

Bayou 99 Users Group, P.O. Box 921, Lake Charles, La. 70602

BAYOU BYTE

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MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BAYOU 99 USER GROUP IS JUNE 21 7P.M. at the Henery Heights Recreation Center. (Directions to the meeting location on back of newsletter.) This is the 3rd Tuesday. We'll be continuing with the tutorials on T.I. Writer. If you are having any problem with your word processing or any question regarding the same, bring them with you!

The May WINNER of the DOOR PRIZE (The book - SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT) was Noel Moss. Don't miss out on a Door Prize, be at the next meeting! And bring a friend!

Due to technical difficulties, the next installment of the Bayou 99er Library is not included in this newsletter. However, as clarification to the costs involved, the following applies:

0-360 sectors ---- \$3.00
 361-720 sectors -- \$2.00
 721 up sectors --- \$1.00

This is a mix and match price, any combination of programs up to the various sector limits will be the only charge. For example, if you got a list of programs that totaled 510 sectors, then your cost would be \$5.00 and you would receive two SSSD disks with the requested programs on them. These are FOB the meeting. If they are mailed to you there will be a flat \$2.00 shipping and handling charge if it is one disk or 10. So you can see it certainly is to you advantage to make your order as large as you can; the more you buy the more you save!

The library is available to Bayou 99er members only. Also, rember if you get a fairware program from the library, SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE AUTHOR!!! Receiving the program does not pay for it.

REPORT ON T. I. FAIR APRIL 30th

I attended the TEXAS T.I. FAIR in DALLAS on April 30 (Saturday) at the Holiday Inn on Central Exprossway North in Richardson. Actually, I stuck my nose in on Friday night to check it out and look up Richard Fleetwood and his wife, Annie. The meeting room looked like an ant pile that had just been

stirred with a stick. People were crawling under tables pulling cords, equipment was being placed at various tables, and banners were being hung.

Among all this activity, I came upon a young man and asked him if he could show me to Richard. To my surprise, he said "I'm Richard!". Surprise number one! It's amazing how you get a mind set regarding someone or something. Richard was most pleasant (and busy) and sold me tickets for the show and dinner afterwards.

Well, finally the BIG day arrived and I was at the door at 8:00 A.M. with ticket in hand. This was to be my only disappointment of the show. They were not up to speed yet on registration (only one of two systems was up and running at the time). They were printing fancy name tags with the "TEXAS TI FAIRE" logo on them. Needless to say it was a bit slow but the results were impressive. (See tag elsewhere in this article.)

The room was large and long with tables along the outside edges and a second oval running down the middle forming a long oval "racetrack" aisle between the inner and outer tables. This arrangement worked well in that you could circulate twice, once checking out the outer tables and second checking out the inner tables. I lost count of how many times I went around (had to make a couple of pit stops). And what was on these tables? Not the rotting remains of a dead computer for sure! There were NEW items - hardware and software! Millers Communications could put you and your 99/4A into the movies with their VideoFlex graphics card that allowed text or graphic overlay on a live or recorded video picture. "And now the news at six---" complete with scrolling text just like channel 7! Rave 99 had their "PC" type keyboard and super 256k/512k RAM cards. Bud Mills Services had the Horizon Ramdisk with up to 2MEG on board!

Probably the most impressive item displayed was ENTHUSIASM ! No, my friend, this was no wake for a dead computer but a celebration of a young 5 year old just hitting its stride!

Two tables that really showed the attitude of the TI community were the Genial Computerware and the LA99ers. Genial was manned by Barry Traver who not only IS genial but very modest of his contributions to the TI. The LA99ers table was being controlled by the legendary Terry Masters. She travels with a foot locker filled with the LA99ers library. You talk about a king size "Flip'n'File"! These two luminary figures of the TI world are worth the trip to any fair. While at the Genial table, up walks Barry Boone. He was making a quick trip between final tests at school!

All of this was just in the "Vendor" room! There were THREE other areas that had activities going on also! The hotel's "Terrace" area (enclosed next to the pool) had scheduled meetings that covered items of interest as: Using the latest version of Funnelweb by Marty McCain; Using the Horizon Ram Disk by Bud Mills; Overview of Disk Management Systems by Richard Fleetwood; and the **main event**: Texas Instruments, Now and in the future by Jeffrey Crump of the TI Consumer Relations Department in Lubbock.

All these were interesting but the big news came from Jeffrey Crump. As he said "I'm here to squash a few rumors and tell you what TI is going to do and what they are Not going to do." So on with the rumor bashing:

1) **TI is comming out with a new home computer that is 99/4A compatiable! BASH #1! False!** Noway Jose! Mr Crump said prior to comming down to Dallas, he called every division and none are working on a new computer for the home market, compatiable or non-compatiable with the 99/4A. He stated that TI still had a financial "bad taste" in their mouth from the 99/4 production. However they did have many new commercial computers to offer and were even providing OEM parts to other computer companies.

2) **TI is dropping their support for the 99/4A! BASH #2! False!** He said that one thing TI definitely is strong on is support of its products! However, economics affect them just like any other major corporation. He said that they were going to drop their toll free line "1-800-TI-CARES" due to the great cost (about \$100,000 monthly) but would still maintain direct phone lines for consumer service. The various numbers are:

806-747-1882 GENERAL INFO
806-741-2663 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
806-741-2265 DEALER PARTS
806-741-2268 DEALER PARTS

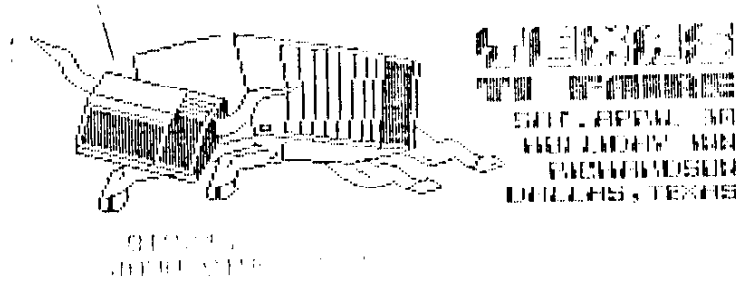
An example of some of the limitations due to economics besides the dropping of the toll free number include the fact that they no longer support E/A program help because the last knowledgable E/A programmer they had has transferred to another department and they just could not afford to train someone for just that language. However, he pointed out that they were still eager and willing to help with programs in any other language.

All in all, I left that meeting feeling very good about TI. Do you know of ANY other computer manufacturer that will take a 5 year old machine and \$37.50 and replace it with a rebuilt one no matter the problem with it? That my friend is called SUPPORT!

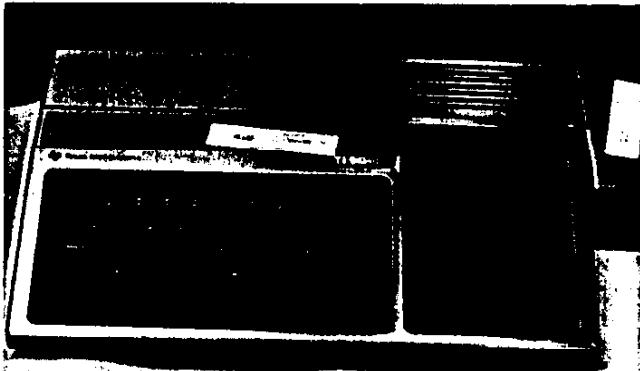
Two rooms on the second floor had meetings and/or demos going on as well! Programming in basic, game demos, the database systems, Graphics tutorial, just to name a few.

That evening, there was a parting dinner with the featured after diner speaker, Barry Traver. He provided some introspection for the TI community. One point that stood out was that all the new software and hardware are indeed very important to the survival of the TI 99/4A but equally important is the preservation of the vast knowledge of 5 years of programming that has come before. He pointed out how important it is to keep this "old" data as anything without a past has no future! Go back and run some of your old programs, rediscover their utility. Like a classic car, enjoy the ride of your old programs and share that ride with a friend!

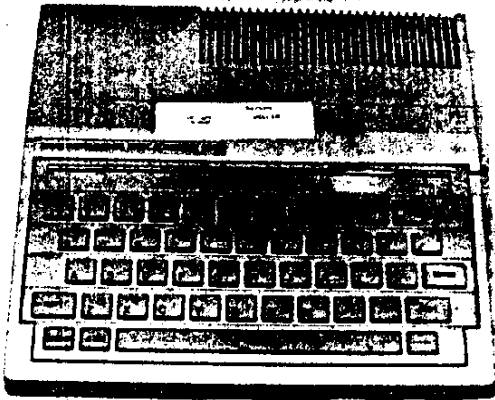
What did I think of the Texas TI Fair? My 10 gallon hat's off to the Forest Lane TI Users Group and to Richard Fleetwood, Roy Willis, and Oscar Smith and all who created one day of magic for the TI community.



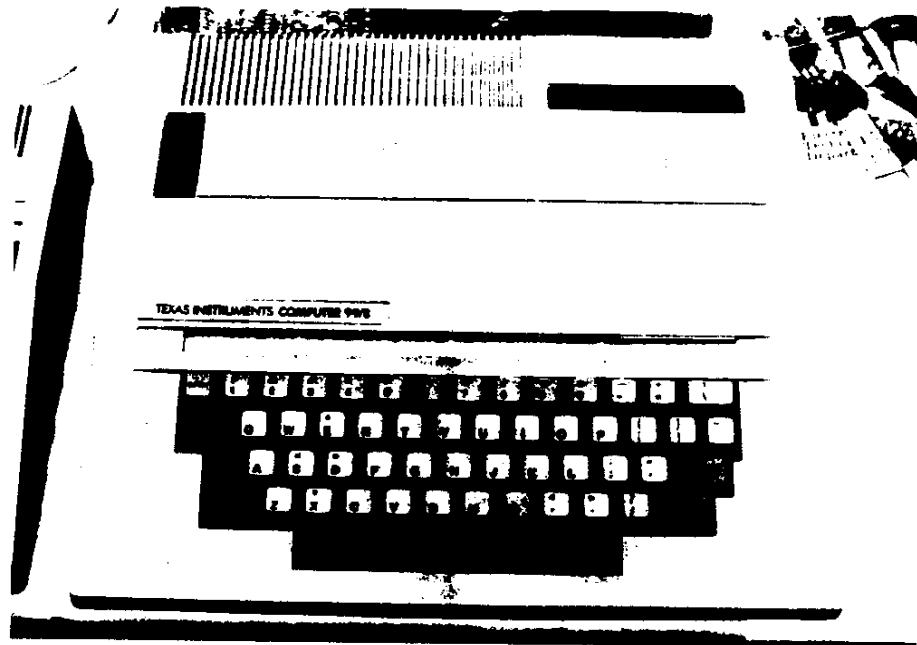
NAME TAG



← TI 99/4



← TI 99/2!



TI 99/8 !



BARRY TRAVER

MIKE "TINYGRAM" STANFILL



"THE RACETRACK"



TERRY MASTERS & THE LA 99ers "FLIP-N-FILE"

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"NOTICE"

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MEETING DATES

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM IN THE HENRY HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER, 801 E. SCHOOL ST. (JUST WEST OF LOUISIANA AVE. BEHIND HENRY HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROAD.) ALL VISITORS WELCOME!

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