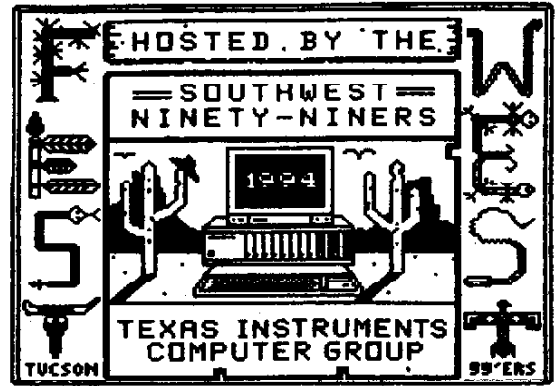


SouthWest Ninety-Niners

November 1993

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85731
(602)747-5046

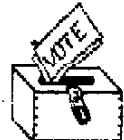


Pres - BJ Mathis VP - Rod Stallard Sec - Ed McCullough Tres - Mike Doane
Newsletter Editor/Library Chmn - BJ Mathis Cactus Patch SysOp - Tom Wills
Newsletter Librarian - Leonard Taffs Disk Librarian - Richard Baron
Lending Librarians - Tom Wills & Matt Matthews



President's Bit

by BJ Mathis



Thanks

I want to thank Les Neff, Al Armstrong, and Jim Chapman for volunteering to fold, staple, stamp, label, and mail newsletters. Over the years many members have helped with these chores. Ida helped for the last couple years of her life. Rolf and Harriet Kradenpoh helped several times last winter. However, the bulk of the responsibility has been mine with the help of my family, since mid-1986. It is nice to have other members take over one of my responsibilities.

November Meeting

At our November meeting, the Nomination Committee will be appointed. Ed McCullough will be chairing this meeting. He and I have discussed several possibilities for the Nominating Committee members this year. We discovered Ed hadn't served on the Committee, so I appointed him chairman. He will be choosing two members for the balance of the Nominating Committee. The three of them will be responsible for polling SW99ers for officers in 1994. The usual procedure is to phone all local members, ask them if they would be willing to serve as a SW99er officer, if so, which office, if not, who would they like to nominate? All SW99ers need to begin thinking about the possibility of becoming officers of SW99ers.

Ed will chair our November meeting, as I will be working at the Election polls. I hope to make it to the meeting before everyone leaves, but I can't guarantee I will make much sense of anything. Those working the polls have to be there at 5am, and work until the votes are counted. We don't figure out who won, but we have to make sure we have the correct number of voted, and unvoted ballots.

December Christmas Party

The December meeting will be our Christmas Party. Please bring your spouse, children, and finger-foods to share. This meeting is traditional with SW99ers as a time of fellowship with members. The business portion of the meeting will be very short. We will not have a demonstration at the meeting.

Raffle Tickets

We sold our first \$70 worth of Fest West '94 Raffle Tickets at the October meeting. Raffle tickets will be available at every meeting between now and the Fest. The more tickets we sell, the more prizes we will buy. Right now, we have already bought an HPDC with 20meg hard drive, an over/under 5.25"/3.5" half/height dual disk drive, and a 2400 BAUD pocket modem. We have made arrangements with Bud Mills for a Horizon RAMdisk, and with Augard for an AEMS card. We have to sell Raffle tickets to pay for all these prizes, so get on the ball. Buy 10 raffle tickets, and receive a free admission to Fest West '94. Requests for Raffle tickets should be sent to:

TI Fest West '94 Committee
c/o SouthWest Ninety-Niners
PO Box 17831
Tucson, AZ 85731

Postcards

On November 22nd at 7:30pm, we will stamp and label postcards for TI Fest West '94. These postcards will be sent to those who have attended previous Fests and to many others who may be interested. We would appreciate volunteers to help with this project. If you know someone we should send a postcard, please contact me with their name and address.





SouthWest 99ers Treasury Report

by Mike Doane



Balance 09/26/93 \$726.11

INCOME:

Membership	\$75.00
Library income	\$24.00
Disks, labels, ribbons	\$15.00
Equipment sales	\$ 6.00
Cactus Patch support	\$24.00
Misc. Income (Raffle Ticket sales)	\$70.00

Total October Income: \$214.00

EXPENSES: (ouch!)

Newsletter costs	\$30.55
Raffle tickets costs	\$39.01
P.O. Box rent costs	\$122.70
Cactus Patch Support (TWO months worth and "Say, hey, Tom. Isn't that a new car you are driving?")	\$70.00

Total October Expenses: \$262.26

Working Bal. 10/24/93 \$677.85

The savings account statement is :

Balance 08/29/93 :	\$50.48
Interest	\$.12
Balance 09/26/93 :	\$50.60

Thank you Ed Chase, Bryant Krause and W. Leonard Taffs for the contribution to Cactus Patch support. I must ask you to submit all contributions to the Cactus Patch to the SW99'ers treasurer. Not only does this allow me to get my hands on more of your money but it allows me to show more accurately the flow of funds for the group.

Since this is the beginning of the fourth quarter, I would like to bring you up to date on how our totals for the year are progressing.

INCOME Totals:

Membership/Adv.	\$727.50
Library Sales	\$390.50
Ribbons/Disks	\$296.00
Equipment Sales	\$363.50
Cactus Patch Support	\$57.00
Misc.	\$245.14
TOTAL Income	\$2079.64

EXPENSES Totals:

Newsletter & Postage	\$936.43
Ribbons/Disks	\$277.75
Library Sales	\$71.67
Equipment Purchases	\$525.28
Cactus Patch Support	\$375.00
Misc. Expenses	\$243.33

TOTAL Expenses \$2449.52

We purchased a Myarc HFDC and a 20 megabyte drive to be used as a door prize and we have not recovered the amount we spent in raffle ticket sales. We have spent apx. \$500 on FestWest such as; mailing costs for vendor/group information packages, raffle ticket printing and purchase of raffle prizes. The proceeds (and hopefully profits!) will begin showing up after Thanksgiving and FestWest '94. We'll probably show a loss until the final tally is done after the Fest. Don't lynch me until all the facts are in!

You notice the disparity between the Cactus Patch support income and expense? This is one reason why I want to make sure your contributions towards this fine asset can be entered through the treasury. You can give your thanks (and there should be plenty of praise as well!) directly to Tom Wills, but I would prefer to handle the cash.



October Minutes



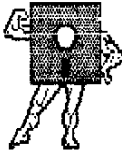
Tuesday October 5, 1993

- Al Armstrong handled the Question & Answer period.
 - Q. Who was it that wanted a "Stock" Spreadsheet?
 - A. It was made available to two members.
- New members; Ron Vaughn, Tim Abein and Earl Colvin were presented to the group.
- FestWest raffle tickets are now available. Buy ten and get a free admission to FestWest. Prizes acquired to date are:
 - A MYARC HFDC with a 20 Meg Hard Drive in a stand-alone case.
 - A Horizon 4000 RAMDISK.
 - A combination 3.5"/5 1/4" Half-Height Floppy Disk Drive (in the same case).
 - A 2400 BAUD Pocket Modem
 - Plus, we hope to have an Asgard Memory System Card.
- Thanks to Les Neff and Al Armstrong for volunteering to take over the folding, stamping, labeling and mailing the Newsletter
- We encourage the members to take advantage of ALL the membership benefits. There is more for you than just the monthly meetings. Such as:
 - DM Federal Credit Union Membership.
 - Plato Library - BJ Mathis
 - Newsletter Library - Leonard Taffs.
 - Lending Library - Matt Matthews & Tom Wills
 - Disk Library (Fairware/Public Domain) - BJ Mathis & Richard Baron.
- Les Neff presented a DEMO on one use of Multiplan.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

Disk-Of-the-Month

November 1993



by W. Leonard Tabbs

This month's D.O.M. includes programs by SW99er members: JOHN HALE (four from John), JACK MATHIS, and LEONARD TAFFS. Contents:

!README (This file)

!LINCATSCP (ONE LINE CAtaloger SScreen Printer) has Disk Choice (1-9), Printer, and Quit options added by TAFFS (No longer a 1-LINER!)

3/COLCAT-L by JACK EVANS which I modified in 1991 to read any disk (original would only read DSK1.), displays files to screen as read, prints date and # of files, with Re-Run Option. Reads ramdisks but * I/O Error in Line 410 sometimes causes loss of file count/date at end.

ASCII by JOHN HALE, (TI BASIC) prints nice table of ASCII characters and Color Tables--handy to keep by your computer.

BANNER Fairware R.J. MARLEN, 3156 PINEBROOK, ARNOLD, MO. 63010 (Sugg \$3.00). Prints LARGE sideways banner--letters are 5 1/2" high by 1 7/8" wide.

BARGRAPH (author unknown) is one you may not have seen before (in color). Bar information is entered as DATA lines in program. No docs necessary but be CAREFUL!--if you are not experienced in programming, remark Data lines so when you enter your own data you can follow DATA format. Program crashes if you have incorrect number of items. Very nice program! NOT for Printer, sorry!

CALENDAR, CAL... these programs are based on a Calendar program from JACK MATHIS. (Thanks, JACK!) CAL/DOC are his docs and CAL/DOCS/T are mine for CALTAFMATH (XB Vs.) and CLNDRMATTI (TI BASIC Vs.). DUMPXB is required for printing out XB versions. These (except CLNDRMATTI) print either one month or whole year--one month-per-page. Per Jack's CAL/DOC, TODD CLIFTON (former SW99er member) modified this project but appears to have been too modest to indicate what his modifications were.

CALL BLUE (Jim Peterson's? Earl Raguse?) program is SUB program to give you blue background & white letters. Convert this to a MERGE program (SAVE "DSK1.CALLBLUE".MERGE) to merge to any of your programs. Remember to insert CALL BLUE statement in your program.

CHECKERS (TI BASIC) (Author not given) This may result in MEMORY FULL message when you run it in TI BASIC. If so, type NEW, then CALL FILES(1) and it should load O.K. Found this in SW99ers archives. You play against computer. Your play is recorded quickly but the computer's move is a bit slow. You get chance to approve or negate any of your moves, before entering. Nice feature!

CONVERSNS2 (TI BASIC) is another units conversion program. Author not given but whoever did it, packed a lot into this program. No fancy menu but really a useful reference. (List program to see formulas!)

DUMPXB (DANNY MICHAEL)--needed to run XB versions of CALENDAR

FILERCRDCT (TAFFS) is a record counter of first-character of file records of a single or any number of consecutive files. See FEEDFORTH column.

LOAD is FREE LOADER III by Karl Romstedt.

LOGIC/OPS (JOHN HALE) (TI BASIC) and AND/OR/XOR (TAFFS) (XB) deal with these operators. AND/OK/XOR is designed as programmer's learning tool but it could be used as game. Menu choice has ready to read/print docs/explanation, and print-out option of user Input.

METRIC-ENG (JOHN HALE) is a nice Metric-CONVERSION program.

TIMESHEET (TAFFS) Totals Hours and Minutes between Starting and Finishing work. Part-time workers may find this a boon. You enter hours you worked--it calculates and prints daily totals and at end, prints out total of all hours worked. Makes it easy to catch your employer if he makes a mistake!

TOWER5F (version of TOWERS OF HANOI) by JOHN HALE, played by your computer. If you've not seen this, you will be very impressed! Thank you, JOHN!

Note: Most program ending lines have INPUTS allowing one to break into the program, if you wish to change anything. This is the first D.O.M. I have put together. I don't intend to stack the D.O.M. with my programs--only shortage of time compelled me to use mine here. Please GIVE/SEND me YOUR programs and you won't have to put up with mine! Let me know what you would like to see included on these D.O.M.'s.

DOMs are available FREE to SW99ers attending the membership meeting each month. If you are unable to attend the meeting, members may buy DOMs for \$1, either at a later meeting or by mail (no extra cost by mail). Non-members should send \$2 for each DOM requested.

Tom's Observations

by Tom Wills



CORRECTION

First of all, I have a correction from the last newsletter's Tom's Observations. That correction has to do with the Emoticons. The icons were each to be display as bold print. However, as our Editor, BJ Mathis, has her own codes for bolding print, the icons did not print as I wanted them to. For example, the smiley face should have printed bold as ":-)", not as "@:-)". In the cases where more than one "@" was displayed, it was so that a "@" would display. The same thing applies to the "&" characters seen. There should have only been one showing, not two. This was done because of the "quirk" in TI Writer that will only display a special character if it is typed twice. Please keep this in mind when you look at last months Observations column.

CHICAGO/MILWAUKEE FAIRES

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Chicago and Milwaukee TI Faires will either be underway or already over. I hope they have a good turnout. However, I have it on good authority that things could be better for both faires.

Perhaps Milwaukee and Chicago should combine their faires into a regional faire such as our Fest West. They could call it Mid-West Fest <grin>. I know this was suggested many years ago when the Wisconsin 99er Computer Council set up the Milwaukee Faire. However, the Chicago User Group would have nothing to do with the idea. They felt the W99CC was taking advantage of the Chicago UG and its Faire. I know this to be factual as I was a representative to the W99CC from the Sheboygan Area 99ers User Group at that time and I attended those meetings where the idea of a joint faire was discussed with the Chicago UG.

Well, times have changed. The Chicago Faire doesn't hold the aura that it once did, and that is too bad. The Milwaukee faire has opened itself up to non-TI computers. With both groups and the W99CC all having the same leader, Don Walden, hopefully they will approach a joint faire with a new fervor. It would be a loss to the TI community if either or both of these great faires should fall by the wayside.

In any case, I have become aware of the fact the Oasis Pensive Abactors will be attending the Chicago Fair. I sure hope he doesn't take too many people to the cleaners as he did myself and Asgard Software. I am asking friends of mine to ask Gary where my \$40 is and when I can expect it refunded. I am no longer interested in his Geneve Eprom as I am in the process of getting the upgrades to my Geneve and HFDCC that Ceure Electronic is offering. At least I know Don Walden and can trust him. As soon as I get the cards back, I will review the enhancements in this column.

MY VACATION

Once again, my wife Carol and I were able to return to Wisconsin to visit our parents, children, grandchildren (including a new 4 month old grandson), and friends. While I was there, I was able to get together with the Sheboygan Area Users Group at a local restaurant. This was a great time for me, as the Sheboygan Area 99ers UG again proved what a truly great group they are. The SA99UG has some of the friendliest TIers found anywhere!!!

To those in attendance, Frank Bunzel, Leon Kreidler and his wife, Walter Shiele and his wife, Joe Turk, Kathy Schoenings, Ken Johnson, Lester *** and his wife. I want to pass on a big thank you for the swell time at the Villager Restaurant. I really appreciated it and enjoyed every minute with you all.

FEST WEST '94

Time is flying by. Pretty soon Fest West 94 will be here. It is hard to believe the Fest is less than four months off. Now is the time for members to think of donating time and equipment to this effort. We will be needing bodies for many varied tasks, such as manning a booth when the vendor needs a break, selling tickets, keeping the attendance data base up to date, etc. Please put aside some time to assist us during the Fest. More will be discussed on this subject in coming membership meetings.

Also, we will be needing systems for vendors who are traveling to Tucson. We can't expect those who may be flying to carry their TI expansion system with them, now can we. If you can make your system available, please let one of the UG Officers know.

The prizes for the raffle are coming together. For only a dollar a ticket, you have a chance at winning a Myarc Hard and Floppy Disk Controller card and 20 megabyte drive, a dual floppy drive (the unit has

both a 5.25" and 3.5" drive in one half height unit, a 2400 baud modem, a Horizon 4000 ramdisk, an Asgard Memory System memory card, and more!!! As more money becomes available, more prizes will become available. The raffle is self supporting and the money brought in from the ticket sales goes to buying more prizes.

And don't forget, if you buy ten tickets, you get in FREE!!! What a bargain. I bought my first ten tickets at the last meeting. I say first ten, as I plan on buying at least another block of ten tickets. I want the dual floppy drive! Who knows, with my luck, I'd probably be better off just donating the money to the raffle and not getting frustrated when I don't win anything. I've never won any raffle, lottery, contest, etc. yet, so why should I start now.

Here's to seeing you at Fest West 94, the Best Fest in the West, AGAIN!!!

Feedforth Nov '93

by W. Leonard Tabbs



SOURCE CODE SOUGHT. Does anyone know if the Source Code for J.P. Hoddie's "SORT/EXP" program is available anywhere? Please advise if you know that it is. The virtues of this excellent sort program have been extolled in this column before. However, SORT/EXP does have a limitation of the number of DV/80 file lines it can manage--depending upon how full the lines are. With heavily loaded DV/80 text file lines, SORT/EXP can manage to sort a little above 300 lines. The Source Code might show that this program could push less into memory as it sorts, so it could manage sorting much larger files--particularly if it was not necessary to sort fields well into the line of characters. Even being able to sort just on the first character in the line could be a great boost to handle large files. So, do you know where this Source Code file might be located? It would be nice to have!

At our last General Meeting, I offered to volunteer to make the Disk of the Month. As I sure am no angel, it can't be said I'm an "angel rushing in where fools fear to tread!" Angel, no, but a fool rushing in.....? Anyway, I found this a bit late to volunteer (for me) with our next meeting not far away, so I have used some of my own programs to get the material done on time. I do not intend to fill these disks with a disproportionate number of my own programs. I feel members should have first dibs on this. So, future D.O.M.'s will have a limited number of my contributions as long as there is enough coming in from other sources.

Recently one of my earlier articles was retyped in a Newsletter back East. It was nice to have an article reproduced. Retyping always introduces the possibility of errors but my comment is not on a typo. It is on spelling of my last name which is TAPFS. The byline type style in our newsletter does make lower case "f's" look like "b's", if one doesn't look closely. If anyone out there ever wrote me as "TABBS" it is possible I never got it (if street address was missing). Oh well...."c'est la vie!"

CHALLENGE! [An Hours and Minutes Program.] My wife works part-time where hours are not fixed. She has to keep track of her hours and minutes (she is paid for parts of any hour worked). At end of the month,

these have to be added up and it can be a real chore to do. A nice challenge to come up with something that would list and sum these hours for her.

If you are the type that likes challenges, maybe you'd like to try your hand at it. I had no idea when I started out how many hours I would spend, searching for that ever evanescent, elusive algorithm! I have always had a mental block over comprehending advanced math formulas (one of which might have solved my algorithm instantly) developed in my early high school years. So with a Starting time of 10:00 AM and Finish time of 3:15 PM as compared to another Start time of 1 PM and Finish time of 4:00 PM what is the equation (without allowing a separate variable to indicate AM or PM)? Minutes. In whatever this equation turns out to be, are the easiest to deal with. If M = Starting minute and M2 = Finishing Minute then would minutes always be equal to M2 - M? If you start work at 10:15 and finish at 1:10, the minutes you've worked total 55. If M=15 and M2 = 10, then neither M-M2 or M2-M gives the correct answer. (So how do we know the actual minutes total 55?)

"The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind" was a haunting theme for this search, particularly for solving the hours formula. The minute solution was easier. For hours, if H = 10 (AM/starting hour) and H2 = 2 (PM/stop hour) then neither H2 - H or H - H2 is correct. We all know the correct answer should be 4 hours. If H = 1 PM and H2 = 4 PM then the correct answer is H2 - H. Whew! That's the teaser. All we have to do is tell the computer to reason about time the way we do. And just how do we? If I go any further, there won't be any challenge!

Searching through all my TI books and Russ Walter's Secret Guide to Computers turned up very little on the subject of time. Only 2 related to this topic and neither of them calculated hours and minutes subtracted from, or added to, hours and minutes, except for one that would only multiply by minutes. What is needed are program lines to subtract Finishing times from Starting times for each work day and a summing of them at the end of the program. I wonder if any of you MULTIPLAN experts have any payroll spreadsheets which use such type of calculation--something besides just X number of hours(x)\$5.50 per hour....

HOURS&MINS was my solution to the problem (on the D.O.M. for this month). It sticks to having only 4 inputs for Start/Finish hours and minutes. These four inputs are calculated to give total time for that entry. When all entries are finished, all the times are totalled. The more "deluxe" version of this program developed into TIMESHEET is also on the NOV 93 D.O.M. This does the same work and uses the same program as HOURS&MINS, but presents a more acceptable printout with more attractive screens to work with. There is likely a better or more practical solution to this algorithm than mine. If you know of one or create one, I would be happy if you were willing to share it! If you do, I would be glad to print it in this column.

FILERCRDCT: (FILE-RECORD-COUNT) is another program of mine on the NOV D.O.M. This was a challenge of another sort. Its function is to read an unlimited number of files, pick the first character of each line (SEGS(AS,1,1), and save a count of the number of times this character appears. It is a simple file reader that fetches its filenames from DATA statements. The RECORD counts are stored in a variable for each character. Each LINPUT is shunted through a string of counters which increment each

time a character reappears. When finished, it prints out totals for each character.

It is not a fast program--speed of execution depends on the number of counters operating. Slow or not, this can be a useful program for projects that require it. I have used it for my LIMA catalog project. This project is to get a sorted list of LIMA's (UH) magnificent catalog. It is an ambitious task! Though LIMA has provided an excellent program to print this in its entirety, it requires massive printer-wear, ink, and paper. I used a file reader to go through the entire catalog, extracting only disk titles and file names (still unsorted). It filled more than 3 DSSD disks! Next, was the need to know how large each character file could be expected to be, so that once the files were opened and the approximately 37 files were being read consecutively, there would be no danger of running out of disk space. None of this can be known until a file count of each character is known which is why FILERCRDCT was created. Again, someone out there with far more expertise, can likely come up with a better way of doing it.

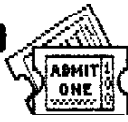
PROGRAMMING TIP. For beginner/intermediate programmers: Fatigued with editing long and complicated programs? Tough on the eyes, wrists, fingers, and mind. Perpetually pressing FNCT/8, renumbering lines, remarking and unremarking and moving lines can do a number on you. Do what PROS do! List your program to disk for manipulating in a Writer program. It is simple to do: You use the same format as listing to your printer except that you substitute "DSKn.Filename" for "PIO". BUT FIRST SAVE YOUR PROGRAM! If you list it first, and forget to SAVE your program before you QUIT to load a Writer program, you have donated your program to that blue heaven in the sky above. You get a second chance to repeat this folly if, after SAVING your program you then LIST it with the SAME filename! Heaven may appreciate your generosity but you will have empty pockets for your trouble. So, remember: SAVE your program first, then LIST it with a different name: SAVE DSK1.SCHMEER, LIST "DSK1.SCHMEERLS". There is a recourse (though I haven't used it) if you make the mistake of losing your program. There is an Extended Basic utility that can take a program that is listed in DV/80 file form, and can reprocess the listed program back into a running program. Remember (FOREVER!): When LISTING or SAVING your programs, ALWAYS use different file names!

On the subject of LISTING your program, there is an excellent program that will list your program to printer and sum up a list of variables used in the program. NEATLIST is the name of this program. As it sends your program to the printer, it breaks up multiple statements--a great help on the eyes. NEATLIST can also LIST your program to disk! When the LINK("LIST") has brought up its screen (after your program has been loaded), when you come to the prompt "DEVICE:", you can substitute a DSKn and Filename and NEATLIST sends your program, in same form it would have sent to the printer, to your disk. NEAT! It can be a breath of fresh air to view your program in a Writer file program! Once you have listed your program to a DV/80 file, it can be loaded into a Writer program for examination and editing. Be certain to select PROGRAM Editor (NOT TEXT Editor) when you load your file. Note how much easier it is to view on a screen that isn't scrolling! It sure beats trying to unscramble a print-out with its crowded lines.

(Next month: What you can do, once the program file is loaded into Writer's PROGRAM Editor.)

FestWest News & Views

by Mike Doane



I may seem to be fixated on the "going on's" of ASGARD software and peripherals but I don't intend to seem this way. I have had as many bones of contention with them as anyone else has. I think the fact of their appearing in my column more than any other manufacturer other than Bud Mills and Don Walden is due to the fact of Jim Krych being on their team. Jim has gone a long way out of his path to keep me informed and up to date with their new products and he is willing to ask my opinion on matters. As a smart man should, he ignores pretty much all of what I have to say but he is genuinely concerned with the T.I. user world. He has informed me the AMS 128k memory card is being supplemented with the AMS 256k and a 512k version. The Asgard team has located an AMERICAN manufacturer for their printed circuit boards which will speed the delivery of these devices. They have included a "C" library and compiler and a complete set of 32 bit routines with their already impressive development package. These programs are included with their products! What other company will do THAT? I do believe these gents mean business!! This is why I seem to be raving about them. My kudo's go to Chris Bobbitt, Harry Brashear, Jim Krych and ALL of the members of Asgard's team. The T.I. world is in your debt!

Speaking of Asgard, the word on the street is Chris Bobbitt has stepped down as president of Asgard Software and is going to concentrate his efforts towards research and hardware development. This is a triple play of news. The sad news is we will lose Chris Bobbitt's talents as a programmer and collector/catalyst of software programs. The good news is we will retain his services as technician and developer of new hardware. We should see some great things with the addition of Chris to the already great team Asgard peripherals has created. The other part of the good news is Harry Brashear is taking over the "software" portion of Asgard. Harry has done a masterful job of creating a good image for Asgard. One of my biggest complaints about Asgard in the past has been the slow response time toward software programs purchased from them. Chris strove mightily but he would all too often become buried under the pressure. There were times when it almost seemed he had adopted a "so what!" attitude. Time has shown me this was not the case and I believe Harry will prove to everyone to be a capable and dedicated manager. Congratulations to Asgard and their team efforts!

Bud Mills has made it official! He is the second vendor officially to be coming to FestWest '94! He will be hand delivering the HRD 4000 we will be giving away as a door prize. Buy your tickets and YOU can be the lucky winner to accept this fine piece of hardware from the great man himself (hey Bud, don't let your head swell with that one! I tend to get carried away when I write.). This is one SWEET little gem! John Hale received his in a "kit" form and he and I put it together in 4 hours. It fired up and ran perfectly the first time! I have assembled 3 or 4 of these little jewels and this was the first time I had one go right off the bat! The production is excellent on this model and it is a work of art! Even if you aren't lucky enough to win one you can always buy one. Ask anyone who has one! The HRD makes the T.I. a much more capable computer. The speed of access to your programs is so fast it can scare you! T.I. Base can take up to 59 seconds to load from a floppie disk (longer if you use the Extended Basic loader) but it

loads and is running in under 7 seconds from a HRD. Yowzers! Now THAT is FAAAASSSSSTTTT!!!! If it weren't for my HRD 3000 I would have probably left my T.I. for some other computer with 3 initials. My HRD has changed the way I look at and use my T.I. I have built mine to 1+ meg and I have over 100 programs at my beck and call. No more fumbling on my desk to find the disks with my graphics, word processors, spreadsheets, or data bases. They are all stored inside my P.E. Box simply waiting for me to call them up.

Bud will also be bringing more of his product line but I am not in the know as to which ones he will be bringing. He is the producer of the "Horizon Mouse" and many other fine products.

We will have to wait and hear the news from the Chicago T.I. fair about the progress of the SCSI hard drive controller. We have been promised this fine device for so long it almost seems to be an inherited memory. The hold up seems to be in the writing of the "DSR" or device service routine. This is the software package which actually "tells" the device what to do. As any hardware developer can tell you, the software is the hardest part. The last rumor I heard was Will McGovern (of Funnelweb fame and acclaim) was talked into leaving his Amiga(or should that be Amig-ugh?) and writing the routines. If this is the case the probability is there for us to see the release of this long awaited piece of hardware. I will be glad to see Don O'Neil get out from under the head-aches. This project has caused him such a pain. I will be glad to see Don get back to work on some of his other outstanding projects. We need members of his ability to help us improve our computer.

A nasty rumor has been floating around about Gary Bowser of OPA (Oasis Pensive Abacus). It has been mentioned he will attend the Chicago Users Fair. Gary has proved himself highly unreliable towards filling his orders after receiving payment (which is about the most polite way I can call him a "rip-off" artist without outright calling him a thief) and I do not recommend anyone buying ANY item from him even if he has it on hand and gives it to you right then and there. If you have problems with the device/software the odds of you receiving any support are nil to extremely improbable. Many efforts to receive a refund from him for goods not received have been ignored. Due to the fact his company is based in Canada there has been no recourse available from the U.S. government even in the matter of mail fraud. This is a sorry state of affairs for the T.I. community as Gary is one of the most capable and accomplished developers around. I hope he gets whatever is troubling him behind him and comes back into the fold. We can use men of his caliber. I would suggest you have nothing to do with him until he has satisfied all his outstanding debts. I will be just one of a number of people standing in line to say, "I told you so!"

A possible quick money saver for you planning on attending FW'94 which should be everyone reading this article. If you are flying in from out of state, check and see how much it will cost to fly by way of Salt Lake City. Morris Air has recently begun daily low-fare flights to Tucson and Salt Lake City is one of Delta Airlines terminal "hubs". You might be able to save yourself some money by going this route. If you get the chance, you might even find time to enjoy the sights of Salt Lake City. Be forewarned! They believe in WINTER up there. The weather might not seem cold to you midwesterners and nor-easter's but for this desert rat it was cold.

SLC is a beautiful town with great scenery and some of the friendliest and helpful people you will ever meet. If you have a lay-over between flights you could do a LOT worse. We are going to ask Morris if we can work a price deal but the odds are against it. They are a low-price, non-frills airline already and they may not have enough of a margin to swing it. I will keep you informed of any progress on this end.

There will be shuttle service from Tucson International Airport to the hotel and if you can give us enough advance notice we will try to arrange for one of the SW99'ers to be on hand to meet you. We might even be able to arrange for a ride from Phoenix's Sky Harbor if you can give us enough notice and the logistics work out for us.

I guess I have rambled enough for this article. I hope to have a lot of more concrete facts for you in the next few issues.

I want everyone who might take offense at anything I might have said to remember a few facts. I am 6 feet tall in my stocking feet, I weigh 190+ lbs, I bicycle 13 miles a day to work, as a heavy engine mechanic. If anything I have said offends you to the point of physical violence I would advise against it. I am also the easiest guy to get along with you have ever met. If you have taken offense with anything I have said, write me and we can discuss my point of view. I am willing to apologize for anything I feel I have done wrong and do it in print.

One last word for David DeHeer. I have \$38.25 burning a hole in my pocket.

The TI-99 Home Computer Timeline

by Bill Gaskill



part 1 of 4 (concluded)

OCT 1979 : Rodnay Zaks, who would author the book "Your First TI-99/4A Program" in 1983, releases "6502 Games" through Sybex Publishing.

NOV 1979: Moore Business Systems agrees to market the TI-99/7, a \$5000 business computer based upon the TMS 9900 microprocessor. The 99/7 is one of three computers to be built on the TMS 9900 chip, but it will eventually die, due to internal squabbling at TI, without any production units being shipped.

- Zenith buys the Heath Company, manufacturers of the H-8 and H-11 computer kits.

- Computer Shopper publishes its first issue. A special charter subscription of 12 issues for \$10 is offered.

- Milton Bradley releases Big Trak, a programmable toy vehicle. The chip in Big Trak allows the user to program intricate travel paths and fire the truck's weaponry in single burst, short burst or long burst modes. It sells for \$43 with trailers that may be purchased separately for \$13 each.

- Milton Bradley also releases its Microvision hand held mini video game machine, which has its own screen. Microvision comes with the game

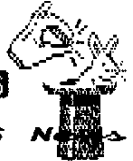
BlockBuster. Six other games, Bowling, Star Trek, Phaser Strike, Connect Four, Vegas Slots and Mindbuster are also available, sold separately.

DEC 1979: Len Buckwalter reviews the new TI-99/4 Home Computer for Mechanics Illustrated magazine on page 46. He calls the machine easy to use and delivers a generally positive review, discussing Home Financial Decisions, and Milton Bradley's Connect Four, Hangman, Yahtzee and Zero Zap cartridges.

- Image Computer Products of Northbrook, Illinois announces the TI Six Pack, which consists of six BASIC games on cassette. They are; Mind Master, Skill Builder, Strategy Pack, Tournament Brickbat, Wall Street Challenge, and Wildcatting.

Game Cartridge Tricks

by Dom Sedita GTBTIUG News



Over the years some interesting ideas have been covered regarding undocumented information on the original TI cartridges. Specifically, there are some interesting screens and/or applications never published by TI, that users have discovered by poking around on the keyboards.

Here are two special cartridge applications.

The first deals with the MUNCHMAN cartridge. After insertion of the cartridge you receive the "PRESS ANY KEY" message. Press 2 to go to MUNCHMAN and as soon as the first screen appears, hold the SHIFT key down and press keys, 8, 3, and 8 rapidly. You will access screens not found in the TI manuals.

These new screens will allow you to go to any of three rounds, choose any of 20 screens, and start the game with as many as 9 men. (Be advised that in computerese Round 0 is really Round 1 and Screen 0 is really Screen 1.)

The second cartridge of interest is TUNNELS OF DOOM. Have you ever encountered trouble trying to get a cassette program loaded prior to saving it to disk only to have the tape start then stop with a "READ ERROR" message? What happens is with your disk system turned on, available memory is reduced by a chunk and the lead data information, when the tape starts playing, tells the computer there isn't enough memory to load the program so the system shuts down.

This is how to get around that problem using the TUNNELS OF DOOM cartridge. Insert the cartridge and proceed as though you were preparing to play the game. Instead of loading a TUNNELS OF DOOM game, load your tape program. The memory chips in the TUNNELS OF DOOM cartridge give you the extra room you need. After the program loaded, DO NOT proceed with the screen instructions. At this point, press FCTN BACK and you will be returned to the unpublished screen. The assumption here by TI is that you have loaded the wrong game or that your information didn't get into the computer. What you do get is the load screen that you started with, but also on the same screen is SAVE INFORMATION.

To save that long tape program that you have loaded into the TUNNELS OF DOOM cartridge, you just follow the instructions on SAVING and one of your options is, of course, SAVE to disk.

Also Buys

The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface compatibility with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.



<p>TI-99/4A Console \$20 o.b.o J. J. Horton (602)882-2330</p>
<p>TI Console w/RF Modulator Extended Basic, Speech Synthesizer Terminal Emulator II, Tombstone City, The Attack, Car Wars, Parsec, Blasto with manuals All for \$50 Danny Stern (602)297-3839</p>
<p>\$150 Complete TI System Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232 Plus: Beige Console w/dust cover, ExBasic, Tax Investment Record Keeping, Home Financial Decisions, & TI Writer Larry Newman (602)299-2092 or \$10 on CP</p>
<p>Double-Sided 1/2 height TEAC Disk Drive - \$20 First Base by Warren Agee - \$10 Entec external power supply box. Has enough power for a hard disk and two full power floppies. Light toggle switches on front to control 3 outlets on the back of the box. Asking \$50.</p>
<p>My TI" White Hats Black Letters Red Heart \$5 Mesh Style \$6 Golf Style plus \$1 shipping</p>
<p>Tom Hills (602)886-2460 or \$1 on CP</p>

<p>\$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232 \$25 Stand-Alone RS232 \$10 TI 99-4/A Console \$15 Speech Synthesizer \$60 o.b.o. P-Code Card w/documentation \$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies \$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(single) \$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(dual) \$10 Cassette Player/Recorder \$2 Replacement Keyboard \$5 24-Cassette or Module Drawers \$7 36-Cassette or Module Drawers \$3 Flip N File for Diskettes 50/\$1 Disk Labels 500/\$1 Mailing Labels Tractor feed 1-across TI Keyboard Overlays \$3ea or 5/\$10 Modem Cables 6'=\$8 (Telco ready) \$3 Cassette Cable <u>Diskettes</u> 25/\$7 (SW99ers only) <u>Disk Programs</u> \$2 Airline \$15 Artist Card Shop (Comprodine) \$10 Backsteine \$10 Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy \$3 Touchdown <u>Cassette Programs</u> \$1 Teach Yourself Basic BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 \$3 on CP</p>
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<p>Printer Ribbons \$3 NX-10 \$4 NX-2400 \$2 Epson MX-80 \$3.50 NX-1000 <u>Modules</u> \$2 Blackjack & Poker \$2 Blasto \$2 Chisolm Trail \$2 Early Learning Fun \$3 Editor Assembler (new) \$3 Football \$1 Household Budget Management \$2 Hunt the Wumpus \$1 Munchman \$1 Personal Record Keeping \$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping \$1 Terminal Emulator II \$1 TI-Invaders \$5 TI-Logo II <u>Books</u> \$1 Basic Computer Games \$3 Basic Programs for the Home \$3 Beginner's BASIC (Blue Book) \$2 Computer Playground \$3 Executive Computing - How to Get It Done on Your Own \$10.50 Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A Supplement \$3 w/disk \$3 Practical Basic Programs \$2 Programs for the TI Home Computer \$3 Programming Basic w/the TI Computer \$1 Sams TI-99/4A Basic Programs \$3 The Word Processing Book \$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear \$3.25 User's Reference Guide \$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 \$3 on CP</p>



Happy Thanksgiving!!



-- ANNOUNCING --

TI Fest West '94

A Texas Instruments 99/4A
& MYARC Geneve 9640
Computer Users Convention

Location:

Park Inn, 88 E Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85701

Reservations:

1-800-437-PARK Welcome #TAZ143
(602)622-4000

Date/Time:

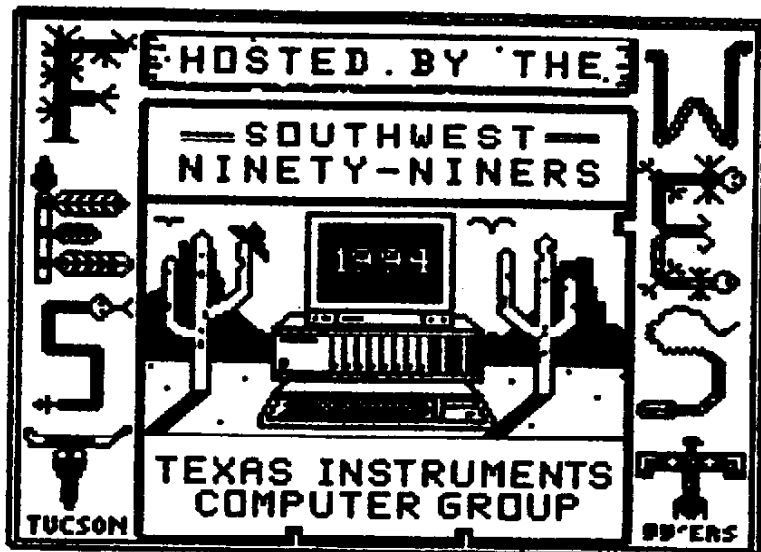
Sat Feb 19, 1994 - 9am to 5pm
Sun Feb 20, 1994 - 9am to 3pm

Prizes

MYARC HFDC Controller
(w/20 meg Hard Drive)
Horizon RAM Disk 4000
(w/memory chips)
Asgard Memory System Card
Over/Under Floppy Drive
2400 BAUD Pocket Modem
Other Prizes to be Announced
Door Prizes, too!

Vendors

Software
Hardware
Accessories
Consignment Table
Speakers
Users Groups



Admission \$4 - under 15 free when accompanied by adult

TI Fest West '94 - Best In the West!

Presented By:

SouthWest Ninety-Niners
PO Box 17831 - Tucson, AZ 85731

For more information about TI Fest West '94
or SouthWest Ninety-Niners User Group
Call BJ Mathis - (602)747-5046 or Tom Wills (602)886-2460
Or Cactus Patch BBS (602)290-6277

Membership Report

Twenty-two SW99ers signed in at the SW99ers October meetings. Frederick Altimus and Martin Marcinko are the newest members of SouthWest 99ers. Frederick lives in Benton, Texas, his phone number 780-1860. Martin lives in Orlando, Florida, his phone number is 295-1132 (they didn't give me area codes). John Boyajeau renewed his membership this month. We will mail 55 newsletters to members and 49 newsletters to exchange newsletters.

Members Meet

First Tuesday, November 2nd, Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm.) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. David Ormand will present a demonstration of c programming. Our '94 Nomination Committee will be appointed at the meeting.

TI-Base Workshop

Second Tuesday, November 9th, 7:00pm. Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan Dr - 745-6071.

General Users

Third Tuesday, November 16th, 7:30pm. Mathis' home 5941 E 26th St - 747-5046.

Fest West Postcards

Monday, November 22nd 7:30pm. - Mathis' home - please help us prepare postcards to mail to all those who have attended or who might be interested in attending TI Fest West '94.

Exec Meeting

Monday, November 29th 6:30pm. Perkins Restaurant at Grant & Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited to help plan for our Users Group and Fest West '94.

Contents

Page

President's Bit	Mathis	1
SW99ers Treasury	Doane	2
October SW99ers Minutes	McCullough	2
Disk of the Month Description	Taffs	3
Tom's Observations	Wills	3
Feedforth Nov '93	Taffs	4
FestWest News & Views	Doane	6
The TI-99 Home Computer Timeline	Gaskill	7
Game Cartridge Tricks	Sedita	7
Wise Buys	8
TI Fest West '94 - Announcement	9
Membership Report	10
Meeting Dates	10

Who Do Ya' Call?



Richard Baron - Disk Librarian 885-4812
 Mike Doane - Treas/Technical Assist 298-3835
 BJ Mathis - Pres/Editor/Library Chmn ... 747-5046
 Matt Matthews - Lending Librarian .. 602-428-6910
 Ed McCullough - Secretary 296-5183
 Rod Stallard - Vice Pres 745-6071
 W. Leonard Taffs - News Lib/DOM Prep ... 795-4148
 Tom Wills - BBS SysOp/Lending Lib 886-2460
 Cactus Patch BBS 290-6277
 (Area code 602 for all phone numbers above)

December Newsletter Deadline >> November 26th, 1993 <<

SouthWest Ninety-Niners/Nov '93



SouthWest Ninety-Niners
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 Tucson, AZ 85731



Dallas TI HC Group 9310
 Dallas 99 Interface
 PO Box 29863
 Dallas TX
 75229

