TI World and Local News

(Compiled by Jim Ely from various sources, mostly MICROpendium Magazine)

IT'S HERE!!

Well, folks, it's FEST time! Things are shaping up nicely. As was anticipated by some, the last minute rush occured. Later in this issue you will find the revised booth assignments for the FEST as well as the revised speakers agenda. Of interest, Jerry Rash, who was going to speak about Quickstart - A Geneve Menu System is going to be unable to do so as a problem has developed in the system. This will leave two openings in our speakers schedule. Our booths, on the other hand, are all SOLD OUT! That's a great sign. Several more prizes have been added for the drawings, including a 2400 baud modem and a power control center/surge suppressor. Also, Dan Shell has donated several items as door prizes. As I said, things are shaping up nicely...

Happy Valentine's Day from the VAST Computer User Group

In another interesting developement, DAYS INN has advised us that they are also all sold out for that holiday weekend. There is, evidently, some kind of bowlers convention that same weekend and the hotel is completely booked. We have been contacted by several would-be FEST goers about places to stay. Arrangements have been made with another nearby hotel for several more rooms, but not at as good a rate as DAYS INN was offering. Remember, folks, the early bird catches the worm...

File Your Taxes Electronically

Since it is that

SECRETARY'S SLATE

MINUTES

VAST Computer User Group
January 11, 1991

Before I get on with the business of going over the minutes of our most recent meeting, let me start by saying that I will try to do my best to live up to the job of secretary/treasurer. I must say that I now have a much greater appreciation of the job that Mike Marfisi has been doing for the past two(?) years. Putting together the notes here involves listening to the tape of the meeting at least once and that in itself can be a real chore! Thanks Mike. And without further ado, I bring you the transcript of the last meeting.

The January meeting of the Vast User Group was held on January 11th. Everyone was called to order at 9:58 a.m. A total of 22 people attended, including all outgoing and incoming officers. Bud Barnes opened the meeting by conducting the induction of the new 1992 officers.

Jim Ely began his reign as president by presenting the second annual "President's Award" to Mike Marfisi for his excellence in group participation and dedication over the years. Ray Frantz was also commended for his labor on the beautiful placque that was given to Mike. Jim then welcomed 2 new members into our club. They are Gene and Jan Manton of Phoenix. Welcome aboard! Jim also led the group in greeting a few of our members that have been out of town for extended periods of time and finally made it back.

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the newsletter and Jim conducted the committee reports next. The monthly and annual treasury reports were conducted by guest panelist Mike Marfisi due to a minor problem by the new sec./treasurer and accepted as read. Thanks Mike, I should be a bit better organized next time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLICITY: Tom Pfeffer reported that he had mailed out a press release to local media to get them started on any coverage of the upcoming Fest-West. Letters were mailed to tv and radio stations, as well as newspapers and cable companies, and a few colleges too. A copy of the January newsletter was to be mailed to everyone contacted as a follow-up.

LIBRARY: Nothing new was added to the library during the past month, mostly because of the pace of the holiday season and the fact that the librarians had gone on vacation. Hope you had a good time. Bud Barnes stated that he had returned the Funnelweb Video after having it for 4 months. He did manage to make it through that period of time without crashing the tape, too. Ha.Ha.

BBS: Jim Ely researched the cost of memory chips for the BBS system and found them to be about $1.60 each. He figured that the

MINUTES, *from page 2*

BBS would require 36 new chips and figured the cost to be about $60. He hopes that we can wait until after the *FEST* to replace the bad chips, not wanting the board to be down during this all important time. He said that the problem with the date on recent uploads would be corrected (and has). Two new uploads were mentioned. They are "CAD" and a new joystick version of "TETRIS". Members were encouraged to use the BBS.

NEWSLETTER: Jim reported that he only has one article for the next newsletter and requests more input from club members. How about it? The latest info on *FEST-WEST* will again be a big part of the next edition.

PROGRAM: A few guest speakers are going to be rescheduled in the future. Some were not able to make meetings in the past due to unforeseen complications (work). Suggestions were made that a Telco demo be made at someones house so that we can access the BBS. Funnelweb and TI-Base were also suggested as future demos.

FEST-WEST: The upcoming *FEST* took up a majority of the time in the business meeting and a variety of subjects were discussed. There were a lot of really good ideas presented. Thank you all. Hazel handed out cards to use as advertisements and encouraged all to spread them around.

Raffle ticket sales are moving right along and a few requests were made by other user groups for more tickets. An exact count was never given, but they will be sold up until the time of the drawing on Sunday after-noon. A 2400 baud modem will be added as a prize and a number of other items were mentioned as raffle and or door prizes. They included power supply/surge suppressors, diskettes, printer paper, and labels.

Ralph was very pleased to announce that our room requirements had been satisfied and so our convention room will not cost anything! It was unclear whether we would have 1 or 2 hospitality rooms and the matter would be looked into further. Also, is was not clear what time we would be able to get the keys to the room(s) so that we can start to move things in to set them up.

Ralph was worried about the lack of "big name vendors" that had requested tables (things have dramatically changed). Some members promised to call some of them on the phone. Members were reminded to put their names on any equipment that they lend out and a request was placed for card tables and extension cords. Signs are being made for the booths and table assignments are in the works too.

Members were reminded that there are still plenty of jobs available for anyone that doesn't have an assignment. It was also mentioned that free admission will be provided to those that are working. Volunteer soon or be volunteered!

It was decided that all convention and hospitality rooms will be designated as NON-SMOKING AREAS, please help to keep them that way. Hazel mentioned that food and drink are not allowed in the convention area, but will be served in the

MINUTES, *from page 3*

rooms. A 50 cup coffee maker is being loaned to the club and other refreshments were being planned. The restaurant was planning on some type of special and fliers were going to be posted.

Ray Frantz looked into the cost of having T-shirts printed, but found that the cost for the setup was too much. He has made a bunch of commemorative buttons and he hoped that 50 would be enough. More can be made if needed. The cost at the *FEST* will be $2.95 each.

The speakers and demos will be video-taped by Mike Marfisi. It appeared that all of the time slots had been filled at this time.

It was decided that a person does not have to be present to win the raffle drawing(s), but must be there to win a door prize. There had been a bit of confusion on this point. All raffle tickets will contain an address and phone number for this reason.

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting then was turned back over to Jim, and new business was addressed. Members were reminded that dues were expired as of 12/31/91 and that everyone should "re-up." A discussion of member I.D. cards was held and Ray said that he already had one designed. He will bring them to the next meeting. Jim suggested that some of the committees may need new members because of the changing of the officers and their roles. Any volunteers? Mike M. will continue to head the newsletter exchange department.

Ralph had a list of names of everyone that bought a TI in the state of Arizona and reminded everyone that the free membership for 3 new members signed-up still applies. A few members took a few pages to try their luck.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:23 and a "surprise" demo was presented by Chris Taylor What a demo! Some VAST members did not leave Pyle until 2:30! Many plans to see Chris put on his demo at the FEST.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Pfeffer, Secretary
VAST Computer User Group

From the Editor's Desk

THE BEST*FEST*WEST IS HERE!

Next weekend, February 15th and 16th is it. It's here before we knew it. I'm talking about the *FEST*, of course. My, how things changed in just a month, too. Look at the list of vendors on page 6 and compare that to the list published last month. Quite a change! As always, almost everyone waited to the last minute to do anything. You know what that is getting some people who have waited? DAYS INN hotel is ALL BOOKED UP and there is no room at the INN. There is another convention in town and since we had filled our alotted number of rooms by the cutoff date, which was January 15, every other room in the hotel was booked. We have tried to make arrangements at another

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WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO The zoo is home to over 300 species of rare wildlife in settings that depict their natural habitats. Located here is Arizona's largest collection of exotic animals.

EDITOR'S DESK, *from page 4*

nearby hotel for over flow and another block of 10 rooms was procured, but not at as an attractive rate as the one at DAYS INN. Maybe next time people won't wait so long to act, but then again, maybe not.

Now is the time for all those volunteers to come forward and help. Hazel and Ralph have done a great job at getting the *FEST* organized, but now they need your help at getting everything set up. They will be asking for your help at the meeting. Don't let them down. Do your part to make sure this is the **BESTFESTWESTYET**!

IN THIS ISSUE

Again this month we are mostly about *FEST WEST '92*. I have published the second mailer flyer on page 11. The revised table layout along with vendor assignments is on page 6 and the revised speakers schedule is on page 7. Do to an unforeseen problem, Jerry Rash will not be able to give his scheduled talks on Quickstart, A Geneve menu system. We are looking for speakers to fill those spots if possible. *4/A Foray* by Ralph Rees is on page 8, again with more on the *FEST* and other things. Also, as part of the *4/A Foray* column this month, I have included a street map showing the major streets and freeways that will get you to

DAYS INN the quickest way. Obviously, folks familiar with the Phoenix area will have their own quickest way of getting there and the map is geared more to our out-of-town guests than the locals. And that is about it for this issue.

DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't renewed you membership in VAST, now is the time. Dues were due in January. This will be the last month anyone with expired dues will receive a newsletter. **PLEASE RENEW!**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

This month's meeting will be in the **BLUE ROOM** at Pyle. Below is a two month calendar for March and April with our meeting dates indicated.

MARCH						1992	APRIL						1992
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	(14)	5	6	7	8	9	10	(11)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the FEST on February 15th and 16th. And of course I'll see VAST members at the meeting February 8th.

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METROCENTER One of the largest shopping complexes in the Southwest. A shop til' you drop experience. Also has a large amusement park "GOLF AND STUFF" that features some new thrill rides including a large twister type roller coaster.

Booth Assignments
FEST WEST 1992

As of February 1, 1992, the following have reserved booths at Fest West '92.

R, 1, 24 BJ Mathis representing SouthWest Ninety-Niners. RAVE will be represented by Tom Wills of Southwest 99ers.

2 Shane Truffer representing ESD.

5, 6 Mike Grogan of VAST.

7 Consignment table.

9, 10 Chris Taylor.

11 Bud Mills.

12, 13 VAST Computer User Group.

15, 16, 32, 33, 34 Bill Webb.

17, 18 Bill Nelson will be handling Asgard Software products and UGOC.

19, 20 Beery Miller representing 9640 News.

21 Ken Gilliland for Notung Software.

22, 35 D. Wright.

23 The Hoosier User Group.

25 Jerry Rash for Catpaws Software.

26 Michael Sealy for MS Express Software.

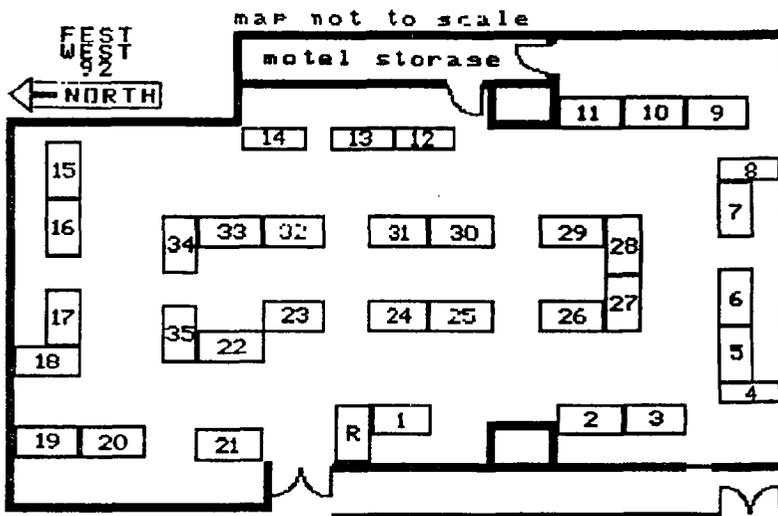**27** Ward Heineman representing ASDF.

28 Gary Bowser for OPA.

29 Don O'Neil with the Accellerator Card.

30 REGINA.

31 Don Shorock.

Rich Gilbertson representing CADD Software has contacted us but has not as yet confirmed his presence.

Numbers in front of each vendor/individual correspond to the table assignment in the drawing below. The layout is tentative and subject to change.

TI FEST WEST '92 SPEAKERS

The TI/Myarc community is blessed with many individuals who are knowledgable about a variety of aspects on the 4/A and the Geneve. Vendors have presented new products and explanations of current topics, etc. in special conference rooms. This tradition is proudly continued at FEST WEST '92.

SATURDAY Feb. 15, 1992

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
10:00 a.m.	OPEN	OPEN
11:15 a.m.	Bill Nelson	The PAGEPRO Experience
1:00 p.m.	REGENA Cheryl Whitlaw	Reviewing BASIC
2:15 p.m.	Don O'neal	Acellerator Card
3:30 p.m.	Beery Miller	9640 Discussion

SUNDAY Feb. 16, 1992

9:30 a.m.	Don Shorock	Education
10:45 a.m.	OPEN	OPEN
12:00 p.m.	Chris Taylor	99 Connection
1:15 p.m.	Ken Gilliland	TPA New Products, Disk of the Old West Fonts and Borders V

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PHOENIX ART MUSEUM Sponsors special exhibits and maintains a permanent collection of over 18,000 objects. Featured are 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century European and American art, Western American art, and costumes from the 18th century to present.

4/A Foray

by Ralph Rees

✍ *SURPRISE* DEPARTMENT

At the January meeting I had brought a package of mailing labels that contained the TI database of names and addresses of all consumers in our area that purchased a TI99/4A.

I had initially taken this package to my work place, and when I had a free moment, would pull a sheet of labels off and check them against a current telephone directory to see if any names and addresses were still valid. I probably went through 10-15 sheets with no success. Either the name was not listed, I received no answer on the phone or the people I did connect with no longer had a TI.

Anyway, As previously stated, I brought this package to the meeting and announced that maybe all members of our group could take 3 to 5 (or more) sheets of this information and check them against the phone directory as I did, and call the valid ones.

A few members did this and SUPRISING-LY found a few people that still had TI's and did not know our users group existed! Ed Morse and Bud Barnes left messages on our -under used- bulletin board stating that they had these successes and I commend them for their efforts and hope they continue. If we all can get active on this idea and spend a little time checking, we can make this club really GROW!
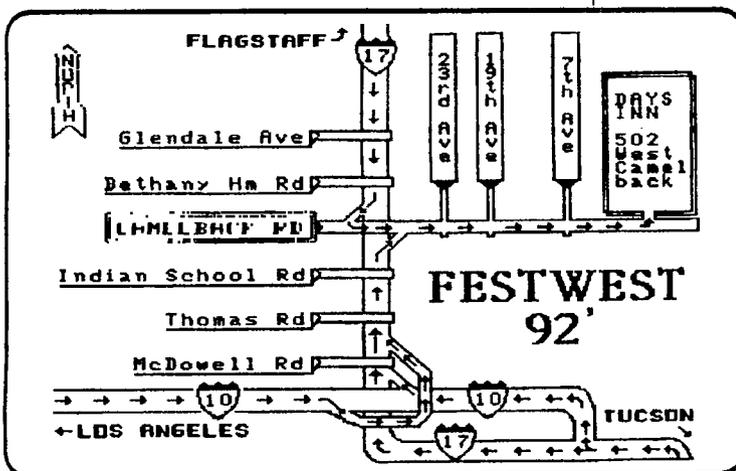
Think about it, If we found only one percent out of the five to ten thousand names that must be in that package to still own TI's AND become members, we would have 50 to 100 extra members!, And that would be just one percent!

So as MR. TI, Jim Peterson, said in an article a few months back... "LETS ROUND UP THOSE MAVERICKS!"

✍ *FEST EQUIPMENT* DEPARTMENT

In addition to the computer related equipment we will need loaned for the FEST, keep in mind the following items that the group will need to borrow...

1. Extension cords and multi-outlet cords.

2. Folding card tables for use in the Hospitality room.

3. We also would like 1 or 2 27" or larger (tube type, NOT

FLAGSTAFF — Glendale Ave — Bethany Hm Rd — CAMELBACK RD — Indian School Rd — Thomas Rd — McDowell Rd — LOS ANGELES — DAYS INN 502 West Camelback — FESTWEST 92' — TUCSON

4/A FORAY, *from page 8*

projection) monitor type televisions for use in the demonstration room. We may have to rent them otherwise. $$$

Please be sure to mark ALL loaned items with your name, etc. and inform Ed Morse so he knows of the loan and can keep track of them.

✍ AWESOME CONCEPT DEPART MENT

For those of you who left the meeting early last month, You missed out on an AWESOME demonstration. One of our newest club members, Chris Taylor, did a demo/talk of what a CLASSIC TI99/4A is capable of.

I was lucky enough to have visited Chris a few months back and saw what he had to offer the TI community. If you come to the FEST you won't miss out though. Chris will have two booths there and will be giving a talk titled "CONCEPT 99". Don't MISS him this time!!

In closing just let me say...

You've Seen The Rest
Now It's Time For The BEST
Don't Miss This FEST!!

FCTN +   —Ralph

NEWS, *from page 1*

time of year again, this item is quite timely.

Parsons Tax Service has reached an agreement with TI-TAX to bring electronic filing and direct deposit to the TI-99/4A.

Direct deposit from an electronically-filed tax return goes into the taxpayer's account in as little as 12 to 18 days, compared to 6-8 weeks processing on normal returns from paper tax filings.

The procedure involves sending a diskette copy of the completed individual tax return prepared using the TI-TAX templates and MicroSoft Multiplan spreadsheet to Parsons, which reformats the data to IRS requirements and files it electronically, charging $25 for this service.

Electronic filing packages will be included with any purchase of TI-TAX. For additional information and a list of all electronically filable forms, send an SASE to TI-Transmissions, Parsons Tax Service, 1615 Chess, Parsons, KS 67357.

Tex-Comp Hit By Twister

A twister followed by rain storms hit the California based Tex-Comp the weekend after Christmas. Jerry Price of Tex-Comp says that "between my insurance claim and my landlord's insurance claim" damage at the company amounted to approximately $100,000 following the weather related destruction.

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PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM Features displays of Hohokam Indian ruins from 200 B.C. to 1400 A.D. Exhibits document their civilization and explain their disappearance.

NEWS, *from page 9*

Apparently, most of the damage was to the Tex-Comp offices as most of the TI inventory was stored in another unit. Customers of the company should experience little or no interruption in service.

Jerry is a model train collector and some of the models were damaged. "The trains still run but the boxes were damp, so that lowers their value to collectors," he explained.

His landlord has given him another building to use while his is being repaired, and, Price notes "we may stay here. They are alike, it's just a lot of identical units in an industrial park."

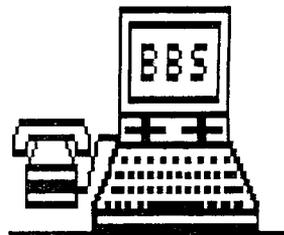## Music Disks Now Public Domain

Harrison Software has released all of its existing catalog of assembly music concerts to public domain. The programs are available from the PD-Catalog of Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Ave, Whitehall, OH 43213, and user groups may now distribute copies in any manner they choose.

Bruce Harrison says the company has also released another disk of assembly utilities for extended-BASIC programmers. This SS/SD disk, called Volume 2, has mostly utilities for using data statements that are part of the XB program. Demo XB programs for each utility are are also supplied. This can be obtained from various sources including Tigercub, above, or from Harrison for $3 including shipping. Contact Harrison at 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781 for more information or to order.

Just a reminder...

The **VAST BBS** can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **(602) 233-0790.** This is a local call for most area residents. Give it a call for the latest information about the VAST Computer User Group!

Myarc Shipping Repaired Cards

According to John Koloen, publisher of MICROpendium Magazine, Myarc is finally beginning to return expansion cards that had been sent to them for repair. John received his HFDC back on January 10, 1992 but has not had a chance to get it up and running yet.

Mike Marfisi of VAST also has a HFDC at Myarc for repairs, but as of this writing he has heard nothing from Myarc.

It was probably a good move on Myarc's part to return the repaired card to MICROpendium as this creates a little "good press" for Myarc for a change. We'll keep you posted as to the status for Mike's card.
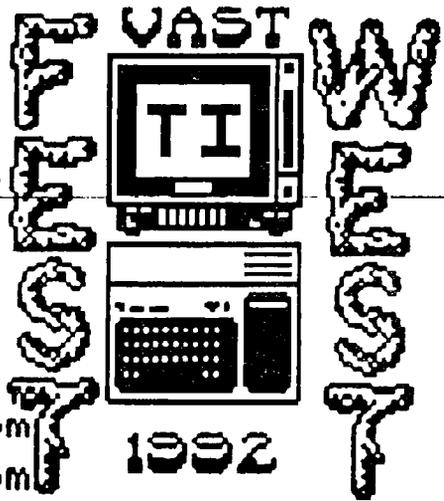
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PIONEER ARIZONA A living history museum that explains the heritage of the state's first settlers.

--ANNOUNCING--

TI FEST WEST '92

HOSTED BY: VAST COMPUTER USER GROUP
C/O HAZEL KNIGHT
4316 W. ALTADENA
GLENDALE, AZ 85304

DATE/TIME: SAT FEB 15, 1992-9AM TO 5 PM
SUN FEB 16, 1992-9AM TO 3 PM

LOCATION: DAY'S INN PHOENIX/CAMELBACK
502 W. CAMELBACK, PHOENIX, AZ 85013
(602)264-9290 or 1-800-688-2021

FEST/RATES: $54 FOR 1 TO 4 PERSONS PER ROOM PER DAY

TI FEST WEST '92   THE BEST YOU CAN GET

VENDORS   SPEAKERS & USERS GROUPS
SOFTWARE - HARDWARE   PRIZES
ACCESSORIES

ADMISSION $5 - UNDER 15 FREE IF ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT IS AVAILABLE
BY USING THE COURTESY PHONES FOR THE DAYS INN,
PHOENIX/CAMELBACK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BBS AT(602)233-0790
OR H. KNIGHT(602)938-5446 OR R. REES (602)869-8145

VAST User Group Information

The **VAST Computer User Group** is a support group for the TI-99/4A Home Computer and compatables.

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Tom Pfeffer 940-0974

LIBRARIANS
Hazel & Wallace Knight . . . 938-5446

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim Ely 275-8018

BBS SYSOP
Mike Grogan 272-4315

Send any correspondence to the address below.

The **VAST Computer User Group** operates a BBS 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The phone number is (602) 233-0790.

ADVERTISING RATES

There is **NO CHARGE** to **MEMBERS** for **PERSONAL** advertising. Non-members will be charged $1.50 per ad.

Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer for **COMMERCIAL** advertising rates.

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