heart failure. Luther was no longer a member of PTG, but was an active member for a number of years. He will be missed by all who knew him.

#### TSA FALL SEMINAR

The TSA seminar will be held October 27 through October 30 at the Omni South Park Hotel in Austin, Texas. The schedule includes an all day seminar entitled "The One Day Piano Upgrade" taught by Bill Spurlock. A variety of classes will be taught by regional experts, as well as notable instructors from around the country representing different piano manufacturers. If you want an in depth look at the opportunities available to further your education go to the TSA website at HYPERLINK "http://www.ptg.org/tsa" http://www.ptg.org/tsa and check out the details. Plan now to attend.

# DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE SPACE BETWEEN YOUR DREAMS AND REALITY. IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN MAKE IT GO.

#### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Oklahoma Chapter mourns the loss of one of our long time RPTs, Luther Stephens. I can still remember his smiling face riding up to the PTG meetings on his motorcycle. Although he had been retired for a number of years, I'm sure we all occasionally encounter some of his former clients. Luther had a great reputation not only as a tuner/technician, but as a fine gentleman as well. The "Stephens Brothers Piano Service", along with his brothers Don and Gordon, will long be remembered.

I hope everyone has had a relaxing summer, have taken advantage of the slower time of year, and are somewhat ready to get back into the busy season again. A great way to enjoy the summer is to come to David and Barbara's house for some good food, water sports, and a great way to "compare NOTES" and "stay IN TOUCH" {pun intended}. See you there.

Bob Scheer, RPT Edmond, Oklahoma

#### NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT

This was sent in by Keith McGavern:

#### THE RUINED PIANO MAN – By Ngaire Ballard

It sounds like a piano tuner's nightmare – going in search of pianos that are beyond repair and make twangs instead of musical notes. But artist Ross Bolleter loves the sound of ruined pianos and wants to include them in an art exhibition. He found his first ruined piano on a sheep station north of Cur and the lid fell off in his hands, the wood was so rotten. "But the sounds of the piano were absolutely amazing," Ross says. "It had gone beyond being out of tune."

Ross has his own descriptions for the notes that ruined pianos make. "All the sounds were buzzes and what I call dead ringers, notes that ring for a little while then stop," he explains. "There were lots of keys that didn't work which helped to create interesting rhythmic effects and I fell completely in love with this piano."

Ross has been looking for pianos in similar conditions ever since and keeps three in his kitchen. And along with the instruments, Ross also likes to collect stories behind the old pianos. "The sound they make is really quite haunting and quite beautiful sometimes," he says. "I think to some extent the sound carries the history of the piano." A lot of effort was made to take pianos to remote parts of Australia. "I think people took immense pains to get pianos to places like Kalgoorlie," Ross says. "They were highly prized and were a main source of entertainment back in the old days."

http://www.abc.net.au/goldfields/stories/s1434032.htm

#### LIFE IS WHAT WE MAKE IT, ALWAYS HAS BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE.

## **EVER HAD PROBLEMS WITH TELEMARKETERS?** Here is a possible solution...

The phone rang as I was sitting down to my anticipated evening meal, and as I answered it I was greeted with "Is this William Wagenhoss"? This sounded nothing like my name so I said, "Who is calling?" The telemarketer said he was with The Rubber Band Powered Freezer Company or something like that and then I asked him if he knew William personally and why he was calling this number. I then said off to the side, "Get really good pictures of the body and all the blood" then I turned back to the phone and advised the caller that he had entered a murder scene and must stay on the line because we had already traced this call and he would be receiving a summons to appear in the local courthouse to testify in this murder case.

I then questioned the caller at great length as to his name, address, phone number at home and work, who he worked for, how he knew the dead guy and could he prove where he had been about one hour before he made this call. The telemarketer was getting very concerned and his answers were given in a shaky voice. I then told him we had located his position at his work place and the police were entering the building to take him into custody. At that point, I heard the phone fall and the scurrying of his running away.

My wife asked me as I returned to our table why I had tears streaming down my face. So help me, I couldn't tell her for about fifteen minutes. My meal was cold, but after what I had pulled, very enjoyable.

#### Author Unknown

#### LIFE IS CHANGE, GROWTH IS OPTIONAL, CHOOSE WISELY.

> President – Bob Scheer Vice President – David Bonham Secretary – Nathan Sobel Treasurer – Gary Bruce Newsletter Editor – Barbara Bonham

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