

**CEDAR VALLEY 99er UG DECEMBER 1992**

**PRESIDENT:** Jack Johns (319) 366-4541  
**VICE PRES:** Wayne Betts (319) 377-2493  
**TREASURER:** Bruce Winter (319) 393-0610  
**SECRETARY:** Jim Green (319) 377-4073  
**NL EDITOR:** Gary Bishop (319) 377-9574  
**LIBRARIAN:** Bob Heiderstadt (319) 927-4215



**CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION**

*Supporting the TI-99/4A and Geneve 9640 in Eastern Iowa*

**NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM DECEMBER 8, 1992**

**WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY**

**NEW YEAR!**

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## NOVEMBER MINUTES

Our November meeting was held at West Music on the tenth. There were eight members in attendance. This was our membership renewal night, so the night started with our signing up for another year. Bruce Winter had the Treasurer's report, which was approved along with the minutes from the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Bruce sent in the order for the juice to help our intermittent contact problem. John Johnson is planning on having a list ready by our next meeting of the CONNI Clearing House information he has available. We had a good discussion about the Chicago TI Faire, including all the new products that are now available for our computer.

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Green's secretary is looking for a computer system, possibly a TI. She wants to use it for games and word processing, so she will need 32k and a printer. If you know of any fairly complete systems let Jim know. Our club is missing some of our issues of MICROpendium, check your supply to make sure you don't have any old club issues in with yours. Gary Bishop has some old issues of MICROpendium for sale. We had door prizes for this meeting thanks to Gary. 1st prize - a box of new disks - won by David Askelson. 2nd prize - almost new box of disks - won by Ray. Bruce won the third place prize - another almost new box of disks and I won the fourth and last prize a disk drive head cleaning kit. Thank you, Gary!!

PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING: John Johnson demonstrated a few disks of programs that will be going into our library.

Your fill in Secretary, Bob Wahlstrom

## MY TI ADVENTURE, by Bob Wahlstrom

My first TI 99/4A was purchased from Sears as a Fathers day gift, I believe it was 1983. Sears had a man giving demonstrations at a display set up in the store. At that time you could get a \$50 rebate on the purchase, I think the price ended up being about \$90 after rebate. Since that time I purchased a spare unit. I got along for quite some time with a tape recorder for program storage.

I had a subscription to Compute magazine, which at that time had a section devoted to the TI, including programs you could type in. This might have been one of the most enjoyable times of using the TI, a lot of mistakes in program entry were made, but when you finally did get things working properly it was a good feeling. I guess I am not sure how I found out about the TI club that had formed here in Cedar Rapids. Those first meetings packed the room to standing room only, with an attendance of over 100.

I have made a quite a few additions to the old computer as time went on. I think about the first major purchase was the Extended Basic cartridge for \$85. It was hard to justify spending almost as much for one cartridge as the whole computer cost. Next was added a Cor-Comp stand alone expansion box with the RS232 and PIO board so

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I could try hooking up a printer. This turned out to be a several month project. I was given an old Radio Shack printer made by Centronics, but it didn't like being hooked up to the TI. After many hours of work it turned out to need one of the signals going to the printer inverted. I hand wired a 32K card, from information coming out of a newsletter, from another TI group, which originally came from an Australian TI group. This board along with the speech module were installed into the Cor-Comp box. The next major improvement was the addition of a side mount TI disk controller which I now have running three drives, What an improvement to get away from using the tape recorder for storage. The old printer has since been replaced with a Heathkit serial printer and a Citizen parallel printer.

#### For Sale:

I have the following MICROpendiums for sale that are duplicates of issues I purchased in Chicago: V7#9 October 1990, V6#11 December 1989, V6#10 November 1989, V6#9 October 1989, V6#8 September 1989, V3#8 September 1986. Offers? Gary Bishop 319-377-9574.

#### Wanted:

I need the following issues of MICROpendium to complete my collection. If you have these issues but do not wish to sell them, may I borrow them to browse for interesting items? Please check your stock: V1#2 March 1984, V1#10 November 1984, V2#1 February 1985, V4#9 August 1987, V5#9, 10, and 11 August, September, and October 1988. Thanks for looking. Gary Bishop 319-377-9574.

#### Computer interoperability, by Gary Bishop

I looked around the other day at all the computing resources at my disposal. I was actually amazed at the widely varying and diverse range of systems I use. I have two complete TI systems, an old IBM XT, my son has a 386 with a lot of goodies, I have a 386 networked to the hilt at work, I freely access Internet Mail, E-mail on the local area network, messages on ham packet radio, VAX accounts for various purposes, an antique CPM board and system (yes, it is even older than my TI!), a HP 110 portable/laptop with an external portable disk drive. I have figured out how to move text, messages, and files amongst all these beasts, with a little help from BBS utilities, and in some cases, RS232. I firmly believe that any computer that is going to survive must be able to port files and information to other systems. The TI I use for this newsletter has four serial ports, two parallel ports, 3 disk drives, a 256K ramdisk, a 1.5 Meg ramdisk, a 512K print buffer/spooler, 2 and sometimes 3 printers, a widget, etc. My point? My TI will be active for quite some time, as long as I can move bits in and out without any snags.



### COPYCAT

Word processing for me continues to be a moving experience! Some of our staff wanted a recipe submitted for their own use. Since it took less than half a page, and I just didn't want to retype it or waste paper, I thought I would look and see if TI-Writer had a COPY command. It did, and it was so easy and fast, it was there before I realized.

Had I laboriously retyped, I wouldn't have known if I had to retype all the dot commands. After I used the COPY command, I wondered if a second set would work the same way. It did. All was printed out perfectly.

For those as ignorant as I, all you do is go back to the command line (FCTN 9), type C, the put the first and last line you want copied and after which line. It even has reminder of: Start line, Stop line, and After line. Simply leave a space after each number.

The MOVE command works the same way when you want to move text. I am not a typist and the discovery of this way of saving typing and time is indeed a **MOVING EXPERIENCE!**

by Sister Pat Taylor

## The Prez's Blurbs

Trivia..What does SCSI stand for?

Misc..The 1992 winning entries in the Chicago Users Group Programming Contest are on a disk in the club library. Take a look. You may find something you like. I recently had a need to use the Macros section of TELCO and I was pleasantly impressed. My oldest son had his ISU BBS address changed to something like in% "bljon.iastate.edu". This was not a lot of fun to type while on line long distance. The Macro prints it with two key strokes. I like it. Diving into the PC world for just a moment, how many transistors are in the 486 chip? An article in the November Popular Science lists it at 1.8 million. Yep, million. I recently watched the movie "Fire in the Sky". The main character is an astronomer. He describes the job as challenging, frustrating, mysterious, and beautiful. Right then I realized that is the way I feel about programming. Some people might put the emphasis on frustrating. But I often even enjoy that part.

Secretary..Help! Bob Wahlstrom is still in the job he asked to get out of last Spring. As I said at the last meeting, you don't have to make every meeting to help him out. Lets do it.

RND..I have recently been studying a book on C Language. One of the things that caught my eye was their method of generating randomized number sequences. They get a random sequence by using about 20 numbers from some random number list. Use 10 of them to get two more lists. Use the 10 number lists to vary where you start in the 20 number list and how many of the numbers you use. This will generate a good random number sequence.

Chicago Faire..The Holiday Inn was a good place for it. Their wake up calls are computerized. Yes, a good place. Let me digress a little here. I was testing a couple of TI consoles one night and I decided to do that by just hooking them up to my TV in the basement. They both worked great (of course). But it suddenly hit me that, with the addition of a tape recorder, this was the way I started. As I looked down on the PE box and printer and modem and speech synthesizer and etc. I had to admit that the add on items are what has kept me going on this machine. With that in mind lets return to the Faire. What did I come away with from it? Some great C Language software, good info from the lectures and some good times just being there. What will be its biggest long term influence? I think it will be the two new hardware items, the SCSI card (Small Computer Standard Interface) and the Asgard 128k memory card. If the 128k card is anything like I hope, it is exactly what this computer needs. At \$120 or so this is, in my opinion, the way to go. I agree with Asgard. We need more memory to open a lot of doors that are now closed pretty tightly.

Prez's Blurb Cont.

Joke..There was an old woman who one day met her fairy godmother. She said "I know I am a little late and you are 88 years old but you still get your 3 wishes. What do you want?" The woman asked for three million dollars and to be young and beautiful. For her third wish she asked that her lifelong companion, her cat, be changed into a handsome young prince. "Done," said the fairy godmother. And it was so. Sounds good. Right? Read on. The prince who had been her cat turned to her and spoke quietly in her ear "Now don't you wish you hadn't had me fixed?" (:() Moral..These new items can make our TI's into something better than was ever imagined at their conception. Lets not "fix" our computers with a lack of interest or unwillingness to spend a reasonable amount of money.

EOF..Jack Johns..CR

Chicago Times, June 1992: Prez Sez..Tony Zlotorzynski is the new Editor of the Newsletter. (How's that for a neat last name?); The addendum to Volume Three of the Encyclopedia of Graphics is finished; Chicago mail service is bad; The Faire is October 31 this year. Be there; The Milwaukee TI User Group has a BBS.. The number is 414-529-9659; Who Wants MDOS???..Lou Phillips and Paul Charlton are heading a group to buy the source code to the Geneve MDOS; On Using a Ramdisk..They are great. Plus the Menu program is just as good; Make Your Own Fast Booting Disk for MDOS..Article; TIM Video upgrade..For the TI. It's good. Be careful to get the correct type monitor; (Needs CSYNC and HSYNC) Y.A.P.P pictures look great; On Using Ramdisks..A review of the MYARC 512 card.

RECENTLY RECEIVED NEWSLETTERS:

Tic Toc October 1992, rcvd 11/2. K/Town 99er November 92, rcvd 11/3  
LA Topics November 1992, rcvd 11/13. Tic Toc November 92, rcvd  
11/16. Cleveland Area 99 User groups, November 92, rcvd 11/16.  
Ad from DDI software for Geneve, rcvd 11/5.  
Last exchange issue of SNUGLETter, So. Nev. UG, October 92, rcvd  
11/9. They are no longer going to exchange with others due to  
costs. We understand, but will miss your newsletter.

Synopsis of recently received newsletters:

Chicago Times, Oct 1992: Programming contest prizes list; Library  
list; Exchange user group list; Prez Sez..They are purchasing a  
printing system to save money, Faire time again, Service award named  
after Grant Schmalgemeier, Election time; For sale..VCR, Stuff,  
Kenwood 820; Membership News..There is an IBM library and a 9640 SIG  
for the Geneve; More library listings and descriptions.

Chicago Times, Nov 1992: Ballot to vote in elections; Prez Sez..  
This newsletter written with new equipment, Elections candidates  
list, New products for TI are here-SCSI controller, tape drive, fax  
card,-all at reasonable prices, plan to visit the seminar room at  
the Faire to hear about them; Membership News..Need articles for  
this newsletter, Executive Board Minutes..Several members going to  
Lima Faire, Horizon Mouse demo by Mike Maksimik, Ads in newsletter  
are \$25 per page, Programming Contest prizes, BBS software change,  
Tips from the Tigercub #68, Editors comments, Why Program?, Home  
Computer, Fun? Clearing House BBS, Appreciate Programmers,  
Vaporware, Simple Prgms. Hardware, All by Jim Peterson.

The Stabilant super juice that bridges bad contacts in connectors  
has arrived. We will try it on our club console and XB cartridge,  
to see how it works. The club system has been acting flakey lately,  
lets hope the fluid does the trick.

MORE WANTED:

I am looking to purchase a copy of 4A-DOS, for use with a super  
cart. I haven't checked with the original distributor, it may still  
be available. Does anyone out there have an original package they  
no longer want or need? Let me know. -Gary Bishop

# GLORY TO GOD

IN THE HIGHEST  
AND ON EARTH  
PEACE . . .



## LET THERE BE PEACE

What is peace? Do we define it in terms of an absence or presence in our lives? For many it is an absence of hostility or conflict or a presence of calm. Surely the Christmas message is more than that!

In a world where divisiveness plays a major role, perhaps a real Christmas message should emphasize the need to work toward a peace within that is larger than all the fragmentation we have experienced and the labels we have used. Social and political movements that have tried to redress wrongs have unfortunately often fallen victim to their own righteousness and become oppressors from a different point of view. The hope that balance will emerge becomes more fragile as long as the fanaticism of the parts seems unwilling to invest time and energy toward healing the whole.

Blame and guilt, no matter how apportioned, will never bring personal peace. At some point we have to be willing to forgive ourselves and others for being human and go on from there. Labels are threatening because they represent the power behind a movement. When we no longer feel a need to see and speak to people in terms of labels: women's or men's rights, liberal or conservative, employer or employee, heterosexual or homosexual, religious or atheist, Democrat or Republican etc. and see them as merely humans, perhaps then we can achieve peace within and really hear whatever needs to be said in a genuine listening and caring stance.

When we work toward wholeness within and allow the message of peace to flow through us, then we can affect the divisiveness and fragmentation without. Then and only then will Christ's message be free to change our world!

May you and all you hold dear have a happy Christmas and enjoy a deep and inner peace!

FROM SISTER PAT TAYLOR



HOW TO DO A PERSON TO PERSON DOWNLOAD.

by: Jeff Overton

From PUNN Newsletter -  
Portland, Or.

How many times have you wished that you could get a copy of a program from someone? You could go to their home and make a copy, or you could just wait until the next HUG meeting. But what if you needed that program yesterday?

If you own a modem you can get the program that you need in a matter of minutes. You call the BBS and get programs all the time. Why not call a friend and get the program that you want? I know you're thinking, "I have tried before and it didn't work." Well I also tried it before and it didn't work, but this time it did.

I will try to take you through step by step how it is done using TELCO 2.3 .

The first thing you must do is call your friend, (on voice) and tell them what you want to do. Tell your friend what program you want. If that program has more than one file your friend should archive it, or you will have to transmit the files one at a time.

Each of you must set your terminal to HALF Duplex. If you don't do this neither of you will be able to see what you are typing. FULL Duplex sends or "echos" the recieved characters BACK to the sender only if the recieving terminal "remote echo "is set on. Let me assure you this not a good choice!! To go to HALF Duplex, you will press "fctn N" from the terminal screen, or use the Setup Terminal option screen & select option "I".

It is also a good idea to make your Setup Terminal option "C" a CR/LF. Doing this will make your text automaticly advance a line at end of your line width, or every time you hit "ENTER". This is a good way to signal the other user that you are through sending text. Hit enter two or three times & your text will roll up that many lines.

One of you will have to put your modem in Auto-Answer. To set a Hayes compatible modem to Auto-Answer, type "ATSO=1".

This will answer on the first ring. The modem will return non Auto-Answer after it is powered off.

You now hang up & whoever is NOT in Auto-Answer calls the other modem. When his computer answers, you will see on your screen "CONNECT" or "CONNECT 1200" or "CONNECT 2400" (depending on your baud rate). This is just like the way that you call the BBS.

Now you can talk to each other with the keyboards and display screens.

If you are to receive the file, you must press "fctn 4" to select a transfer protocol. Both computers must be using the same protocol (Xmodem or Ymodem) and this should have already been agreed upon. In our tests Ymodem is about three times as fast as Xmodem. On paper it should be 8 times as fast as Xmodem transfers 128 bytes at a time and Ymodem transfers 1024.

The person sending you the file must press "fctn 6" and select a transfer protocol. The sender must then enter the file name exactly as it is stored on disk. However the reciever can name the file to be recieved anything, as long as it follows TI disk file header rules. (not more than 10 characters, no blanks or periods—You know the rules.) Just type in the file name and it's automatic from then on.

I am sorry to say, if neither of you have Auto-Answer I don't know how it will work. If only one has Auto-Answer it will still work.

With a little practice this will become as easy as file transfers to a BBS.

From the Feb. '91 HUGGER newsletter.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday**

**December 8, 1992 6:30 PM**

**WEST MUSIC COMPANY  
COLLINS RD. SQUARE, MARION  
NORTH OF LINDALE MALL**

**Cedar Valley 99'er Users Group  
c/o Jim Green  
377 Cambridge Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-1446**

**Send To:**

**GARY BISHOP  
124-222  
3270 28TH AVE  
MARION, IA 52302**

**FIRST CLASS**