TI-Chips
of
Greater Cleveland
OHIO
January/February, 2000

WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE... 1803
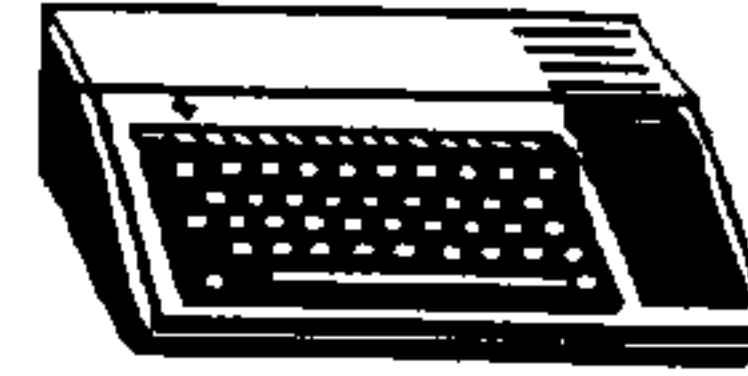
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≡From the Editor's Desk:≡

Hi TIers,

I have just received my PC back after Ron Markus repaired it. The processor chip was bad. We always are amazed at how easy it was to work on the TI-99/4A and how many ways you could add new equipment to make life simple. My Ti will always be used, as it has been my standby word processor and will always be a game machine with so many fine programs TIers made.

Our meeting day has been changed for March due to the North Royalton Library reconstruction. It is closed for our March 18th date, so they gave Glenn the March 25th in the small conference room. It is also noted in other places in this newsletter and also on our Web page!

The 'Classic Computer and Game Faire' was rescheduled for June 25th, with setup for vendors and clubs on Friday evening, the 24th of June. I hope there is a good turnout for the Clubs involved! See more in Glenn's minutes.

There is a nice article about Matt Andel, member and former President of TI-Chips, that the 'Greater Cleveland PC User Group' allowed me to print in this newsletter! Thank you GCPCUG!

Make sure you vote for the Jim Peterson Award nominees! The list is here and all info needed.

That's all for now. CU @ meeTIng TIme,

Harry

TI-CHIPS MINUTES

By Glenn Bernasek

The January, Y2K meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by yours truly. Fred Ialacci was unable to attend this month. The reading of December's minutes were waived. Lin Shaw said the TI-Chips finances were doing well, and we are slightly ahead of the same time last year. John Parken also couldn't make the meeting. Therefore there was no membership report this month.

Les Kee, doing a very good imitation of the Maytag service man, said there was no activity in the disk library and therefore had nothing to report.

Harry Hoffman was congratulated by those in attendance for the excellent job he did on designing the new masthead for the TI-Chips' newsletter. Harry said he scanned the masthead and saved it in .JPG format so that it could be easily transferred onto any newsletter publication. Job well done Harry!

Those who attended, cast their votes for the class of 2000 Jim Peterson Achievement Award. The ballots will continue to be brought to each meeting to enable all Chips members to vote.

Harry and Nina contacted Les Israel's niece to arrange pickup of Les' TI equipment and manuals. Harry said they would bring what they get to future meetings for fellow members to take a look at and decide what they would want. At least one working TI-99/4A will be donated to Deanna's church youth group.

Jack Koryta informed the Chips that his father, Charles Koryta, passed away during New Year's weekend. Our deepest felt condolences are extended to Jack and his family. Charles Koryta always brought a sense of friendliness and cheer to the TI-Chips meetings that he could either drop by or attend. Charles will certainly be missed by all who knew him.

There was a discussion about the new TI community communication service put into operation by Tom Wills. This is a replacement for the original text only List Server that served all TIers so well. The new service is a text/graphic web site provided by eGroups.com and is dedicated to the users of the TI-99/4A and the Myarc, Geneve 9640. Both Harry and I recommended membership in the On Line TI-99/4A User Group. I've already posted several picture and the TI-Chips' meeting calendar on the site. The site manager can be contacted at: ti99-4a@eGroups.com

Mark McCauley, former Vice-president and Software Librarian for the TI-Chips, dropped by to say "Hello", see if we were indeed still alive and bring some old TI stuff for us to take. It was great to see Mark again, and we extended our invitation for him to re-join the TI-Chips. Mark said he would bring in a CC40 for anybody who wants it. (I hope I raised my hand high enough.)

There were some questions about the upcoming Classic Computer and Electronic Game Show being hosted by Jim Krych's Atari User Group. I explained that, as far as I know, it was still scheduled for the first weekend in June, at the National Guard armory in Lorain, Ohio. I said there have been several organizational meeting that I was unable to attend, but I conveyed the Tier's requirements for a minimum of 1000 square feet of floor space. (This was approximately the floor area we enjoyed at TIMUG'99 in Spang Mansion.) Jim said he will advise the TI community of the final plans, date, time and location for the show.

I talked about how easy it is to make a mess of the clear plastic window on a scanner with lotion filled tissues. The lotion irreparably fogs the surface and adversely affects the quality of the scanned image. I had to replace the messed up window with a hand cut piece of 1/16" thick picture frame glass. The new window seems to work well, but it could have been avoided if I hadn't used those tissues in the

first place.

Ron Markus talked about his line of re-inked, black and color ink jet printer cartridges for Cannon and Epson printers. These re-inked cartridges are being offered by Ramcharged Computers at less than half the price of new/replacement cartridges. This is a great deal in that Ron only re-inks high quality cartridges and uses only high quality inks.

Ron was on a roll at this meeting. After some gentle nudging, Ron discovered that he won the 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Ron. <VBG>

Charles S. Koryta

Born May 9, 1915 - Passed December 29, 1999

TI-Chips extends sympathy to Lucille, Chuck's wife; to Jack, our fellow member, and the rest of the family. Chuck will be missed by all of us. We believe he is in a better place and free of all pain and suffering. May God bless you all!

While all things, including times of grief, pass...
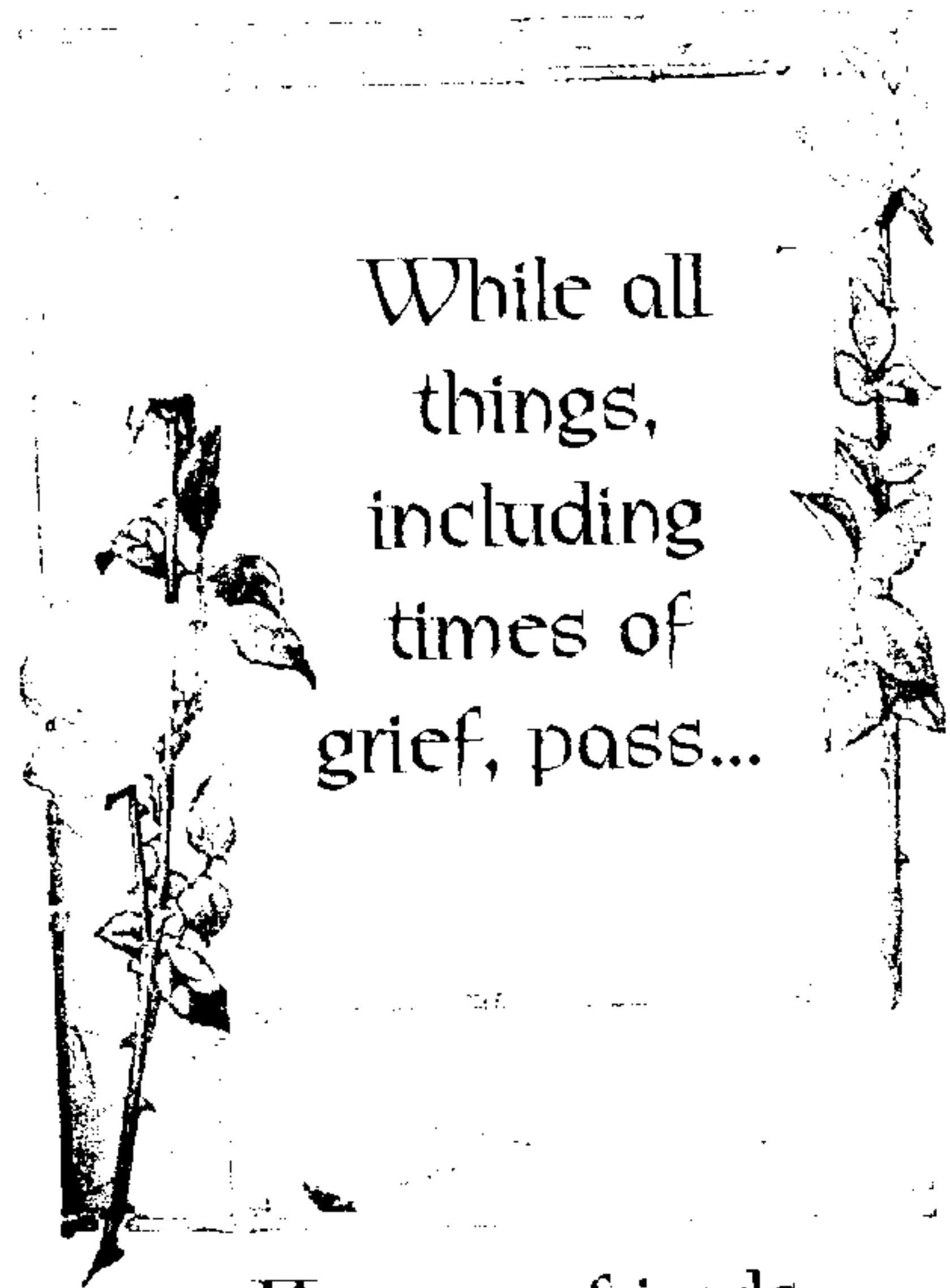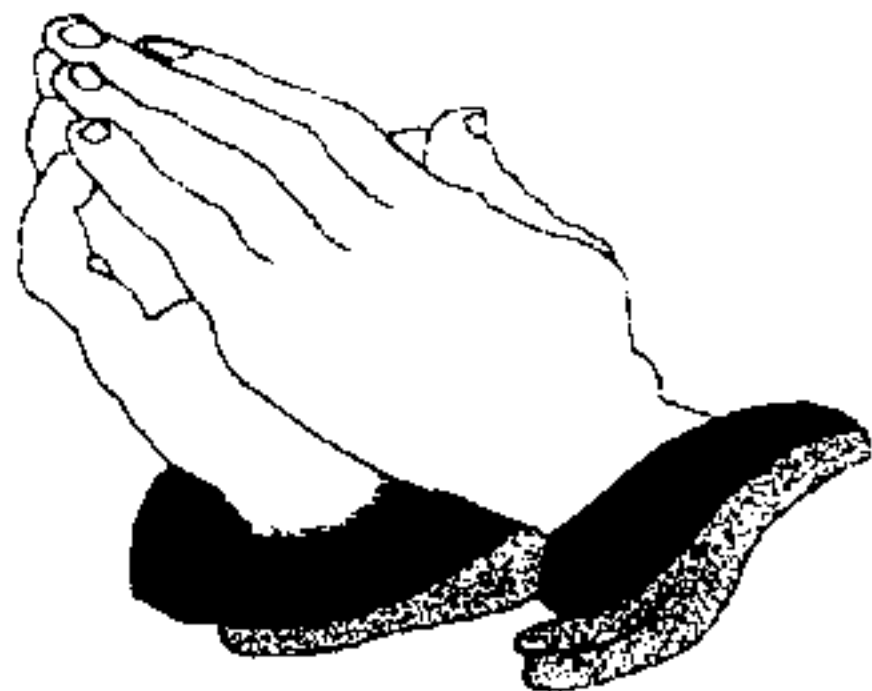
May your friends remain at your side to comfort you.

Keep Charles in your hearts. May God bless you always, in ALL ways!

The February meeting of the TI-Chips was opened by yours truly. Fred Ialacci is healing from a double by-pass operation. We wish Fred a rapid and complete recovery. The Chips hope to see Fred at a meeting soon.

The January minutes were read and Lin Shaw gave the Treasurer's report. Once again Les Kee had to report that there was no activity in the disk library last month. John Parken reported that we have 16 members and March is the important membership renewal month. John also brought in the updated e-mail address listing of Chips members. Some addresses were changed and John said he would have another updated list for us next month.

Harry Hoffman and I both recommended the Chips members join the On Line TI-99/4A User Group (OLUG). The text and graphic capabilities make this service, moderated by Tom Wills, a must for TIers around the world. A short discussion was made on the future of paper newsletters. It was agreed that the electronic newsletter would eventually replace the paper publication. This is why the E-group, On Line User Group will become so important for maintaining communication throughout the TI community.

At this point, it was suggested that we ask Rich Polivka if he would be interested in scanning our complete Cleveland Area TI-99/4A User Groups newsletter library onto CDs. I said I would contact Rich about this request. This would be a wonderful way to preserve the history of the Cleveland Area TI-99/4A user groups.

Ada Markus inquired if the TI-Chips had invited Northcoast 99ers members to join the TI-Chips. The answer was an emphatic, "Yes." Membership in the TI-Chips was and will always be open to the members of the disbanded Northcoast 99ers.

I read and passed around Jim Krych's article announcing the Classic Computer and Game Faire set for June 24 and 25, 2000 in the National Guard armory, on Route 57, in Lorain, Ohio. Those in attendance authorized me to reserve two tables for the TI-Chips at the faire. I explained that Jim will be publishing more information as the time for the Faire draws near. Both Harry Hoffman and Ron Markus said they will contact Jim to reserve their tables individually.

I read the article posted on the OLUG (On Line User Group) regarding the recent passing of Harry Brashear's wife. The TI-Chips extend their deepest sympathy to Harry for his great loss.

I also took the opportunity to pass around the article I posted on the OLUG detailing the history and the operation of the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards sponsored by the TI-Chips. Ada Markus then asked if anybody had tried to have TIers write short articles about their experiences and memories with the TI-99/4A. Harry said the attempts to encourage TIers write their own "bios" was met with limited participation. I then passed around a copy of the "bio" I wrote and had posted on the OLUG. This was followed by some reminiscing by the Chips.

John Parken reported that he found a bad memory module, in his PC clone, interfered with loading of Windows98 into his computer. I said this could be valuable information to know and that I would pass it along to people I know who regularly work with computer system operations.

Ron Markus invited the Chips to look at his new web site and let him know what we think of it. The address is:

http://www.ramcharged.com

The North Royalton Library's letter advising the TI-Chips that the facility will be closed for renovations was passed around and discussed. I informed those in attendance that I had reserved the small meeting room, from 10:00 am to noon, for March 25th. Therefore, please remember, the March meeting will be on the 25th of March. (Same time, same room.)

Matt Andel won the 50:50 raffle. Congratulations Matt.

Glenn Bernasek

Nominations for the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards are CLOSED. Voting for selection of the award recipients now open. Deadline for voting is midnight (USA Eastern Standard Time), April 30, 2000.

The following have been nominated for Jim Peterson Achievement Awards in their respective categories. (Please note, the achievements attributed to each nominee is posted exactly as received. I will be happy to make achievement corrections as required.)

(Vote for only ONE from EACH category.)

TI-99/4A Community Service:

Charles Good	Scanning of TI documentation.
Don O'Neil	FTP site.
Hal Shanafield	Organizing the 1999 Chicago Faire.
Harold Mayo	Orphanage BBS
John Koloen and Laura Burns	MICROpendium
Mike Wright	Archiving TI documents.
TI-Chips	Organizing and hosting TIMUG'99.
Tom Wills	The List Server.

-99/4A Software:

Bruce Harrison	His Midi routines for the TI-99/4A.
John Bull	Contract Bridge program.
Leonard Taffs	Many published specialty/utility programs.

TI-99/4A Hardware:

Don O'Neil	SCSI cards.
Michael Becker	Distributing and servicing SNUG cards.

Myarc, Geneve 9640:

Jim Uzzell	ABASIC 4.0
Tim Tesch	Servicing the 9640.

Land mail votes to:
Glenn Bernasek
Secretary, TI-Chips
3246 Harper Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136-3942
USA

-or-

E-mail to: GBBasics@aol.com

Beginners SIG Leader Took His Lead From TI

Remember the old Texas instruments computers? GCPCUG member Matthew Andel does. One of them, the old TI-99/4A home computer,

Matt Andel

an offspring of the early 1980s, got him going on PCs – and going — and going.

Today, he's a proud owner of a 500 MHz Pentium III Gateway, with all the bells and whistles. He's also the leader of the Beginners West SIG, which meets on the second Monday of every month, at 6:30 PM, at The Reserves Network, 22021 Brookpark Road, Fairview Park. But he credits his old TI with inspiring him to learn about PCs and to share that knowledge with others.

We tell his personal PC journey here, in hopes it will spur all "beginners"— whether troubleshooting a first PC or even Number Five—to keep on tinkering.

Andel's PC life started out simply enough. "I took a computer class in high school," he recalls. "Then I asked my parents for a computer. The TI is what they bought me."

His main interest at the time was playing computer games, and sharing them with buddies. "The technology was so simple then that we just saved the games to a cassette, and used a television for the monitor," he says.

Soon, Andel's interest grew deeper, so he joined one of the four TI user groups that had formed in Northern Ohio and later became its president. He liked the connections this brought him, and the experience there paved the way for his SIG leadership many years later. "We met monthly, had demos, put out a newsletter, shared ideas, and in many ways, functioned like a SIG," he says.

SIG Leader Profile
by Linda Koco
Editorial Assistant

But once 386 PCs debuted in the early 1990s, it was good-bye TI. Andel's new 386 only ran DOS, but it operated so much faster than the TI, weighed so much less, and could do so much more, that it rapidly reeled him in. After that, Andel's PC life picked up speed. He upgraded to Windows 3.0, started running Win 3.0 games, ventured into word processing, and visited bulletin boards on the old Cleveland FreeNet. In 19934, when he saw a neighbor's 90 MHz Pentium PC with Windows 3.11, he bought one too.

By 1997, he once again started feeling the need to share—and get help with— his PC adventures—this time, from people running Windows. In the newspaper, he noticed a meeting announcement for a GCPCUG SIG headed by Jim Evans and Bob Coppedge.

The rest is history: "I went to that meeting, loved it, and signed up right on the spot." Soon, he upgraded to Windows 95, and later to Windows 98. He attended general meetings and SIGs. He read books, exchanged ideas with friends, followed postings on the Internet, called tech support, plowed through manuals, and used trial-and error all along the way.

By mid-1998, Andel felt he had acquired enough confidence with PCs to volunteer to take over the West Side Beginners SIG with Ken Koglin. The two ran it jointly for a while, and later Andel started leading it solo. "I like showing people things about the computer," he says of the sessions, "and I learn things from them, too."

Where's all his PC-drive coming from? It's not from his advanced education, he says, noting he didn't take computer courses while earning his BS degree. Nor did it come from employment pressure (he is currently employed in another field). "No," he says, "I stick with PCs because I want to. The machines just interest me."

Any parting tips for beginners? "Sure," he says. "Expect problems. For instance, at one point, Windows kept crashing on me, so I had to reformat the hard drive. I didn't know how, but I learned what to do from people at GCPCUG . You can do the same.

"Also: When you're purchasing a new PC, ask what kind of support the manufacturer offers. Does it have an 800 number to call on a 24/7 basis? Are there any charges? Then, when you need help, be sure to call!

"Finally, remember that it really does get better—eventually."

Andel can be emailed at matta25@hotmail.com.

New Members

Thank you GCPCUG for allowing TI-Chips to print this article about Matt Andel. Member and past president of the Ti-Chips User Group.

Membership in the Greater Cleveland PC User Group is $25.00/year and is well worth the cost.

Get in touch with Matt for an application.

E-Mail: matta25@hotmail.com

THE JIM PETERSON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Jim Peterson Achievement Awards, conceived by Jim Krych to honor the memory of Jim Peterson, are sponsored by the TI-Chips.

Following is the preamble for the Jim Peterson Awards as penned by Jim Krych in January 1996.

"The late Jim Peterson made an invaluable contribution to the Texas Instruments 99/4A home computer community. His selfless and tireless work in many areas of TI-99/4A related material made him recognized throughout the world-wide network of TI-99/4A users.

As such, in an effort to further the spirit that his work had started, the following award system is enacted: The Jim Peterson Achievement Award. This will recognize TI-99/4A users and user groups for their outstanding achievements. The awards will be broken down into four areas. They are as follows: TI-99/4A Software, TI-99/4A Hardware, TI-99/4A Community and Geneve 9640 achievement."

Jim Krych contacted Jim Peterson's family to gain permission to make these awards in his honor. The Jim Peterson family granted their permission, and the TI-Chips voted unanimously in February 1996 to sponsor this great honor. Although Jim Peterson, a prolific programmer, was not a member of the TI-Chips, Jim's contributions and dedication touched all TI-99/4A users and user groups.

It must be noted that the Jim Peterson Achievement Award nominating and voting committees are comprised of the entire TI-99/4A community. The TI-99/4A community nominates the award candidates and the same community casts the deciding votes for the candidates of their choice. The only part the TI-Chips has in this endeavor is to gather nominations, post the ballot, record votes and present the awards. This is truly an interactive, international process to recognize the achievements and contributions of deserving individuals and user groups by their peers. In this way, we are ensuring that the spirit of Jim Peterson's dedication to community service is continued through the presentation of these awards in his name.

The first winners of the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards, selected through an international call for votes from the TI-99/4A community, and presented at TIMUG'96 in Brook Park, Ohio, were:
TI-99/4A Software: Tony and Will McGovern (Funnelweb)
TI-99/4A Hardware: Bud Mills (Horizon RamDisk)
TI-99/4A Community: Dr. Charles Good (MUG Conferences at Lima, Ohio)
Geneve 9640: Both Tim Tesch and Beery Miller (First and only voting tie award presented.)

Although Jim Krych is no longer with the TI-Chips, the TI-Chips will continue to sponsor the Jim Peterson Achievement Awards as long as there are TIers in the world who deserve recognition for their contributions and efforts on behalf of the TI-99/4A community. This is the least we can do to honor the memory of a great programmer, TIer and person, Jim Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Bernasek, Secretary TI-Chips

TI-Chips User Group
% Harry Hoffman
3925 Trowbridge Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44109-1349
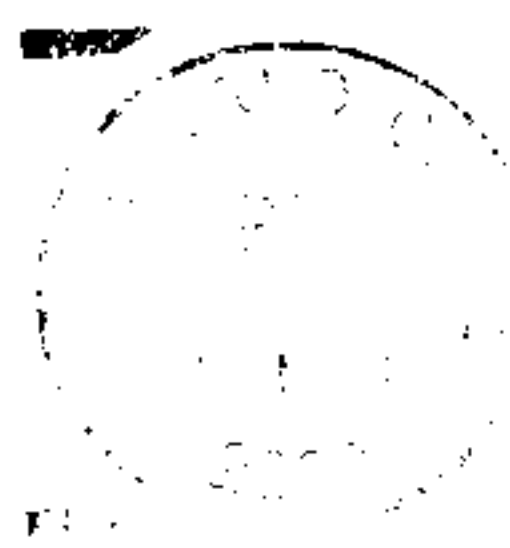
All members; away or in Cleveland pay only $10:00 per year, excluding newsletter exchange groups. **All** have library privileges!

Glenn Bernasek
13246 Harper Rd.
Strongsville OH 44136
2000/07

TI-Chips meets the Third Saturday of every month.
From 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the:
North Royalton Cuyahoga County Library

The Library is located 1/4 mile South of RT. 82 on
State Rd. Coming from St. Rt. 71, head East on 82.
Coming from St. Rt. 77, head West on RT. 82.
We welcome all people who are TI-99/4A owners or
ex-owners who know how great this machine is.
New owners will find help running there TI-99 at our
meetings. If you want to join, dues are only $10.00
per year.

NOTICE TI-Chips Meeting

DATE CHANGE:
The library will be closed on
March 18th due to renovations.
The meeting has been changed to:

March 25th at the usual time!

Last Page