

MARCH 1994

WEST PENN 99'ERS

ISSUE #101
FOR THE RECORD

by FRANK N. ZIC

Mickey started the February meeting at 7:20PM or 7:45PM take your pick. In all fairness, there was a problem with the equipment. Mickey thanked me for holding the January meeting. She also thanked John Willforth, Lynn and Art Gardner for their continuous help. A personal note, that I am sure is shared by all our members, we all thanked you three and we must include our dedicated leader Mickey for her extremely fine leadership. Today's meeting had many personal shared feelings revealed. Our club just wouldn't exist without their constant reinforcement. Gary Taylor was present and the very same feelings are held for his dedicated service with the PUG club. No wonder the meeting lasted so long, the accolades were long but oh so well deserved. Lynn Gardner gave the treasurers report. John Welan updated us on the disk library and recited a very nice poem he wrote. Talent just abounds in our group. Norm had the module and cassette library available. Dick Ohi made available the VHS tape library. Art Gardner showed the supplies he had for sale and mentioned that the ribbon re-inking business was doing very well.

Joe Ekl passed around the pictures he took of each member. He will bring the camera in for the March and

April meetings. So come to these meetings if you haven't had your picture taken. Mickey will bring in 3x5 cards next month so each of us can write a small personal history to be published along with our pictures in up-coming newsletters. Mickey's theme for 1994 "Stay alive till '95". This is becoming a real problem in today's ever increasingly crazy world. Our newsletter exchange with other TI clubs has been adjusted downward to mostly the clubs that send to us. A few exceptions will be maintained for those clubs that request our newsletter.

Mickey is publishing game high scores that our members have recorded and we will be looking forward to receiving comments from other clubs on their accomplishments. Norm Rokke reviewed the Dec. and Jan. issues of MICROpendium. His comments for the January 94 issue are as follows: Congratulations to the staff and contributing authors on beginning their 11th year of publications. We wish you continued success and want to say that we appreciate your magazine; p's 5 and 22 "SCSI controller"; p8 Barry Traver's XB; p10 Bruce Harrison's "Assembly- part 31"; p15 Lucie Dorais's "Kingmove"; p16 Col Christensen's RAMdisk batteries; p17 advertisements by Cecure and Bud Mills; p18 "Poker"; p22 LA 99er's Fred Moore's request for TI programs; p23 John Koloen reviewed our own Norm Rokke's "Sliding Block Puzzles Series

II. Note that A,A,A,A ratings and p24 Charles Good's Micro reviews" including on p25, once again a member from our own group, Mickey Cendrowski's "Genealogy Plus" and "Adventure Data Base". A free raffle was held for attendance and then the regular raffle with some nice prizes including two demo disks that Mickey showed the group. These disks were "Reminders" and "Microdex 99". Gary Taylor demoed FNLWB 5.0. There was a lot of interest in this demo too.

A new paragraph for a special topic. We were recently informed that Jim Peterson of Tiger Club fame passed away. His contributions to the TI world are legionary. We will all miss this fine and talented man. We all signed a sympathy card to be sent to the family. May he find eternal rest and happiness with his creator. Now to close, May the good 4's be with you.

REPRINT FROM ONE OF THE NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Perhaps these next two paragraphs about the original function of user groups best describe just what our TI groups are still about.

**I Went To My First User Group In 1976
by Bill Machrome**

At the meeting I was amazed at everyone's competence and knowledge! I felt I would never close the gap between

us. I was also amazed at how willing everyone was to help everyone else. People brought their systems to the meeting. People shared experiences, software they'd written and most of all, knowledge. The sharing was great and heart-felt, but at it's core, the user group meeting was a separatist movement: we were there to celebrated how different we were from everyone else.

FREE SOFTWARE CATALOGS

Anyone interested in obtaining a free software catalog from MS Express Software should write to:

MS Express Software
P.O. Box 498
Richmond, Ohio 43944

FREE SOFTWARE CATALOGS

Anyone interested in obtaining a free software catalog from Notung Software should write to:

Notung Software
7647 McGroarty Street
Tujunga, California 91042

WEST PENN 99'ERS CLUB INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING DATE: MARCH 15 1994
MEETING LOCATION: PENNS WOODS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
JUST OFF ROUTE 30
N. HUNTINGDON, PA
TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

LIST OF WEST PENN OFFICERS FOR 1994

PRESIDENT: MICKEY 412-265-5201
VICE PRESIDENT: NORM 614-264-6442
TREASURER: LYNN 412-835-4304
RECORDING SEC: FRANK 412-751-6065
CORRESPONDING SEC: PAUL 412-478-2754
LIBRARIAN: JOHN 412-823-3312
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: RALPH 412-379-8762

GENERAL ITINERARY OF THE CLUB'S MEETING

6:45 P.M. DOORS OPEN
7:00 P.M. GENERAL MEETING
7:45 P.M. DEMOS AND NEW INFO
9:45 P.M. ONE ON ONE HELP
9:45 P.M. SOCIALIZING
11:00 P.M. DOORS CLOSE

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

LATEST T. I. NEWS AND SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS
NEW SOFTWARE FOR SALE - GENEALOGY PLUS!
ADVENTURE DATA BASE - DEMO BY MICKEY
RATTLESNAKE BEND - DEMO BY MICKEY
B A N N E R S - DEMO BY MICKEY
WEST PENN 99'ERS "ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE"

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

\$15.00 PER YEAR FOR INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY
\$10.00 PER YEAR FOR ONLY OUR NEWSLETTER

NEW CLUB ADDRESS

Effective immediately - all club correspondence and newsletter exchange should be sent to the following address:

West Penn 99'ers
C/O Mickey Cendrowski
R.D. 1 Box 133
Russellton, Pa 15076

HELP A FELLOW TI'ER OUT!

For quite some time now, many of my fellow TI'ers have been abandoning their TI-99/4A's and the TI Community.

Although the reasons for this are varied - the end results are still the same - More and more TI-99/4A's are being pushed into corners and stuffed into closets.

If this situation is true of you (the reader), perhaps you would consider DONATING your TI HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE to someone who still appreciates this computer - namely me!

I'd be happy to take what I can use and pass along the rest to others who are still using and appreciating their TI-99/4A's.

Give it some thought...and remember...I am interested in DONATIONS only!

Thank You!

Mickey Cendrowski
R.D. 1 Box 133
Russellton, Pa. 15076

Phone: 412-265-5201 after 8 PM

WEST PENN 99'ERS / HIGH-SCORING GAMES / FEBRUARY 1994

GAME	SCORE	COMMENTS	DATE	NAME
BACKSTEINE	65570	SCREEN #30	11-01-93	FRANK ZIC
BIGFOOT	100850	SCREEN #30	11-01-93	FRANK ZIC
BURGERTIME	82600	PATTERN 21	9-04-85	MICKEY CENDROWSKI
BURGER BUILDER	1000000	PATTERN 99 *NEVER RUNS OUT* OF PEPPER		ELEANOR ZIC
CENTIPEDE	301930		1-08-87	MICKEY CENDROWSKI
DIG DUG	262460			FRANK ZIC
ENTRAPMENT	3668	LEVEL 4	11-01-93	FRANK ZIC
HUSTLE	WON 52	LOST 27 TIED ONCE		ELEANOR ZIC
JUMPY	131900	PATTERN 21		ELEANOR ZIC
MICRO PINBALL	1776500		5-18-87	NORM ROKKE
MIDNITE MASON	27100		11-01-93	FRANK ZIC
MOON PATROL	73150	LEVEL K CHAMPIONSHIP		MIKE SEALY
MUNCHMAN	202170	LEVEL 37	9-11-87	PAUL BROCK SR
PACMAN	153000	LEVEL 17	9-10-87	GARY TAYLOR
PARSEC	47300	LEVEL 3	9-13-87	MICKEY CENDROWSKI
TI INVADERS	15930		9-11-87	PAUL BROCK SR
TI TRIS	2208		11-01-93	FRANK ZIC
TOMBSTONE CITY	23560	LEVEL 21 MASTER	9-11-87	PAUL BROCK SR

GENEALOGY PLUS!
By Mickey Cendrowski

Micro-Review
By Charles Good
Micropendium
January 1994

Till now, if you wanted to keep genealogy records using the TI you either had to use dedicated software such as the public domain "Genealogy Workshop" by Les and Cindy Cattin, or you had to use a generalized commercial or fairware data base program such as "PR Base" or "TI Base".

The problem with dedicated software is that it is often inflexible. If you don't like the kind of data it accepts and the format of its printed reports you are usually out of luck. The problem with generalized data base software is that although it is very flexible, it is difficult for some to use. You have to create your own data base outline, deciding what data to store and in what form and deciding how exactly to format printed reports. Ordinary mere mortal 99/4A users often feel uncomfortable trying to do this. Genealogy Plus! deals effectively with both these problems. It is both flexible and easy to use.

The software package includes a TI BASE template, a Personal Record Keeping module template, and a bunch of TI-Writer templates. The TIB and PRK templates allow you to enter data for each individual under the categories of first and last name, date and location of birth, chart number, lineage number, forms, and documents. These data can then be sorted, displayed on screen, and printed according to the capabilities of TIB and PRK. For both types of data bases, but particularly for TIB, excellent documentation shows you step by step how to load the Genealogy Plus! template into the data base, and then how to enter and display data.

I find the blank TI-Writer templates particularly handy and well designed. Each is the size of a single 8.5 x 11

inch page. You load a template into any TI-Writer type of text editor, turn off word wrap, and type your data onto the appropriate sections of the page, using the text editor to modify the data or sheet format as needed easily. You can then save these pages back to disk and print them. Use a hole punch on the printed pages and insert them into a three-ring binder. I think genealogical data is best displayed and appreciated by you and others as hard copy, such as some of the pages in the large 200-year-old family Bible I have in my living room.

The following TI-Writer templates are available. Many are of the "one for each individual" type: Personal Biography Sheet; Research Calendar (used for library research - date, call number, source, period of time covered by source, results, doc that refers to source); Correspondence Record (dates mailed and received, address, purpose, results); Research Extract (notes taken from library documents, date extract taken, call number, source, description and condition of source, indexed by, purpose of search, period of time searched, document number); Family Group Sheet; Lineage Chart (a family tree); Additional Marriage Sheet (for multiple marriages); Source Checklist (very useful and comprehensive); Sibling Lineage Chart; Extended Family Sheet (for adopted children).

Although the software documentation is not a tutorial on genealogy record keeping, a complete set of sample data is included on a separate disk. These data are entered onto the TI-Writer templates to show how these templates are supposed to be used.

I know of no better genealogy software for the 99/4A. You need a SSSD disk system and TI-Writer or one of its clones for text editing. A printer and either TI BASE or the Personal Record Keeping cartridge are recommended but not required.

Genealogy Plus! costs \$19.95 + \$1.00 postage from MS Express Software, P.O. Box 498, Richmond OH 43944.

ADVENTURE DATA BASE
By Mickey Cendrowski

Micro-Review
By Charles Good
Micropendium
January 1994

Probably nobody knows more about adventure games for the 99/4A than Mickey. In fact she wrote the book on the subject, "The Adventure Reference Guide", published by Asgard a few years ago. Her current offering is a TI BASE data base that includes all the information from her book plus additional information gleaned in recent years. First you load TI BASE, and then you load in Mickey's Adventure Data Base from a SSSD disk. Almost 250 adventures are covered. These include public domain and fairware adventures, those published from commercial sources such as TI Infocom and MS Express, and type in adventure programs published in magazines and books. With the data base you can, for example, produce lists of all the Adventure Module adventures, or all the adventures that run out of the XB module. Most users of this data base will begin, as I did, by printing out the entire data base. This yields eight printed pages of condensed print. Since this is a TI BASE template, you have all the features of a good database available to you. You can, for example, add your own comments to the "comment" field that is part of each adventure's listing. You can also delete entries or expand the database by adding information about additional adventures.

For each adventure title the database provides the following information: Official TI software (Y/N); copyrighted (Y/N); fairware or public domain (Y/N); single or multiple file program; total disk sectors; source or publisher; module needed to run game; is software a role playing game an all text game or an adventure utility; is speech used; graphics (Y/N); runs from cassette or disk or either; level of difficulty (3 levels). Also included is Mickey's overall quality rating of 1-5. A

difficult game is not necessarily a high quality game. If you disagree with Mickey's quality rating you can substitute your own complete with your own personal comments.

Adventure Data Base is available for \$19.95 plus \$1.00 shipping from MS Express Software, P.O. Box 498, Richmond, OH 43944.

TI BASE is available for about \$25.00 from most TI dealers including TM Direct Marketing, 800-336-9966.

TWO TONE THAT TI KEYBOARD!
A simple keyboard alteration

By David Hetkerthin
Lima Ohio User Group

As you probably already know, there are two colors of TI keyboards, black and tan. But what you probably didn't know is that there are at least two types of posts attaching those keys to the keyboard. There are the more common HOLLOW square or (O) posts and the less common SOLID or (+) posts.

If you have, or know someone else who has a keyboard of the opposite color and the same post type, then you BOTH have the opportunity of having a TWO-TONE keyboard which will make programming and games like "Amazing" easier.

Suggested keys to swap and make a contrasting color are: ENTER, FCTN, ALPHA LOCK, \$4, +=, J, K, I, M, E, X, S, AND D.

The only tool needed is a large paper clip, straightened out and bent into a "J" or fish hook shape. Keep the hook small. Insert the hook between the keys and lift GENTLY, first one side of the key then the other until the key cap pops off.

As with any hardware modification you undertake, you do so AT YOUR OWN RISK.

Until next time, take care and enjoy your TI.

David Hetkerthin

For Sale

TI 99/4A complete system in perfect condition.

Peripheral Expansion Box (with dust cover) with 2 half-height, double-sided disk drives, 32K memory expansion, RS232 card, Power supply, black and silver console, TI Impact printer (Epson Compatible)(with dust cover and lots of extra ribbons) with serial and PIO cables. Hundreds of disks of applications, including Fun!writer, TI Artist, TI Artist Extras, TI-Base, EZ Keys, FORTH and C99, CSGD, TIPS program with thousands of graphic files on 25 DS disks, MAX RLE with 15 DS MACFLIX graphics disks. All disks have backups. All manuals included. TI-Writer, Editor Assembler, TI LOGO, Text to Speech, Video Graphs, Disk Manager, Tax Investment & Record Keeping, Infocom games, all Scott Adams adventure games with hint books. B. Travers' Diskazine disks. 99'er Home Computer magazines back to vol.1 no.5. Also, if wanted, can give old LA 99'ers and Smart Programmer newsletters.

Asking \$375.00 for all of above.

Myarc Geneve 9640 with extended keyboard, MDOS, mouse, speech synthesizer on card. Geneve manual, The Printers Apprentice (McCann) exclusive for the Geneve, B. Miller's 9640 disks, HyperCopy.

The following application and game disks:

Editor Assembler, Extended Basic, Myarc Basic, TI-Writer, Multiplan, MyArt program, Myarc Advanced Basic., Business Graphs (McCann), Alpiner, Hopper, Microsurgeon, Pacman, Tunnels of Doom, QBERT, Burgertime, Moonmine, and many others. All programs have backup disks.

All this for \$300.00

Please contact me:

Rose J. Sass tel(607)243-8691
97 Fir Tree Pt. Rd.
Rock Stream, NY 14878

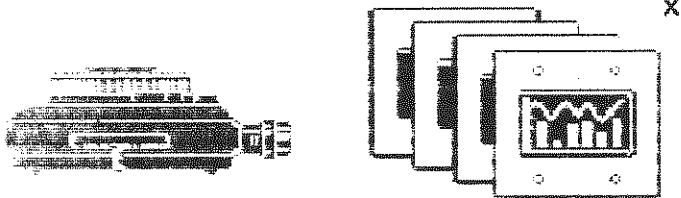
My user group was named The Twin Tiers UG based in Elmira, NY and I served as president of the group for many years. All of this computer equipment is my personal property and in perfect working order. I still think there is a lot of life left in the TI and I am selling it because I do not have time to use it anymore, since I have to use newer applications on CD-ROM on my Macintosh and laptop.

If anyone is interested in buying both systems I am ready to make a special price.

Selling these books separately for \$35.00

TI Computer books:

- A to Z Book Comp. Games Thomas McIntire
- Adventure Games, COMPUTE! Gary McGath
- BASIC Computer Programs for Home Charles D. Sternberg
- Data & File Management/TI J.P.Grillo & JDR
- Graphics for TI J.P.Grillo & JDR
- Data File Pro. in BASIC L. Finkel & J. Brown
- Elementary TI99/4A W. Sanders
- Ext.BASIC Home Appl./COMPUTE! C. Flynn
- Fundamentals of TI Assem.Language M.S.Morley
- Intro. to Computing P.Lafferty
- Last Whole TI99/4A Book P. Garrison
- Learning TI Assembly Language I. McComic
- Pro. Ref. Guide C. Regena
- Smart Programmer's Guide C. Miller
- Sound & Graphics/COMPUTE! R.J. Herold
- Starting FORTH Leo Brodie
- Terrific Games for the TI H.Renko & S. Edwards
- TI-99/4A Game Programs F. Holtz
- Time Lost (games) Que Corp.
- Trivia Data Base J. Hunter
- Using and Programming the TI F. Holtz



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MARCH 1994

WEST PENN 99'ERS

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Words of Wisdom from
The Cactus Patch...

"A woman drove me to drink and
I never even wrote to thank
her." - W.C. Fields

WEST PENN 99ER'S
C/O MICKEY CENDROWSKI
RD1 BOX 133
RUSSELLTON PA 15076

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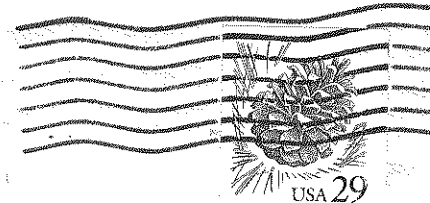
NEXT MEETING
MARCH 15 1994

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FROM THE EDITOR

RALPH J VASKO
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(412) 379-8762
PUG BBS #32

Have to fill in a little blank
space so if you wish to
contribute you can send ASCII
text files to the PUG BBS or
WordPerfect files on disk (DOS
versions 4.2, 5.1 or 6.0). TI
files have to be printed ready
to be photocopied.



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