



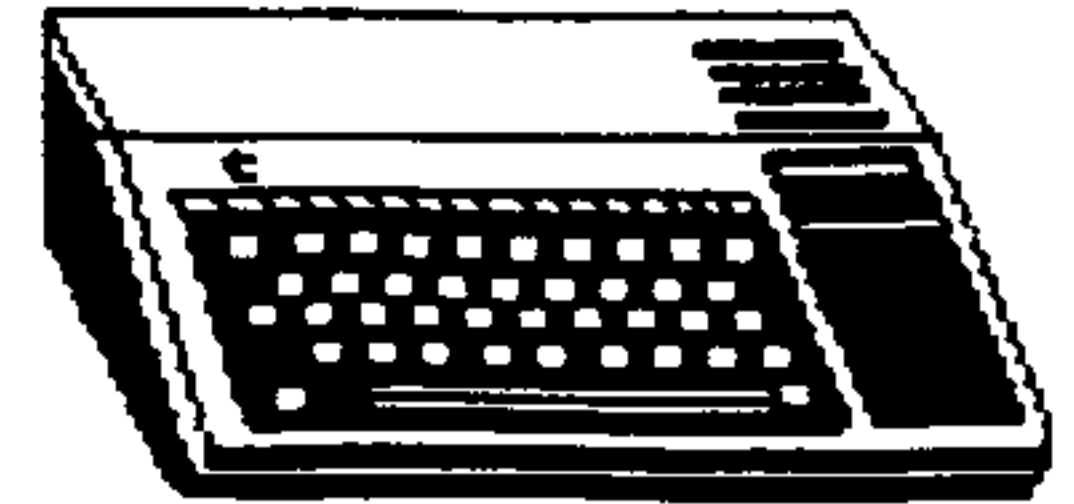
CLEVELAND AREA

TI-99/4A

USER GROUPS

1997 ~~December - January~~
January-February

1998



OFFICE	TI-CHIPS	MEETINGS
PRESIDENT	Fred Ialacci 941-9397	10-12:00 A.M.
VICE-PRES.	Jim Krych 979-9295	N. Royalton
TREASURER	Lin Shaw 235-3912	County Library
MEMBERSHIP	John Parken 331-2830 4172 W. 217th St. Fairview Pk., OH 44126	State Rd. SO. of Route 82 1/4mi EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Glenn Bernasek 238-6335	
DISK LIBRARY	Les Kee 238-6930	JAN 17, 1998
TAPE & MOOS	John Parken 331-2830	FEB 21, 1998
CO-EDITORS	Harry & Nina H. 631-2354	MAR 21, 1998

OFFICE	NORTHCOAST 99'ers	MEETINGS
CO-PRESIDENT	Ken Gladyszewski 12163577274	1-4 P.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	'OPEN'	Euclidian Room
TREASURER	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	Euclid SQ. Mall
MEMBERSHIP	Martin Smoley 12162571661 6149 Bryson Mentor, OH 44060	E.260th off I-90 (South) EVERY THIRD SAT.
SECRETARY	Deanna Sheridan 333-5906	
DISK LIBRARY	Martin Smoley 12162571661	JAN 17, 1998
TAPE & MOOS	Frank Jenkins 283-8526	FEB 21, 1998
HARD COPY	Dick Alden 12162571661	MAR 21, 1998



From the Editor's Desk:



Hi Tiers,

Time flies when you're having fun... or so they say! Here it is the week before meeting Time again and there is lots of news from the TI-List Server! Not so much from our club's though:-) Where are those articles that were so much in abundance in the past? The articles do not have to be TI-99/4A oriented so much as club news and help for our members in understanding their computers. Also, members could use tips in using their OTHER computer. I know there are many knowledgeable users out there that can be of great help in the fumbings of their fellow members! Please help this editor and our clubs in staying viable!

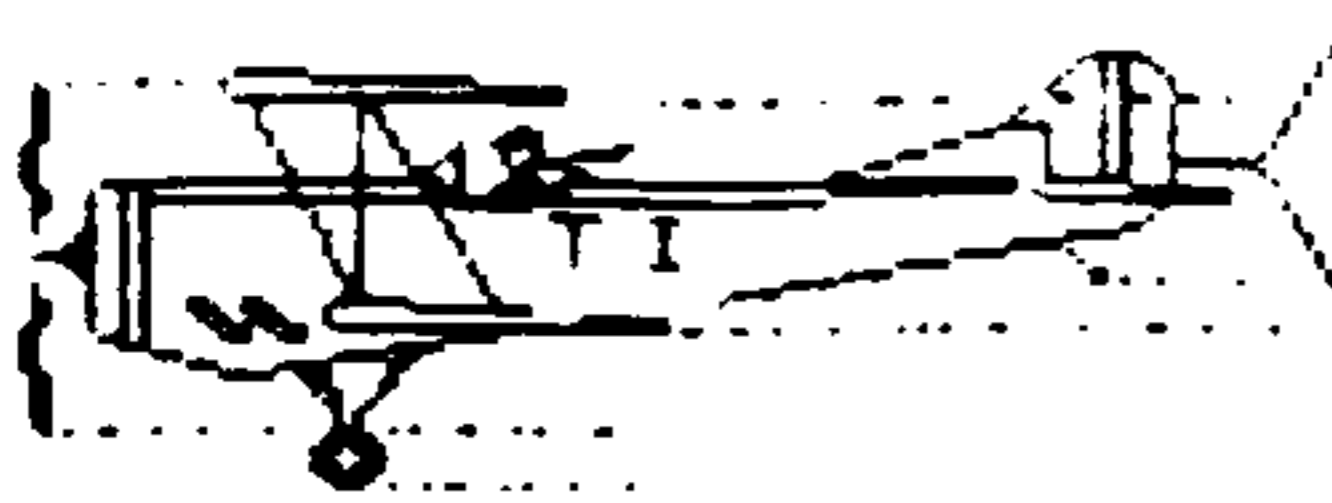
For TI'ers, the good news is that Don Walden is getting help with Myarc repairs and Bud Mills is back in the picture. I wish them all the luck in the world in helping the community.

CU @ the meeTing,



From Harry & Nina,

Have a very Happy & Prosperous NEW YEAR !!!



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1997

The November meeting was called to order by Ken Bladyszewski. The Treasurers Report was read by Ken in Frank's absence. Deanna was also absent, so Harry was asked to fill in. (Not a good idea). Harry spoke about the Fest west 198, in Lubbock, Texas. Marty told about a PC he got cheap at the Peter Trapp show. Some real interesting guys can be had at these shows.

Les Kee gave a Demo on "Basic Geometry of Two Overlapping Circles of unequal diameters". Les borrowed 25 lines from a Basic 17E line program, so he could demo the configuration of twin stars, of different diameters, revolving around each other. He shows the way to figure the area of shadow cast when one star overlapps the other. Very interesting demo!

Ken will have the demo for December. That's all folks!

The December meeting was called to order by Ken Bladyszewski. Frank was not available for the Treasurer's report and there didn't seem to be any big business. It was asked if we were going to catalog the LIMA disks and Bruce didn't feel it would be worth the time as he can ask for the programs and most are repeats of what is already in the library elsewhere.

As a point of interest, Charlie Bode has all of the Jim Peterson library available in PDF format for 1999.

Ken had the demo and explained his approach to interfacing the TI with a Muppet keyboard. He was facing some of the same analog to digital problems he had in some of his other projects, but thought they could be overcome. He also has a Powerpac that would work with the Commodore 65, Atari and Radio Shack, but not the TI. He will keep us posted on his progress in further details.

Following is the usual schedule from last year. Look to plan and think about which month you can save for 98. Either Ken or Dick Alden will have the January demo.

- January - - - - - Ron Markus will do some more new software titles.
- February - - - - - Ken Bladyszewski
- March - - - - -
- April - - - - - Les Kee
- May - - - - - Harry Hoffman
- June - - - - - Deanna Spencer
- July - - - - - Marty Sadley
- August - - - - - Bruce Rodenkinton
- September - - - - - Norm Sutter
- October - - - - - Ron Maraden
- November - - - - - Frank Jenkins
- December - - - - - Dick Alden

If it makes any difference, officers are usually scheduled for election in January.

Deanna



Martin Luther King Jr., Birthday; January 15th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day; January 19th



Peace on Earth and Good Will to our Fellow Ken !!!



By Glenn Bernasek

Fred Ialacci called the November meeting of the TI-Chips to order. Reading of the October meeting minutes was waived. Lin Shaw presented the monthly treasury report. Lin stated the club's balance was considered to be holding steady.

I reported that Dan Eicher, President of the Hoosiers User Group (HUG) placed an order for a copy of the 1996 MUG video tapes. Jack Koryta made the copies, and was reimbursed for the cost of the tapes.

John Parken reported that the membership was still holding in there. However renewal time was coming up for several members. John outlined a survey he has designed to poll the members of the Chips as to what they would like to get or need from the TI-Chips. We suggested that, since our agenda was now open to non-TI platforms, we might invite former members to partake in the survey. John said he would see how many former members he might be able to contact. I then reported that a Chris Shilliday had posted an inquiry about the availability of TI-99/4A equipment. Chris' internet address said he is from the Cleveland area. Therefore I e-mailed an invitation for him to pay us a visit.

Les Kee reported that there were not updates to the software library at this time. This brought a flurry of comments and questions as to the status of the Lima library copies made at the 1997 MUG in Lima. All Les could report is that he has not seen or been told where these disks are. Harry said he would inquire.

It was brought up that the Jim Peterson Service Award nominations were coming in very slowly. Nominations will be closed December 31. The question was asked if the same person could be presented the Jim Peterson Award in consecutive years. The answer was that the TI community could vote to make repeat awards to the same individual. The awards are the result of the majority vote of the community and not the decision of a committee.

Harry showed the Fest West '98 flier. This is the TI faire, hosted by the SW99ers, that will be held in Lubbock, Texas (home of the TI-99/4A) this coming February.

Les Kee said his last month's demo was on a routine originally written for the AppleII and re-written by Les in Q-Basic for the MS-DOS machine.

I read the e-mail I had received from the Cleveland Computer Society. In it they admitted it took them a year to get back to us. Those in attendance voted to let the CCS issue die. No reply will be made to them.

The administrator of the Cleveland Freenet posted an advisory regarding the reports of e-mail viruses. This, in part, is what the administrator posted. "E-MAIL VIRUSES A HOAX: There are no 'Join the Crew', 'Penpal Greetings', 'Good Times', or other e-mail viruses. snip You will only waste system resources and perpetuate a hoax." (This may be the official word from Freenet, but I personally feel that attached macros (operating routines) could be designed to create havoc with the user's system. It is still good advice to resist downloading attachments in e-mail from posters we are not familiar with. I'd rather err on the side of caution than be sorry.)

I passed around an article I found in a trade journal about computer viruses. It was an excellent article on how to guard against infection. The ironic thing about this article was brought up by the publisher. It seems that a virus had been included in the disk that the article was sent on. It didn't do any damage to the publisher's files, but it did cost the editor additional time to locate and disinfect. (What was that I said about erring on the side of caution? Hmm?)

Harry Hoffman posted an excellent article about the TI-Chips open agenda on the Cleveland Freenet TI bulletin Board. Thanks Harry for a job well done. (Now all we need is more than two people to read the TI board.)

Ada Markus said that Ron gave his regrets that he couldn't attend the November meeting. It seems that Ron came in contact with some unfriendly flora (poison ivy) while cleaning out around his decking at the back of his house. We hope to see a non-itching Ron next month. Ada also said she is looking forward to providing many of the goodies for our annual December Christmas party/meeting. (We're looking forward to what you are going to delight us with Ada.)

John Parken gave us a great demo on the color printing capabilities of the TI-99/4A. This demo was made possible by the generous loan of the Cannon 610 ink jet printer by Deanna Sheridan. Thank you Deanna, the demo went very well. As it turned out, John had been attempting to get Curt Gadd's Cannon 200 series printer to print color copies from TI-Artist. John found that the driver for the 200 series ink jet printers will not allow printing color commands without special non-TI driver software. The 600 series printers will.

Jack Koryta won the 50/50 raffle. Congratulations Jack!



By: Glenn Bernasek

The December Christmas party/meeting was opened by Fred Ialacci. The minutes for the November meeting was read and approved. Lin Shaw gave the Treasurer's report. Lin reported that our account balance had grown somewhat and that we were not billed for the latest batch of checks issued by the bank.

John Parken reported that the latest update of the TI-Chips membership list had been submitted to Frank Jenkins. John also reported that the response to his survey was very slight at this time. John said one respondent stated that he felt Tiers are being shoved out from their community by those who are allowing MS-DOS clones to be discussed and demoed at the meetings. Harry Hoffman stated that it was more like the Tiers are shoving themselves out.

Les Kee stated that there was nothing new to report on the disk library. Les then asked if there was anything found out about our inquiry into the status of the disks copied at the Lima MUG this year. Harry said the disks were given to Bruce Rodenkirch and that they hadn't been processed. We asked Harry to ask for the return of the disks so that the Chips could get them into the library. We feel that so long as there are inquiries and interest in the club library, we should do everything we can to make these disks available to the membership.

The TI-Chips held nominations and elections for the 1998 club officers. The following were nominated and duly elected, by a vote of acclamation, to the 1998 offices of President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary:

- President Fred Ialacci
- Vice-president Jim Krych
- Treasurer Lin Shaw
- Secretary Glenn Bernasek

Jim Krych reported that the Jim Peterson Achievement Award nominations are in and the list of nominees will be published. Jim read the list and it was quite long and impressive. Nominations will be closed December 31 and elections will begin January 1.

John Parken brought in a 10" composite monitor for the club to use as a demonstrator's 'side monitor'. Not only did this help the demo but the interface between the club's system and the library's large screen TV was greatly improved. Fred moved that we authorize reimbursement of John's cost for the monitor, but John said he would rather have the Chips use the monitor on a loan basis. Thanks for the loan John!

Many Christmas goodies were brought and enjoyed by those in attendance. A special thanks to Ada Markus for spoiling us so richly with her offerings.

On a sad note, Harry Hoffman announced that Vonn Malcuit's wife, Mary Ann, passed away on the way home from the November meeting. We shall miss Mary Ann greatly and our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to Vonn and his family.

I reported that I was able to get my scanner to work. (It turned out to be a defective software problem.) I also reported that I had down-loaded a shareware routine from AOL that would help me protect myself from the dreaded MS-DOS, CMOS battery failure. Since this is shareware, I'll bring in a copy for those who want to make a copy, on their own 3 1/2 floppy, for their own system. I'll also have a hardcopy of the docs available.

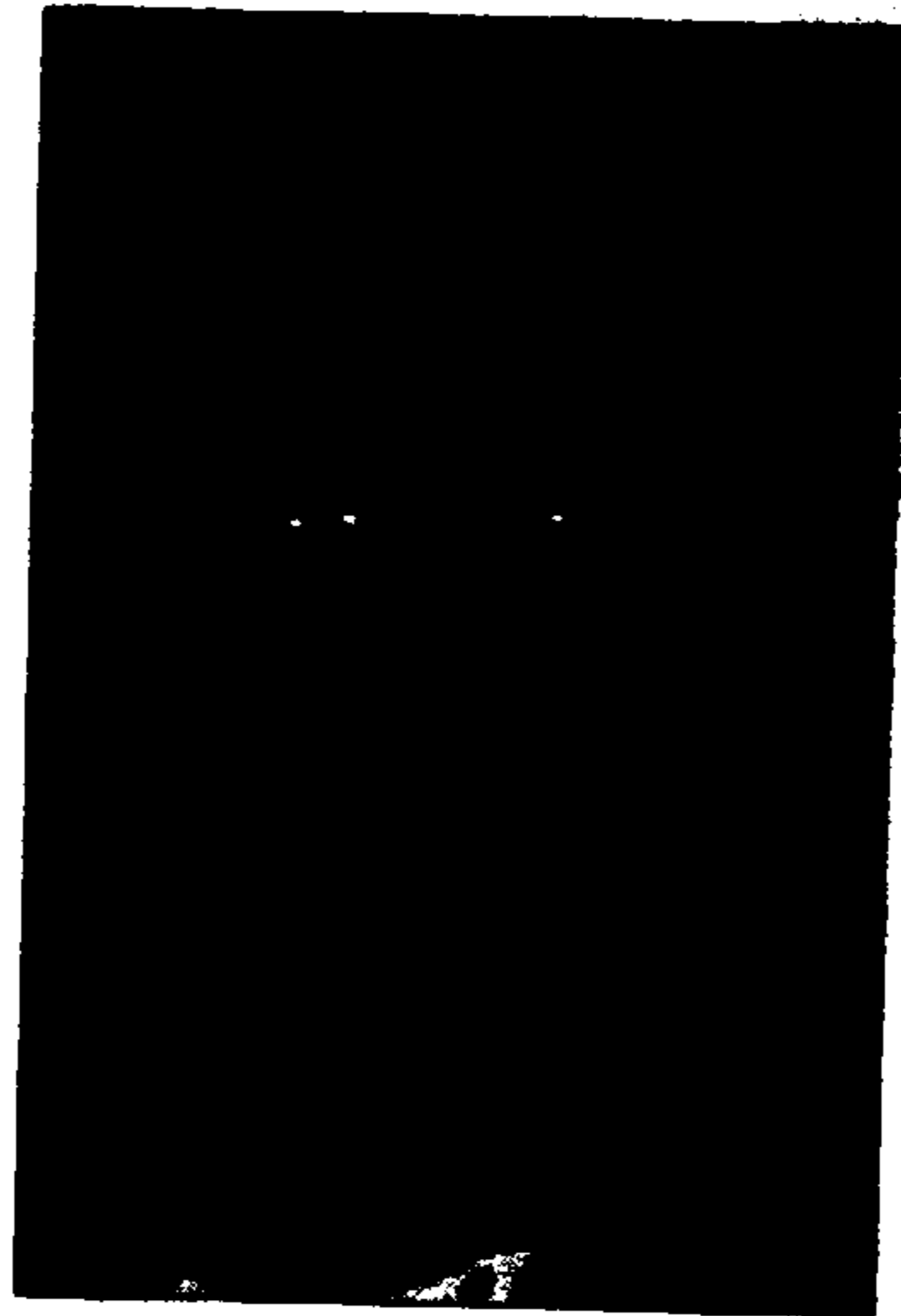
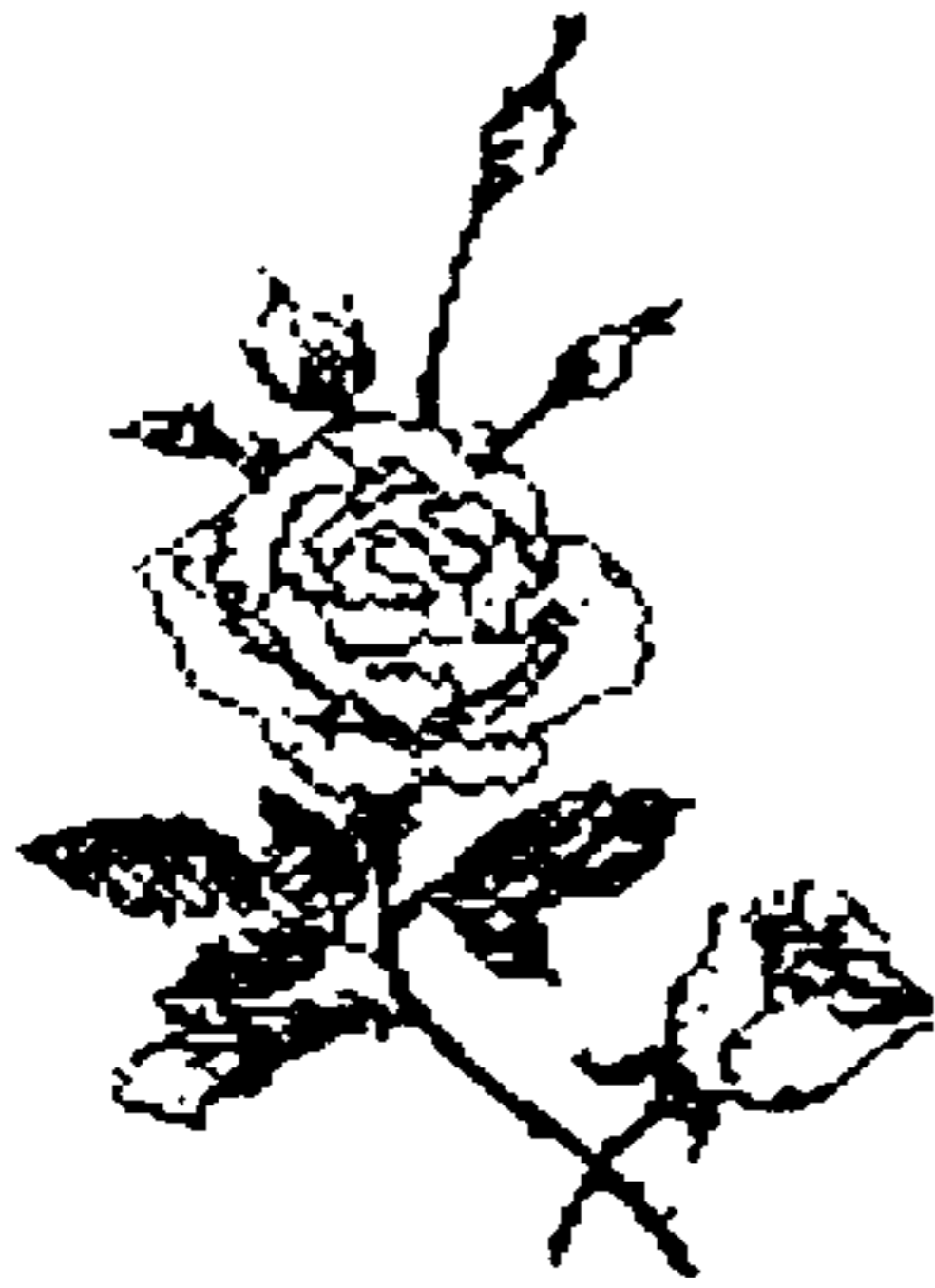
I had to leave the meeting early, therefore I was unable to record any further business or demos that may have been conducted. (Nina Hoffman filled in the rest!). John Parken did a demo of Holiday Tips v.7 revised by Ed Machonis to make labels with a TIPS picture using a FWB Writer file for the text. You could have a double size header and 3 lines. Very good timing for this demo! Thanks, John! John also played Christmas music, with Graphics!

Les Kee won 50/50 drawing! Good show!



FEBRUARY DATES: 1st-National Freedom Day, 2nd-Ground-hog Day, Boy Scouts of America Founded(1910), 12th-Lincoln's Birth, 14th-Valentines Day, 15th-100th Anniv. of the Sinking of the USS Maine, 16th-President's Day, 22nd-Washington's Birth, 25th-Ash Wednesday.





Maryann Malcuit

This is an article I wish I did not have to write. Our T.I. Community has lost several members and they are truly missed; but last year Death struck closer to home.

Since our husbands joined the Computer groups, Maryann Malcuit, Ada Markus and myself became close friends. On meeting days, we would talk, shop, dine out, visit each others homes and share each others company. We traveled to Lima, Chicago and this year planned on attending the Fest West '98 in Texas, in February. Alas, our plans have changed. In November, Maryann came to the meeting. We shopped, talked and went out to dinner with our little group and we planned for our holiday get togethers. Ada and Ron left after dinner and Maryann and Vonn drove home with us and then visited our daughter Carol for a short time. Vonn and Maryann left for home around 6P.M. as Vonn had some things to do for his mom. On the way home Maryann had trouble breathing and on the way to the hospital her life quietly finished. We could not believe that we had lost such a beautiful friend so quickly. One moment here and the next moment gone.

At her funeral so many people related Maryann's goodness, honesty, friendliness, kindness, and service to friends, family and community. Maryann received a commendation from the Senate and Governor Voinovich for her devotion to work and to the people she served at Apple Creek State Hospital.

Last month when we attended the T.I. meeting Maryann was sorely missed. Her gentle smile and warm heart will always be remembered and her friendship was a special gift to each of us who knew her. To have Maryann as a part of the tapestry of my life was both a privilege and a blessing. Goodbye Maryann and thank you... Please remember Vonn and his family in your prayers

Do not stand at her grave and weep,
She is not there. She does not sleep.
She is a thousand winds that blow.
She is the diamond plints on snow.
She is the sunlight on ripened grain.
She is the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
She is the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
She is the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at her grave and cry:
She is not there, For with the Lord
She is everywhere.

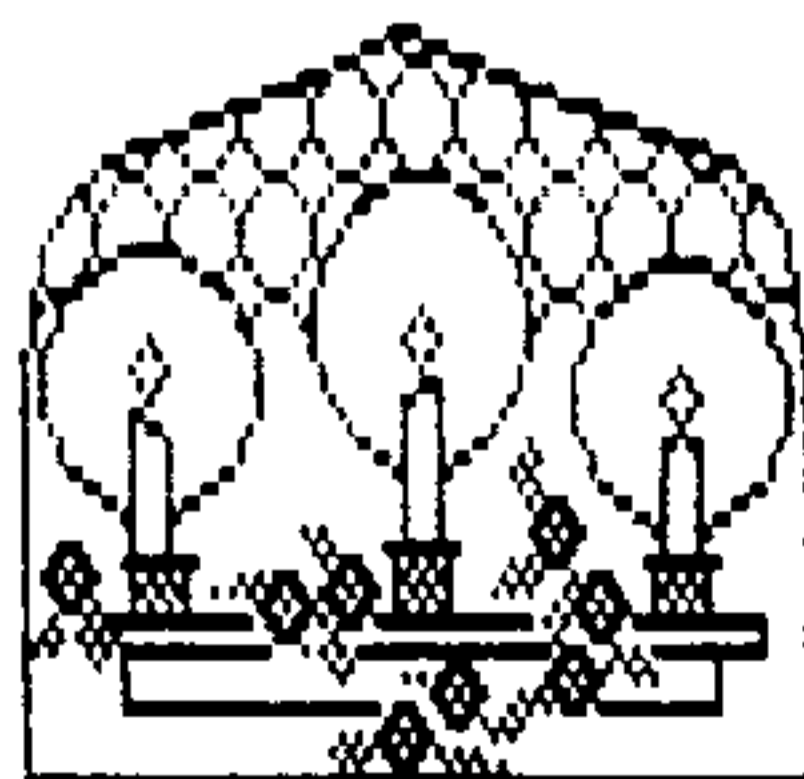
Due to some changes made in our Newsletter & Club Format, we would like to get the OPINION of our Past and Present Membership.

1. I still use my TI-99.
2. I only use my IBM.
3. I use both.
4. I don't use any computer.
5. I use it all day at work and don't like it at all. Enough is enough.
6. Do you find it a good idea that we provide people help with their IBM's?
7. Would you consider writing an article on the TI or IBM some day?
8. I don't use my TI anymore, but I do enjoy keeping up on what's going on.
9. What was the last software you bought? TI or IBM
10. What subject or software do you find interesting?

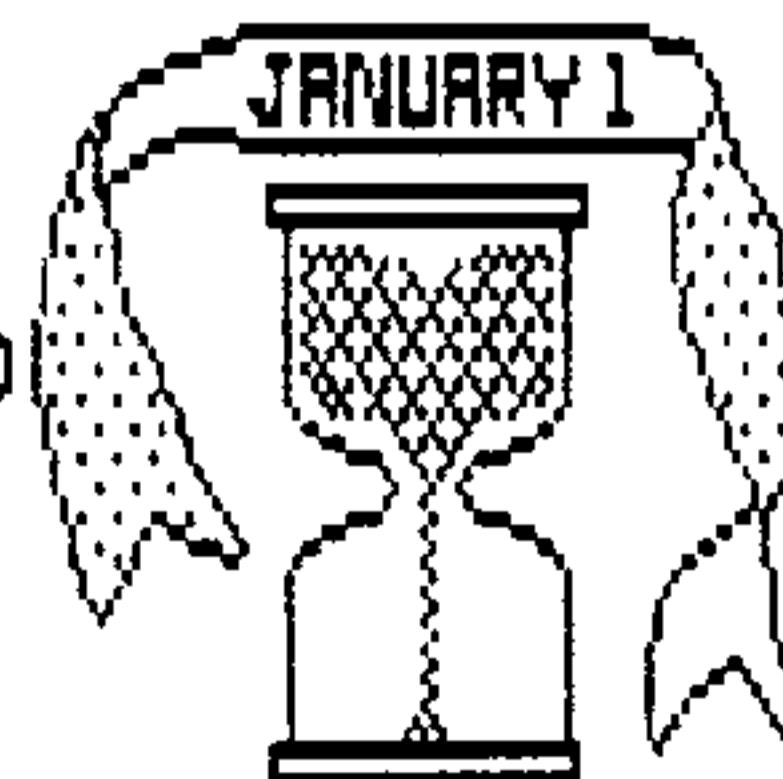
Thanks for taking the time to read and fill this out.

John Parken, TI-Chips

(Editor's Note:) I thought this was a great idea that John had! If any of our members of NorthCoast 99ers wish to respond, please do! Also, our out of town members may have some help in this area. We do need your input! Write to John, Harry, or Marty. All our addresses are in this newsletter. Thanks, in advance!



**WE WISH YOU &
YOURS, A VERY
SAFE & HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON!**



Also, have a very Prosperous and Healthful New Year!

Susan J. Harper
145 Ocello Street
Clarksburg WV 26301
Snowey95@aol.com

Dear friends near and far,

As you know by now, the PUG is no more. A valiant life of over 15 years (1981-1996) was marked by the resilience and determination of the club members. We would not let the TI "die" and valiantly worked to keep the Pittsburgh User's Group alive and well.

Most of the years the PUG was in existence, the leadership was in the capable hands of Gary Taylor. From the "Night of the Black Death," when this elected Librarian found himself to be the only officer left standing until the club's demise in May of 1996, Gary was either the leader or right behind the leader in making certain all possible stones had been turned to get the most for the most members.

The final meeting of the PUG saw a somewhat comic and very touching scene. No-one wanted "the end" to come, and we turned the event into a Chinese Auction and Pizza party. The pizza was...well, as my son would say there is no such thing as a bad pizza. The Chinese Auction was - well, read on.

At a Chinese Auction, everyone purchases (or in this case was handed) a set number of tickets. Then, all the items to be auctioned are displayed, and each person decides how many tickets they want to put up for any particular item. There were a few things that members wanted, but the most often heard comment was "donation" when a winning number was drawn. You see, Mickey Cendrowski had located a local organization that was thrilled to have TIs and I would have to guess she left the meeting with over half of the items donated to the kids. It was really thrilling to know that these would not be collecting dust in some closet or basement, but would live on and light up some young lives once again.

So, this letter is being composed on my TI, which stands ready to work for me anytime. And this letter stands as one reason the TI was, is, and always will be a great computer.

Sure, the new computers are fancier, more compact, and faster. But I would never try to get a quarter back out of the cool air slots such as I did when a teacher of computer at Saint Norberts school. My laptop stopped working. Taking it apart and fixing it as I do my TI was unthinkable! And where else could:

A child learn about programming by writing programs within a few days? When I taught at Saint Norbert School, third graders could write programs with color, sound, and words. In a local competition, a first grader won a first place ribbon for her program.

An adult be able to stop a program, list it and change the program as desired. The new computers have technical support to fix problems, but not to help you customize your program.

Anyone be helped into the computer age with ease using such wonderful shareware as Funnelweb, 1000 Words (written by a PUG member) MIDI interface, & Telco.

The list of fun programs is endless as well. From TI Sings to action and adventure games - the TI has been and will continue to be fun, entertaining and educational.

I thank all of you. And I hope that far away friends I never met such as Earl Raquise, Ken Gilliland and others know how much their efforts have meant to all of us.

Stay in touch, if only on line.

sjh

The following pages are due to Tom Wills & SW 99ers UG!

Date: Sun Nov 30 18:54:36 1997
From: EICHER@delphi.com
Subject: TI99: bud mills

Regarding: Bud Mills and outstanding orders. Date: 11.22.97

I called and spoke with Bud Mills last night regarding the list of people with outstanding issues, to date this list is 8 people long. Most with issue outstanding from 4 years to 4 months.

Bud said he knew of all the issues I spoke of, I went through them one by one... The only issue he said he couldn't help with was regarding the purchase of multiple SCSI card's with only ONE going to Germany...

Bud stated that he hadn't lost interest in the TI, nor was he trying to avoid people... The fact of the situation is that he has/had taken on more than he could handle. After his retirement, money was very tight, not helped by the fact that TI market had dwindled, a couple of bad events, like purchasing ram chips in bulk to get a good price for himself and Tier's then having the bottom drop out along with production snafus (wasn't that a game?) that cost several thousand dollars and left him with boards that were unusable..

Because of these financial pressures, Bud has had to work various full time jobs to make ends meet. This has left little time to work on TI related repairs and projects... In the last year and a half, Buds mother and two aunts have passed away, it has fallen upon Bud to help take care of these folks and handle all the affairs of winding up their estates... On the plus side, Bud has received a small inheritance. This has given him a little financial breathing room, which means he won't have to work as much full time/regular work and will have more time for TI related work...

One should consider, most any TI repair takes from 2-10 hours with 5 hours being the average. This happens since TI equipment is repaired at the component level, and not the board level. Also, we are working with cheap and crude test instruments, we don't have the benefit of lab's with 100's of thousands of dollars maintained and set up to test specific equipment. The going rate for a good electronics repair specialist that can work at the component level (at least around here) is about 75 dollars an hour. So the average repair should cost 75X5=375. Most of the people repairing/upgrading equipment only charge 50-75 dollars, so clearly, this is a labor of love and a service to the TI community.

Now, I know this sounds like a pro-Bud letter, it is not, I believe, when you make a commitment to do something you need to follow through... I believe Bud also feel embarrassed by his lack of responsiveness...

To that end Bud is getting an Internet Email account and I have given him information on how to subscribe to the list server. My only concern, is that Bud said he wasn't disciplined enough to respond to individual email's... Bud, unlike some folks in the TI community is still reachable. Sometimes you have to call 3 or 4 times to get him when he is home, but his home number is 1.419.385.5946.

I am uploading this letter to the list server, I will also mail a copy to Bud. I do plan on calling Bud in about 3 months to go over the list that I have of people that Bud owes things to though, it might not help, but it can't hurt. Basically, what we have here is a good person that is over his head and needs to dig himself out!

Sincerely,
Dan

PS... Bud now has an email address. budmills@stax.net.

(Editor note: I took the liberty of deleting part of the message relating to who is waiting for service. They know WHO THEY ARE.



Tom Wills Moderator

SouthWest Ninety Niners

Date: Sat Dec 6 04:51:20 1997
 From: ttesch@juno.com (Tim Tesch)
 Subject: T199: Myarc Upgrades - New Lower Prices

Here's a list of current Geneve upgrades and Prices

**** PLEASE REPOST ****

Persons wishing to send in their Geneve for upgrades will be able to do so at the start of the new year. Please contact me ahead of time so that we can "schedule" the upgrade and verify the parts are in stock prior to you snipping the card(s). As usual, you can reach me the following ways:

Tim Tesch:
 ttesch@juno.com
 ttesch_myarc@juno.com
 1855 Dixie Road
 Port Washington, WI 53074

RFM+ \$95.40
 Uses Flash technology to load SYSTEM/SYS into your Geneve boot EEPROM. No more corruption, no need for booting from any other peripheral. Also comes with 128k flash disk for your most common programs. May have a 512k flash chip ready for use early next year. **YES!**

384k high speed RAM \$75.00
 Places 384K static RAM from memory page 400 to page 4EF. Previously stacked 3x 128k chips; I plan to use (1)512k chip instead. I upgraded my Geneve last week; it is still working properly :-)

64K Video Upgrade to 192K \$15.00
 (If memory is NOT socketed, add \$15.00)
 Increases video memory from 128K to 192K. Good for Funnelweb(FWEB) and YAPP, among other programs.

Battery holder/battery \$10.00

Reset switch (no holder offered)

PAL / LS245 socket \$10.00

Regulator replacement \$7.50 each
 Replace the regulator with 1.5A model and add heat sinks / thermal compound as needed.

* Tim Tesch, S&T Software

