

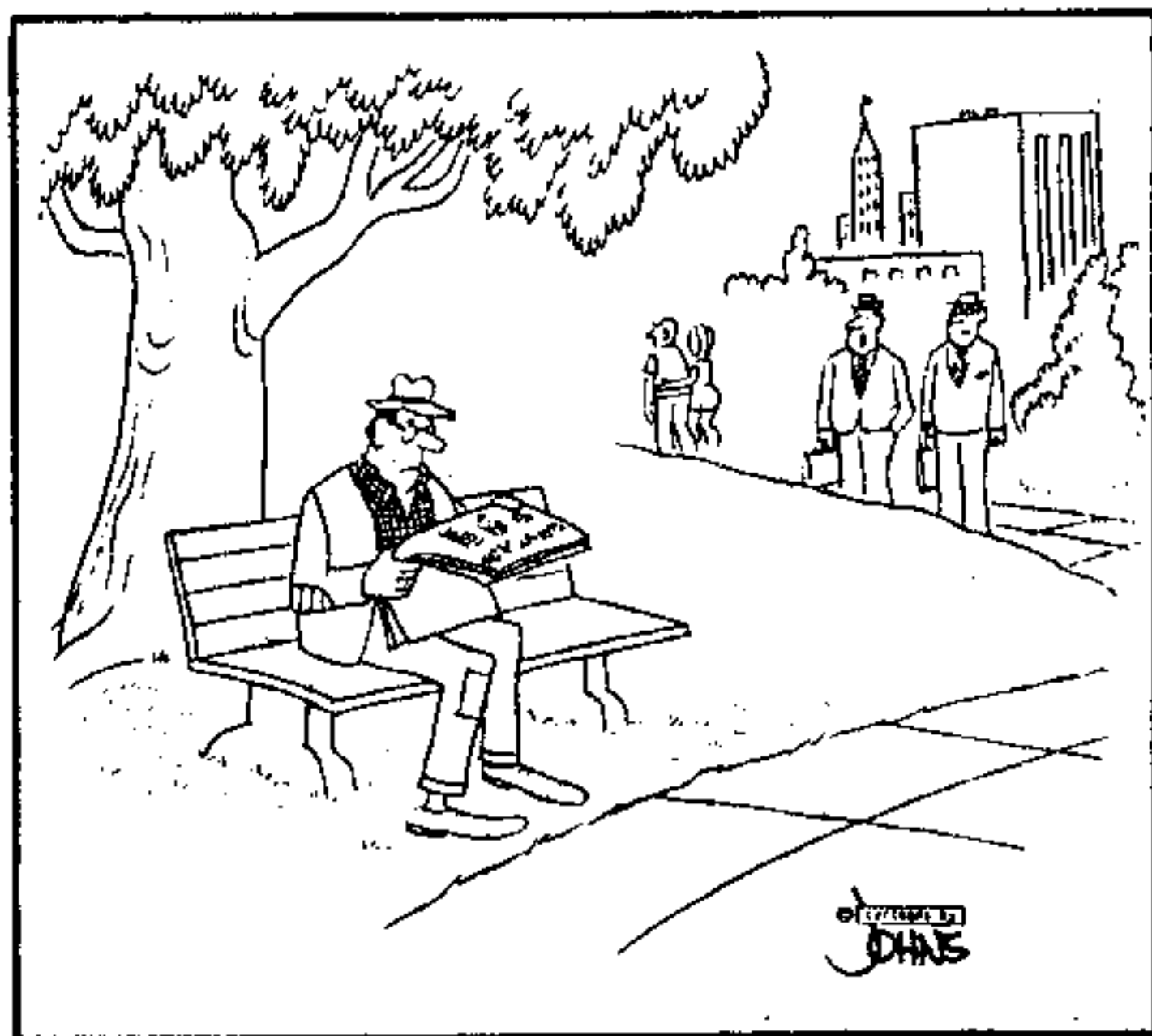
From the keyboard of Bruce Willard

There is much news this month and several changes. To start with, this month's meeting will have the sales table that was supposed to be at the December meeting. We will have such items as used cartridges, disks, T-shirts, bumper stickers, printer ribbons for the Epson MX 70, 80, FX 80, disk drive, and donated programmed cassettes. Come and partake of the sale table or add to it. Lets just make a real big time out of this.

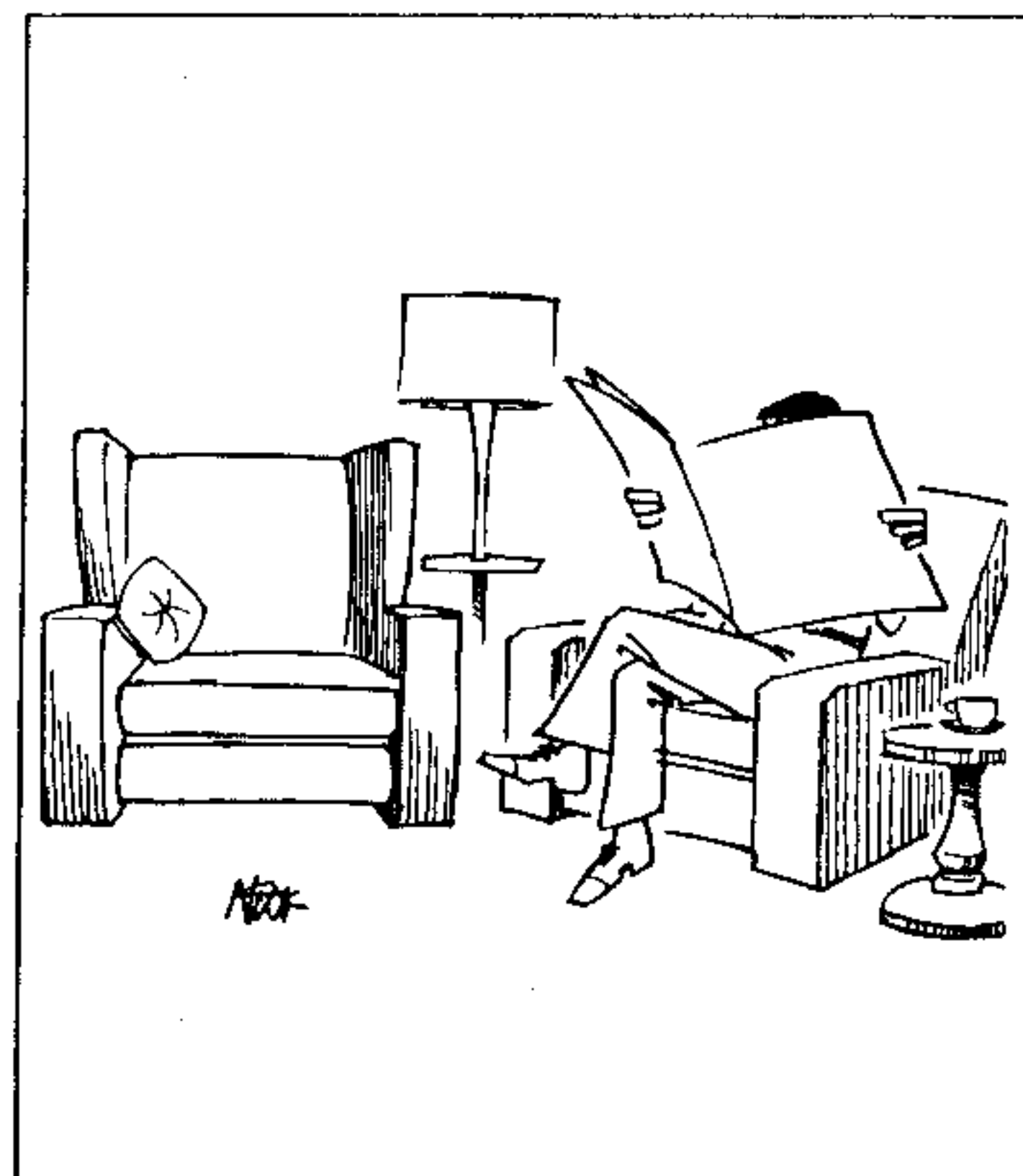
The Officers have decided, due to less revenue being received, to have a bi-monthly newsletter. That means your next newsletter will be in March. Now I know that many of you rely on the newsletter as a reminder for the monthly meeting. We have tried to cover that too. On the months without a newsletter, we will send out reminder post cards. This will save us approximately \$65 every other month.

Remember the company CORCOMP ? They have filed Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law. Basically, that means that after more than a year under Chapter 11 for reorganization, they have "GONE UNDER". It's really kind of sad to hear of another manufacturer of the TI-99/4A biting the dust.

On Sunday January 25, 1987, from 10 to 4, will be the Boston Micro Show, Sale and Computer Fleamarket. It will be held at the Northeast Trade Center in Woburn, Mass. To get there take Interstate 95 (Rt. 128) Exit #39. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children (5-12). Pick up your \$1.00 discount coupon at the MUNCH meeting.



"Sad case there: brilliant computer programmer...took a six weeks' vacation and fell too far behind in his field."



"Here's a promising one —
Communications expert needed!"

ONE LINERS

by Tony Falco

One liners are an exercise which develop programming skill. By their obvious limitation in size they must be compact and efficient. The three one liners which follow all have to do with the number pi. That elusive, non-ending, non-repeating decimal which approximates the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of any circle.

The first one does low resolution graphics designs. The designs are in reality plots of graphs of polar functions. Complete execution of the program takes about 22 minutes.

The second one approximates pi by randomly tossing imaginary "darts" at a square which has a circle inscribed in it. The darts always land in the square, and by counting how many end up inside the circle we can calculate pi because the probability of a dart hitting inside the circle is pi divided by four. After each 20 tosses the program reports the number of tosses and the approximate value of pi. The longer it runs the better the approximation. The program is stopped by using FCTN-4.

The last program starts by considering a regular hexagon (six equal sides and six equal angles). We use its perimeter as an approximation for the circle's circumference. We then repeat this process (that is we calculate the perimeter) for 12 sides, 24 sides, 48 sides and so forth doubling the number of sides each time and stopping when the number of sides reaches 6,144. (That's pretty close to a circle.) Try this one on another brand of computer and compare the value obtained with the actual value of pi. You will see how accurate your T.I. is compared to other machines.

```
1 CALL SCREEN(2):: FOR P=3 TO 30 :: CALL
  CLEAR :: CALL COLOR(2,P/2+1,1):: FOR A=
0 TO 5*PI STEP PI/36 :: R=11*SIN(P*A/2):
: CALL HCHAR(12-R*SIN(A),17+R*COS(A),42)
:: NEXT A :: NEXT P
```

```
1 N=N+1 :: RANDOMIZE :: X=RND :: Y=RND :
: H=H-(X*X+Y*Y<=1):: IF N/20=INT(N/20)TH
EN PRINT "TOSSES=";N;"PI=";4*H/N::: G
OTO 1 ELSE 1
```

```
1 CALL CLEAR :: PRINT "# OF SIDES","PI":
:;:; N=6 :: S=1 :: FOR X=1 TO 11 :: PRI
NT N,S*N/2 :: N=2*N :: S=SQR(2-SQR(4-S*S
)): NEXT X
```

COMPLIMENTS...

I give to our former President, Bruce Willard, for the EXCELLENT introduction and presentation of "PR-BASE". No guy could have had a worse start than he did. What with all the lock-ups and other things that went so wrong, never did I witness such a display of consistency in "COOL PERFORMANCE". Thank you Bruce for your performance, it was great.

from: Hector Beaudreau

...RAFFLE...RAFFLE...

This month we will have a choice of either a ten pack of OMNI diskettes donated by OMNI Resources in Millbury or a 12 pack of C30 cassettes donated by Hector Beaudreau of Bailey's Audio Visual.

The raffle is open to all who attend. The drawing will be held just prior to the business meeting. Remember:

***** YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN *****

The Sales Table will have loads of new items at the January meeting: disks, cartridges, tapes, textware; many never before offered for sale. All originals. Many very rare. All at excellent prices from many different member sources. Items include utilities, games, word-processing, graphics, and so on.

If you are looking for TI items that make your computer powerful, wonderful, and unique, come prepared to buy some "one-of" items at half the retail price (IF they can still be found elsewhere).

JACK SUGHRUE

MUNCH OFFICERS AND NUMBERS (all in 617 area)

President	Wm. Corson Wyman	839-4134
Vice President	Hector Beaudreau	
Secretary	Al Cecchini	
Treasurer	Jim Cox	869-2704
Editor	? ? ?	
Hardware Chair		
Programs Chair		
Adv Prog. Chair	Dan Rogers	248-5502
Club Reviewer	Jack Sughrue	476-7630
Library	Al & Lisa Cecchini	
Software Library	Don Mason	754-6630
	Hector Beaudreau	
Mail & Messages	Wm. Corson Wyman	

I want to join M.U.N.C.H. \$25.00 (first year)	NAME
I want to renew my membership \$15.00.	ADDRESS
I want a newsletter subscription \$12.00.	CITY
I want a T.I. bumper sticker \$1.75. how many?	STATE ZIP

The following is summarized from, HOCUS, the newsletter of the Milwaukee Area 99/A Users Group, August 1985 issue, no author listed.

When the announcement that the TI 99A was to be discontinued was made, a reporter was sent to Lubbock. He arrived in Lubbock and found TI had been replaced everywhere by I.B.M.; doors locked, and nobody who was willing to talk. Late one night he snuck into what remained of TI Headquarters. In the ashes he managed to find a tattered and badly charred TI Computer Engineer's Dictionary. Here is what he found:

Amps.....little creepy crawlers
Arc.....Noah's biblical boat
Bus Bar.....onboard cocktail lounge
Capacitor.....one who can hold his liquor
Coaxial.....two Engineer's fired simultaneously
Commutator.....one driving to the city daily
Condenser.....writer for the Reader's Digest
Data Bus.....cheap transportation to DAYTONA
Degauss.....removing a bandage
Detector.....private eye
Detent.....small outdoor private shelter
Electrode.....automated highway
Farad.....deposed Egyptian ruler
Fourier.....superceded by fiveier
Gama.....short for grandmother
Gauss.....singular for geese
Germanium.....pretty pink flower
Hertz.....medical term for painful
Impedance.....synonym for data processing
Infra Red.....American spy in Moscow
Ion.....device to take out wrinkles
Joule.....gift from Richard Burton
Kilovolt.....dangerous volt, wanted by police
Load Lines.....Monday morning wash
Logarithm.....dancing on logs
Microfarad.....son of a Farad
Negative Charge.poor credit risk
Ohm.....house in Great Britian
Outlet.....going away party for engineers
Overhead.....the boss
Pentode.....frog in captivity
Power Factor....mother-in-law
Quartz.....measurement unit for booze
Quality Control.excuse to return extra parts
Receptacle.....round filing cabinet
Schematic Diagram.map used by skiers
Series Resistor..TV censor
Software.....clothing usually made with cotton
Transformer.....a good beautician
Tuner.....piano repairman
Tube Checker.....chemistry student
UHF.....sound made by a tackled quarterback
Vacuum.....product made by Hoover
Variable MU.....sounds of many cats
Volt.....what Russians cast in elections
Watt-Hour.....how the Germans ask for the time
Zero defects.....production line shut-down

AGENDA for January 20, 1987

7:00 - 8:00 Open Demonstrations
New Member Registration
Software Exchange (members only)
Special Interest Group meetings
 Basic Programming -- as required
 Assembly Language -- by Dan Rogers
9640 (Geneve) demo - by J. Peter Hoddie of BCS
Disney Software demo - J. Peter Hoddie

8:00 - 8:20 Raffle
Business Meeting:
 Approval of Minutes
 Treasurers Report
 Committee Reports
 Old Business
 New Business
 Announcements

8:20 - 9:30 CONTINUATION of:
 Special Interest Group Meetings
 and Open Demonstrations and Discussion

Plan for February meeting:

D-Patch demo by Wm. Corson Wyman
PR-BASE Tabular Report demo by Bruce Willard

RAMELINGS
by
JIM COX

Christmas in January? The bad weather kept most people away from last month's meeting, which was not able to be re-scheduled. The items for sale at the December meeting will be available this month along with other specials. You can consider these to be belated Christmas presents!!!

I understand that the Med Center has metered all parking spaces and that the garage is now open. It might be a good idea to come to the meeting with a friend and share any parking expense. If you know of a public building with free parking and available meeting rooms, please let us know.

The Treasurer's report for December was:			
INCOME - DUES RENEWALS	\$30.00	EXPENSE - POSTAGE	↓ 8.80
Raffle	13.00		
Software sale	4.00		
Total Income	\$47.00	Total Expense	\$8.80

Checkbook balance \$501.28. Account payable - newsletter \$60.00

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB

TEXTWARE, SOFTWARE, and ELSEWHERE
Happenings in the T.I. World Community
by JACK SUGHRUE

There's a grandfather in Ohio who bought his son a computer back in 1982. His son was in high school then and was planning on going into engineering. Neither father nor son knew anything about computers, but the TI-99/4a was purchased because they both liked the feel of the keyboard. The son went into journalism instead of engineering, and the father began to play with the machine. He perused the blue manual, experimented with the computer, liked the things he discovered, and became a computer addict.

Within the next four years the addict became an expert of world-wide fame within our special world of the 99. During that time Jim Peterson - also known as Tigercub Software (156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus, OH 43213) - became the Columbus of this special world. He discovered more and explored more new TI territories than anyone else in the business (including the people at TI). And he shared these discoveries with us in monthly columns: TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB. Those 41 columns were chock full of programs, tips, subroutines, reviews, recommendations, and items from his huge and dedicated following.

When TI died Jim Peterson did not. He stayed aboard what appeared to be a sinking ship, throwing us a life preserver before we all went down for the third time.

Though he teaches computer workshops, he never took one. I learned more about the TI from Jim Peterson than I did from the 60-plus books I own on 99 computing.

Looking through my disk files a few minutes ago I discovered I have over 400 files from Tigercub Software, most included on five remarkable (there is no other word) disks: TIPS #1, 2, 3 and NUTS 'n BOLTS #1 and 2. The others are single programs I bought along the way: ANTONYMY, SYNONYMY, HOMONYMY, HIEROGLYPHY, PLAIN OF JEWELS, DRUNKEN SAILOR, BAZOO, MECHANICAL APTITUDE TEST, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, SCRUM, SQUINCH, STUFF 'n NONSENSE, KID/STUFF, HANDYDANDY 1,2,3, HAUNTED GRAVEYARD and others with equally fascinating titles. There are lots of demos, music, utilities, games, puzzles, graphics: all original, all his.

I never purchased anything from Jim that I haven't been extremely satisfied with. Little by little I hope to buy his entire catalog. Then I can have the TIGERCUB LIBRARY to spend my cold winter nights with. And that's good company. Look at the titles above. Variety? Yes. But the big thing is the sense of humor. This genius seems to be filled with wonder and awe everytime he uncovers something new about our machine, and he shares these uncoverings in such unusual ways and with such a delightful sense of humor that one cannot help but be caught up in his enthusiasm. He does all this in the speech of the common human: not in techie robotics. He has never lowered himself to shunning the masses. He's one of those people I'd really like to meet someday.

Intrigued by these titles, you probably wonder, What's a Squinch, Scrum, Mechanical Aptitude Test, Synonymy, or Handydandy?

Well, a Squinch is a very peculiar word game for one or many players in which two words have been bizarrely intermingled into one. A timer may be activated as you try to separate the combinations. There are literally millions of possibilities. A Scrum is a very speedy puzzle where you attempt to change the colors on a 3X3 grid. The problem is that the adjacent square's color also changes. Over 500 puzzles in one. Very challenging. The Mechanical Aptitude Test should be shot at dawn. A frustratingly wonderful puzzle requiring only the mental ability to join two geometric pieces

together. (You have to see this to readily understand this.) Handydandies (1,2,3) are collections of about 75 programming routines you can read and LIST and use (and demonstrate). Excellent forerunner to the WONDERFUL disks of TIPS and NUTS 'n BOLTS. Synonymy (similar to Antonymy, etc.) is a game of synonyms. Excellent for adult fun and ideal for children's learning fun.

It would be easy and endless to describe all of Jim's neat little programs (including the rather whacked-out Drunken Sailor), but I wanted to save a little column space for his masterpieces.

There can be no question that NUTS 'n BOLTS (1 and 2) and TIPS (1, 2, 3) are masterpieces. (I just learned in this morning's mail that there is also a #4 TIPS. I learned this from reading Jim's 41st and final TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB column.) Every person I know who bought these 5 disks (about 400 programs, files, subroutines, tutorials, etc., not counting TIPS 4) is astounded. If one opened up these packages today and did no work outside the home it would really take months to go through these items and use them. The files include such things as TIMEDEF, NUMBERSPK, POCKETKAL (for Kaleidoscope), BELLMUSIC, CHAMBORDER (for Chameleon), UPSIDEDOWN, SLASHZERO, SCREENGRIID, INITCHECK, MOON, STACKGRAPH, QUICKCOLOR. On and on. Hundreds of programs and subroutines. The subs are already in MERGE format ready to plug into any program and try them out. They are numbered so any subs may be used in the same program. A quickref-type manual sheet comes with easy-to-follow directions with N 'n B. There are README files for docs.

Aren't the titles tantalizing? So are the programs.

Jim Peterson is MR. 99 to most of us in the TI community. We have looked forward to reading his columns in newsletters from around the country; have admired his frankness and dedication and humor and humanness. Now that Jim is no longer doing his column for newsletters around the world, maybe he'll still put out some more great disks. As he said in his final column "I am NOT going out of business."

All of us in the TI community are going to miss his TIPS. Best of luck, Jim. Thanks to you our "Memories are Full," too.

~~~~~  
Send Jim \$1.00 (deductable from first order) for complete Tigercub catalog.

**3, 2, 1 IMPACT! until next time.**

(Jack Sughrue, Box 459, E. Douglas MA 01516)

#### LIBRARY NOTICE

Several items in our library have been missing for some time. Everyone, PLEASE check around your home for materials that might belong to the library. If you find any, please bring them to the next meeting, or call an officer to have someone pick up the item(s). Some of these items were only loaned to our library and should be returned to their rightful owners.

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Mass Users of the Ninety nine and Computer Hobbyists

January 1987 Monthly Newsletter Version 6.1



M.U.N.C.H.

P.O. Box 7193

560 LINCOLN STREET

WORCESTER, MA. 01605

FIRST CLASS

\*\*\*\*\*  
 IMPORTANT NOTICE  
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January meeting will be on January 20, 1987  
 at University of Massachusetts Medical Center  
 (Come to the VISITORS entrance and follow the signs for MUNCH...)