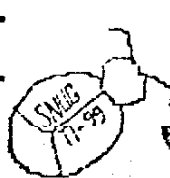


THE



# SNUGLETTER

FROM THE SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP

Volume 8-No.10

October, 1990

Next Meeting  
7:00pm, Monday, October 8, 1990  
Nevada Power Meeting Room  
6226 West Sahara, Las Vegas, Nevada



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rudy Johnson

Several weeks back SNUG received a mailing from Bill Harms of the FEST WEST 91 Committee. The mailing gives the details of the next southwest area TI get together, which will be held in Anaheim on February 16 and 17, 1991, at the Remuda Main Gate just across the street from Disneyland. The rate for 50 rooms is \$55 per night and will only be available until January 15th. Reservations can be made by calling 800-447-4048. Should any of SNUG's members need rooms at the FEST this year consider this fair warning on the room situation. Also included with this information were some pamphlets on the Anaheim and Orange County areas.

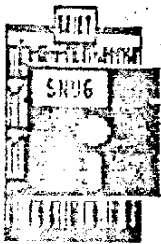
My major computer project this past month was upgrading my Horizon Hardisk up to 800K in capacity. When I was in Silicon Valley I found a place that was selling 256K (32Kx8 variety) static ram chips for \$4.99 (100ns) and \$5.19 (80ns) respectively. This was more than I could resist and I bought 12 for the upgrade as I had a couple for other projects. (I had to buy the 80ns kind as the store was out of the 100ns ones.) Anyway after two evenings of work I now have more ramdisk capacity than I know what to do with other than squandering it on a bunch of files I seldom use. Actually most of them are on the HRD as a test. I just have to figure out what I really want to keep on the HRD for speed of access. In any case what I want to point out is that the price of the 256K chips has dropped substantially, and it appears that the time may be ripe to look for the low prices that we found several years ago.

release of TI Base. The report function which was included with this release was a bit obscure to me when I first read the description in the appendix to the manual. But after digging in a bit and dissecting the examples I figured out the basics of using it. It makes the reporting function a lot easier now. And one of the big advantages is the variety of reports that can now be generated for specific needs with just a limited number of changes in certain lines. Previously many lines of command file codes had to be written to get this done. The point of all this is the possibility of getting together a SIG (that's a Special Interest Group for anyone who hasn't been with us very long) to learn more about the capabilities of this application. And also to suggest that SNUG members consider, once again, their interest in other areas in which a SIG would be of benefit to them or, in which, they would like to help get other people up to speed in some aspect of their system. I have mentioned the possibility of getting SIG's going, but I became enmeshed in my job related travels and was not able to follow through on this. I hope that doesn't happen again as I return to the topic. Think about it and I will bring up the subject at the October meeting.

As I don't have much more this month I'll close and get this off to George six days after I had told him I would as I was out of town for the past week. I'll see you October 8th at the next meeting!

I have also found a little time to spend on the newest

- Rudy -



# LIBRARIAN'S COLUMN

by GEORGE CAMPBELL

LAST MONTH I ADDED ANOTHER BOX TO THE LIBRARY FOR GRAPHICS - AND THAT'S ABOUT AS FAR AS IT HAS PROGRESSED. I HAVE BEEN

HOSTING A SERIES OF VISITORS FROM GERMANY, TO THE POINT OF SPEAKING MORE GERMAN THAN ENGLISH LATELY.

OCTOBER DOESN'T LOOK MUCH BETTER EITHER. WE WILL BE GONE (MINK, NO. ONLA, ETC) FROM 10/5 TO 10/25, SO IF YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM THE LIBRARY -

I HAVE JUST SCANNED THE BBS GRAPHICS SECTION AND THERE'S 7500 SECTORS THERE TO DATE (9/24 SIGH). IN A DOZEN OR SO DIFFERENT FORMATS, AND PROGRAMS. WONDER WHAT IT WILL BE IN NOVEMBER?

FROM ITS START OUR BBS HAS BEEN A SUB LIBRARY FOR THE LATEST AND BEST PROGRAMS / FILES, AND WITH THE ADDITION OF HARD DISK DRIVES IT HAS BECOME THE LIBRARY FOR MOST OF OUR MEMBERS. AND IF YOU ADD COMPUSEIVE, GENIE ETC, THAT CHANGES THE COMPLEXION OF OUR SNUG LIBRARY CONSIDERABLY.

NEVERLESS THE SNUG LIBRARY HAS VALUE TO US AS A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX, BACKUP, AND REPOSITORY FOR MANY OLDER AND FORGOTTEN PROGRAMS. AND A VALUE OF THE NEWSLETTER, AND THIS COLUMN IS TO RECALL THOSE T.I. CAPABILITY'S YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN.

I THOUGHT THAT BECAUSE I HAD GRADUATED TO R.A. GREENS VERSION OF T.I. WRITER, AND PUT IT UP ON THE BBS OVER A YEAR AGO, THAT EVERYONE WAS USING IT. IT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE OFFICERS MEETING THIS MONTH, AND IT SURPRISED ME THAT SEVERAL PRESENT WERE NOT USING IT. THE OFFICERS SCHEDULED A DEMO BY GEORGE TILLEY FOR THE REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH.

R.A. GREENS T.I. WRITER IS FAIRWARE (\$10) FROM RAG SOFTWARE (OR FROM BBS OR LIBRARY), AND A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS VERSIONS FROM ANY SOURCE. IT WILL RUN FROM EX.BASIC, WITHOUT THE CARTRIDGE AND THE PROGRAM ITSELF OCCUPYS ONLY 81 SECTORS INCLUDING LOADER. THE FILE HAS EXCELLENT DOCS, AND EVEN I WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEM! THERE IS ALSO A GOOD INSTALLATION FILE, TO CONFIGURE THE PROGRAM TO YOUR SYSTEM. IF YOU ARE NOT USING THIS VERSION PRESENTLY, THE DEMO WILL RAISE YOUR EYEBROWS A BIT, AND A COPY WILL BE A PLUS FOR YOUR SYSTEM.

LIKE OTHERS, I TEND TO THINK THE SYSTEM AND PROGRAMS I USE ARE THE BEST AVAILABLE. THEN AT A MEETING, OR ON THE BBS THERE IS A PROGRAM THAT IS MUCH BETTER, OR OPENS UP A WHOLE NEW FIELD TO USE. ITS A CONTINUING EDUCATION THAT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT SNUG MEMBERSHIP.

THATS THE OCTOBER COLUMN. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER MEET.

GEO. CAMPBELL, LIBRARIAN

# Secretary's Report



Minutes for September 10, 1990....

Rudy Johnson, President, opened the meeting at 7:15 PM. Ten (10) members were present.

The first order of business was to trade the Bulletin Boards no longer needed 10 mg. hard drive to John Martin in lieu of the boards telephone bills thru Aug. 1990. A motion was made from the floor in reference to the trade, seconded and passed. Ralph Guise gave the treasurer's report.



Bob Bieber demoed "TI SORT" from TEIEMENTS. The program will sort a file stored in almost any format and of any size. There are help screens thru out. TI SORT will sort in ascending or descending order and due to the fact the program is in assembly language the speed in which it sorts is quite rapid. TI SORT will run on the 99/4A and Geneve, floppy drives, hard drive or Ram-disk. For those that use databases this seems to be a useful utility.

Rudy Johnson demonstrated "MAL" a painting program written for the 99/4A and Geneve using the 9938, by Alexander Hulpke of West Germany. The program utilises the mouse and keyboard. The keyboard allows the use of pencil, airbrush, box and fill. There are 256 colors available thru using the three intensities: selection. At this time there is no ability to erase. If the author receives enough user feedback and support I am sure this could be another fine program. Alexander Hulpke, Sadovastrasse 68 D-5600 Wuppertal 1 West Germany

At the October meeting George Tilly will demonstrate "RAG" a TI WRITER program and also the ROS MENU (the commercial program).

Gordon Leonard will show "Cribbage", the card game. This version seems to be quite popular among the TI'ers.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

 Cindy  
Mather 

SECRETARY  
SNUG USERS GROUP

FOR SALE:  
HAVE KEYBOARD w/TI-99/4A; PBOX w/506K HAVE MEMORY...  
-L BATTERY BACK-UP  
RS232; CORCOMP DISK CONTROLLER; 2 DSDD DRIVES  
SEARS 24 PIN PRINTER-almost new-includes software  
BIG 'L' COMPUTER; DESK-BQ-\$1400; 2400 BAUD MODEM-\$100; 2 NEW...  
PROYES-\$150 ea.; 9 PIN SEARS PRINTER-\$150  
Contact: Jim Goodman, SNUG BBS, (702)648-1247



It's been another quiet month for the BBS. For a number of reasons, I haven't added any new features to the board this month. I had good intentions, but due to some personal things that cut into my computer time and a couple of other computer related projects, I just never got to it. While I'm on the subject of enhancements to the board, I should mention that I haven't gotten a great deal of feedback on the changes I have made OR on changes you would like to see in the future (co-sysops dont count, Bob). This is YOUR bbs. If there is something you would like to see implemented, let me know. If it is within my programming ability, I will make every effort to accomodate your wishes.

While doing my weekly backup yesterday, I noticed that there were only about 7200 sectors of disk space available for uploads. This may sound like a lot to some of you, but consider that we started with about 39000 sectors when we set up the hard drive. Just for fun, I looked at all the files on the board to see how many sectors we could save by deleting outdated files and duplicates. I figure we could get about 3 or 4 thousand sectors back that way. The biggest sector hog by far is the graphics section (nearly 10000 sectors) with many of it's files taking 1000 or more sectors. I will watch the situation closely, and if it should become critical, I will move the whole graphics section out to the backup (20 meg) drive. Using this strategy will put us back to having almost half of the 10 MEG drive available for uploads.

And now for the GOODIES!!

As always, the files are listed in reverse order of upload. The reason for this is that, being lazy, I usually just copy in portions of the actual catalog file (which I read in reverse to see the newest stuff first).

NEW in the TI section this month:

TIV4/3.....4/3 VERSION OF R.A. GREENS TI WRITER TO REPLACE THE 4/2 VERSION WHICH WAS GARBLED. GEO. CAMPBELL  
(version 4:2 uploaded by Geo Tilley but was garbled)

SONELINERS...UPDATE OF MARTINS ONELINERS. ADDED TEXTDUMP TO THE ORIGINAL 4 PROGRAMS. GEO CAMPBELL

TEXTDUMP.....A SHORT MERGE FORMAT PROGRAM TO DO AN ASCII SCREEN DUMP TO PRINTER. ACCESS IT WITH A "GOSUB 32000". THE PRINTER FILE IS OPENED AS #9, SO IT SHOULDN'T INTERFERE WITH MOST IB PROGRAMS. (this one by request)

CON-U-CDES..... CONTROL "U" PRINTER CODES FOR STAR NX-1000 PRINTERS.

NEW in the Geneve section this month:

!DM.....AT LAST!! A DISK MANAGER FOR MDOS! THIS ONE IS CALLED DIRECTORY MANAGER AND IS FAIRWARE FROM CLINT PULLEY. ALLOWS ALL OF THE USUAL FILE AND DIRECTORY MANAGEMENT UTILS EXCEPT CREATING DIRS AND FORMATTING DISKS.

!TASM.....PROGRAM TO CREATE PROGRAMS FROM BATCH FILES (takes a program out of a text file for printing menus etc)

!NEWBATCH.....INFORMATIVE TUTORIAL ON USE OF CONTROL CODES IN MDOS BATCH FILES

!MATHPAD.....MATHPAD UPDATED VERSION 3.6

PATCH-97H.....CORRECTS MDOS SO IT WILL ACCESS FLOPPIES CORRECTLY WITH ONLY HFDC. PREVIOUS VERSION HAD TYPO. ALSO INCLUDES OPTIONAL PROGRAM THAT CAN BE RUN FROM AUTOEXEC. TO AVOID SECTOR EDITING SYSTEM/SYS.

TIPSConvRT.....AN MDOS PROGRAM TO CONVERT TIPS INSTANCES TO TI ARTIST INSTANCES. THIS ONE CAN GO FULL-AUTOMATIC. YOU JUST START IT AND LET IT RUN. PROGRAM WILL PICK TIA FILENAMES FOR YOU. BE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH DISK SPACE!!

NEW in the Computer Graphics section

MAC-34.....ASSORTED MAC GRAPHICS

TIPS42-45.....ARKED TIPS DISKS 42 THROUGH 45. DEARKS TO 260 SECTORS. THE LAST FOUR TIPS DISKS IN OUR COLLECTION CONTAINED ONLY TWO TIPS GRAPHICS FILES. THE REST OF THE SPACE WAS TAKEN UP WITH FILES ALREADY ON THE BBS. CTIPSHOW ETC. THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

TIPS37-41.....ARKED TIPS DISKS 37 THROUGH 41. DEARKS TO 1420 SECTORS.

TIPS32-36.....ARKED TIPS DISKS 32-36. DEARKS TO 1367 SECTORS.

TIPS27-31.....ARKED TIPS DISKS 27 THROUGH 31. DEARKS TO 1295 SECTORS. SEE "README"

TIPS22-26.....DISKS 22 THROUGH 26. DEARKS TO 1427 SECTORS. SEE "README" FILE.

TIPS17-21.....ARCHIVED TIPS DISKS 17 THROUGH 21. DEARKS TO 1200+ SECTORS.

TIPS13-16.....TIPS GRAPHICS FROM GRRS THROUGH GRTW. DEARKS TO 1428 SECTORS IF ALL FILES ARE DEARKED AT ONCE.



I ran across an interesting message on DELPHI a week ago and thought I'd pass it on as a rumor, not as fact. It seems Gary Bowser of OPA stated in a conference that there are a few Geneves being beta tested that have been modified by Myarc to run at 18 Mhz with a 9958 video chip and software patched to use the Asgard mouse with the RS232 port. According to Gary anyone who wants the mod can have it done by sending Myarc their 9640 card and forty (\$40.00) dollars. I assume these Geneves are still running at one wait state, and if they are, Dr. Ron Walters has stated that a full-blown, zero wait state, MEMEX equipped Geneve will still run at 22.2 Mhz which is 23 percent faster than the proposed upgrade, though this is a substantial enough increase in speed that it might be worth calling about. If anyone talks to Myarc and gets confirmation on this please post a message on the bbs. Beery Miller has been in contact with Asgard trying to standardize mouse routines for use with 9640 WINDOWS, but I'm not sure if he has had any success as yet. As of now, WINDOWS will only work with the Myarc mouse, and since the 9958 chip has no resident mouse support, this may cause problems in the future as Bruce Hellstrom has announced that he has completed work on a serial (RS232) mouse driver which will allow Logitech and compatible mice to be attached via RS232 port. During a phone conversation Beery mentioned that he has received some super-fast video routines from Dr. Ron Walters which should raise some eyebrows at upcoming fairs. Beery said that he has successfully used the "shuttering" concept in graphics mode six to move boxes of text across the screen at 31 frames per second using one wait state, and 44 frames a second at zero wait states. Including the erasures, he is actually writing to the screen 88 times per second with the new routines! He also said that this is fast enough that anyone who wants to can have true animation in their programs, and that he will be passing the routines on to Al Beard for use in his 9640 FORTRAN.

Another group of DELPHI messages which caught my eye had to do with a fellow by the name of Joe Dilekto who is a college student and reputed to be somewhat of an expert in "C". He is currently working on a BASIC-EXTENDED BASIC compiler and is "90 percent" finished with the program. He is also working on a "C" compiler at this time. The DELPHI sysops are trying to get Joe scheduled for a conference so there will be more on this later. While on the subject of BASIC's, I should mention that Jeff White has stated that CALL LINKS are possible in Advanced Basic as long as the assembly routines don't call GPL routines. Chris Bobbitt of Asgard stated that their version of the Mechatronics card will now be manufactured in the U S and that it will be around the first of the year before any cards will be ready for sale.

I'm sorry to say that Bud Mills has had my 9640 and MEMEX cards for over two weeks now and still can't seem to get the timing right, so there will be no MEMEX article this month. AGAIN! I'm sure Bud is doing all he can to correct the problems and is probably pulling his hair out by now. The

last time I spoke with him he had four cards ready to be shipped and one that he wanted to test. After moving chips around to try and get the "lost sheep" working, none of the cards worked... (sigh) THANK YOU Gordon Leonard for the use of your Geneve card.

In closing I would just like to say just a few words about my review of Glen A. Just's, JustWrite Speller which just happens to be in this issue of the newsletter. I may not have done Mr. Just or JustWrite Speller justice and this would be unjust and I would stand justly accused since I have used the program on just about everything I have written since it came in the mail. Since I started using it I have found that many of the words I know how to spell are spelled incorrectly in the dictionary. For instance, "catagory" is incorrectly shown in Webster's Unabridged as "category", pronounced; kate/gory. Had it not been for JustWrite Speller I would have gone on blindly trusting lexicographers, but now that I have to check the spelling of every word I add to my own dictionaries I have found dozens of such errors. One thing I've noticed is that the program tends to insert the word "just" into your text on occasion. (JUST kidding...) Anything but an "A+" grade for this program would be unjust!

--- Bob

... BBS Report (continued from page 3)

This last batch of files represent the remainder of the 40-odd disks of TIPS graphics which I bought while at West in Tucson. Bob Sherburne got tired of waiting for me to get around to putting them up. He came over to my house, kidnapped the whole disk box, took them home, and proceeded to archive and upload them as fast as he could. Thanks, Bob, at the rate I was going, we would have probably seen the last of them uploaded at about the turn of the century. The SRUG BBS number is (702) 648-1247. We are on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except during user group meetings, BBS failures (none this month!), and updates. We support 300, 1200, and 2400 baud and provide full access to all users from first sign on.

That's about it for this month. See ya at the meeting!! - John-

September's MICROpendium

John Kolen (publisher of MICROpendium) carried a PR type bit on Genie then used his editorial to say "Genie has a dumb idea"... "I think Genie's days are numbered"... and "I give them 12 months".

It seems that Genie is going to a \$4.95 flat rate monthly charge. For that amount you get "unlimited non-prime time access to more than 100 products and services". What they don't say and JK points out is that includes NONE of the services we normally use. Each month your first non-prime time hour on Genie will cost \$10.95. Compare that with the other services and join JK's assn corner.... GeoT.

# A Critique, Evaluation, Assessment, Analysis, Examination and Judgment of;

Glen A. Just's, JustWrite Speller version 2.02

By Bob Sherburne

Alright, do I have to call it a review? The Blues Brothers had a review, and I used to review material for tests in school, occasionally, but I don't think this program falls into either category.

In this computer room, behind and to the left of me, are four large bookcases which contain literally dozens upon dozens of reference books. In the living room and master bedroom another four reside, and consume an equal amount of space. And perched in their proper and precise places among these shelves are perhaps a dozen dictionaries; pretty, petite, paperbacked sized ranging to the humongus unabridged Webster's. Why then can't I write an article without several misspelled words? After serious examination I have concluded that there are three main reasons for the numerous misspellings. The first is that there are entirely too many words in our language. No one can be expected to learn the spellings of all of them in only umpteen years of schooling. The second is that there are entirely too many keys on a keyboard. No one can be expected to hit all of them perfectly every time. The third and final reason is that there are too many pictures in dictionaries. No one can be expected to ignore them when thumbing through a dictionary, exploring for a word which they can't spell to begin with. Once sidetracked by the illustrations, I usually forget the questionable word and from then on there is a high probability that I will let it go and submit the article as is, to my wife, for proofreading. As a side note, there are two classes of female proofreaders. Ones who almost won spelling-B's, and the ones who won spelling-B's. There are no women who were poor spellers. Once the printout has been proofread, I return to the computer with a paper in hand. The article is now covered from top to bottom in chicken scratches of red ink, which presumably, one can decipher if they actually studied in their grammar school English classes. I didn't. I repair as many of the damaged words as possible but leave sentence structure etcetera alone, since these things fall under the heading of artistic license. After this step I consider the article ready for George to publish. A few weeks later I receive my newsletter in the mail and give my column a quick scan. Glaring and conspicuous spelling errors almost jump off the page at me. "Micorpendium" and "dillusions" are a few I've found, what about the ones I can't see? Just how stupid do I look in the eyes of the holy TI community? These vexing questions prompted me to send ten (10) dollars to: Glen A. Just - 916 W. 3rd St. - Clinton, IA - 52732

The program runs from MDOS and fresh from the mailer it must

reside in drive A. Two of the ten files must be sector edited to allow it to run from hard drive, harddisk, or another floppy, and directions are included in the documentation. A patch program would be nice but it's really no problem to change the drive by editing the disk. The file you wish to spell-check can be loaded from command line or at the prompt after the program is running. The file is then crunched and vital statistics like the number of words, lines, unique words, and average word lengths are displayed on the screen. From here you are asked if you would like to see the frequency count, which shows how many times each word is used in the file, or continue with spell-checking. When the checking begins, two passes are made on the file to compare words in the program dictionary to words in the file. This check is quite fast, and when completed the program asks you for a user dictionary name, and repeats the above process with words you have added to your dictionary(ies). Each user dictionary can contain up to two thousand (2,000) words. When you have finished checking the file against your dictionaries, press ENTER at the prompt and fourteen lines of your file will be placed on the screen, along with a help line at the bottom. At this point, words which are not spelled correctly or are not in your dictionaries are enclosed by lines above and below the word. If you know it is spelled right and want to add it to your dictionary press "A". "S" skips to the next word and "P" will skip all future occurrences of the word. If you want to edit the word press "E" and a cursor will appear over the first letter in the word, with arrows, insert, and delete keys active. Change the spelling and press ENTER and the program moves to the next word in question. When you have finished editing your file the program asks you if you would like to save it. If yes, press "Y" at the prompt and enter a drive and filename. Next, if you have pressed "A" on any of the words in text, you will be asked if you want to add the words to a user dictionary. If you press "Y" you will be asked for the dictionary name. Give the name and the dictionary will be loaded, your new words added, the total number of words in the dictionary displayed, and the file will be resaved. At this time you will be returned to MDOS. User dictionaries are saved in alphabetized DV-80 format and new words can be added with an editor. My first user dictionary contains almost nine hundred (900) words and takes up only 34 sectors on my hard drive. I prefer to add words which I use rather than have half of my hard drive space taken up with a Webster's clone, especially since the process is painless. Unfortunately I can't find the DELPHI message which advertised the program and can't remember the exact number of words contained in the program dictionary, but it seems to me that it is twenty-four thousand (24,000).

Dictionaries are provided with C99 and Assembly words for checking syntax of source code. You also receive docs, a user dictionary which has been filled to about five hundred (500) words, and a "dummy" dictionary for starting a fresh user dictionary. The screen is constantly updated while the program is running so you will always know what is going on. The program has no problem with words containing apostrophes

... continued on page 6

JustWrite Speller (continued)

or perhaps I should and that during the six weeks I've owned the program I have received two (2) updates in the mail, and Mr. Just is very receptive to ideas for improving his fine program.

Although it may have already been improved, I was not thrilled with the documentation provided with the program, and had some trouble figuring the ins and outs of loading and saving dictionaries. If the dictionary or the text file is in the current working directory, simply type the name with no drive designation. Text filenames on a different drive do require the designation however, so keep this in mind.

I am not going to give the program letter grade since what may be an "A" program to one user may not be another's cup of tea. I will say that the program is fast, simple to use and gets the job done with a minimum of pain. Now that I know something about the program, I would have paid three times the asking price to support this author and buy the program! Who knows what Mr. Just may write for us next?

Now all I have to do is to teach my wife to use the program and I will have the perfect spell-checker!

--Bob

Beery Miller on Myarc  
(Downloaded by Bob Sherburne)

Myarc  
From: 9640NEWS To: ALL

I just got off the phone earlier today speaking with Lou Phillips. I have some information that others may want to know.

First, Lou's place of employment has just had a massive lay-off (5000+ people). He wasn't one of them, but said that he must keep on his toes all the time and keep his nose clean to stay ahead of the others and to make sure he isn't the next employee in the unemployment line.

Second, they now have a baby boy that both Lou and his wife have adopted that they have wanted for a LONG time.

Third, Lou does most of the repairs of disk controllers, rs232's, but send the HFDC and Geneve's out. Progress is being made on the 512K cards so that users can go to one megabyte and he mentioned hopefully in a week or so (these were his comments in time).

Fourth, Lou wasn't for sure when/if regarding the Chicago Fair and his presence. His brother and folks were going to be in town around then celebrating, etc his brother's 50th birthday and see the baby. He said he would probably make an appearance (he would have to wait and see).

fifth, Lou said don't look for any new software or major software to come from Myarc. Lou does not have the time to put it all together. He said he did have time for small application type coding (speeding up routines, tinkering here and there and so forth). He will still program, but don't expect a HFDC or anything like that.

Sixth, Lou is trying, but his time is minimal. He has commitments at work, and with his wife and baby that come first (this statement pieced together from the whole conversation).

Seventh, Lou said shipments of the Geneve were due at Triton in a week. I don't know if others realized it or not, but I think there was only 2 Geneve's left (maybe none after today) that were new and in distributor's hands. That was means true value. Backorders on several companies were noted and they were working to fill them... no timetable.

Eight, Lou did not mention any time in particular regarding HFDC shipments. I did not pursue it.

Nine, I told Lou that many people appreciate what he has done and that we understand and there are more folks out there supporting him. The voice of the minority with complaints are almost always louder than ones with compliments. I don't mean to take this away from people with valid complaints, it is just my feelings that I have.

Ten, work is being done in the positive direction towards completing the HFDC support. I can't say anything more on this at present. Eleven, I did not ask anything regarding any CO on here or CIS.

Twelve, Lou has ideas for enhancements to the HFDC card 9640 (9958, 16/18 MHz), but they appear to be only ideas at present. Lou has several ideas and comments on 'extended HFDC support'. Some are easy, realistic, do-able, and wish I could say more. This is something that TIME will show to us.

I wish I could add more to some of these 12 points, but some things were confidential and can't be openly discussed at present. I can add one more thing... the Geneve will continue and in 18 months (I suspect no longer than that), the Geneve will exit from being called an UNIX, one way or the other.

No comment from your ed, I did, however, leave space between the paragraphs for notetaking or venting frustration. We thank Beery Miller and Bob Sherburne. Some heads none anytime.

--- Reprint from MANNERS, Sept.'90 (Mid-Atlantic 99ers newsletter)

ON THE BOARDS

Jerry Coffey - August 1990

GENie - TI Roundtable:

Things have been very slow this summer -- due in part to John Johnson's absence for a while and Barry Boone's illness which put him out of circulation for a month or so and left a large backlog of projects to consume his time. Some interesting information on the CC40 and its relatives was passed along and duly archived in the libraries. My current disk of GENie message logs started back in April, and still isn't full -- and the August uploads are running about one per week. Now may be an opportune time to get the attention of JJ, Barry Traver, or Barry Boone for any questions you may have.

Compuserve - TI Forum:

TI Forum went through its usual summer lull but there have been a few highlights recently. Wayne Stith keeps the pot boiling with responses to technical questions and Terrence Murphy talked his way through the details of a c99 program to print disk catalogs to a device other than a printer. For those who have not experienced it, this is one of the quirks of MDOS for the 9640 -- output redirected from a DIRectory command is in character format (printers and tape drives are considered "character-oriented" devices, while disk drives are considered "block-oriented" devices). The character technique works fine to a printer, but if you send the output to disk the resulting file has a record length = one (each character gets its own line!). Terry did a good job of it -- the program is called GSDIR.

There has also been some recent message activity from folks trying to sell, fix, or update some of TI's older minicomputer systems. These have been punctuated this month with a series of messages between Ralph Landrum and his wife Delores. Seems Ralph was in Abu Dhabi (one of the three United Arab Emirates) when the tanks rolled into Kuwait. He used the forum to pass messages to Delores half-way around the world on his progress getting out. The whole TI Forum family was cheering him on.

Compuserve was the moving force in establishing the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) in an attempt to bring some order to the many proprietary formats used by software aimed at different computers. One of the characteristics of the format is that it retains the pixel geometry of the original image (which may be unique to a particular computer). This means, for example that TI PRO GIF's are 720x300 and thus can only be partially displayed on a Geneve or 80 column card using the its 512x212 pixel geometry. (You can try 512x424, but this squashes the vertical dimensions in the image.) TI Forum has its own library (DL 13) of GIF's that work well on the Geneve.

Barry Boone has been working on display programs that do some pixel averaging to get around the problem, but Steve Baute has

ON THE BOARDS ...continued

taken a different approach. Earlier this year Steve created some GIF's in the Geneva pixel format and posted them in TI Forum's Data Library 13. Jim Horn gave me some time to check them out and some of them are quite nice. I will be putting together a list of my favorites in a future article.

If you haven't tried it yet, Compuserve has optimized its network for MNP modems -- producing some blazing download speeds at 2400 with MNP that partially offset the higher CIS connect charge.

#### Delphi - TI NET:

Jeff Guide's TI NET continues its prolific growth. Message and upload activity have increased unabated right through the summer -- July uploads exceeded one megabyte, and most of these were already compressed. There has been a series of meaty conferences featuring Jeff White, Ron Walters, Bud Mills, Paul Charlton, Gary Bowser, Chris Bobbitt, and Ed Johnson. Some of these lasted into the wee hours of the morning, but transcripts are available in the NEW UPLOADS library. About the NEW library: this is an innovation to simplify access to the latest material released (up to about 30-60 days old). Periodically, the librarian (yours truly) moves the older files to one of the permanent libraries classified by subject matter.

Jeff's success with TI NET prompted Delphi management to select him as manager of their MAC SIG. Jeff is planning to use this connection to facilitate TI use of the enormous graphics resources developed for the Macintosh. There is already a healthy chunk of MAC graphics on TI NET that are set up for Ed Johnson's PAGE PRO and Peter Hoddie's MACFLIX.

Delphi's growth reflects their aggressive marketing strategy. They have just announced lower connect charges beginning in September that may stir the pot again. Connect time using TYMNET will be \$6 per hour at all speeds up to 2400 bps (\$5.40 per hour for "charter members" signed up before September 1) with a \$5.95 per month minimum. There is also a new high use plan that covers up to 20 hours per month for \$20 (with each additional hour beyond the first 20 charged at \$1.20). Still no communication charge with TYMNET, but TELENET will tack on a \$1.80 per hour surcharge.

The new rates have attracted so many new members that Delphi is scrambling to get more equipment on line to handle the load. On top of this, Jeff is still handing out "bonus" free time to TI NET uploaders.

TI NET still maintains its reputation as "techie heaven", but activity of interest to the average 99/4A user has picked up as well. Harry Brashear, a regular 99/4A columnist for MicroPendum, is now a regular. Both Chris Bobbitt and Ed Johnson have been prominent recently with hardware and software for the 99/4A.



## The latest on ESD's HFDC

--- Excerpts of a letter from Chris Pratt and enclosed flyer---

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

We do not as of yet have a shipping date set. However, I think it will be fairly soon, especially with the Chicago fair coming up in November. The retail price for the controller is \$225.00 (Maryland residents must add appropriate sales tax).

The controller card is capable of controlling a maximum of four floppy drives ranging from 5.25" 90KB to 3.5" 1.44MB capacity, and four MFM hard disk drives, each of which may have up to 1024 cylinders and 8 heads. Any regular MFM hard disk will work with this controller, but I recommend the Seagate ST-251-1 40MB hard disk. This is a fast access drive allowing for ample storage in the TI community. And because there are no logical drive size limitations, as in the IBM arena, there will be no need to partition the drive.

As of yet we are not positive that the Geneve will operate properly with our HFDC. The operation of the HFDC is dependant on the Geneve's MDOS and not the controller's DSR. We have made our card 100% TI compatible, now whether Myarc has adhered to TI's standards I do not know.

\* A new revolutionary design using surface mount parts

\* Controls up to 4 hard drives and 4 floppy drives

\* Formats 90K 5 1/4" drives to 1.44MB 3 1/2" drives

\* User friendly set-up and support software

\* Designed by an electronics and computer corporation which supports its users

\* Features an E<sup>2</sup>PROM which allows future DSR upgrades to be loaded by disk

\* Uses only Western Digital drive controller chip sets

\* Two separate floppy drive connectors, one for internal drives and one for external drives, allow for easy installation

\* 100% TI compatible

\* Unique design eliminates heat problems on the card

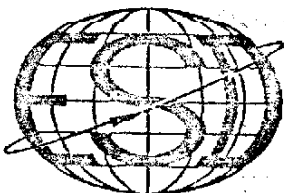
\* Set-up information stored in the EPROM eliminates dip switches on the board

\* Special PATH command allows user to specify alternate path for DSK1: (ie: HD1.GRAPHICS.TOOLS)

\* Basic CALL routines add an extra dimension to TI Basic

\*\*\*

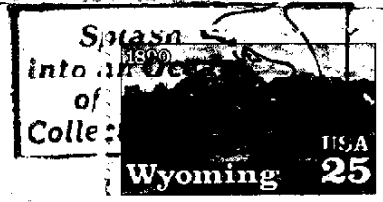
\*\*\*



Electronic Systems Development Corp.

E.S.D. Corp.  
P.O. Box 23805  
Washington, DC  
20026-3805

<p><b>SOUTHERN NEVADA USERS' GROUP</b>  The SNUGLETTER is published monthly by the Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG). SNUG is a non-profit organization of individuals with an interest in all aspects of Texas Instruments' 99xx &amp; 99xxx based computers, including hardware and software by third party vendors. The GROUP meets 7:00 PM on the second Monday of the month - currently in the Nevada Power Company, Wengert Community Meeting Room, 6226 West Sahara Avenue. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend the meetings. Information on membership is available at the meeting. Articles may be copied from the SNUGLETTER provided credit is given to both the author and the original source and that the article not be used for profit. (For-profit organizations wishing to use any articles from the SNUGLETTER will need to make prior arrangements with the Executive of the Southern Nevada Users' Group.)</p>	<p><b>SNUG OFFICERS 1989-1990:</b>  President: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583  Vice President: Gordon Leonard - 858-0923  Secretary: Cindy Mitchell - 871-0309  Treasurer: Ralph Guise - 458-2926  Librarian: George Campbell - 564-1588  Associate Librarian: Lance Wilson - 642-6452  Membership: vacant  EBS Sysop: John Martin -- 647-1062  Ass't EBS Sysop: Bob Sharburne -- 399-4042</p>
<p>SNUG Bulletin Board - (702)648-1247; 24hours 300/1200/2400</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:</b>  Editor: George Tilley - 254-6005  Assoc. Ed.: Rudy Johnson - 871-9583  Newsletter submissions can be uploaded to the SNUG-IBS, Newsletter section or mailed to SNUG, P.O.Box 26301, Las Vegas NV 89126, preferably on disk.</p>
<p>Currently SNUG supports Texas Instrument's 99/4 and 99/4R computers, and Myarc's Geneve 9640 computer.</p>	



**SNUGLETTER**

Southern Nevada Users' Group (SNUG)  
P.O. Box 26301  
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0301

**TO:** Dallas TI Home Computer Group  
P.O. Box 29863  
Dallas, TX 75229

