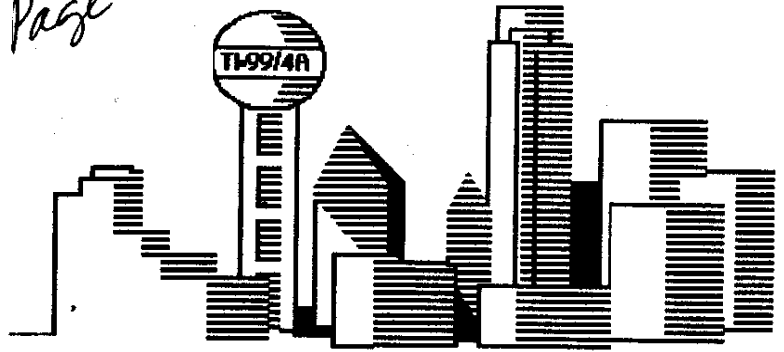


Page 1.



DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 15, Number 2

February, 1995

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving our members and other users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are cordially invited to attend our next meeting or send a S.A.S.E. to:

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, February 18, 1995
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

PHONE THE 99'ER CONNECTION BBS
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud, E71
(214) 233-1750

DTIHCG'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 18 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: Surprise! from M & M
- 18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 20 President's Day



DTIHCG'S MARCH EVENTS

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 3 NEXT STEP
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM
- 4 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 10 Newsletter Article Deadline
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 25 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: To be Announced
- 25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 31 Newsletter Article Deadline

COUNTRY GAL



by **Mattie Bush**

Howdy and WELCOME to another gossiping session with me. This is the second month in this year 1995 and we have gotten us 64 members in our group. That's just dandy. Some of these folks are oldies and some are newcomers and that makes it just great for our group. So glad that they decided to join us and see what we can do for them. The question is what we do for you? It is this thing called survival and staying "ALIVE". Question is CAN us do it?

"we CAN do it!"

The TI99/4A is ALIVE and WELL and living on and on thru the groups in Ottawa, California, Ohio, Arizona, Texas, Illinois, The United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and the list goes on and on and elsewhere in the world of computering.

In many, many respects, there are things happening YOU have to be willing to do it for your TI99/4A. Texas Instruments turned over all their belongings to SECURE ELECTRONICS to do repairs and so TM DIRECT turned everything back to TI also. We still have a lot of supporters out there but it is up to you to do and help keep us as a 4A WORLD going. This little computer is a very rugged one and will not accept what TI did to it over 10 years ago.

Life in the orphanage, however is different in many respects. It's like losing someone in your family that sometimes draws the family closer together, and we as TIers have known that reality, but now we have to "make it on our very own", as this family and they are important computer rules of life, to keep or put into practice so we can continue to exist in the orphan world and keep this a thriving community or a very large family.

It will take the cooperation and effort of each 4A group throughout the WORLD to say "WE CAN DO IT". If we remember what Barry Traver of the Genial Computerware once said is COTTAGING, ARCHIVING, and NETWORKING.

Now remember "WE CAN DO IT", the word used CAN provides us the key to our memory for these three keys of operation: Cottaging, Archiving, Networking. Each one of these has a meaning of their very own if you look at them.

We need some of the background to understand Cottaging. Simply put this means that many people own their own farms, homes, businesses and these to put it one way is a person's workbase of his very own.

[2]

Then here comes these big industrial people and the workers are the ones that did not work in, or near their homes, but in these huge factories and the larger business places that operate miles from home. For people to earn their living you had to leave your home and drive or fly or join car pools. Now the home is no longer his place of work. Man just can't no longer work "for himself", he has to work for others or large dollar companies.

The families spend so little time together now because of the very long hours that dad or mom has to work. One of the unfortunate things is that it is weakening the family. Now the families are together just a few hours a day or night depending on the work schedule. A lot of parents are now doing home-schooling to total classroom schooling which is another change and it has strengthened the cohesiveness of the whole family.

People just accept what is given and that is the normal way things should operate when the parents are away from home and the kids at school, but this is not normal practice. Now the development has been created throughout the world and the people are experiencing the "future shock become reality of the NEW", choices available. The evidence that both of those are a commonplace and that are being challenged more and more by the increasing appearance of "Cottage" industries, the second by growing schooling at home.

Now we live in a Computer age, whether it is preferred or not. The computer producing "cottage" workers again. First, the person who is working for a very large company, if it is computer, some of them can take it home, communicating with their company's computer via modem. Second is the dollars of resources that are not necessary but, just the product.

We don't need Texas Instruments to survive, we have the support - the resources available through the "cottage" operation; families, individuals or even small companies who can provide the items for our TI99/4A that TI never even provided - the support like the individuals who wrote the software, who built the hardware, they are the ones who keeps us going.

What is ARCHIVING? Archiving is used for packing and unpacking related groups of files on disks, but also just to collecting TI material in general. The idea is that we make sure we collect, preserve, and make available what has been done. There may be benefits to re-doing certain things and often we are wasteful of effort and time for people to write these new programs from scratch where they already exist in public domain. Those of us who aren't programmers and assemblers go without because those programs have gotten lost.

The two types of items that we actually need to be archived or to be collected that is software and their information. It takes special efforts to preserve the latter, because so very often the information appears where preservation is not the

[3]

automatic: User groups newsletters, the TI BBS's and as informal conversation. Individuals in the TI community have made some very useful efforts to preserve the archiving. We need a more organized effort to save time. Some others have done very commendably, but all of us must to a certain extent become one of the "ARCHIVISTS", for the sake of the TI Community.

We do not support the idea of collecting PIRATED software. We do need the "Cottage" supporters around us only to the extent that we support ourselves in the TI Community. You yourselves can personally archive original copies of copyrighted software for YOUR own use, but that is the area of your archived library that you should NOT share with others. Only the PUBLIC DOMAIN and the FAIRWARE material you should distribute freely without restrictions. We should and need to still support our Fairware Authors, because Fairware is not "free software", but for you to try before you purchase the software. Only with integrity are we to survive and thrive as an ORPHAN community.

The NETWORKING, merely means working together as a extended family. You should belong to a TI-99/4A User Group to help support that group or groups. If you have a modem get electronically involved with the bulletin boards, use their databases, GENIE, DELPHI, CompuServe, INTERNET, still supports for the TI-99/4A to exist for communicating throughout the WORLD.

Now we are limited for resources and sources as users groups, and need to stay in contact with each other not only by newsletters but by letter. We as User Groups can help each other out with software, hardware and even exchange ideas with each other. So I guess I should say the best resource is the old "QUESTION and ANSWER."

This can be done through user groups or even leaving messages on their BBS's. In spite of what people say or think the TI-99/4A is still a great little computer and we will stay ALIVE as long as we as FAMILIES keep up the good work. Just remember the "COTTAGING."

We here with the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP have survived more than 10 years with our little ORPHAN and are still going strong. Realizing that individuals and small companies can put out products equal or superior to that of TI and also collecting the systematic way what is or has been done for our little computer, working together or with others.

Now we CAN survive and thrive not merely "ORPHANS", but as what we have become, one BIG FAMILY. This is the COUNTRY GAL signing off until next time. HAPPY COMPUTING TO ALL.

PRESIDENT BUSH

TOM'S TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



Consistent with exposing the guilty, the names of these famous (notorious) DTIHCG Philosophers will *not* be kept secret. The following are additional incidental laws on the resemblance of reality to life:

- **Weber's Comment** - Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment.
- **Watts new law of Algebra** - You never catch on until after the test.
- **Stewart's Nobel Principle** - Only someone who understands something absolutely can explain it so no one else can understand it.
- **Stevenson's Law** - Politicians and Nations will act rationally when all other possibilities have been exhausted.
- **Pry's Law** - The less work an organization produces, the more frequently it reorganizes.
- **Oldenkamp's Observation on Today's Media** - If a Headline ends in question mark, the answer is "NO!".
- **Jones' Rule of Scientific Endeavor** - The simple explanation always follows the complex solution.
- **Hall's Law of Highway Biology** - The first bug to hit a clean windshield lands directly in front of your eyes.

WHAT'S REAL WHAT'S NOT:

True meaning of words you may find on labels -

- **NATURAL**. The FDA has never defined the term "natural", but it could mean coming from nature, either vegetable, mineral or animal source. By that definition, even petrochemicals and their

- by-products are "natural". It can also suggest that no chemical alteration has occurred. However, during the manufacturing process, chemical manipulation is required to extract, isolate, and purify.
- **NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS**. Present technology cannot verify the safety of a product without animal testing.
- **NO PRESERVATIVES ADDED**. If true, this product can present a real danger. Many human use products contain materials that can house microbial life. This is especially true when they do not contain preservatives.

RECEIVED FROM VERNON MARSHBURN:

*Thanks for your thoughts
and the card. It was
greatly appreciated.*

*The Marshburn
Family*

UPDATING THE DATABASE . . .

Welcome to our newest DTIHCG'er, LAWRENCE JOHNSON of Coffeyville, KS. Lawrence has been communicating for some time with MARY, and has now joined our ranks. Also joining us is BILL MCKNIGHT of Ravenna, TX. BILL is the nephew of HUGH MCKNIGHT. Welcome, LAWRENCE and BILL!
















This month we've also received RENEWALS from DAVE AXBERG, WILLIE CUPTON, JAMES HOYLE, CHESTER JOHNSON, ROBERT JONES, VERNON MARSHBURN, BILL PRY, and BILL WHITE. Thank you very much, each and all!



DTIHCG ACTIVITIES

February 12 - March 25, 1995



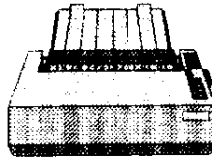
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 12 Joe Garagiola b 1926 	Feb 13	Feb 14 Valentine's Day 	Feb 15 ○ FM ×	Feb 16	Feb 17 Columbia S.C. burned 1865	Feb 18 KCHANGE SATURDAY 9:30a PROGRAM 12:00p D O M 1:00p E.C. Meeting 
NEW DOM'S EVERY MONTH, AT MEETING OR BY MAIL						
Feb 19 Jim Leshar is our resident T199/4a Dealer ☎ 214-821-9274	Feb 20 Presidents' Day	Feb 21	Feb 22 Washington's Birthday b 1732 	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25 Pistol patented 1836
FOR INFOMART SCHEDULE CALL 214-919-4980						
Feb 26 Victor Hugo b 1802 	Feb 27 Elizabeth Taylor b 1932 	Feb 28	Mar 1 ● NM Ash Wednesday	Mar 2 Desi Arnez b 1917	Mar 3 NEXT-STEP Jo Jo's on Motor Street 5:15p Come early - stay late	Mar 4 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE 
CALL THE BBS, WE MAY BE TALKING ABOUT YOU ;-)						
Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9 ○ FQ  Mickey Spillane is 77	Mar 10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00p Room Reservations	Mar 11 1st perfect score in bowling - 3/10/1913 
If you move, let us know your new address, we care						
Mar 12 Girl Scouts Day 	Mar 13	Mar 14 You have ONE month to finish your income tax 	Mar 15 Beware the ides of March! Andrew Jackson 1767	Mar 16 ○ FM James Madison 1751	Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day 	Mar 18 Get new programs from the DTIHCG Library 
BRING A FRIEND TO THE MEETING						
Mar 19 Grover Cleveland b 3-18-1837	Mar 20 SPRING BEGINS 	Mar 21	Mar 22 ×	Mar 23 ○ LQ	Mar 24	Mar 25 KCHANGE SATURDAY 9:30a PROGRAM 12:00p D O M 1:00p E.C. Meeting 
IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS TO A MEETING CALL 337-4840						

HAVE YOU CALLED THE 99'er TODAY? (214) 233-1750 - 24 HOURS

(14 ESC E) TI-WRITER AND YOUR PRINTER

part 7

by Jim Leshner



This and future articles will be written with Funnelweb 5.0 and all references to TI-Writer will be synonymous with FW5, also all printer commands will be for the Gemini 10X. Check your own printer manual in case your commands are different.

Next on the agenda is the ONE-TIME-ONLY LINEFEED OF $n/144$ INCHES. The first use which comes to mind is isolating a line or word with extra wide linespacing. For example: J0 (ESC J36) THIS IS 1+1/2 NORMAL LINEFEED J0 (ESC J36) Of course if you wanted 2 or 3 spaces, you would simply use the enter key. The 36 in 36/144" increments is obtained a bit differently than the numbers we have been using in the past.

As was explained in the past, the numbers and keypresses were obtained from page 146 in the TIW manual, but as you can see, the numbers only go up to 31, so to acquire larger numbers we simply go to the ASCII table on page 145 in the TIW manual and use the characters representing the number you want.

For example if we want to have a linefeed of 32, we would leave a space after the (ESC 3) or for 42/144" we would use (ESC 3 *). This is not in the special character or CTRL U mode, but just plain keyboard characters, unlike page 146 where all those numbers are obtained thru the CTRL U mode.

Let's hope you have this down pat now and we will go to the next exciting command. :) Form Feed can be executed from the keyboard of the printer, but you wouldn't want to do that when you can have it done automatically right from the text. This is one of those easy ones where you don't have to use the ESC command. Looking on page 146 of your TIW manual again, we find Form Feed as #12, so we just do a CTRL U then SHIFT L at the end of your first page of text and no matter where your text stops, even half way down the page, it will advance to the next page.

The Form Feed command is calculated for 66 lines per page. Looking at page 131 of your printer manual, we can alter the standard 66 lines to something else. Suppose we had 72 lines of text, but didn't want to use another page. First we would have to set the linefeed to make 72 lines fit onto a standard 11" page. If the page is 11" long and you can have as many as 144 lines per inch max., then $11 \times 144 = 1584$, so divid: $1584 \text{ by } 72 = 22$. So it will be $22/144$ " per linespace.

Now let's set that up. It will be (ESC 3 22) for the line feed, but if we want spaces at the top and bottom of the page we must allow for them. Well, back to the drawing board. If we want 1/2 inch at top and bottom, that makes the page only 10" long, $10 \times 144 = 1440/72 = 20$, so our command line will look like this, (ESC 3 20) which translates to these key presses: CTRL U FCTN R FCTN D (a space) SHIFT T CTRL U. Place a 3 in the space.

If you need any help call or write to:

Jim Leshner / 722 Huntley / Dallas TX 75214 / or call 214-821-9274.

NEXT STEP REPORT

Wow! What a great group on February 3! We started off by catching up with each other's problems and improvements, like JIM STEWART's new obscenely large hard drive and MATTIE's "experience of the week". DAN, JIM, and JAMES HOYLE were deep in several topics, including clip art, arts and crafts, and of course the O.J. Simpson trial. TOM received several tips to make it easier to view all those cable channels he just signed up for. Apparently now he needs several new TV's, so he can keep multiple channels on view at all times.

We talked about connecting 4/A's and clone systems, and some of the ways in which files may be transferred between them. CHARLICE, JACKIE, and JAMES explored sources for and methods of storing ribbons for Star Rainbow 24-pin printers. More conversations revolved around the price of diskettes, how to get more people to attend meetings, and possible subjects for future program presentations. CATHERINE, JIM, DAN, and CHARLICE spent a bit of time talking about computerizing medical records, while JOHN, GREG, LOUIS, and ROBERT were discussing difficulties with cellular phones. Another topic was the new "Caller ID" and wouldn't it be nice if the machine that displays the information about the caller could be printed on our printers?

One thing definitely missing was JIM LESHNER, whose new job kept him from attending. We really miss you, JIM! CARL and IMOGENE have graciously offered to help us (and JIM) out while they are here by serving on the Newsletter Committee, giving JIM a break while he gets accustomed to his new duties. We sure do appreciate their help.

We'll be meeting again on Friday, March 10, at JOJO's, just east of I-35E (Stemmons Freeway) at the Motor St. exit. We hope you'll join us!

F Y I

by Dan M. Lowe



You'll notice I've typed my name Dan M. Lowe (as opposed to Dan Lowe), thanks to Jim Stewart, a long-time member of DTIHCG. If you attended our last DTIHCG meeting then you'll remember the program was devoted to WILLS and the need and importance of having a will.

And one of the points Jim emphasized was the importance of how you signed your name(s), especially when it comes to legal documents. Over the years I've always signed my name to important documents as Dan M. Lowe. Other times, I might sign it Dan Lowe, D. Lowe, D. M. Lowe, etc. without too much thought to the consequences. But now, and again thanks to Jim, I've begun to realize that the signing of my name in a legal and consistent manner could, under certain circumstances, be of critical importance. It's really something to think about! How do you sign your name? And do you know why you sign it the way you do? Is it legal, and could it be questioned in the future? (More on this later in this article).

ON-LINE

It all began one wet and cold, rainy November evening in 1991. I had only been a member of DTIHCG for a few months, the original "new kid on the block." And it didn't take too long before I was bitten by the modem bug which quickly led to on-line fever. At DTIHCG meetings there was always a lot of talk centering around the BBS and the on-line conversations thereon. Being new to the group and wanting to learn as much as fast as I could, I just couldn't wait to participate. So, I borrowed the club's Volksmodem, took it home, connected it to my trusty 4/A and telephone, plugged in my TERMINAL EMULATOR II cartridge and prepared to go on-line. I dialed our BBS number and guess what - nothing happened. I tried every combination I could think of - F9, CTRL 2, FCTN 8 - all to no avail. It wasn't until the next morning that I noticed the little door on the bottom of the Volksmodem, and that little door HAD to be opened and battery inserted BEFORE anything would work. Well, would you believe that after I put the battery in it STILL would not work. Yes, I was able to get a display on the screen - #\$(#(\$!) - but that just didn't seem to cut it. And then, out of the rain on that cold November night, up drove Jim Leshner with modem in hand (the old, TI acoustical modem). He plugged it in, dialed 233-1750, and presto there on my screen was the 99'ER CONNECTION. This was my first experience with on-line communications and I felt I had arrived.

I guess you're asking yourself "Where is all this leading, what's the point Dan is trying to make?" Well, the point is simply this - I'd like to see more of our members join in the fun and use our BBS, and perhaps experience the same thrill and excitement that I felt on that November night in '91. Besides, it's a shame that such a large user group organization such as DTIHCG has only a handful of participants on our BBS. I can't help but wonder why - are you shy, afraid to post messages? Are you afraid of spelling errors; we ALL make them. Are you afraid that you might offend somebody and get into a verbal confrontation? Heck, that's where all the fun and action is, and besides, nobody gets upset or offended. We all have our point(s) of view and this a good forum to put them forth. Or, maybe you don't participate because you don't have a modem. That's easily solved; modems (1200 or 2400 bps) can be picked up for just a few dollars and are not too hard to find. And there are plenty of folks in DTIHCG who'd be glad to help you get connected up. Just ask for help and you shall receive. So, now that you don't have any more excuses, come on and join us; the conversation is fine.

And while I'm on the subject of going ON-LINE, yours truly has signed up with the on-line service GENie. I'd been thinking about it for some time, but couldn't decide between GENie or Delphi. Then, in the October 1994 issue of MICROpendium, appeared a GENie advertisement, an offer of \$50 usage credit for one full month (you might say they made me an offer I couldn't refuse). I'm still in the process of learning my way around the neighborhood. There's lot's of good stuff - roundtables (discussion groups), conferences, messages/mail, chat lines, special events, etc. However, I'm still learning the ropes, so in future articles I'll keep you informed of my progress.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S JIM STEWART

You'll remember in my opening paragraph I mentioned Jim Stewart's excellent presentation of his WILLS program at last month's INFOMART meeting and the need to sign your name THE RIGHT WAY, especially on legal documents. I guess the way you sign your name made a big impression on me. After all, we all have one and should handle it with care. But Jim made some other observations as well.

For instance, did you know that if you leave someone out of your will there's always the chance that he or she might challenge the omission? To be on the safe side Jim suggests you leave at least a dollar to cousin Bertram (that old no-good \$%*#) just to play it safe. Also, the person you select as the executor should live close-by, be dependable and reliable. Another good point Jim made was to begin the process of preparing your will while in your 50's because, according to Jim, as we age we all tend to be more forgetful. (Speak for yourself, Jim.) His presentation included definitions of several legal terms - Codicil, Devise, Donee, Execurix, Holographic, Intestate Succession, Legatee, Settlor, Tenant, and many more. I

guess you just had to be there to get the full impact and benefit of Jim's presentation.

This WILLS program was DTIHCG's Disk-Of-The-Month (DOM) and was distributed, along with 36 pages of documentation, to those present. If you didn't get yours, contact Jim or any DTIHCG officer.

NO GAMES ALLOWED

Well, fellow Texans, now you can sleep soundly at night and rest assured in the knowledge that our representatives in Austin are busy doing what they're supposed to be doing - attending meetings and conferences, passing and/or repealing laws, and otherwise representing us, the people who sent 'em there. I'm really not trying to sound glib (or slicker), but I thought it was kinda funny when I heard about all the new laptop computers that are now sitting atop the desks of our representatives in the House in Austin. As I understand it these are Dell computers equipped to display amendments to bills as they are debated. But (and this is the part that strikes me as funny) the computers also contained games such as chess and solitaire and nobody knew about the games. Nobody, that is, until someone asked Speaker Pete Laney why the legislators hadn't been told. Pete's response . . . "Well, there're not there anymore." It finally came out that none of the legislators knew about the games because nobody could find them on the computer. As I said, this brought a grin to my face.

BYE

Guess I've done enough damage for now so I'll leave you with this closing bit of wisdom from Sir Winston Churchill:

"EXPERIENCE IS A COMB that life gives you after you've lost your hair."

VENDOR FLASH!!

MARY LEARD confirmed by phone February 7, 1995 with HARRY BRASHEAR that he is indeed still handling Asgard Software, in spite of a report in January's MICROpendium to the contrary.

1995 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JIM LESHAR	214-821-9274

1995 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM and DISKETTE SALES	JIM LESHAR	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	JIM STEWART	214-625-0922
MEMBERSHIP/ MERCHANDISE	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHAR	214-821-9274
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	IMOGENE/CARL OSBORNE	214-252-5985

1995 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5568

These are your DTIHCG Officers and Chairpersons. They help themselves and you by giving their time and efforts to make this a better club for all of us. If you'd like to become more involved, please let our President, Mattie Bush, know what you'd like to do.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their jobs more rewarding.