BYTE-LINE

Notes from the President...

** THIS MONTH **

This month's meeting will be on August 19, 1993, at First Congregational Church. *Please use the south door, go down the stairs and turn to the right (2nd grade class room).* This month, we will revisit the computerama to analyze the show. Also I will try to demo a program called "All CLEAR'. The easiest way to diagram any policy, procedure or process flow charts. You do not draw but write the chart in words and the program draws the chart. I bought the program for $99 and most flow charts run in the 200 to 400 dollars range.

** LAST MONTH **

Last month I was on vacation. July seems to be a busy month for club members. Only four were there. May be vacation. Thank to Charles Stringer for taking charge.
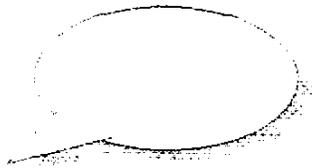
** NEXT MONTH **

Next month is open to suggestion for programs to be given. When you come to the meeting bring your ideas of programs to be given for the next four months.

Charles Stringer has a idea for a program in upcoming month from some of the items that were from the swap shop.

So come and support your club...

See you at the meeting,   George

What is it, who done it?   Decatur 99er minutes August
of the (Get together) was ealled to order by (in the absence of GEO..) Charles
Stringer. Charles said, that there was great admiration from the SWAP SHOP.
Scottie said that the civic center staff gave the club $50.00, for managing the swap
shop. All in all there was a great time had by all.

The meeting as short, you will just have to come to the next meeting to see all the
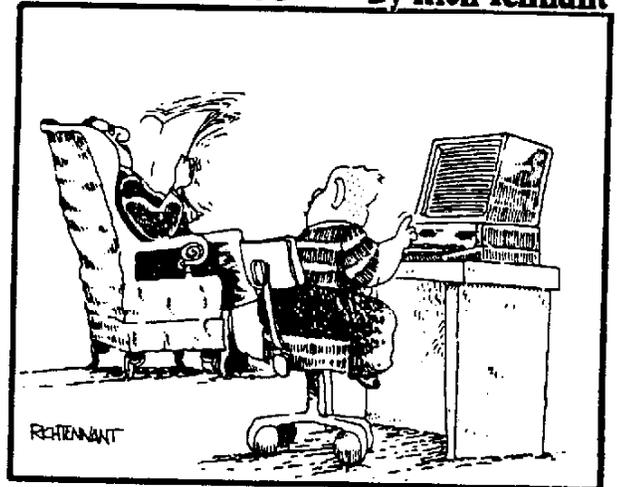goodies that this Computerama. brought to us.

WHO WAS THERE:
>   Charles Stringer
>   King Forkner
>   Harry Young
>   Scottie Williford

The 50/50drawing was not held. for this meeting(no tickets), so we all won.

7/15/93
8:00 pm

SEE YOU NEXT MEETING

The 5th Wave   **By Rich Tennant**

"GUESS WHAT DAD - THOSE CHOCOLATE DISKETTES
FIT RIGHT INTO YOUR COMPUTER, NO PROBLEM."

Scottie Williford
1552 E. Main
Decatur IL 62521-2939

Ann Brunson
Civic Center
P O Box 391
Decatur IL 62525-0391

6/29/93

Dear Ms Brunson;

I want to thank you and your staff, for the privilege and understanding, in the Computerama Electronics Expo.

We are indeed thankful for the check your staff has sent to the Decatur 99ers HCUG.

At this time I am saying for the group, YES, we will be most happy the participate, in a SECOND Computerama Electronics Expo, in 1994. I will talk with the membership of this on July 15, 1993.

In the mean time We want to thank you and your staff.

Respectively;

Scottie Williford

Decatur 99ers HCUG, Editor

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on June 17, 1993

Old Business: Treasurer's report was read and approved.

New Business: Details of the computer rama were discussed -with Charles Stinger discussing the agreement form for consignment sales in our Swap Shop. The form was read and discussed and a few changes were made with the finale draft approved. Thank You to Charles Stringer for all the work he and his committee put into the form it is concise and sure to prevent any problems which might have come up.The lay out of the floor plan was discussed and the size of the Swap Shop area was planned out so as to make the floor plan the best possible for both the customer and the people working there . The work schedule was discussed and planned out with four(4) shifts to work and four(4) areas that had to be worked also what we would have in the Booth and who would bring things to display in the Booth.

Those Present were:
George Kornfeld
Chris Kornfeld
King Forkner
Ray Fisher
Jerry Brunson
Scottie Williford
Carol McGonigle
Charles Stringer
Aubrey Johnson
Stephen Thorpe

Won the 50/50 drawing was won by .Aubrey Johnson

Election of Officers: King made a motion for the nominations to be closed Scottie seconded .King made a motion for the secretary to cast one electoral vote to reelect all officers by acclamation. Scottie seconded it. A vote was taken all officers were reelected unanimoisly.

Meeting will be held July 15,1993 with no newsletter .

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm
Respectfully submitted
Carol McGonigle

SUMMARY OF COMPUTERAMA SWAP-SHOP, 26 JUNE 1993:

Fourteen individuals and one business offered 361 items for sale.

Of these, 133 items were sold, for a total of $1326.00.

Half the items (180) were offered by 7 members of the Club, whose sales totalled $182.00.

Expected revenue (181 items by non-members X $0.25 per item)= $45.25.

Actual revenue:

From selling fees	48.00
Donation (Jim York)	10.00
Donation (Civic Center)	50.00

TOTAL	$108.00

Expense:

Printing	29.05
Copying	4.05
Pens, labels,tape	9.29
Plastic bags	8.70

	$51.09

Net Income $56.91

Most of the supplies remain unused; we could probably participate again without incurring any additional expense.

The Club received as a gift several boxes of miscellaneous equipment, consisting of circuit cards, 300 baud modems, cables, etc. There are also about two dozen 'SYSTEMIZER' devices, used originally in an office installation for control of printers. When used as a printer buffer, a unit can store up to 64KB (about 16 single-spaced pages) of text. A person who bought one of the units during the faire has contacted us in the hope of buying 3 to 6 more of them.

15 July 1993   CS Stringer

It's good to get back to the regular routine of learning and writing after
the disrupted schedule of the past few months. July came and went without even
turning on the TI system: I had become enamoured of the IBM PC Convertible
acquired at the COMPUTERAMA in June. Thanks to help from my friends and the
public library, some of the mystery of MS-DOS has been dispelled—but the TI
remains my favorite.

In June this column reviewed the first release of the 40-column editor for
FUNNELWEB 5.0; before the end of the month the second release arrived from
Lima. The good things said in June are still applicable and most of the others
have been corrected, in so far as they were flaws that interfered with proper
functioning. Reservations remain as to some of the improvements that I called
'Things I Could Live Without'. Perhaps experience will show me wrong. But this
I do know—for the immediate future I'll continue to use the Old Standby
(v. 4.12)—at least until this column is safely in Scottie's hands!

The latest release expands the editor to the use of characters outside the
normal ASCII range (0 to 127); it's now possible to include all the characters
in the range 128 to 254 as well—all the neat graphics that the printer manual
shows:

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 =        ▒ ▓ │ ┤ ╡ ╢ π ╕ ╣ ░ ╜


Q W E R T Y U I O P -        ╤ ╫ ┴ ╥ ╘ ┘ ┌ ╓ ╧ ╨ ¡

q w e r t y u i o p /        ± ≈ σ ≥ Γ · ┘ θ Ω ≡ »


A S D F G H J K L :          ┴ ╨ ─ ╞ ╟ ╚ ╩ ╥ ╠ ╣

a s d f g h j k l ;          β ≤ Σ μ τ ≥ Ω δ ∞ ╫


Z X C V B N M < >            ┌ ╫ ├ π ┬ ╫ = ╝ ╜

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There's the most of the set, printed out on a Star Micronics NX-10 printer.
The left half-lines you'll recognize as the familiar keyboard characters, row
by row, in both shifted and unshifted form. The right half lines were created
by the program when the same keys were punched in graphics mode—which is
invoked by pressing 'Ctrl-,'. Graphics mode remains 'on' until 'Ctrl-,' is
again pressed.

It's necessary to set the printer dip-switches to select the 'IBM character
set'. Charley Good (Lima's guru) says that almost all printers more recent
than the Gemini-10X use this character set or something pretty close to it. But
users of the Gemini-10X have a set of graphics that the other printers can't
display.

The new program will be demonstrated at the meeting of August 17th. Bring
a blank disk if you want a copy of the program.

August 7, 1993   CS Stringer

Editor's Note: This is part 3 of a five-part series memorializing TI's big sellout. We continue the story of the events that led to the TI 99/4A:

THE BIRTH OF A COMPUTER / Bill Gaskill / October 1992

Feb 1979: The future of the 16-bit microprocessor comes into question when its lack of acceptance by the industry is pointed out in Byte. The 8-bit 6502 chip used by Apple, Commodore and others is fast becoming the most popular microprocessor of the day. (Byte, p.63).

Although this is supposition on my part, it appears that TI was under a great deal of pressure to join in the personal computer fray. They would probably have done so anyway, but the level of "expectation" seems to have been extremely high and may have driven them to produce and release a product before they were actually ready to do so. The lack of availability of the TI-99/4 even after its official debut in January 1980 seems to add some credence to this.

Mar 1979: Despite its seemingly unpopular position in the market, Byte Magazine runs an extensive article on mapping the instruction space of the TMS 9900 microprocessor. (Byte, p.14).

Mar 1979: FCC serves a cease-and-desist order on all personal computer manufacturers who fail to receive FCC approval on their products prior to making it available for sale. (Byte, p.108).

Mar 1979: Tandy Corporation begins marketing their TRS line of personal computers through their own direct sales stores. Several other makers of personal computers withdraw their products from the shelves of department stores after meeting with poor results. (Byte, p.108).

Mar 1979: Texas Instruments announces the new Speak and Spell learning aid for children. It is based on the TMS 1000 chip and two 128K dynamic read only memory chips, each with the capacity to store over 100 seconds of speech. (Byte, p.246).

Apr 1979: Publishing giant McGraw-Hill purchases Byte and onComputing magazines, adding further creedence to the escalation of the personal computer market. (Byte, p.14).

Jun 1979: TI AND HP PC SYSTEMS RUMORS-Texas Instruments and Hewlett Packard continue to maintain tight lips on their rumored personal computer systems. As TI said, "TI will not discuss products that have not yet been announced." However, information has leaked out on these units which are expected to have a tremendous impact on the personal computer market. Several rumors have been reported in previous Byte columns. The latest is that TI will introduce their entry at either the NCC (National Computer Conference) show in June or the Consumer Electronics Show in July. In either event, it is expected to be ready for the 1979 Christmas market.

Both HP and TI are expected to have $500 list prices for the basic unit. Key retailers have already been approached by both TI and HP to set up for selective distribution. It is rumored that they will favor selected personal computing stores that can do justice to software requirements. (Byte, p.129).

Jul 1979: Milton Bradley begins advertising for "Creative Electronic Engineers, Microcomputer Programmers and Technicians" to accomodate their expansion into the personal computer arena. (Byte, p.51).

Jul 1979: FCC asks Apple, Atari, Commodore, Heath, Southwest Technical Products and Radio Shack to submit their personal computer systems for TV interference testing. (Byte, p.99).

Sep 1979: New England Electronics runs a full page ad in Byte Magazine proudly announcing the "Revolutionary TI-99/4 Personal/Educational Computer" and the fact that they have been selected as one of the distributors. Buyers are cautioned that 99/4 product availability is September/October, but is always subject to TI's dealer allocation.

Oct 1979: Rodnay Zaks, the author who would give us the book, YOUR FIRST TI-99/4A PROGRAM in 1983, releases 6502 GAMES through Sybex Publishing. Zaks would ultimately write almost a dozen computer books for Z80, 6502 and TMS 9900 machines. (Byte, p.73).

Oct 1979: Atari has received FCC approval for their model 400 and 800 personal computers. This will probably make the FCC less willing to grant the Texas Instruments request for changes in the rules, as the FCC finds that other companies are able to pass the current requirements. (Byte, p.107).

George Kornfeld...President
Charles Stringer.....Vice president
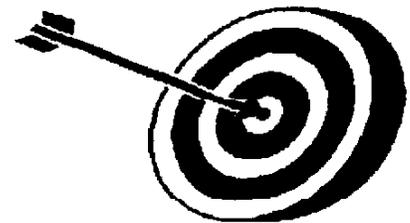Aubrey Johnson.......Vice president
Carol McGonigle.... Secretary

Scottie Williford.....Editor
Charles Stringer.....Librarian(TI)
Ray Fisher.....Librarian(PC)
Harry Young.....Treasure

August 19, 1993 Next meeting

September 16, 1993

October 21, 1993

November 18, 1993

First Congregational Church..3465 N. MacArthur Rd..Decatur,IL..7:00pm to ????

Decatur 99er H.C.U.G.

P.O. Box 1361

Decatur,IL 62525-1361

PLEASE NOTE NEW
BOX NUMBED 1361