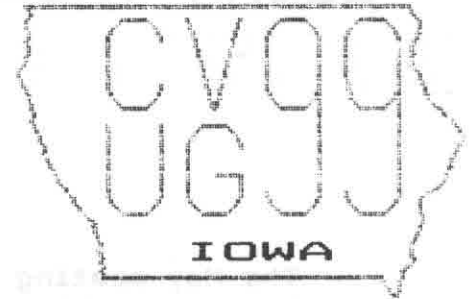


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CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

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***** MEETING IS BACK TO TUESDAY *****
NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM JUNE 9, 1992

WEST MUSIC, COLLINS ROAD SQUARE

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Singing Printers

Vesselin Vladimirov Bontchev

Virus Test Center, University of Hamburg

Submitted by: Joe Lawrence, as read from an Internet Broadcast

Regardless of the date of this message, it is not an April Fool's joke; it's a true story.

A few weeks ago somebody called the Laboratory of Computer Virology in Sofia and asked for help, "because his printer was infected by a virus". When asked why does he think so, he replied that his printer is playing a melody. No, not just a beep, a whole melody.

Since after CNN reported that NSA has shut down the Iraqi air defense with a printer people tend to believe just -everything- about viruses, the reaction of the virus experts there was "c'mon, don't be silly". Of course, they expressed it in a more polite way, like "oh, it's probably a hardware problem; you should check the manual". Then they forgot the whole thing.

A few days later somebody else called and reported that his three

printers are playing one and the same tune. No, not the beep that they usually emit when they are out of paper. Yes, he has read the manual and the melody is not mentioned there. Yes, the printers began to play the melody on one and the same day, although at different times. One after another, just as if something is infecting them.

Indeed, it sounded like a virus. One of my colleagues from the Lab visited the "infected" site. After a while she called back and said that indeed, all the printers are playing a melody. She put the phone hook near one of them so that the people at the Lab could hear the melody. It wasn't "Yankee Doodle". It wasn't a melody played by any of the known viruses, but it was a melody.

The printers were all of the same kind - "TURCO" or something like that. They played the melody even when physically detached from the

computer. Now, how do you boot a printer from a clean diskette?

The printers have been bought about a month ago from a company which didn't exist any more and which imported them from some of the far east countries.

It took my people almost a week to find somebody who understands those printers. To make the long story short, it turned out that the producer has included, for some weird reasons, the possibility to play this melody when something goes totally wrong - like the printing head is damaged. This "feature" wasn't documented, since it was thought that this is a kind of "impossible error", an error that will never occur. Unfortunately, the printers turned out to be of rather low quality, so the got out of order pretty soon. And almost at one and the same time...

So, beware of singing printers. :-)

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

The May meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13, and was called to some semblance of order by President John Johnson at loosely 6:30 pm. Attendance was sparse (because of the switch to Wednesday?), but we got closer to a quorum as the evening progressed. By the time we were ready to leave, we could count seven members present. A special tribute goes to Bill Paeth, who came to the meeting after being physically injured; True dedication, Bill! You set a fine example for the rest of us!

The reading of the previous minutes and the treasurer's report were dispensed with in short order (lack of a quorum, remember?). Gary Bishop passed around some examples of posters and other graphics produced by Sister Pat Taylor and her students in Dubuque. Truly amazing what they can do with graphics... Gary also shared a note of thanks from Eunice Spooner for the group's donation of several cartridges and books for the TI.

During the discussion period, it was noted that the group library now has a copy of TI Writer V5.0. This is a shareware program, so please reward the author by sending a donation of appropriate value. We discussed the C.O.N.N.I. newsletter clearinghouse BBS again, as we still have not received any official information about our \$30 contribution/ownership rights. On the other hand, none of our members have tried to dial into the BBS, either, so we don't know if we have access to the newsletter section or not! Gary is corresponding with C.O.N.N.I. about all this; more to follow.....

The demonstration for the evening was given by Jeff Craft, a recent addition to our membership ranks. Jeff showed how he uses TI Artist to create professional-looking title screens for his videotape productions. Jeff is doing a lot of volunteer videotaping for various organizations, and the TI allows him to add a touch of class to the finished product. Even though he claims that he is just getting started with TI Artist, Jeff showed a pretty good understanding of how to use his computer in a practical application.

After the demo, Spring Fever conquered the group, and the meeting was adjourned early (for a change) at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by the deadline,
Jim Green, Secretary

The Prez's Blurb

Trivia..How many people were on the floor of the London Stock Exchange in July 1987? How do you remove line number zero from an XB program?

Rag Software..lives. After inquiring at the last club meeting about their status, I decided to just send them the money and see what happened. In an amount of time that made me wonder if they had ESP I received an updated version 5.0 by mail. That program is now in the library and I am writing this using it. It has some features that convinced me to install it on my ramdisk. The ones that caught my eye were the ability to view another file without losing the one you are working on, being able to go directly to the formatter from the editor, and inserting the file directory of a disk into the file you are editing. I use the last one to compare my backup disks to the original.

Boston Computer Society BBS..I found a real drought of new programs on the BBS's I usually work this month. I attributed that to the nice summer weather we had been having. While searching my BBS list the above name caught my eye. A call and a weeks wait for verification produced a couple of new programs for our use. The first is TELCOYM. This is an improved Ymodem file for TELCO that fixes many of the problems we have been having, Ed. It seems that the old Ymodem file was really an Xmodem in 1K batches. This new Ymodem will check and run either the Xmodem Batch or a true Ymodem. The program got smarter. Good! The other acquisition from Boston is culture for the Midwest. From Boston, the intellectual and cultural hub of the United States, comes a program of music titled...."The Beer Barrel Polka". Lets hear it culture lovers. Is this high classed or what? Who said "It's a what."? Try not to mob our temporary librarian too badly for these at the next meeting. This BBS also had a jokes section. So look for humor in the following editions of my articles. Not to worry. I won't drop the trivia section. I can tell you were worried about that. In conclusion, the principal I learned from my wife years ago worked again. If all the banana trees are bare but one, and it has only one banana on it. You won't starve to death today.

Answers..If you watched "The Machine That Changed the World" on Public TV you will know that there were no people at the London Stock Exchange in 1987. In 1986 that Exchange modernized with computer terminals and new phones. One week later the place was empty. The brokers figured out they could do the same thing back at their offices quicker and easier. To remove a line zero from an XB program just resequence the program and line zero will become line 100. Remove it. I figured that one out myself.

EOF..Jack Johns..CR

BVM Retirees Take to the Keyboards



by Mira Mosle, BVM

While computer literacy edges toward pervasive among BVMs in active ministry, its lure is not limited to "the younger sisters."

Both the Marian Hall Infirmary and the Motherhouse boast a dozen retirees who are fascinated, challenged and committed to developing computer skills.

Marian Hall

The creative energy behind six computer systems for residents at the infirmary is Pat Taylor, BVM. One of the youngest retired sisters there due to a lung impairment, Pat is a self-taught expert who began with one donated Texas Instrument (TI) computer and programs in 1987.

Through reading, experimenta-

tion, and the volunteer assistance of numerous TI users who form an international network, Pat now organizes, teaches, adapts programs, does extensive file work - all the myriad activities necessary for a prodigious output of computer-generated materials.

*Florentina Daly, BVM, assisted by Ann Michele Shay, BVM, personalize birthday signs to greet each resident on her special day - some 200 in the course

of a year. Sisters color in these special messages as well as sign-up sheets for the many activities and house celebrations. Cheerful, hand-colored banners are also generated by any sister familiar with the computer program.

*Aгна Condon, BVM has become an expert with card programs, generating thousands of varied greetings for the personal use of sisters, as bingo prizes, and as donation to a parish which sends the greetings to its elderly for birthdays and uses them as fund-raisers for special needs.

*Beatrice Joyce, BVM and others provide mail lists and labels for residents' personal use - more than 10,000 last year. These "save shaky

hands from having to write addresses," Pat notes.

*With word processing, Sisters type their own Christmas letters, individualizing them as desired. Catherina Walsh, BVM did 70 letters last December; Noreen Walsh and Blandina Mosgrove almost 100. Computer graphics enliven each newsy note. Pat keeps a separate file disk for each sister, copying that person's return address and favorite artwork.

"I am simply happy if it gives them a sense of worth beyond their broken bodies. If they can enjoy the outreach that is made easier with labels, letters, cards and banners for their family and friends, it is worth all the energy it takes," Pat says. "If they can feel a sense of pride in what their work does right here, it adds quality to their lives as well as to the rest of ours."



(top left) Agna Condon, BVM prepares to run a set of computerized address labels.

(bottom left) Pat Taylor, BVM (standing) enlisted Sisters Florentina Daly (left) and Beatrice Joyce among the early core group of Marian Hall users.

(right) Texas Instrument users attentively watch a demonstration by Florentina Daly, BVM at Marian Hall.

(bottom right) Just follow the manual...Frances Dougher, BVM takes a break from her tutorial program for Appleworks.



Like all BVM houses, the sisters draw up house goals each fall. "Sister Alice (Caulfield, administrator) asked me to print them in illustrated form this year," Pat said. "With memory impairment due to age and disease, the sisters here are more likely to relate to pictures than a long written message."

For those with physical impairments, volunteers have designed adjustable "compute mobiles" to accommodate the height needed for sisters in wheelchairs. There are also modified keyboards for stroke patients like Thomas Greene, BVM and others who can use only one hand.

Most of the volunteers who have offered generous assistance to Pat and the sisters at Marian hall are members of area TI users groups. (Texas Instruments discontinued making its computers several years ago, but replacement parts and compatible programs are still available. The sturdy hardware was originally designed for military as well as commercial use, and its larger character size of 28 characters per line make it ideal for "older eyes.")

TI users gather annually to share programs, equipment modifications and discoveries. Since 1988, the sisters at Marian Hall have hosted the area meeting. This year, some 30 persons gathered, mostly younger, able-bodied men who are not Catholic. They've learned a great deal, not just about computers, but about the Catholic

Church and religious life from these meetings and on-going interaction with the sisters. "There's a richness of human friendship that has evolved," says Pat - and the discovery that zest for learning does not dampen with age, disability and limitation.

Outreach extends beyond the users' group. Pat has taught keyboard skills and program use to a Dubuque man, paraplegic due to spina bifida.

Margaret Mary Flynn, BVM, who learned the TI when she was secretary at Marian Hall, began last fall to teach classes to Dubuque senior citizens who come for a variety of classes to the Roberta Kuhn Center (formerly the Barn) on the Mt. Carmel grounds.

Motherhouse

At St. Joseph Convent, the BVM Motherhouse which is home to more than 100 retired

BVMs, three Apple 2Es and one Macintosh computer beckon to sisters in a newly-created media center.

"Watching a group of little children using the computer made me feel embarrassed since I knew little about it. I was determined to get into a class at some time," says Berchmans Mackin, BVM. Her sister, Gregory Mackin, BVM, adds, "Computers present a mystery to me that I wanted to explore. When the media speak of bugs and Michaelangelo, I want to



know the connections."

Enter Jean Gordon, BVM, Administrative Assistant at the BVM Center, who holds weekly classes for the sisters. "They're really challenged by this," says Jean, who has taught word processing, data base and spread sheet. Ann Eileen Clancy, BVM now uses the word processing for minutes of house meetings. Rosemary Sage, BVM edits the newsletter for the Robert Kuhn Center.

"Taking computer classes here satisfies my spirit of adventure," says John Philip Bassford, BVM. "It's a whole new field to me and a challenge. Besides, I do not intend to stay in an educational rut in my seventies. We can print episodes of family history and play games. I'm also trying original designs using my own initiative with symbols."

Christella Dee, BVM who came to the Motherhouse this past summer, had wanted to learn about computers for the past several years, so "I seized this opportunity. I consider it part of the hundredfold."

And at Marian Hall, as Pat Taylor muses, "Computer use in a nursing hometype of environment speaks volumes about the human spirit. I see sisters from seventy to ninety-seven willing to try something new to them and learn yet more. Where else does one see the same age group hosting computer user meetings and demonstrations? Many have come here to die and discovered that there is a lot of living to be found in the present moment they never thought possible to them or for that matter, to me!"

About the author: Mira Mosle, BVM is in parish/campus ministry at Drake University and at Iowa Religious Media Services in Des Moines, Iowa. She is also SALT editor.



Berchmans Mackin, BVM (foreground) gets computer tips from Jean Gordon, BVM during weekly class at the Motherhouse.



Turning 90 next month, Blandina Mosgrove, BVM is among the oldest infirmary residents to plunge into computer literacy.

COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

S W A P M E E T !

Saturday o June 6th 1992 o 8:00 AM - Noon

Northeast corner of the Main Plant parking lot
(35th Street side)

-
- o No tickets or fees*
 - o No refreshments*
 - o No prizes*

Just an opportunity to buy/sell/trade radio gear, computer stuff, electronic gadgets, or whatever...

Contact Tom x2154 or Tim x2441 for details

E V E R Y O N E I N V I T E D !

DF128 to DV80 file fixer for TELCO

by Gary D. Bishop

While I was downloading from a bulletin board, I needed to see an ASCII text file. The board wouldn't let me just type it out, I had to download it somehow. If it could have been typed out, I could have used the log to disk feature of TELCO to capture it. No such luck for me that night.

I downloaded the file using XMODEM with TELCO. Now TELCO doesn't know the file was text, so it used the default file spec for all downloads, which is: DISPLAY FIXED 128. I needed a way to convert the DF128 into a DV80, so I wrote the following program. It also prints the text to the screen as it does the conversion. I hope it helps someone else out of the same jam I was in.

```

100 ! THIS FILE TAKES IN A DF128 FILE, AND CUTS IT UP INTO A DV80
FOR EDITING
110 !USED WITH THE XMODEM FEATURE OF TELCO TO RECEIVE ASCII FILES;
THEY END UP A S DV128
120 CALL CLEAR :: INPUT "INPUT FILENAME? ":F$ :: OPEN #1:F$,DISPLAY
,FIXED 128
130 INPUT "OUTPUT FILENAME?":Z$ :: OPEN #2:Z$
140 LINPUT #1:A$
150 START=1
155 !FIND LOCATION OF FIRST CR
160 LAST=POS(A$,CHR$(10),START)
170 IF LAST=0 THEN 180 ELSE 200
180 IF EOF(1)THEN 240
190 LINPUT #1:B$ :: A%=A%&B$ :: GOTO 160
200 L%=SEG$(A$,START,LAST-2)
210 A%=SEG$(A$,LAST+1,255)
220 PRINT #2:L$ :: PRINT L$
230 GOTO 160
240 PRINT #2:L$ :: PRINT L$ :: CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2

```

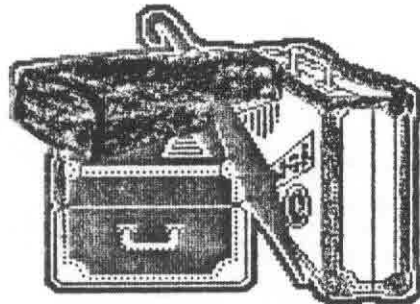
Recently received newsletters:

Cleveland Area 99ers, May 92, rcvd 5/7.
 LA TOPICS, May 92, rcvd 5/14.
 Snugletter, May 92, rcvd 5/13
 West Penn UG, May 92, rcvd 5/16.
 Spirit of 99, May 92, rcvd 5/19.
 TICTOC, May 92, rcvd 5/19.
 Net99er HCUG, March 92, April 92, rcvd 5/26.

I will bring a demo program of Jerry Stern's XBasic subprogram and index. It can be ordered from Micropendium. Also, I have some very useful information from Jim Peterson, bring a formatted blank disk, and we will make a copy of it. It is too long to include here. If you want a copy of his work and letters and can't make it to the next meeting, let me know and I will get it to you somehow. -Gary Bishop

ON VACATION

A VACATION IS
A SUCCESSION OF
"THOS. "



"2" WEEKS
WHICH ARE
"2" SHORT

"2" TIRED

"2" TO RETURN "2" WORK

AND

"2" BROKE

NOT "2"!



NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday

June 9, 1992 6:30 PM

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

10

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

FIRST CLASS

Send To:

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