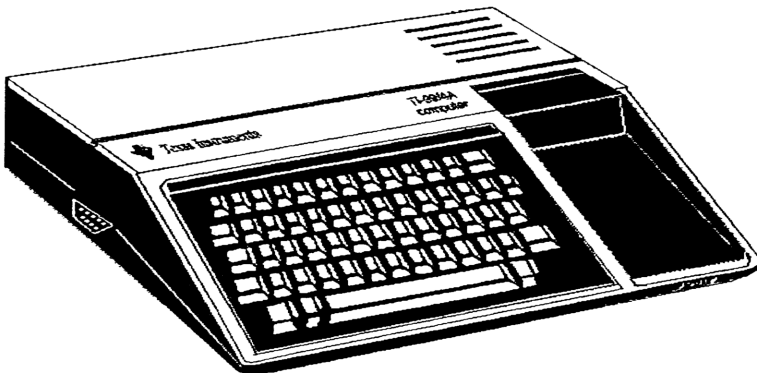


TI*MES

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THE MILLENNIUM EDITION**



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The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the editor or the group.

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From: Mike Wright <mjmw@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1999 13:55:44 -0400
Subject: Re: TI99: Don suddenly appears again,

Many years ago when I was among the last of the steam locomotive photographers, we had a saying: "Information begets information". The idea was that if you knew something, like a Class 15F was running on the Cullinan line, you told as many people as you could. As many as possible would trapse out to the line at the appointed time and try to get some pictures. That way, if your camera failed, or if Kodak told you that E64 was as good as Ektachrome X (yeah!), at least someone was able to preserve the last of the machines in action for posterity.

I have always wanted to see the "stuff" that TI dumped on Don Walden. (For that matter, I would have sold my soul to see the "stuff" that TI Canada dumped on Gary Bowser, especially the speech information.)

A good example of preservation was at the MUG fair. Dan Eicher spotted a Miller's Graphics brochure describing "The Platform". Well I, who have "everything" (ha!), had never heard of it. Dan graciously (again) allowed me to take it home and process it. As of yesterday, it is now full-text'ed in The Cyc. I will also scan the page, save it, and return the original to Dan.

It is funny, but on the way back from the MUG to Indianapolis, Dan and I were talking about the archaeological high that one gets digging through all this old (by computer standards) stuff. We mentioned the book "The Rise and the Fall of the Third Reich" by William H. Shirer, only from the point of the view that he was a journalist who managed to get into the archives of the German war machine, immediately after the fall of Germany. The material he uncovered was fascinating and made for an unforgettable book. My feeling has always been that there might be a similar treasure trove in the Cecure material. (Please note the only purpose in quoting Shirer was to point out the opportunity he had. I don't mean to stir up unpleasant memories for some, or get into a haggle about Shirer's ethics, which some have questioned.)

There was an interesting hint from Lee Kitchens at the Lubbock fair that all of the doc related to the development of the 99/4A had to be retained by TI for a set number of years. We surmised that somewhere in Dallas there is a room full of filing cabinets that might have all of this stuff there. I think I would be happy to use some frequent flyer miles for a couple days in that nir-

vana plus a copying machine.

So, in a roundabout way, I am trying to say that it is great that you have gone to the trouble of securing Cecure. If you have any material you want to release or make available to the archaeology department, let us know. Staten Island is only 4.5 hours south of NH. Imagine all that new stuff in pdf format somewhere on an ftp server...

Mike Wright

From: Mike Wright <mjmw@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Mon, 14 Jun 1999 11:32:17 -0400
Subject: TI99: Double-whammy weekend!

The Double-Whammy Weekend

I haven't felt this bad about my TI since that day in 1983 when I was monitoring an AP news wire that had the effrontery to announce that TI had pulled out of the Home Computer business.

This weekend (June 12, 1999) I attended the 1999 MUG meeting in Brook Park, OH and was having a wonderful time. There was free stuff up the wazoo and other good stuff for sale. I even found a book (after all these years) on the TI that I had never seen. Thanks to Dan Eicher, I discovered the trick of putting audio tracks on a CD and we began a project to move the TI Assembly Language tapes on to the CaDD CD, which was shown as a prototype at the MUG.

Then at about 5:00P Glenn Bernasek got everyone together for the awards, and announced that this would be the last MUG organized by TI-Chips. Since Charles Good had already relinquished the mantle last year, that was the end of it. Bad, bad, news.

I am going to leave out the return trip home which ended up in a five-hour delay thanks to bad weather in the Detroit area. But I got home at 2:00A this morning and spotted the orange cover of MICROpendium. Oh, good I thought. That makes up for the trip. And then I read the cover: MICROPENDIUM CEASES PUBLICATION, in a simple black border. Bad, bad, bad news.

On that day in 1983, I was the editor of the Magnetic newsletter (Magnetic = Massachusetts Group of Ninety-Nine equipped computers). I wrote something like: "... It does not matter that TI has pulled out ... your machine will still power up, the title screen will still come up, and you can still use the machine."

Today, I want to be brave and reiterate that feeling, but I have a disquieting feeling of gloom. There is something about hard copy that all the electronic stuff just doesn't replace. And MICROpendium is the last commercial publication (not counting things like the newsletters that are still put out).

So where to go from here. My initial thought is that I hoped that "someone" would pick it up -- much as we hoped that CorComp or Myarc would "pick up" the 99/4A and maybe even the 99/8. The word Tex-Comp is the only one that comes to mind, but I'll bet that Larry Hoffman doesn't want to get involved in losing even more money on the TI. Besides, who has the time to do this these days?

When the Titanic hit the iceberg, there must have been a lot of people who thought it would not sink. Then as time passed, the realization set in. Of course when the stern was high in the air there was no question. Is the double-whammy weekend our Titanic? Is the unsinkable TI about to go down? I hope not.

I wanted to try and make some suggestions for "onward and upward", but I am pretty depressed right now. I need to rebound, but it won't happen for a while.

In the meantime, we should give thanks to Tom Wills and the list sever. We may not always agree with what is said, but are we not now in the lifeboat?

Mike Wright

From: Mike Wright <mjmw@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Sat, 26 Jun 1999 20:45:08 -0400
Subject: TI99: Art Of Assembly -- The Series

I have just finished compiling all 83 of Bruce Harrison's "The Art Of Assembly" articles into a pdf file. This file, artassem.pdf, has been uploaded to Don O'Neill's web site ftp.whtech.com and will be made available as soon as Don puts it in the download area.

The file run to about 670 pages. It contains all the articles in MICROpendium, together with the balance of articles that were scheduled for publication before MICROpendium ceased publication.

It would be appreciated if someone went over this large amount of material and verified that it is correct. For example, it would have been relatively easy to mix up text and corresponding sidebar.

Bruce sent me a combination of zip file attachments and TI disks. The TI disks were converted to PC99 format, and then the PC99 utilities were used to convert the text files for use in WordPerfect. From here, a pdf file was output.

There was also some other material on the disks Bruce sent, and these will be converted when I find time.

For anyone still wanting to take the plunge into TMS9900 Assembly coding, this would be a very useful series. Bruce has the rare qualities of being prolific, entertaining, and informative. This is a world-class, well-written series that could stand against anything else of this nature that I've seen published.

Mike Wright
mjmw@ix.netcom.com

Richard Twyning writes....

I was sat with a pint of Mansfield on my left and a dry Martini on my right. I was trying to drink my pint as fast as I could so I could move onto my martini, and my mind was wandering and pondering about life, the universe, and everything etc. etc.

It's been a REALLY busy year this year

What a sad sorry state of affairs. MICROPENDIUM gone

In Mike Wright's message to the Isit server he said that he wanted to spend more time doing other things and more time with his family. I can't blame him at all.

My enthusiasm has been steadily slipping

Why do these people pay £15 a year for membership?

Then, in March, I met Gillian. The amazing woman I'm going to be marrying in June 2000.

After reading what Mike Wright wrote I've realized that he and others are making the sensible move and just saying that they are too busy. Their personal lives come first. In my case it didn't use to matter because I didn't have a personal life. I just had my TI, and my TI friends, but I was incredibly lonely.

I can't handle editing the newsletter. This will be the last one I will be able to do.

So, the group needs to look for a new editor.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year
from Richard Twyning.