

PRESIDENT: John Johnson (319) 366-4541
 VICE PRES: Wayne Betts (319) 377-2493
 TREASURER: Bruce Winter (319) 393-0610
 SECRETARY: Bob Wahlstrom (319) 393-6042
 EDITOR: Gary Bishop (319) 377-9574
 LIBRARIAN: Jim Green (319) 377-4073



CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM NOV. 12, 1991

WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE

CONTENTS:	PAGE
Minutes of the last meeting, by Bob Wahlstrom	1
For Sale Items	2
Chicago TI Faire Diary, by Gary Bishop	3
Meeting Reminder	3
Synopsis of recently received exchange newsletters	4
Comments on the Dubuque offsite meeting at Sister Pat's	5
Evolution of Computers, by Sister Pat Taylor, BVM	6
Membership renewal form	9
Meeting notice and content	10

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Our October meeting started with a discussion on the new Funnelweb version 4.4 that we received at the last meeting. Bruce Winter had the treasurer's report for last month, the bank statement was late again for this month. There has been little change in the balance since September. Last months minutes were approved as written in the last newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. There will be at least eight from our Cedar Rapids group heading to Dubuque, Saturday Oct. 19 for the meeting at Sister Pats. 2. There are also several from our group planning on going to the T.I. Fair in Chicago. NEW BUSINESS: 1. Next months meeting is membership renewal night and our annual swap meeting night. 2. We want to welcome our new member from Dubuque, Sister Margaret Mary Flynn. 3. Gary Bishop gave us a run down on the extra T.I. stuff he has to sell.

PROGRAM: The evening program involved the unarchiving of the MDOS program that was available at the September meeting.
 Submitted by Bob Wahlstrom, Secretary

For Sale: Console with power transformer, cassette cable, joysticks, and book: Programs for the TI, no modulator. Make offer. Dan Gray, 363-8314 evenings.

Sister Pat was the recipient of a generous donation of TI equipment, some of which she would like to dispose of, and use the proceeds for maintaining and expanding the systems at her facility. The prices are my suggested donation price, but are only for reference. She asked me to try to sell these items, and I feel the prices are my usual fair amount, shooting straight from the hip. Although prices are negotiable, all proceeds go to Sister Pat.

Hard bound book TI-99/4A Game Programs by Frederick Holtz, \$5; Microsoft Multiplan with manual, disk, disk of enhancements, reference card, cartridge, no binder for manual \$7; gray keyboard with a few keys missing, good for spares, \$2; MG Advanced Diagnostics manual and disk, \$10; MG Smart Programming Guide for Sprites, \$4; Disk Manager cart, not DM-II, handles only single sided, \$1, PRBase 2.1 two disks, \$2; Adventure cart with manual and Pirate disk, \$4; Adventureland disk, \$3; Mission Impossible disk, \$3, Scott Adams adventure hint book, \$2; Aztec Challenge cassette with manual for Atari 400/800/1200XL, Commodore Vic-20, TI, \$1; Video Chess cart with manual, \$10.

All the following games are cartridges with manuals, \$2 choice: Touch Typing Tutor, Chisholm Trail, The Attack (2), Othello, Munch Man, Hunt the Wumpus (2), A-maze-ing, Alpiner, Yahtzee, Hangman, Blackjack and Poker, Blasto, Football, TI Invaders (3), Parsec (2), Car Wars.

The following are manuals only, and should fetch 25 cents each: Bridge Bidding I (2), Brige Bidding II, Programming Aids I, Music Skills Trainer, Tombstone City: 21st Century, Dow Aircraft Corp Model Dow-4 and Gazelle.

Although I have mentioned it before, the club owns some software and magazines acquired through donations. If the club can receive some income from these items, we should go ahead and sell them. Offers entertained because I must find this stuff a new home.
-Editor

Disk based software with manuals: Checkbook Manager, Auto Maintenance, 4A/Talk (a terminal emulator program). Concordium XB Game cassette. Cartridges + manuals: Personal Real Estate, Personal Record Keeping, Personal Report Generator, Household Budget Management, Tax/Investment Record Keeping, Home Financial Decisions. Magazines: 99'er/Home Computer Vol. 1, no. 6; March through October 1983, Home Computer Aug 84, Vol. 4 No. 1, Vol 4 No. 2, Vol 4 No. 5; Enthusiast 99 Vol. 1, no. 1 through 4, Vol. 2 No. 1.

CHICAGO TI FAIRE DIARY

by Gary D. Bishop

It was a dark and stormy night. Well, the Chicago trip started out pretty much like that. I was able to outrun the terrible wind and weather around eastern Iowa, only to run into it again through Illinois. Hammering wind blasts, snow squalls, sleet, rain, and ice balls couldn't keep me from attending the Faire! Anyway, the weather was worse behind me on Friday, Nov. 1, so I couldn't turn back. I made it to the Holiday Inn with plenty of time to spare, only to be pressed into service. The Chicago club requested my assistance in transporting a guest from O'Hare to the motel. I was glad to help, but the wind and the cold seemed more like January than the day after Halloween. The windy city comes by its nickname honestly. Needless to say, I slept very well that night, windburn and all. The room was very quiet, considering it was directly under the landing path for O'Hare airport.

Next morning: get up, shower and shave, eat breakfast, haul the computer equipmet to the Faire room. By now, it is only 7:45, so I hang around the lobby to watch the people come and go. After a while, many familiar faces appear. The crew from Anamosa/Cedar Rapids has arrived, along with others that spent the night at the motel. Stand in line for about a half hour, and finally, we are in! Early sales seemed brisk. The sounds of MIDI filled the air, along with Tweety Bird and Captain Kirk from a sound effects program. I met the big names in the TI world. It was very gratifying to see how much equipment and software was still available.

I spend my meager allotment by 10 AM, but plenty of computer talk and shopping kept me going the rest of the day. Our club had 11 members and family at this "Gathering of the Clan," as the Chicago UG billed the Faire. A tremendous showing, considering the weather and distance.

The drive home was a little better than the drive over. The wind seemed a little choppier, if that was possible. Not much rain or snow; by Saturday evening most of the precipitation had fallen. I could even listen to the Iowa football game most of the way home on WMT. All in all, the Faire was worth it. Travel time one way was about 4 1/2 hours, and 220 miles.

REMINDER: Our next meeting is membership renewal night. Along with this, we will hold a swap sale for any unused/unloved computer-related items. I am going to be bringing several boxes of stuff with me, along with my own card tables to display my wares. I will bring all of Sister Pat's stuff that she wishes to sell, listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Let's hope the back room at West Music is large enough to get it all in!

Chicago Times, Oct 91, Prez Sez- Librarians replaced immediately, Faire has 16 vendors so far, bring a friend double attendance, John Birdwell fund address is Mike Maksimik, 635 Mackinaw, Calumet City, IL 60409, News- Midi demoed at last meeting, Some new members this Summer, To prevent XB lockups store a piece of cardboard in the console slot to absorb lubricant, good disks mean less drop outs, Help- Members need help with a P-Gram card and a Packard Bell PB1200PLUS modem, A ten page article on Pascal programming, Next meeting demos are software from Ken Gilliland and Bruce Harrison.

Oakland Computer Club, Atwood-Tapey School OCT issue, rcv 10/25, publishes three times a year: Parent's involvement with computers, music and noise programs, number guess, speech and TE-II programs, Mary had a little lamb singing program, ship program, car race, beginners group notes, Parent's night info, Q&A on basic, quilt pattern, addition and subtraction program.

Cleveland Area 99er Oct 91 rcv 10/18: source for JP software, features of Newsletter Printer, for sale items, TI Base V3.01 tutorials 23.1.1 help with create and structure, 23.1.2 reset, modify, 23.1.2 append, width; Asgard news - expands hours, updates to mouse and new graphics products, Gofer for Page Pro 99, Entertainment game, utilities, Lin Editor, Video Tracker software.

CONNI OCT 91, rcv 10/23 - needs reviewed.

Newsletter 99, Hurst TX Aug 91, rcv 10/15: supernet BBS (you will have to look up the area code for Hurst TX) 457-7043 24 hrs 3/12/2400, 7E1, New Age 99 #12 Micki Schmitt revisited, cribbage cheating on "GO" program, return address labeler, PC power supply in the PE Box part 2, power connector and fan, TIW hints #10 about .LS and .SP.

" Sept 91 rcv 10/15: TIW hints #11 using .HE .FO .BP, New Age 99 #13 VCR connection, LOGO video from Eunice Spooner, PC power supply in PE Box #3 card mods, tips on drive select jumpers.

TIC TOC Rocky Mtn 99ers Oct 91, rcv 10/15: TI cassette tips, Acronyms list, TI world news July 91 by Jim Peterson, disk controller discussion about TI vs Corcomp vs Myarc - head step times, higher density, fine tuning; list of Disk of Month.

" Sept 91 rcv 10/5: president's message, TI world news of May, 1991 by Jim Peterson, library index, programs that write programs #6 by Jim Peterson, postal service codes, Tigercubs tips #64, election notice.

Eyteline - Decatur 99ers July 91 rcv 10/8: drive fill-up problem with Prodigy files, low density disk confusion, MS-DOS SIG, sound programs, comparison of TI XB to GW BASIC, outline of standards for types of devices, Pixease reviews.

" Aug 91 rcv 10/8: Star NX-10 for sale, tinycat program, virus prevention for MS-DOS files, metronome program (mine! -Ed.), newsletter printer demonstration, do what you want program, floppy drive descriptions, what is a macro, area code explanations.

" Sept 91 rcv 10/8: Prodigy description and examples, routine interweaving of CALL KEY and CALL JOYST, match coprocessor and calendar for 99/4A (humor), 28 col program lister, graph paper printer.

West Penn 99er, Oct 91, rcv 10/16: needs reviewed.

K-Town 99ers Oct 91 rcv 10/10: Potpourri puzzles and quizzes, Plus! V2 discussion continued, bignets recipe, swap time, Multiplan discussions, mailbag questions: can Multiplan use macro keys?

Newsletter Nine-T-Nine, Toronto UG, picked up at Chicago Faire 11/2: TIDbits; exchange newsletter reminder of new mail address, Ottawa Fest details, trojan horse reported in Telco, John Birdwell Trust info, modem woes, making a newsletter trials and background, Mike Maksimik conference listing on Delphi very extensive and detailed, for sale items, Chris Pratt and ESD HFDC conference info and details.

DUBUQUE TRIP TO SISTER PAT'S
by Bob Wahlstrom

I would like to tell the members of our group that weren't able to make it to Sister Pat's on Saturday Oct. 19, what they missed out on. We had a good day for the drive over to Dubuque to see the Midi Master demonstration. The meeting was supposed to start at 10 A.M., but due to road construction between Chicago and Dubuque, Don Jones and his wife were a little late in arriving. Sister Pat and the rest of the ladies from her home had refreshments for us again this time. Many thanks, you are going to spoil us. Sister Pat started the meeting off with a demonstration of a new program that has not been released yet. It is called Artist Card Shop by Paul Coleman. This program is used for printing cards, and Sister Pat and her group have the job of trying to find out if the program has any bugs in it, before it is released. When Don Jones arrived with his key board and disks, he tried to give us a demo of the midi program, but his program was set up for the Myarc 9640 system and it would not run on Sister Pat's set up. But about the time it looked as if we were not going to have a demo, Mike Miksimik walked into the room with his computer in his arms. We were able to enjoy a very interesting demonstration of the Midi Master program by Mike and Don. I had ordered this program in May but my order got lost in the mail. I talked with Mike by phone and he said he would be sure to bring along a copy for me, which I have really been enjoying. We had a good turn out for the Dubuque get together. At one time I made a head count of thirty. I want to thank the guys from the Chicago group and Sister Pat and the Dubuque Sisters for making this a very enjoyable day.

EVOLUTION OF COMPUTERS

Believe it or not, but computers also count their generations. However, their lifespan is (generation-wise) considerably shorter than ours.

First generation computers, those using vacuum tubes, came into existence in the early 1950's. The UNIVAC I (UNIVERSAL Automatic Computer) was not available until 1951. So you see, those who know little about computers need not apologize as it has been only a short time ago when the first commercially produced digital computer made its debut. Consider your small TI and then consider the fact that the ENIAC, (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Calculator), an early computer relative in its evolution, weighed thirty (30) tons, had more than 18,000 vacuum tubes! The EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer), its immediate predecessor was the first stored program computer. So you are not as behind the times as you may be led to think when hearing younger generations speak of computers so casually.

The preschooler who uses the computer today could not have used the UNIVAC I. It may not have taken up the 1,500 square feet of space as did the ENIAC but it was designed for business applications, and out of reach to most ordinary people, much less children.

Even second generation computers of the late 50's and mid 60's had not evolved into what you see today. Transistors replaced tubes and reduced size but computers were still not a common commodity. Magnetic tape was used for storage and is bulky compared to disk storage today.

Texas Instruments' Jack Kilby was the brain behind integrated circuits, which produced the 3rd generation computers. IBM too revolutioned the industry with its series of computers containing different main storage capacities. Only at this period do we have the mini-computer evolving.

Early 70's is considered to be the time when fourth generation computers came in. Here you have the microcomputers which are more familiar to you today.

The "ancient" history behind the computer's evolution includes great ideas such as the abacus and names such as French Blaise Pascal (17th century) who built a machine that could add and subtract numbers. Then in Germany, Gottfried Leibniz's machine could also multiply, divide and do square roots (when it worked). An Englishman, Charles Babbage, contributed most with his Difference Engine which had the components which are most basic to a computer. Even today, in the TI (Texas Instrument) community, we speak of a Forth "Engine" (McCann) which can upgrade the TI to an incredible power. Charles' work in turn borrowed Joseph Jacquard's idea of punching holes in cards to use as a way of controlling a loom. Then Herman Hollerith in 1880 saw the potential for using those ideas with the U.S. census. A Vannevar Bush of Massachusetts Institute of Technology built an analog calculator, and some of its principles were used in the first

actual computer. The Mark I built at IBM by Howard Aiken between 1939 and 1944 is considered the first computer by many; it was followed by the first true electronic calculator, ENIAC. Perhaps this gives a sense of continuity to the evolution of the TI and all personal computers. We are not as old perhaps as the computers of today make us appear. In the extensive history of people, a computer is still a mere chip!!!

THE FOLLOWING EMPTY SPACE WAS LEFT OVER, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD TRY AN EXPERIMENT. THE PHOTOGRAPH IS OF EUNICE SPOONER, WHOM I MET AT THE CHICAGO TI FAIRE. I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW A PHOTO WOULD REPRODUCE - EDITOR



The Prez's Blurp

Trivia- I watched yet another trivia contest on The Computer Chronicles and here is the only question that I remember they missed. What is the color of the stripe on the floor of the MIT Computer Lab? Something we all should know I am sure.

Next Meeting- In addition to membership renewal, a swap meet, and a Funnelweb 4.4 demo and discussion, I have one more thing I want to bring to your attention. After the last meeting I was thinking how pressed for time we always seem to get at the end of our demos. After some discussion with Gary Bishop he assures me that we could get a small Ram Disk card for the club system for under \$100. I think this would be an excellent aid in speeding up our demos and disk copying at the meetings. Because this meeting will have a lot of things going on, I mention this idea now so we all can give this some thought ahead of time and possibly shorten the amount of discussion time we will need. After membership renewal, this should leave us with \$300 in our treasury.

BBS's- A fellow club member has mentioned to me that he hesitates to work BBS's because some of them are very restrictive and intimating. I agree with him. To avoid such problems I have developed my own personal ground rules for working them. Generally, with certain exceptions that I will discuss later, they fall into two classes. Club BBS's that are open to let you do whatever you want, and private ones that are run by an individual. A club will have a BBS for its members. An individual starts a BBS for a personal reason. That reason ususally is that they want to talk and discuss something and or everything. These types will usually have a warning at the starting screen to that effect. Heed it! These people have a right to run their BBS how they want. That screen is the time to get out if you are like me and are mostly interested in "file swapping". Often they will not give you a way out until you have filled out their l-o-n-g questionnaire. I don't like to pull the plug with out signing off, but this is one time I usually do. I know it is an old cliché, but if I wanted to talk to strangers, I could just call them. I hasten to add that there are such things as round tables on Delphi etc. that are a whole different thing. One exception to my "file swapping" is sending letters to my Son at ISU. I can send a one page pretyped letter (That's long enough for me.) to him for the same price as the US mail...30 cents. A couple of exceptions I have found to the above are TIABS run by Bud Wright in Columbus, Oh. and Jeff's 40 Megs by Jeff Artz in Wor, Ma. They are personal BBS's that I have worked frequently with great pleasure.

Misc- The new programs available for the TI run so much better and are easier to use than older ones that I think mentioning that fact as a tribute to our programers is in order. Thank you for you time and extra effort. I hope to wear my TI Texcomp shirt to the next meeting. Girl watchers take note. At Bob Wahlstroms suggestion I replayed the new Axelf music on the MDOS disk and he is right. It is even better than before. After our discussion of DM1000 commands last meeting I used the sweep disk command to clear a disk with some temporary files on it. That is fast. About one second. Be sure you want ALL your files off the disk if you use it though. The stripe is yellow.

EOF..Jack Johns...CR

CEDAR VALLEY 99'ers USERS GROUP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Yes! I want to enjoy the benefits of membership in the Cedar Valley 99'ers User's Group for a full year for only \$8.00.

PLEASE PRINT !!

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

CITY ----- STATE, ZIP -----

PHONE ----- DATE -----

* PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SURVEY. EACH INPUT IS IMPORTANT! *

1. I OWN THE FOLLOWING HARDWARE:

- a. 99/4A Console b. PE Box
c. Expanded Memory d. RamDisk
e. RS-232 Interface f. Printer
g. Tape Player h. Modem
i. Extra Disk Drive j. Speech Synth.
k. Disk System (SSSD) (DSDD) (DSDD)

2. I OWN THE FOLLOWING SOFTWARE:

- a. Ex. Basic b. Multiplan
c. Term. Emulator d. Logo
e. Mini-Memory f. Ed/Assy
g. Word Processing
h. Other

3. MOST OF MY COMPUTER TIME IS USED FOR:

- (Circle Only One).
a. Games b. Word Processing
c. Education d. Data Handling
e. Programming f. Other

4. The second most common use of my computer is (Only Circle One):

- a. Games b. Word Processing
c. Education d. Data Handling
e. Programming f. Other

5. List the computer magazines you subscribe to/read regularly:

- a. Micropendium b. Compute
c. Byte d.
e. Computer Shopper f.

6. I would be interested in attending an 8-12 week programming course in:

- a. BASIC b. Assembly
c. Extended BASIC d. Forth
e. Other f. None

7. My primary reason for attending the monthly meeting is:

- a. Software Interest b. Socialize
c. Hardware Interest d. Other
e. Computer Usage

8. My second most important reason for coming to the meeting is:

- a. Software Interest b. Socialize
c. Hardware Interest d. Other
e. Computer Usage

9. I would be glad to help with the following committees:

- a. Software Library b. Education
c. Tech/Hardware d. None
e. Newsletter

10. I do/can do my own programming:

- a. Not Interested b. No
c. Yes, If yes which language(s)?

11. List the computer books you own and would lend to other members:

- a.
b.
c.

12. My intentions toward the TI99/4A are best summarized by:

- a. Will upgrade b. Use as is
c. Buy another brand d. Won't use

13. If I could plan a monthly meeting, I would schedule a program about:

ELECTIONS!

Well, due to inclement weather, our elections were postponed until our April meeting. It should come as no surprise to anyone in this area that the meeting was cancelled, because we had rain, high winds, sleet, hail, and heavy snows, all in the space of just a few hours. I was going to go over to West Music just to see how many people might venture out, but when the sheriff recommended to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary, I decided to stay out. After just a few hours, I realized that was a wise choice. I could have probably made it to West Music, but more than likely, I would not have made it back home. We can only hope that was winter's last diast.

Here is our election situation: I have discussed with the current and prospective officers about serving the club. I would rather not serve as President, due to personal time restrictions. Our Vice President would be willing to serve again, but does not wish to be the President. After all, our current Vice President also serves as our librarian, an important additional function. Bruce said he would be willing to continue as Treasurer. Bill said he could continue as Secretary, and his assistant, Bob, would also be willing to serve in some capacity. Ed didn't feel he could continue to serve due to his personal time commitments. Finally, as I stated in my last column, Jim Green deserves a break from a job well done, and we should consider finding a replacement or assistant for him. He has stated the biggest help he could receive is to provide him articles and information so he can publish it. Our group has been very good about being a source of information, and not simply reprinting items from other newsletters. Some soul searching is in order, and the club needs your service to continue. As any past or current officer will tell you, none of the elected positions are difficult, and take up just a small amount of time per month.

POSTAGE COSTS

Our meager budget is mainly derived from dues, which comes out to about 20 members times \$8, or \$160. We are currently exchanging newsletters monthly with 30 other groups. Because some of our members receive their newsletter directly, we end up mailing out about 40 newsletters a month, at a cost of 29 cents each. A quick check reveals that in one year, our postage costs will be \$139. Although we are a nonprofit group, this is an uncomfortably tight situation. I wish to recommend for discussion at our next meeting that we mail our exchange newsletters out every other month, resulting in a \$14 saving per year. This doesn't sound like much, but it is a 10% savings on our largest budget item. Many other clubs have either gone to this type of distribution, or have stopped exchanging newsletters altogether. Come to the next meeting with your thoughts on this matter, or communicate with me if you can't attend.

Gary Bishop