

THE SOONER TUNER

Newsletter of The Oklahoma Chapter 731 of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
August 2007

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST - Chapter picnic on the lake!!!!will be held on Saturday the 25th at 4:30 at Ski Island; at the home of David and Barbara Bonham. The date was changed due to circumstances beyond our control. Come on!! Look forward to seeing you. Bring swimming trunks if you would like to ski, swim, or be pulled around on the tube! The hydro-bikes are easy to use and fun. The Bonhams ask that you would bring a salad, side dish, or dessert of your choice. Bring what you would like to eat yourself. Bob Scheer is bringing the smoked meat. These are always lots of fun!

Directions: Just south of Hefner Rd. on MacArthur, turn west on the first street, Eastlake Dr., pass two houses on the right and turn right on Eastlake Circle to the end, 10707 Eastlake Circle. You will see all the cars. 721-0566 if you have trouble, or 863-6574.

Please R.S.V.P. to Barbara at 721-0566 or barbbonham@cox.net so we can let Bob know how much meat to prepare.

OCTOBER –Come on down!!!! TSA PTG in OKC Annual Seminar. Oct 11th through 14th 2007
Contact: Gary Bruce RPT, 405- 348-3213, or 405-413-8863. The roster is impressive and the accommodations awesome. OKC is a very user friendly city easy to navigate! For more info go to link <http://www.ptg.org/tsa>

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When seeing his son's latest report card for the first time, the father said,"Let's look at the bright side son, with grades like this you can't be cheating!"
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Have you ever wondered how so many of our customers seem to know about that secret hiding place in their piano? Of course, the area that I'm referring to is behind the fallboard, and on top of the keys. So how come they all seem to know how to hide the same things?! Of course, I mean pencils and paper clips. I have never seen this information printed in any of the factory manuals, yet it seems to be universally known amongst piano owners.

Beyond their obvious use, pencils and paper clips can be useful tools in our work. For example; the head of a pencil is the best tool I know of for putting vertical jack springs back into place. I believe I heard someone say once [probably me] "you can lead a horse to water, but a pencil must be lead". Actually pencils are made from graphite. Once again, the head of a pencil is a great tool for lubricating squeaky spring rail grooves and noisy balance rail bushings.

Paper clips can also be quite useful. The larger ones, bent into a hook shape, are a great tool for feeding treble wire under the bass strings. It can also serve well as a temporary hinge pin, and especially well on Asian piano bench hinges because they are so small. Of course, I would never admit to keeping any of those pencils or paper clips I have found in pianos, but I'm not saying I wouldn't either.

See you at the barbeque! Bob

Bob Scheer, RPT
Edmond, OK

I would rather be governed by the first 100 names in the Boston phone book than by the faculty of Harvard. William F. Buckley

ARTICLES ARE NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER!!! Please consider contributing to your Sooner Tuner. If you are interested in writing an article, a tech tip, or something for The Bizarre Files, (off the wall stuff that happens to you in your daily work) please don't wait another month. Even if you have only been involved a few years, you have something to contribute-period! Send your contributions to blanecmorris@cox.net . THANK YOU!!!

A note from Bob Qualls son... Please send all correspondence to us at: 1509 Bedford Lane, Appelton, WI 54195 Dad thoroughly enjoyed attending the convention and meeting with so many friends he has known over the years. He especially enjoyed the banquet and seeing the other charter members. He is actually considering going to Anaheim next year. I have never been to California and would like to go.

The conventions are so much more valuable to the members back in Washington DC. There were only three tuners from Oklahoma, Bob Qualls, Floyd Qualls, and Jesse Lyons who attended the first PTG Convention. My brother Robert C. Qualls went with my dad to that first convention.

The very first convention he attended was in 1946 in Chicago. This was before the merger and it was the American Society of Piano Technicians (ASPT). They had \$85 total for the trip. A round trip ticket was \$17. He remembers going for breakfast at the Ham and Egger paying 15 cents for breakfast. Back then a double room at the Sherman Hotel was \$4.40. They were getting \$3.50 for tunings back then. This compares with \$85 for a tuning and \$110 for a room. The Oklahoma tuners learned that the going rate was \$7.50 in Milwaukee and elsewhere. They came back and raised their prices and didn't have any trouble getting it.

At the Chicago convention, all of the classes were held in one large room. A restringing class would be going on in one corner and a regulating class in another. It was very difficult for anyone to hear clearly what was being presented. This being the first time the Okies were in the windy city, they skipped out of the tuning classes and went sight seeing. Once they were in a street car sightseeing when a tuner from Chicago jokingly said that there were some folks from the sticks up here to learn something. My mother, Layleth, said, "at least they were clean sticks." Back then Chicago was pretty dirty.

They had no room reservations and were told they had to go to another hotel. Les Hopkins talked with the management and got them in. My dad still has a problem with making timely reservations. We were too late making them for Kansas City to get the PTG rate. Instead I went online and got the prepaid rate which turned out to be a couple dollars less.

....We Thank Bob's son for his comments and input! Truly inspiring!

Baseball it is said, is only a game. True. And the Grand Canyon in Arizona is only a hole in Arizona. Not all holes, or games, are created equal.....George Will

Go Redhawks!!!!

Feature Film "Ivory"..... This is fascinating

Hollywood is finding Oklahoma as a filming destination. The logistics and permits, etc. make it attractive from a purely production standpoint, as well as some attractive settings. I attended college for 2 years in L.A. between Echo Park and Sunset Blvd., and saw several movie and TV shootings. It always looked difficult with crazies, crowds, and police everywhere. Okie settings are a little more friendly.

The feature film, "Ivory" is about a piano competition in Budapest, Hungary in winter. They chose the Masonic Temple in Guthrie, an absolutely beautiful building, as well as many locations in Norman, including the OU campus. I found through the grapevine that a few pianos from Larsen Music were used in this filming. Our own Nathan Sobel was the onsite technician. Congratulations, Nathan! I contacted Walt Myrick of Larsen music who told me they used Yamaha Disklaviers provided by Yamaha Artistic Affairs. They sent 10 to 14 pianos, grand and upright, for all the shooting. Nathan Sobel was selected because he was certified in Yamaha Disklavier. These were used because they could use recordings of the pieces played even though the actors were not pianists. Wow! Actors would practice until they could figure out where to put their fingers. The artistic director was an Israeli involved in the classical music scene there. There are scenes with Martin Landau, who played the father in "The Majestic" with Jim Carey, a very recognizable face. The casting dept. were the people who made "Elizabethtown", an absolutely awesome movie! Congratulations Walt also!

Sobel was involved in a tuner nightmare almost daily. Myrick said that nothing ran on schedule, so the tuner would show up on time and they were not ready, or else they were already into the scene and the piano could not be tuned. In the Masonic Temple there is no air conditioning! The extras had to bring 3 changes of winter clothes and stayed all day long. They brought in an air conditioning truck for the stage only, which they turned off during scene shooting and at night. We all know what that does to tunings. The pianos had to be tuned before each scene.....if possible. Sobel had to change his schedule because this shooting was so demanding. He wasn't able to keep his regular routine. Lot more to being a tuner than people think, eh? There were as many as 400 extras at a time. How bout that?! Is this a great state or what?! We will be looking for this film and reporting on it. Cool, huh?

A chief event of life is when we have encountered a mind that startled

us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Bizarre Files: Background music from X-files and Twilight Zone.....

I once tuned a couple pianos for a music teacher in Texas who claimed to have perfect pitch. She tried to impress me with her extensive knowledge. She was very vocal and forceful about this, sound familiar? When I had finished my tuning she said it sounded pretty good but 3 notes were out of tune. I asked her, “Out of tune with WHAT?” She said, “I don’t know, but I have perfect pitch, and they sound out of tune to me”. I had put away my tools and was sitting across the room ready to leave when the phone rang.

She went into the kitchen and answered the phone and in a couple minutes came back into the music room. I said “Try these 3 notes and tell me if they sound any better.”

She tried them and exclaimed “Oh that’s MUCH better! “ I hadn’t gotten out of the chair. I have often wondered if I misunderstood her, and instead of saying “I have perfect pitch”, she actually said, “I’m a perfect bitch “. So much for perfect pitch.....D. Keith Morgan RPT

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned
in School.....Albert Einstein

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