THE *SNUGLET*ter

FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 11 No. 2

February, 1992

SNUG OFFICERS		
President	Rudy Johnson	871-9583
Vice President	Gordon Leonard	658-0923
Secretary	Cindy Mitchell	871-0309
Treasurer	Ralph Guise	458-2926
Librarian	George Campbell	564-1586
Associate Librarian	Lance Wilson	648-6452
BBS Sysop	John Martin	647-1062
Ass't BBS Sysop	Bob Sherburne	642-4042
Newsletter	Editors	
Editor	George Tilley	254-6005
Associate Editor	Rudy Johnson	871-9583

Next Meeting

Monday, February 10, 1992

Nevada Power Meeting Room

6226 West Sahara

Las Vegas, Nevada

TO

Dallas TI Home Computer Group

P.O Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75229

From The President

by Rudy Johnson

First, as I write this, (Jan. 30) I must admit that I haven't done much with computers since the last meeting. I finally got down, and I do mean down, to a "honeydo" in my house. My wife has wanted to redo our kitchen-informal eating area floor for quite some time. Well, the time finally came, and I've been laying an oak parquet floor for the past two weeks. The project is getting close to completion, so I hope to have a little time off my knees soon. I've been so busy that I didn't even have an officers' meeting this month. I "met" with John, George, Cindy (Yes, Cindy!), Fred, and George over the phone. Most of them also have been busy on one thing or another, so they weren't broken up about not getting together.

The news as I recall it from several days past. Cindy is continuing to work on Monday evenings. She has been hoping to switch to another schedule but, so far, has been unable to do so. So, for the time being, she will not be able to attend our meetings. She did mention that she still has her XT and has been intending to sell it. If you are interested in that you should call her for further info.
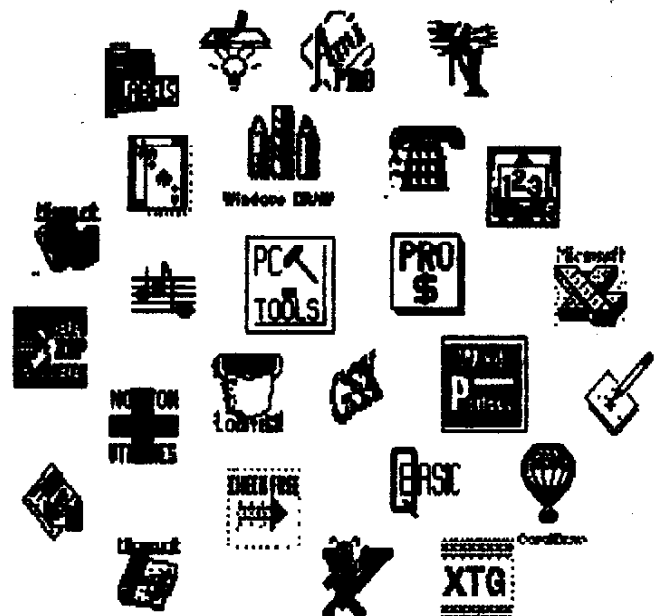
John and Gordon have been checking out possiblitiies of replacement equipment for the bulletin board. After several dead ends in trying to locate used machines they came across a very good price (around $300) for a new AT from one of the local computer shops. They were going to close the deal early this week. If John was able to get the machine in a reasonable time he hoped to get it running with the BBS software this weekend. So one of these days you may get a ringing phone instead of the busy signal on the BBS number. In any case John has promised a demo of the new BBS system at the next meeting

even if he does not have the new machine ready, by running it from his own PC for the the demo. I will be hauling my Geneve into the power company to use to call the BBS.

I don't have other demos planned at the moment but something may pop up. The group does have some decisions to make as how we handle the old BBS equipment. Since the Fest West is scheduled the weekend after the February meeting, we have the opportunity of trying to sell whatever equipment doesn't have a home at the Fest. Several SNUG members will be traveling to Phoenix, so we shouldn't have trouble getting items there. Perhaps, those who aren't going but have an interest in items at the Fest should arrange to have someone do their shopping for them. I suspect that there are still programs that are desired that may be found at the vendors at the show. Just a thought for your consideration.

I have nothing more to pass along this month and George awaits with his layout skills, so I'll see you February 10th.

Rudy -

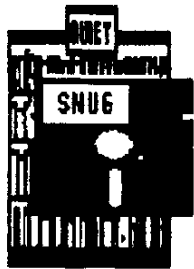New Horizons

Bob's Corner
PC ~ By Bob Sherburne

A few days after last month's article went to press, another icon editor/designer reared up on its hind legs and whinnied at me! This program should be the workhorse of your icon processing as it possesses all the ingredients of the programs I mentioned last month, (excluding Paint Shop) rolled up into one package. *ICOMAGIC*, written Steven M. Stedman and Jeffery M. Ayars has a full complement of tools, a capture facility the authors call snapshot, and the ability to copy and paste. The shareware price of fifteen dollars is more than fair considering the program's capabilities.

You may have tried the ARRANGE ICONS option under the WINDOWS section of the MENU BAR and had poor results. The icons may have been so close together that program names over-lapped or too far apart for a pleasing appearance. To correct this problem I suggest two changes. First, shorten program names which are much longer than the average. This is easy to do; Highlight the icon with the ridiculously long name by clicking once on the icon. Next click on PROPERTIES in the FILE section. This should place you in the PROGRAM ITEM PROPERTIES dialog box. The cursor will be blinking at the end of the "description" line. Change the description to something shorter and click OK. There! Easy wasn't it. Repeat this step for all long program names in the same program group. Now double click on CONTROL PANEL and double click on DESKTOP. At the right center of this box you will see "icon spacing", with a number to the right. This number is the number of pixels between icons when ARRANGE ICONS is used. The higher the number, the farther apart the icons will be placed when auto-arranged. Change this number to something smaller if you want more icons per line, or something larger if you desire more space between icons. Now click

OK, and minimize CONTROL PANEL by clicking once on the little down-arrow in the upper right corner. Next, highlight the program group on which ARRANGE ICONS will be used. Arrange the icons and check the results. If they are not to your liking, hold down the ALT key and press TAB until the words CONTROL PANEL appear in the bottom left corner of your program manager screen. Now release the keys and CONTROL PANEL will pop up and be ready for you to use. Enter DESKTOP and fine tune your icon spacing. By repeating the above process, you can arrange your icons exactly the way you want them. In DESKTOP you will also see "granularity", "border width", "cursor blink rate", "wallpaper" and "pattern". Granularity is the spacing of the imaginary grid which Windows uses for aligning or "snapping" all items on the desktop. When granularity is set to zero, all items are left where you place them. Any other value will cause the grid to activate, and items moved on the desktop will snap to the grid. Border width deals with the thickness of the border around your program groups. Want a fatter border? Increase this number. Cursor blink rate does just that, changes the rate at which your cursor will blink. Wallpaper lets you choose which BMP picture to display on your desktop. I suggest choosing NONE, and deleting all BMP files from your Windows directory. This will save disk space, memory, and loading time when Windows is started. Another handy way to speed up loading Windows is to skip the Microsoft advertisement. To do this, simply add a colon (":") to the command you normally use to start Windows. For instance, if you use a batch file named W.BAT which says; "WIN /3", change it to read "WIN /3:" and the Microsoft logo screen will be skipped. Windows lets you choose one of a dozen patterns for your desktop by using the pattern option. If you choose "NONE" your desktop will be the solid color you choose from the COLOR section of CONTROL PANEL. More on this next month. Remember, for your changes to take effect the next time you run Windows, check the "save changes" option box upon exit from Windows

Librarian's Report
by
George Campbell

LIKE OTHER S.N.U.G. MEMBERS I AM ANXIOUSLY WAITING THE REBIRTH OF OUR B.B.S.   WELL IT DOES POINT UP HOW NECESSARY IT HAS BEEN TO OUR OPERATIONS.

FOR THIS MONTH, A USER COMMENT ON THE PANASONIC KX-P1124I 24 PIN PRINTER. AS SOME OF YOU KNOW MY OLD "RITEMAN" EXPIRED LAST SEPT. AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW CONSUMER REPORTS POPPED UP WITH THEIR USUAL DETAILED COMPARISON OF ABOUT THIRTY PRINTERS AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET AT THE TIME. WHAT GOOD LUCK!

THIS 1124I CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, BECAUSE IT WAS A BEST BUY, AND IT CAN BE SET FOR NORMAL (EPSON) OR IBM COMPATIBLE MODE.   ALSO IT IS A NEW UPGRADE OF A PREVIOUS BEST SELLER, THE 1124.   THE TROUBLE WAS THAT I COULDN'T LOCATE ONE IN THIS AREA AT FIRST. THEN COSTCO SHOWED UP WITH ONE AND I BOUGHT IT. $292 INCLUDING SALES TAX

IT IS ABOUT TWICE THE SIZE OF MY (1917?) RITEMAN, AND HAS MANY MORE FEATURES THAN I CAN USE, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN DISAPPOINTED SO FAR. IT CAME WITH AN EXCELLENT INSTRUCTION BOOK AND ELEVEN RESIDENT FONTS, INCLUDING 1 SUPER LQ. ALSO A 800 # FOR ANY HELP NEEDED. I USED THAT ONCE WITH GOOD RESULTS.

THE 1124I HAS NO MECHANICAL DIP SWITCHES.   IT USES A RESIDENT SYSTEM WITH SEVEN TOUCHPAD SWITCHES AND 17 CHAR. LC DISPLAY TO CONFIGURE UP TO FOUR DIFFERENT MACROS USED FOR PRINTER CONTROLLED FORMATS. OR THESE CAN BE SWITCHED OFF AND SOFTWARE INSTRUCTIONS USED INSTEAD. AFTER ABOUT 15-20 HOURS OF GETTING USED TO I FIND THIS SYSTEM EASY TO OPERATE. ALSO TWO PROGRAMS TO PRINT OUT THE BASIC 11 FONTS AND THE PRESENT MACRO CONFIGURATIONS.

A CONDENSED USER CARD IS ANOTHER USEFUL EXTRA.

 THE 1124I WILL ACCEPT FAN FOLD PAPER FROM FRONT, BACK, OR BOTTOM, AND FRONT LOADS SINGLE SHEETS THAT ZIP TO A PRECISELY CONTROLLED SPOT. THE RIBBON HAS A DOT THAT WHEN PRESSED WITH A PIN, REINS THE RIBBON! AFTER THREE MONTHS -AND MOSTLY FROM CURIOSITY- I PRESSED AND IT WORKED AS ADVERTISED. THE HANDBOOK HAS MORE THAN 30 PAGES OF EPSON SOFTWARE INSTRUCTIONS THAT WORK AS GIVEN. A 12K BUFFER MEANS THAT UP TO ABOUT 1 PAGE FULL BLINKS FROM CONSOLE TO PRINTER, LEAVING THE CONSOLE QUIETLY BLINKING "READY FOR NEW INPUT". THIS 12K CAN BE EXPANDED TO 48K ALSO. IF YOU HAVE THE 32K CHIP INSTALLED IT IS POSSIBLE TO DESIGN AND/OR INSTALL YOUR OWN FONT(S?) ALSO 18K IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS FUNCTION. SEVERAL PAGES OF THE HANDBOOK ARE DEVOTED TO DESIGNING FONTS.

GRAPHICS IN SINGLE, DOUBLE, OR QUAD, ARE EXCELLENT QUALITY. EACH FORMAT I HAVE TRIED WORKS WELL, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TI ARTIST, AND I SUSPECT THAT'S BECAUSE MY ARTIST PRINTER FILE HAS BEEN TRASHED, ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T GOT AROUND TO PROVING THAT YET.

 BETTER QUIT BEFORE THIS COLUMN SLOPS OVER TO THE NEXT PAGE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. SEE YOU AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

                    GEO. CAMPBELL,   LIBRARIAN

Bob's Corner

So the MS-DOS users won't feel entirely left out, here are a few handy tips to use at the DOS command line; "DIR .*" will do a directory of directories only. If your current directory is a sub directory, "DIR *" will show all directories in the root on the current drive. Another handy one is "DIR.EXT, where EXT is the extension of the file type you wish to check; i.e. "DIR.ZIP" (no space necessary) will show all *.ZIP files in the current directory, and "DIR.DOC" will show all *.DOC files.

                    Until Next Month...   Bob

BBS REPORT
by John Martin

I am writing this report on the day AFTER the final deadline for the SNUGLETter. "So, what else is new?", you may be asking yourself. Well, this time I have a bona fide excuse. I have been working non-stop (except for meal breaks and having to go to work) for 3 days trying to get the new 286 PC up and running so I could put the new BBS software on it and have something to write about. I am happy to report that as of about 9 PM on February 3rd, 1992, the SNUG BBS has been back on/line!!

After searching all over town for a good deal on a bare-bones 286, we finally found one at the Computer Source on South Decatur. It cost $200.00 for the power supply, case, and mother board with 1-meg RAM installed. We also bought a 3 1/2", 1.44 meg floppy drive for $67.00. Gordon loaned us a 40-meg hard drive and controller card to use until we can get a good cheap one (sounds like a contradiction in terms to me) later. Gordon also donated an I/O card (2 serial, 1 parallel, 1 game port), and Bob S. donated a monochrome video driver card. I thought we could use one of the monochrome composite monitors that I have in my garage, but, unfortunately, we couldn't make them work with Bob's donated card. I checked with a number of computer outlets around town, but none of them had a card or an adapter that we could use to make one of my monitors work.

While checking around for a source for something to drive my monitor, Bob mentioned a friend of his named Richard Taylor. It seems that Richard was looking for an AT case and power supply to drop a 386 board into. Since the club has just such a box and power supply left over from the "old" bbs, I called him to see if he was interested in making some kind of a trade. Richard has a lot of used computer equipment, including video cards, disk drives, etc. He came to my house with a box full of goodies and

we proceeded to experiment with something to drive my monitor. I knew the monitor would work for an 80 column display because I had used it for a while on my Geneve. Unfortunately, we were unable to find anything in his bag of tricks that would work. I guess in some ways, the Geneve is still smarter than the PC. I know it's much easier to set up! Anyway, because Richard wanted to stay and help get the computer setup and running, we decided that we needed to get a monitor that would work (it's kind of hard to set up a computer when you don't even have a display). We all piled into the car and went to Bizmart, purchased a monochrome amber screen monitor for $79.00, and came back. This time, the video card and monitor got along. For the first time, we could see that the video was not the only problem we were going to have. There was a problem with the drives, too. After a very long and frustrating day, we found that we had several problems. We eventually figured out that we had a mis-placed jumper on the hard drive and a bad 3 1/2" drive. I traded the bad drive for a different one the next day. Richard left a 40 meg hard drive here in trade for the power supply and case (not sure if that's all he wants, but I know we don't have any use for the case anymore). He also has a different driver card for the hard and floppy drives, so maybe we will be able to settle with Gordon sooner rather than later. Gordon's card seems to have a slight problem with the floppy drive. For some reason, I can't write to it properly. We are going to try Richard's card as soon as he can get it to me.

There is a lot more to tell about the adventures and misadventures of setting up the board, but I've been rambling as it is. The point is, THE BBS IS BACK!!! I still have a lot of things to do to the software to get it where I want it, but it does work the way it is. The documentation file for this bbs prints out to 140 pages! That's a lot of reading and new stuff for me to learn, so –
be patient and we will get there.

We have tested the uploads and downloads with Telco and they seem to work just fine, so I don't anticipate any compatibility problems with either the TI or Geneve. If you have any problems, please leave me a note.
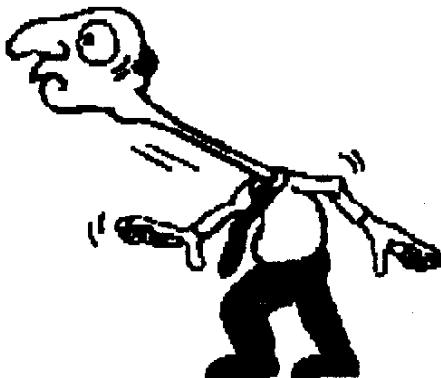
There is a SYSOP Loose Among us

by Ed Ash

ed... This article appeared in the November 1991 issue of The Sun City Summerlin Newsletter. The author and the subject are both valuable, contributing members of this newest users group in the Las Vegas area. Bob Sherburne has been on this board a number of times and says this board is almost identical in operation to our new board. Learn one and you know your way around both. Suggestions and procedures in this and John's BBS Report will help us get comfortable with the new proceedures.

Yes, there is a SYSOP in the Club. A SYSOP is not an alien creature. For those of you who don't know, SYSOP is an acronym for the System Operator of a Bulletin Board System (BBS). This particular BBS, called "GIF's Galore", is not directly associated with the club. However, it is operated by Bob French, a club member. Bob started the BBS in July of this year and it now has over 30 users, including several members of our club. This article summarizes its content and tells you how to use it. For those of you without a modem, you may want to consider the benefits of the many local BBS systems. For those of you with a modem, you may want to take a risk and give it a call.

STICK YOUR NECK OUT--TRY IT!

DESCRIPTION OF GIF'S GALORE

Bob has a dedicated 386/33Mhz computer in his house that's available as a BBS almost 24 hours every day, 7 days a week. He has 660 Mb of hard disk storage and 8 Mb of RAM. He uses the "Spitfire" software, as do many other BBS's. The basic content of the BBS is divided into several general areas: 1. Bulletins which are posted by the SYSOP. Club bulletins can easily be posted in this area, 2. Messages which can be posted by users for other users. One of the message conferences includes a for sale or trade area you can use to look for or sell computer equipment, 3. Files which contain programs and graphics which can be downloaded by the users, 4. A listing of other BBS's in the area, 5. Other miscellaneous areas such as messages to the SYSOP, BBS statistics, etc.

Although it's not part of the present setup, a future inclusion Bob is thinking about is E-mail. Using this, one can send computer mail to other users throughout the country---free!

CONTENT OF THE FILES AREA

The file area, which is probably of most interest to Club members contains many graphics files in various formats. For anyone doing desktop publishing, this provides a source of excellent material. The BBS specializes in graphics. Bob has over 150 Mb of Word Perfect graphics alone in addition to other formats such as GIF (hence the name GIF's Galore), MAC, PCX and TIFF. Each graphic file contains a description of its contents.

In addition to graphics, the file area contains many interesting shareware programs and other files. It is divided into areas such as Utilities, Games, Home & Family, Word Processing, Virus-Related, MS-DOS Programs, etc. Each of the programs has a file name and a short description of what it does. These shareware programs can be transferred to the users computer (i.e., "downloaded"), free of charge. Many shareware programs are of high quality and stack up well against commercial software. Most of the existing files have been provided by Bob himself. However, like most BBS's, he encourages users to transfer their shareware programs to the BBS (i.e., "upload") so others can have access to them. When you have downloaded a few files

There is a Sysop   continued from page 6
without uploading any, the BBS keeps track and gives you a gentle suggestion not to be a download "sponge".

HOW DO YOU USE IT?

Whatever modem software you use, set it to the fastest baud rate your modem is capable of, so that communication will be as fast as possible (probably 2400 Bauds). The BBS will accommodate from 1200 to 9600 Bauds. Also set it for 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity. Then have it dial the BBS phone Number: 254-1546. After your modem connects to Bob's BBS, you will be asked some questions if you are a new user. You must pick a password to use in the future. It will initially assign you a security level of 5, which allows you 1 hour on the machine and a limited number of downloads. As you use the BBS, your security level is increased and you will be allowed more downloads. Your trip through the BBS is guided by simple multiple choice menus, in which you make a choice by pressing the appropriate key. An example is the Main Menu, which has some of the following selections (not a complete list):

              <M>..............Message Section
              <F>..............Files Section
              <?>..............Help
              <B>..............Bulletins

If you want to read the bulletins, you just press "B" on you keyboard. If you want to download some files, you go to the files section by pressing "F". You will then receive other menus from which to choose options. In the files section, you would press "D" to download a file. You then follow the instructions on the screen and in your modem software for downloading a file. When you are done using the BBS, you press "G " for goodbye and the BBS will hang up. A word of caution: if you download files from any BBS, you should first check them for Viruses. Virus scanning programs are available in the BBS file's section.

ABOUT THE SYSOP

Bob is an avid and very knowledgeable computer fan. To be a SYSOP requires many hours of work and lots of dedication. Since there are no financial rewards, the satisfaction comes from others using the BBS and enjoying it. He first became interested in BBS's when he was living in Riverside, CA. There are many BBS's in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas. He started with computers in 1985 with a Kaypro with 360 Kb of RAM. He has had his current state-of-the-art computer since 1989. Bob moved to Las Vegas in 1991 from Riverside, CA. He retired there from the position of Chief Air Traffic Controller for March Air Force Base. He has had 37 years experience in the ATC field and has had assignments all over the world. Bob has agreed to help anyone who wants to get started using BBS's. He will demonstrate his impressive computer setup and show users how to use the BBS. Club members should take advantage of this generous offer.

SUMMARY

A tremendous number of shareware programs are available through the local BBS's. With the cost of acceptable modems less than $100, computer owners without them may want to consider upgrading to take advantage of the rapidly growing BBS opportunities-- many of them free. It's a little intimidating to make a BBS contact for the first time, but there's really nothing that you can hurt if you make mistakes. Ask Bob French or other club members for help and give it a try yourself.

BBS Report   continued from page 5

At the February meeting, we are planning to have a demonstration of the bbs and it's features. This board is somewhat more complex than the old one. so if you are not familiar with other bbs's in the valley, you might want to come to the meeting and get a head-start on the learning curve.

That's it for now. Will have more at the meeting. Gotta get this to George so he can work his magic on it.

        See ya at the meeting,-   John

Biography
A Visit with the Tigercub
by Walter Ward
Blugrass 99'ers via "Spirit of 99"

We are driving through a quiet residential street in the section of Columbus known as Whitehall. We see a small brick house with a large maple in the front shade and a somewhat overgrown evergreen hedge.

The man who answers the door is about 6' 2", Medium build, medium complexion with a full head of hair which is mostly gray. His manner and everything about him suggest gentleman in the old fashioned sense. We are taken to his computer room which is small and dominated by a 8x33 table which occupies almost a quarter of the room. Piled all over the table are disks in boxes and other computer paraphernalia. They are also piled under the table and on the floor. Shelves extend to the ceiling all around the room. They are filled with computer books, magazines and old boxed newsletters, etc. Several filing cabinets are similarly loaded. Sitting in the window sill are his wife's African violets which she has difficulty squeezing through to water due to clutter.

Our brown eyed host and his charming Japanese wife make us welcome.

"My biography? Let's see. I was born in Minnesota in 1923. I wound up in the Army in World War II. I ended up in Japan in 1945, just after the surrender, in the 27th Army Division. I transferred to Gen. MacArthur's Honor Guard Company. I took my discharge in Japan in 1946 in order to go to work for the Army as a Civil Service employee. I married a Japanese girl in 1957. I returned to the U.S. with my wife and baby daughter in 1959. My daughter is now married, a registered nurse and has two sons. I also have a son who graduated from The Ohio State University and who now works in the insurance business.

My hobbies? I like to fish and my annual fishing trip to Minnesota is coming up in July. It will also be the fiftieth reunion of my high school class. I like to garden but ailments are making that more and more difficult. I have a greenhouse full of cactus plants. I like country music. I used to collect military medals and decorations but that became too expensive. I used to play the harmonica.

When my son was sixteen he decided he wanted to be an engineer. He ended up with a degree in advertising and now works as an insurance adjuster. I decided if he was going to be an engineer he should know something about computers; we went shopping. He picked the TI-99/4A because he liked the feel of the keyboard. I have never

regretted that decision. It turned out my son was too interested in girls, cars, and girls, and girls, and girls, to take an interest in the computer and I became fascinated by it.

I taught myself to program by starting with the "blue book" and other books that came with the computer and by translating the Microsoft Basic in David H. Ahl's books of computer games to TI Basic. Within a year I had written about ninety programs. At that time the computer worlds seemed to be engaged in a conspiracy to ignore the TI-99/4A. I scanned every computer magazine on the newsstands and never found a mention of the TI or an advertisement for an TI product. Finally, I did find one small ad and sent for the catalog. The company went out of business! Their catalog had contained a small ad from the old International Users Group; which had started out as the first TI user group and had been converted by La Fara into a business selling public domain programs for three dollars each. I began buying and swapping programs from the IUG.

About that time I made a contact with a few local users and we started a user group in Columbus. This also brought me into contact with some wheeler-dealers who wanted me to go into partnership with my ninety programs and their one or two programs. It was mainly to get them off my back that I decided to start Tigercub Software on my own.

Since I thought my programs were no better than the best of the public domain being peddled by the IUG, I set my price at $3.00. others were charging three or four times as much, and at that I didn't know how poor some of their programs were. At that price I couldn't afford the advertising rated of the 99'er magazine (I didn't know that most of their ads were run on credit, and the 99'er never got paid!) so I started mailing my "Tips from the Tigercub" to about two hundred user groups as a promotion idea.

Texas Instruments was being hurt, in the advertising wars, by allegations that few programs were available for their computer (because they had discouraged third-party competition). So they had published a deluxe quality catalog listing of every TI program they knew of (which was mostly everything in the IUG public domain library) and mailed it to every registered user.

Texas Instruments was also actively promoting user groups and had appointed a user group coordinator. I think his name was Ed Weiss (author's note: Ed Weist). He visited our user group, along with programmer John Phillips and demonstrated the newest TI software-Hopper, and an unfinished FORTH. I cornered him after the meeting and asked if they intended to republish that software catalog. He said they were planning to and definitely wanted to list all my programs. The next day I mailed him a copy of my catalog and copies of all my programs. A week later the ax fell, Texas Instruments announced that they

Biography   continued from page 8

were abandoning the TI-99/4A! I had missed the chance to have
my advertising mailed, at no cost, to a million users at a time
when programs were still scarce and I was offering ten times as
much as anyone else, at by far the lowest price! Such is life.

The above is taken practically verbatim from a personal letter
from Jim Peterson to the author.

Random Question Quotes
          Why Tigercub?
" Tiger because I was writing for the TI and cub because I was
writing small programs ".
          How many programs have you written?
" 250 plus the Nuts 'n Bolts. I have never owned or written for
any other computer except the TI. "
          Pet peeves?
Too many to mention
          The biggest faults of the 99/4A?
"The twenty-eight column screen. They could just as easily have
given us forty and the fact that strings can only be sorted in the
12k of console ram. This is a little know weakness, but a big
one! "
"My wife is sixty-four years of age somehow does not look
nearly that old. She speaks a language she sincerely believes is
English. After thirty-five years I have learned to understand
some of it."

"I like brain games and I think programming is fun! Hard work?
Sure, but fun! I freely admit that I am a technoklutz."

Irwin Hott says that on several occasions he has been able to
help Jim by changing disks drives and performing other
maintenance chores. To appreciate this you must realize that
Irwin is blind.

What is Jim Peterson's outstanding personality trait? Everyone
seems to agree that he goes out of his way to help out. That he is
a hard worker. Jim told Irwin Hott that he was going to take
1500 disks to Lima. That boggled Irwin's mind. Irwin said he
could not conceive of the amount of work involved in copying
1500 disks to sell in two days.

Editor's note: Jim's famous Public Domain disks as well as his
Nuts 'n Bolts series can be had by writing Jim at : Tigercub
Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213

Newsletter Editor:
George Tilley
(702) 254-6005

Excerpts (not verbatim) from "The SLAVES and
OTIG Users Groups Newsletter"- January, 1992

McCann Software-- **It was sad to hear that
Mike McCann will no longer be writing
software for the Geneve. The response to his
program "HQ-STACKS" was disappointing
and he has decided to pursue the big-blue
market instead. There were offers made by
some of the othe TI/Geneve vendors to
market his product for himbut he didn't
seem interested. He was also offered the
opportunity to be the guest speaker at
telecommunication conferences, but he
expressed no interest. We wish him well in
his new market venture. McCann Software
will continue to fill orders for HQ-STACKS
but nothing more for the TI-Geneve from
Mike McCann.**

ESD HARD DRIVE : It's been a while since
we've heard anything about ESD's hard drive
project for thr TI community. The following
message uploaded to DELPHI claims more
development-- no shipping date – look for them at
FESTWEST–
DATE/TIME : 09/14/91 23:33
MANNERS members attending the September 12
meeting finally got a demo of the ESD hard drive
controller. Shane Truffer showed both the earlier
prototype of the herd/floppy controller (MFM
drives) and the new hard drive controller (IDE).
He showed some slides showing Western Digital
specifications on the drives that ESD is packaging
with thei hard drive controller. Drive and
controller both have very low power consumption.
He also mentioned the upcoming high density
floppy controller that will handle both 1.2Mb 5.25"
or 1.44Mb 3.5" floppy drives. Shane says that this
floppy controller may have compatibility problems
with the older floppy drives and/or disks
formatted on them. However, both the hard drive
controller and the high density floppy controller
have selectable CRU settings so it's possible to

EXCERPTS

have both these controllers, the Myarc HFDC, and a floppy contro;;er (TI, Corcomp, or Myarc) all in the same p-box.

The actual demo consisted of the ESD controller telling the controller on the IDE hard drive to seek to the max cylinder, write a block of data, and recalibrate to track 0. It was quick and short but at least we saw a card/drive combo that did something. ESD is planning to make it compatible with disk managers already available, although MDM5 is the only hard drive manager that I know of. — Approximate prices are $279.00 for hard drive controller with IDE drive, $139.00 for hard drive controller alone, $165.00 for the high density floppy controller wit floppy drive, and $97.00 for the high density floppy controller alone. Remember, these are only estimated prices. I couldn't pin Shane down on a definate shipping date, but he hopes to go to FEST-WEST (Feb'92) with a finalized product.

History of TI Hardware Prices from the
ERIE 99'er USER GROUP- Feb'91 via MID-SOUTH USERS GROUP "TIdbits" (newsletter)- Jan'91 — ed...the credits are longer than the article, but I did it. —

Hardware	1980	1982	1983	1986	1989
console	$499	$389	$299	$80	$25
RF (TV) Modulator	41	38	N/A	N/A	8
SpeechSyn	122	112	N/A	75	45
32k RAM	325	299	202	89	30
RS 232	183	168	118	99	40
Disk Drive	399	374	269	99	40
Disk Drive	243	224	169	69	30
Controller					
PB Bob-empty			169	N/A	69
PEB -				540	130
32k,RS232,DD&cntrl					
Extended Basic			67	70	30
Terminal Emulatoe II			34	20	10

Speaking of Prices
Bob Sherburne is liquidating most, if not all, of his TI equipment. I know of no individual who has more The prices are between give away and negotiable. What club members don't want will be taken to FESTWEST. See Bob at the meeting if you want to load up.

FIXED ANNUAL EXPENDITURES
(see Nov 90 Newsletter for last revision)

BANK STATEMENT BALANCE
(as of 31 DEC 1991)
(includes 8.06 service charge) + 224.57

FUNDS STATUS - 31 JAN 1992

COLLECTIONS
    Raffle   + 1.00

EXPENDITURES
    Postage - JAN 92   -22.00
    Copying - JAN 92   -11.87
        (sub-total)   -33.87

ADJUSTED CHECKING ACCOUNT
    Balance   + 191.70
PETTY CASH (undeposited funds)   0.00

    TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE   +191.70