

FLUG99ER

JUNE 1988
 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 05
 EDITORS: Oscar Smith/Roy Willis

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Assistant	Douglas Bieghtol

Next meeting of the Forest Lane Users Group is:

JUNE 5, 1988-- PROGRAM : DATA BASE MANAGER
 HARDWARE: NEW PROJECTS

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- RICHARD FLEETWOOD

LOANERS
by JIMMY CARSON

The club has in its possession as loaner equipment as of today a Daisy chain RS-232, Disk Controller, 32K Card, and a console. If any of you would like to borrow this or any piece of it please drop me a line or give me a call and I will bring it to the next club meeting. The club would also like to announce that we have been given a console by one of the members and now our Traveling system is now complete once again, that is as soon as Ron Kuhlman gives me backe the Monitor. Hope each one of you enjoyed the Faire.

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JUNE MEETING INFORMATION

By - Oscar Smith

Below are the planned activities for the June 5, 1988 meeting of the Forest Lane TI Users Group.

2:00 - 2:45-BUSINESS MEETING

- Reading of the last Minutes
- Officers reports
- Committee reports
- Library report
- TIBBS report
- TI FAIRE updates and turn in of Itemized Listing

ANY NEW BUSINESS

- Newsletter mailing
- Newsletter inputs/articles written
- Membership Renewal
- Officers Meetings
- Newsletter Librarian

2:45 END OF BUSINESS SECTION

2:45 - 3:15-QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

3:15 - 3:25 BREAK

3:30 - 4:00 DBA

NEW HARDWARE IF ANY

4:00 - 5:00 LIBRARY SWAP--QUESTIONS, HELP, DISK TRADING;ETC.

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PREZ/TALKS

by Oscar Smith

WELCOME TO SUCCESS! and THANKS to each and every one of you that took part in and made the Dallas T.I. 99/4A Computer Faire a **GIANT** step in the right direction. **We hope you enjoyed your visit with us**, whether it was business or pleasure. **Without the support of each of the Vendors, members, visitors, and etc. none of it would have been possible.** My special Thanks goes out to the Paris Texas Group for their support, they helped in so many ways that it would take a page to list. Thanks to the other Users groups such as the NET99ers, Brazos Valley, and the Amarillo Users. Each time I review the purpose of the Faire, "To offer opportunities for others to see new, exciting hardware and software, and learn all about what the 99/4A is all about and can do for you.". My conclusion still comes out the same and I truly believe that it was a success. Let's do it again next year but with a few slight changes for the better...D.K?

Thanks to Sam Lee and Mike Rhodes who headed up our Video team with some backup from Sam Weller. You guys did a super job with what you had to work with. Thanks to our Software librarians and our Membership chairman for being on their post selling and getting new members. Thanks to our Vice President for playing announcement clerk, door prize coordinator, and general go.for.it. Thanks to Sam Weller for displaying older versions of the 4A, Al Herring and Al Baumann for support, Kuhlman for making change, Jimmy Carson for taking charge of the game room, Ed Harp/Mike Stanfill for advertising, the Fleetwoods' for organizations/etc, and last but not least Frank Cross. A big Thanks goes out to each and every one of you.

Thanks to Miss Laura Kuhlman for her help at the T-shirt booth, even though she is not a member of the club, she gave us her time. THANKS...

FLUG, Forest Lane Users Group, of which I was fortunately enough to be voted in as the President is made up of some very talented people. In the tough and competitive economic climate we now face, businesses and organizations need more than just a good product or service to survive. It takes creativity and innovative ideas to keep a club active with membership and membership participation. At each meeting we have dedicated time where hardware and software is demonstrated. Ron Kuhlman has dedicated many hours showing the group how to take apart the console, monitor, p/box, drives, and the printer. The membership finds these demos both interesting and helpful. From all the ideas that have been both conceived and/or executed the club has really come a long way. We now have a Software library catalog which is some 15 pages thick and we have software that will fit everybody's fancy or needs. The next time you have a need to call a BBS call us at 328-4880 and take a tour through our system. It is the best board around and very easy to understand and find your way through. Richard Fleetwood is our Sysop and I am sure that I need to say no more nor do I need to introduce him to you. He is quite a guy and is very knowledgeable about the system, software, hardware, and things in general. He will tell you that the TIBBS is the ultimate and I say check it out. Membership in FLUG not only entitles you to full usage of the BBS but includes a monthly newsletter mailed to your home. We have a Newsletter staff which tries to gather articles written by members or other individuals which may be of some interest of the group, edit them, cut and paste, copy and mail. This is quite a task believe me.. The rest of the officers; Roy Willis, Al Herring, Ron Kuhlman, James Carson, Lee Dellenbaugh, Ron Schvab Sr. and Douglass Beightol are doing a super job not only in supporting me but in anything that I ask them to do for me or the club. I have enjoyed my association these last three years with the club and my horizon has been expanded to the upmost especially this year as the President.

Let us take a little time out to wish our Assistant Software Librarian, Douglass Beightol, the very best of luck in his new assignment. He has moved to the East Coast. Speaking of work, **Starting a few days ago** you can call your paycheck your own. All the money you have made from Jan. 1 through now is just enough to pay your share of local, state, and federal taxes this year, that's two hours and 45 minutes of each eight-hour workday. Douglass.....good luck..

Now that the Faire is over, we can devote our time and efforts to improve our club and its operations. The Executive committee would like some input as to what you would like to see or have discussed at future meetings. The club is at the moment looking for a Newsletter librarian. Richard has been filling in for Dino the past three or four months but we need to let RAF spend his free time (what little he has) working on the BBS. We will be changing BBS programs in the near future so get ready for a week or so of down time. The new system will be a big improvement and will require a lot of RAF's time in the early stages. Let's all support that move and make it a easy transition. More info will be available at the next meeting. Looking forward to seeing each of you members there.

Recently the club was donated a Console for the traveling system by a member and once Kuhlman gets the monitor repaired the Traveling system will once again be complete. Thanks big guy.

I recently got an issue of the Dallas 99 Interface, a local User Newsletter, and there was an article written by Louis Guion about the Faire. It was a very positive article and I would like to Thank the guy for that review. He gave us a very good report and we would be very happy to include them in our plans for the next Faire, how about it, DTIHCS?

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INFORMATION/USA TODAY

In a recent article of the USA today I read the following article written by Mark Lewyn. It read, "A shortage of memory chips is reaching crisis level in the computer industry. Prices for the fingernail-size chips, which store information in everything from computers to TV's, are soaring. Some computer makers can't buy chips they need. They're being forced to trim production or delay the introduction of machines. It's just getting to be intolerable says the chairman of Kaypro Corp.. Behind the squeeze: Uncle Sam slapped trade sanctions on Japan in 1987 for "dumping" computer chips below production cost. To ease tensions, Japan ordered its chipmakers to slash production-just as computer sales began to surge. Chip supplies dwindled and prices for the popular 256K DRAM, jumped from \$2 to \$4 apiece. The shortage particularly hurts computer makers, which use memory chips by the hundreds of thousands. To meet demand, Micron Technology Inc. and Texas Instruments Inc. are expanding production. Samsung of South Korea is building a \$250 million factory. But even that won't be enough. This year 1.2 billion memory chips will be shipped. Yet a worldwide shortfall of millions of chips is expected."

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SHORT NOTES-VP SOUNDOFF

by Roy Willis

Well fellow club members, we have pulled it off. We have finally gotten the TI Faire held and in some ways, we can be very proud. We were able to make a slight profit for ourselves and our sponsoring friends.

It was our fondest hope that we would be able to accomplish this and not fall on our collective faces. The attendance, though, I don't have an actual count was in the neighborhood of 250-300. We had hopes of having in the area of 500 or more, but for the first time, we are not knocking it. Just planning on doing some things better the next time out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the members of the sponsoring Users Groups, and especially those members that were in attendance helping in the various task in setting up, administrating, and general helping out in the performance of the event; Our Heart Felt Thanks.

If it were not for you, we would not have been able to have held the Faire.

We are going to start the process in the near future of setting up the next Faire to be held in 1989, and it is our hope that you enjoyed the past so much, that you will help in the future.

All for now, keep watching this area for further Faire information.

TREASURER HUNT

by RON KUHLMAN

I have been asked by the President to give an updated itemized listing to the Faire expenses and etc. but I can't produce those results at this time due to some results that have yet to be totaled. I am hoping to have a total for you at the next meeting, MONEY is still coming in and that is good. Thanks all for now.

LIB/NEWS

by Ron Schvab

This issue of the librarian is aimed at the individuals who use FAIREWARE programs...but do not reward the AUTHORS who spend a lot of time and effort producing good to EXCELLENT programs for the TI/4A family.

If the shoe fits wear it. There are MANY users of these programs that do not send any SUM of money to the AUTHORS...nor do they intend to.

A few programmers have stopped producing new programs for us because no one has shown any appreciation that would encourage them to continue.

If the program is of no value to you then don't send in your payment...but pass it on to someone else. If you are sold on the program then SEND YOUR PAYMENT. Most AUTHORS ask to send what you feel it is worth to you. Others suggest an amount and others tell you what to send.

REMEMBER these dedicated people are producing these programs because they believe in the TI/4A, just as I hope you do.

To end this editorial, I would like to thank all the users that ARE SENDING small or large payments to our TI/4A PROGRAMMERS.

AVAILABLE now from the Library are good copies of the following:

UTILITIES 4.0

FUNNELWEB 4.0 12/22/87

ARCHIVER 2.4 1/30/88....A VERY POWERFUL PROGRAM BY BARRY BOONE. A must for your files.

IF YOU HAVE READ THIS...THEN OSCAR SMITH DID NOT LOOSE IT.

Till next month may your programs never crash.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

Starting with the August FLUG meeting, we had auctions of donated new and used equipment and software. Our first auction gave us over \$350 for the kitty, and thru the rest of 1987, and into 1988, we did the same. The Paris TI Users Group, headed by Jerry Keisler and Steve Barachman, and the Brazos Valley TI Users Group, headed by Frank Cross and Dave Eisfeldt, both provided some supporting funds and much needed volunteers to help prepare for the faire.

My biggest thanks to the members of FLUG who helped share the load and get the faire going were the Faire Chairman Roy Willis, Oscar Smith, Sam Lee, Jim Louis, Ron Schvab, Jimmy Carson, Al Herring, Ed Harp, Mike Rhoads, Ron Kuffman, and especially my wife Annie, who gave up so much for me to keep this thing going, and to all the others.

My thanks also to the other users groups for their support of this event. The Brazos Valley users group, the Net99ers TI Group, the Amarillo TI Users Group, the members of the DTIHCG who showed up and supported us with their attendance and approval, and all the other representatives from users groups from all over the United States. Lets plan on getting together again NEXT year. See Ya'll Then!!

THE 1ST ANNUAL TEXAS TI FAIRE

A Report by Richard A. Fleetwood
Sysop - FLUG TIBBS
Dallas, Texas

The First Annual Texas TI Faire, held on April 30th, 1988, turned out to be a big success. We had over 300 people in attendance, all our vendor tables full, lots of interesting happenings, some newsmaking events, and lots of new friendships made. The only major disappointment of the whole weekend was that Myarc was a No-Show. Jack Riley's secretary called at 11:15 Thursday morning and talked to my wife Annie, saying that due to a family emergency, Jack was not going to be able to come to the Faire. According to the secretary, Lou Phillips was busy with a project in New Jersey, and no one else from Myarc would be available. And that was it. No one has contacted us since, and no one seems to know what the emergency was, and if everything is ok now. Sure hope so, and maybe Myarc will be prepared next year, unless there's some reason that they don't want to come to Dallas.

The events really started going on Thursday evening, at least for me. After working a full day, I made two 75 mile round trips out to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport to pick up two houseguests and another visitor to the faire. Barry Traver arrived early in the afternoon from Philadelphia, and later in the evening Terrie Masters from the LA99ers and Bob Boone from the Ottawa TI Users Group flew in. Terrie and Barry stayed with me thru the weekend, and Bob spent the weekend at the hotel, providing a well stocked meeting room for all the visitors and old friends to say hello and chat in. Getting both Bob and Terrie, and all their assorted luggage in my little Toyota Corolla, is a story unto itself, but I'll save that for another day. Barry, feeling a little ill after a very bad previous weekend in Boston for the Fayuh (the faire up in Boston), went to bed early in the evening. Terrie and I chatted most of the evening about all sorts of TI stuff.

Friday was quite hectic for me

and most of the other people who helped with the vendor room setup. After getting off work, I sped across town to pick up the T-shirts and hats at the shop that made them for us, arriving two minutes before they locked the door. Then it was home to pick up a car full of computer equipment, boxes, software, and assorted other items. I got to the hotel about 5:45, expecting a handful of helpers to be there waiting on me. Fortunately, Sam Lee, Jerry Keisler, and several others were already hard at work. The vendor tables were already set up, most of the computer systems were in place, and the electrical cables were being run. These guys were really getting into the event! A few vendors arrived that evening and also set up their tables, and many out of town guests were arriving and dropped in to check out the action and say hello. One arrival who managed to get a laugh at my expense was Scott Darling, sysop of the TI Roundtable on Genie. After finding that the company who delivered our tables sent eight foot tables instead of the six foot that we ordered, I had to redesign the layout. While trying to concentrate on this problem with pencil and graph paper, I got a tap on the shoulder. I look up to see a bearded gentleman looming over me. He asked, "Where's my vendor table located?", and I said, "You are....". He answered "Jim Horn". Having not met either Scott or Jim before, I fell for it, and sent "Mr. Horn" over to a table across the room, and halfway there he stopped, turned around, and said, "You really don't know who I am, do you?" At about that point, I recognized the voice, and proceeded to pick up a large box to throw at him, which luckily for Scott, I held onto. Everybody who was paying attention got a good chuckle out of it. The rest of Friday evening was spent checking out systems, running cables, making banners, and visiting. I, and many others during the evening, spent at least a little time in "Room 405", the unofficial party room. Bob Boone hosted Barry, Terry, Scott, and a few others who spent most of the evening discussing the merits of the entire spectrum of the TI community. Hilites cussed/discussed were Myarc (and the lack thereof), Texcomp

and Jerry Price, many different software packages, many different users groups, and generally everything else we could think of. I headed out about 10pm dragging Barry and Terrie home, since I still had a nite full of work to do. After arriving, eating a quick late dinner, and sending them off to bed, I spent the rest of the nite loading my pickup truck, writing the May newsletter/Faire Flyer (since the news editor had not even thought about having one for the faire because of the lack of time to do so), and catching about 20 minutes sleep, before heading out to the copy machine about 4 am, after finishing the newsletter. Finished that up and went straight to the faire, arriving about 8:30 am, to find that the vendor room was already half full, when the doors were supposed to open at 9am. Oh well, it looked like it was under control, except for the lack of a PA system the hotel had not installed yet. With that taken care of, the Faire was finally under way.

The Texas TI Faire was rather unique in that instead of having one or two things going on at once, we had four. Besides the Vendor room, which was the hub of most activity and personal meetings, we had the Terrace area of the hotel in use as the Speakers Room. Most of the major presentations of the day took place here. We also had two small conference rooms going all day for meetings, demos, and seminars. What follows is a list of who did what where. Where details are lacking is because I was not able to be there personally, though most of them will be available on the Faire Video.

THE SPEAKER ROOM

9:00 - Marty McCain of FLUG started out the day by presenting an overview of the Funnweb Software package from Tony and Will McGovern in Australia. He talked about configuring the system, modifying it for particular uses, and covered the TI Writer portion of it very thoroughly. Lots of questions from the audience kept Marty busy, and he did a great job showing what the package could do.

10:00 - Scott Darling, SysOp of the TI Roundtable on Genie; Jim Horn(the real one!) of the TI Forum on CompuServe; Blaine Crandall of the TI SIG on The Source; and yours truly, representing both Delphi, and the local BBS Sysop Point of View, talked about the "World of TI Telecommunications". We covered important aspects of all the database services, telecommunications software and hardware, and answered questions from the audience about certain unique features of each system. The newest terminal emulator to be released, TELCO, from Charles Earl of the Ottawa Users Group, was discussed at length, with mention of its unbelievable features, small problems, and news of about to be released changes and additions to it. Telco seems to be taking the telecom. community by storm, and Charles has done an incredible job with it. The use of overlays, multiple terminal emulators such as VT100, ANSI, and many others, conference mode, system setup, and all sorts of other things make this the program to possibly replace the legendary Fastterm by Paul Charlton. Other talk during this conference included polling the audience to see who called the database services, local boards, and used different term programs. It was apparent that both local and national systems were much needed to help keep the TI alive and useful to all.

11:00 - The "Disk Management Systems" Seminar by me! Although extremely rushed already at this point, I managed to accomplish what I wanted...that is, to cover almost everything there was to say about disk management! I talked about hardware setup, expansion possibilities, how far you could go with certain brands of hardware(storage-wise), how to check and see if your new halfhi drives are half power(make sure the drive motors are direct drive, not belt drive), discussed adding hard disks to your system(its possible to beef up your power supply in your expansion box, but its much safer to add an external 12 volt power supply and run the power into the back of the pbox and directly to the half hi hard drive), ramdisks and what they offer when emulating a drive(100's of times

the load speed of your programs).....(deep breath goes here...), and then we moved to software. I discussed the major types of disk management programs. Starting with disk managers such as the Disk Manager Cartridges, we moved to the newer programs like DM1000, Disk Utils, DiskAid, and the different kinds of catalog programs(briefly). I then spent some time discussing diskettes, and how data is stored on them, and booted up DiskAid and showed what the data looks like and what particular sectors are used for. I got many questions from the audience, some of which I wasn't prepared for and should have been, like which byte of the file descriptor table is the file protection, how to modify the file size of a file in that sector, and a few others. Other than these few, I think it went over rather well, and most in the audience who came to learn something did.

12:00 - The BIGGEST event of the whole faire--TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC! TI sent out Jeffrey Crump directly from Lubbock. Jeffrey is a supervisor on the 1-800-TI-Cares phone system, handled by TI's Consumer Relations Dept., handling most of the technical questions, and forwarding others to the proper department. Jeff started off his talk with a few statements directly from TI's management regarding the status of the 99/4A. First off, TI is committed to providing support for the computer, in areas of repair/replacement, answering questions about software and hardware, and supporting the average user. He laid to rest rumors that had been floating around that TI was going to disconnect the TI-Cares phone lines, saying that they will be around for at least a few more years. although they are in the process of converting them over to toll lines, instead of toll-free as they have been since their inception. He also said that the parts department still had plenty of repair parts, although the module pc boards are now out of stock in most cases. He mentioned that complete parts lists for modules, pbox cards, and other hardware was still available from the parts dept., and he had at his table later the latest lists, including some new grom chip part

numbers even I had never seen before. And Finally, he laid to rest the BIGGEST rumor of all...about TI reentering the Home Computer market with a new computer that was compatible with the 99/4A. He said that TI had many new consumer products in the works, including several new computers, all of which are on an IBM compatible/Professional Computer level, including the new project announced a few weeks ago that puts TI's Lisp Processor artificial intelligence package inside Apple's Macintosh II computers, providing the most powerful package yet for the average user, at a price of 15 to 26,000 bucks! THERE IS NOTHING NOW, NOR WILL THERE EVER BE, ANY 99/4A COMPATIBLE PRODUCT IN PRODUCTION AND AVAILABLE FROM TI.

After these announcements, Jeff opened the floor to questions from the audience, and this is where the real interesting stuff started. I think I probably asked most of the questions Jeff got, although a few in the audience knew some of the answers that Jeff didn't. I asked him how TI felt about the Gram emulator devices that have been marketed in recent years, and what TI's position was. Jeff said that these hardware items amounted to nothing more than Piracy for the person who bought, or sold them. To copy a cartridge was the same as copying a copyrighted disk, only the cartridge was designed to prevent just such an act. TI feels that its module software was licensed in such a way that copying them in any way was NOT permitted. Jeff also said that TI would NOT do anything about the problem because of the amount of money legal action would take, considering how widespread the problem is. He also mentioned, and this is interesting, that while walking around the vendor area, he saw several examples of HARDWARE PIRACY. Some of the users groups had on display unreleased items like 99/8's, a 99/2, Hexbus devices, and many other kinds of hardware that TI had in work, but never released to the public. TI did not want these items out in the open, because even now, many of them contain proprietary information and design. On another front, I asked him about the

possibility of TI releasing any more software as public domain, or any of the hardware like the Forti Card. His answer to both was no, and he commented the Forti Music card was an example of a project that TI did, whereas employees designed hardware and software on their own, and then sold the rights to TI for release. The Forti card was an example of this, and for software he gave an example of the Hopper game. The Forti card came at a time when TI was about to shut down the home computer division, so it didn't make it, and Don Bynum brought it out later. Hopper came out earlier, and therefore is widely available. Many more questions were asked and a full transcript will be available in the near future.

1:00 - Scott Darling gave a demo of the new Grandram card from Databiotics. I personally missed this one, though I wanted to see it for obvious reasons. A few comments from people who did see it said that Scott said the hardware and software was good, but that Databiotics business tactics, and a few other things should be taken into account, before anyone actually purchases. Need I mention again that our users group is still waiting for an \$864 shipment of these cards that Bill Mosied and Mike Evanbar said would come by last February????

3:30 - Bob Boone. Barry Boone. Barry Traver, Scott Darling, Myself, and many participants in the audience had a panel discussion about the present situation of the TI community, and talked about products in work, in planning stages, or about to be released. We also talked a bit about users groups, and were about to get into talking about good guys/bad guys in the TI world, when the hotel management, due to a misunderstanding, cut short the discussion, saying they needed to start setting up for the dinner we were to have later that night. The only problem with this is that the dinner was being held in the vendor room, not the terrace where we were. Unfortunately, most of the audience was up and leaving before this could be straightened out with the manager. Some of the items of interest discussed were a modem card

and software from a member of a Canadian users group, new plans for DM1000 and Telco (these from Bob Boone); Archivers and the present status of Barry Boones Archiver 3.0, as well as the Turbo Pascal software package from Germany which is about to hit the market (Texaments has sold the rights to the package to L.L. Conner, who will be the sole distributor in the U.S.). I mentioned the Forti Music card and its limited availability from Bob Lawson in New York, and the fact that a few members of the Dortig Users Group in England are about to finish up a TRUE Midi interface for the 99/4A, and Barry Traver talked a bit about users groups and a few other things (which my notes don't happen to cover!). All in all, the discussion was quite interesting with many new items and ideas covered.

THE VENDOR ROOM

The vendor room was held in the ballroom of the hotel, a smallish (40 feet by 70 feet) but adequate room for the occasion. We had 34 eight foot tables set up along the perimeter of the room, and forming an inner circle, so that you had to make two complete revolutions around the room to see everything. Starting at the entrance, we had two tables with systems outside the room, for visitors to sign in and receive custom printed labels with the Texas TI Faire logo and the visitors name and ticket number (for door prize purposes). Jerry Keisler, Steve Barackman, and Bill Tribbey from the Paris Users Group, and Ed Harp from FLUG, helped man the booth during the day. As the visitor arrived, paid for his ticket, registered, and picked up a newsletter, the label was printed on one of the two printers, then in he went. I'll try to walk you thru the vendor area table by table.

The first table to the left, against the wall, was the door prize and announcement table. Several door prizes were given away during the day to lucky faire-goers. Next was Jeffrey Crump, representing Texas Instruments. Jeff had parts lists for all 99/4A products available for viewing, as well as information on the TI 74 and 95 Scientific Calculator/computers. He was quite helpful with many more

questions that I asked him. Scott Darling had the next table, representing the GENie Information Network, and when he was there (Scott had as many speaking engagements as I did it seemed!) he was answering lots of questions and handing out sign up sheets and pamphlets. Next in line, was Rave 99 with two tables. They had a great display and seemed to be quite busy most of the day with lots of questions about their new memory cards, including the 256k/512k ramdisks. The next two tables after that were mine, for Armadillo Bytes. My wife Annie watched the table most of the day while I was speaking or meeting everyone else. We had lots of used equipment, great selections of software from Texaments and Aegard, several Mechatronic products including a newly redesigned Mouse with software (I did some neat things with the mouse and TI Artist during the day for demos), and an 80 Column card. We also had a stack of THE INTERN books, which sold like hotcakes. Gary Taylor, originally from Dallas, now president of the Pittsburgh Users Group, and the guy who is responsible for getting me hooked on this computer in the first place, brought down a box of the new John Williforth/Scott Coleman prototype boards for me to sell for John, which they did (sold that is!)

The next two tables belongs to SIX-B Labels, and what a set up they had! Two 4x8 sheets of plywood, nicely finished, with hundreds and hundreds of different kinds of custom and stock labels. They also sold custom forms, tractor feed postcards and labels, and paper. Barry Traver and Genial Computerware took the following table. Barry had his full line of products, including such notables as XB:BUG by J. Peter Hoddie; REMIND-ME! by John Johnson-author of Menu for the Horizon Ramdisk, and many more. He was also selling subscriptions to the excellent Genial Traveler Diskazine, a bi-monthly magazine on disk. One corner of his table was taken up by the entire Boston Computer Society TI sig software library, which had many excellent titles. Next to Barry was Terrie Masters of the LA99ers TI Users group. Terrie had toted along the complete IA software library, and was selling disks from it. There must have

been over 500 titles in that suitcase she had. She was also selling products that the users groups sells to its members, including software and hardware. US-Tech, from the Houston area, was next with lots of original TI docs and manuals, and some Myarc products. Great Lakes Software had the following two tables and were showing off their Joypaint and Certificate 99 software, as well as their other products. Millers Communication was proudly displaying their Videoflex card and a slide show type program that displayed Myart and GIF graphics pictures in full color, some of which were incredible.

I need to stop here and say that because of my responsibilities and a following of at least 4 or five people everytime I went anywhere, I didn't get a chance to get around to every table and meet everyone like I wanted to. Other vendors there that I missed visiting with were Joy Electronics, Hi-Tech Disks, Mike Tucker, Jim Lesher, Jim Horn with Compuserve, and most of the other Users groups with tables. I did spend several at the Micropendium table, talking with Laura Burns, a very nice lady who knows her business and the community. She was passing out free samples of the latest issue of Micropendium, and when she wasn't there, one of her two boys she brought along was. I had a few questions for her about things, and she had a BUNCH for me. I sort of felt important!!! The only other table I got to visit was Bud Mills Services, and Bud Mills himself. Bud arrived right before noon, a last minute decision to attend bringing him in. He brought along both assembled and ready to build kits of the famous Horizon Ramdisk, which he now owns, having bought it from the developers Dave Romer and Ron Gries. He also had some of the 32K in the console kits using the 16 bit bus, and I got one of these beauties! Bud said that although he's doing his best to keep his prices down on parts, the rising cost of memory chips almost daily is affecting his sales, although he still expects to keep moving them. You'll know Bud if you meet him at a future TI Faire....look for the guy with the big handle-bar mustache!

MEETINGS, FRIENDS, AND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FAIRE

I really wanted to make at least a couple of the several meetings that went on upstairs in the conference rooms, but didn't get with 50 feet of the elevators. I'm pretty sure most of it made it to video tape, though. Once I get a chance to view the tapes (about a dozen or so) I'll update the next issue with news and notes about them.

The biggest thing about this faire, and what surprised me the most, because I really didn't expect it, was the camaraderie and good feelings that were everywhere you looked. The whole day, I didn't here one sour note, even with the mistakes that popped up in some areas. Myarc not showing up was barely missed, though there were many inquiries about their whereabouts. I finally got to meet most of the people I've been talking to over the phone for the past couple of years. Barry Boone, one of the most impressive programmers to come along for the TI, with his Archiver and work on the soon to be released TurboPasc 99, flew in early saturday morning for the faire. He impressed a small group of us at my table by showing off a couple of demo programs from the Pascal system. One of these was a demo that showed off the capabilities of the Pascal Windows software, with several windows on the screen moving about, and even two different windows running at the same in circles while both did concurrent processes. Incredible! Another demo did a loop of 1 to 1000 counting the number of times the numbers 0 thru 9 occurs in a randomization loop. The 1000 loops occured in less then a second. I'll tell you this...I'm not gonna waste any time getting TurboPasc 99 when it hits the market!

Meeting Scott Darling, Terrie Masters, Barry Traver, Bob Boone, my good friend Gary Taylor, Bud Mills, Laura Burns, Jim Horn, Blaine Crandall, Jeff Crump, and so many other well known people all in one day made for an unbelievably exciting weekend for me. I can't describe how much fun the whole experience was, although it was also an incredible amount of work for me and several others. The fact that the whole event

came off as well as it did, being the very first time was a big relief. Next year, our users groups will hold a bigger faire, and with the learning curve that any new event gives, it'll be much better. We will definitely try to improve the areas we fell down in, like the newsletter, and making sure the management UNDERSTANDS what we want.

So far, all the feedback I've gotten from visitors all over the country have been positive. Almost all of them are saying the same thing---how great and fantastic the whole thing was. If you came and enjoyed it, thanks for coming to visit us. You are the reason we did it. I think everyone is going to look forward to next year, and more exciting things to happen. I know I will.

The first Texas TI Faire is one that almost didn't happen. I started trying to drag up interest in having a Faire in Dallas in April of 1987. At that time some members of the FLUG, and just a few of the other local users group members liked the idea. I figured if someone got the ball rolling, interest would grow. Well, it did grow, but at the end of August, we had raised SOME funds, but not nearly enough to do the whole thing ourselves (meaning FLUG). The other local groups had not provided any funds at all up to that point, so the FLUG made a decision at that time to postpone the faire until a later date, to give us the time we needed to do it ourselves. We chose the date of April 30th, 1988 to hold the faire, and started in work in earnest.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

May 14, 1988

Dear Editor:

This Letter to the Editor is in response to Richard Fleetwood's, RAF's Roundup that appeared in the April, 1988 Issue of the FLUG Newsletter. Comments were made in the article about TI NET on Delphi and myself that must be addressed.

Let me provide some background on Mr. Fleetwood's association with TI NET. Mr. Fleetwood was a member of the TI NET Professional Counsel (PC99ers). This is a group of expert members that provide assistance to TI Users on the TI NET. Mr. Fleetwood was an infrequent user on TI NET until late January, when he "disappeared" from the network without a word. Mr. Fleetwood's assigned duties, in late 1987, was to provide me with the public relation materials and contest rules for the TI NET Programming Contest and the TI NET Hardware Contest. Mr. Fleetwood provided me with the Programming Contest Rules and nothing more. I did not "force" the issue with Mr. Fleetwood considering his job situation at the time. However, I received repeated verbal and written assurances that he would return online and provide assistance to TI NET Users. These assurances continued until mid-April of this year. To Mr. Fleetwood's credit, he did take advantage of his free online time on TI NET to promote the Texas TI Faire. He has not, however, returned online since late April.

To my surprise Mr. Fleetwood's April article lambasted me for failing to provide publicity for the Programming Contest. However, Mr. Fleetwood fails to remember that it was he who was to provide me a press release for the Contest. I have Email correspondence attesting to that fact. A rather baseless and defaming remark to be made in print. The Programming Contest press releases have now been written and the contest is now in full swing. A copy of the press release had been sent to the User Group and I am certain it will appear in your Newsletter. I have enclosed an additional copy for your information.

The article also announces that Mr. Fleetwood would like "to do something that NO ONE, not even IBM people have done yet,.... a HARDWARE DESIGN CONTEST, FOR THE TI 99/4A HOME COMPUTER." This rather incredible claim coming from the person who was assigned, by me, to devise a Hardware Contest. I have the Email correspondence attesting to that fact. I am very appreciative of the fact that Mr. Fleetwood has taken the initiative on the Hardware Contest by "borrowing" an idea he was to provide to TI Users through the TI NET. Mr. Fleetwood has indeed done something "NO ONE" else has accomplished. Unfortunately, it wasn't announced on TI NET as I have been awaiting the Hardware Contest rules from Mr. Fleetwood.

I have attempted to avoid taking this route of action to obtain a retraction and clarification on the aforementioned items. I contacted Mr. Fleetwood personally, and received assurances that a retraction and clarification would be forthcoming in a future article and on the TI NET. I requested that he upload an unedited version of his article on TI NET and provide his retraction and clarification as an appendix to the article. Mr. Fleetwood uploaded an edited version of the article, against my wishes, and did not provide a suitable explanation on the matter. This is completely unacceptable to me. I am requesting that this letter be placed in the next issue of your Newsletter. I wish to close the matter without any further action on my part.

Thank You,



Jeff Guide
TI NET System Manager

MR. GUIDE,

This letter is in reference to one which was received at my home yesterday afternoon. I hope to settle some things with you and follow thru on past obligations.

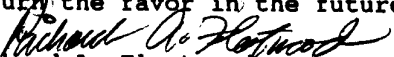
First, let me offer my sincerest apologies for the comments I made in error in my column for the Forest Lane TI Users Group April newsletter. After reading the message you mentioned to me over the phone, I see that I was the one who was at fault, regarding the production of a press release for the Delphi Software Programming Contest. It is very plain that you asked me to assume this job. As reasoning for why this error happened, I must say that between the time I was sent the message (in late Nov./early Dec. 1987), and the time the actual column was written, was close to four months. I simply did not pay attention to it or else I would have acted upon it and taken care of the project.

Also, regarding the Hardware Design Contest, which you point out was also assigned to me, by you, I also claim to be in error. Your words are that my comments are a "rather incredible claim". I told you last fall that I had thought of such a project last summer, but I didn't think it could come off. The fact should also be mentioned here that I ran a software programming contest for our users group and TIBBS users in late 86/early 87, several months before you came to me with the idea of doing the same for Delphi. I did accept the responsibility of trying to come up with rules for the Hardware Contest. I did fall short in mentioning such a contest (without prizes...if you read the full column) without including You and Delphi as co-producers. I also apologize for this. AT THIS TIME I GIVE YOU FULL RIGHTS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTEST. You may use the very simple rules and guidelines I mentioned and make any changes YOU see fit to make it the DELPHI contest. I will have nothing further to do with it, and if anybody contacts me pertaining to it, I'll send them directly to you.

Regarding the editing of my uploaded column...it was only to place some of the blame on myself, NOT TO COMPOUND THE ERROR ON YOUR END. The context of the column was NOT changed. Yes, You told me NOT to edit it. Yes, I did anyway. I felt that since you requested it to be uploaded, and since it was my error in missing the message giving me the job, I felt I should blame part of it on myself. I uploaded the article, and intended to add a couple of messages to the forum message base, letting people know of my error. However, this was done in the wee hours of the morning, between 1 and 3 am, when I had to be at work at 7 am. It was also done approximately 4 days before the Texas TI Faire, which I had a MAJOR part in producing. The following days before and after the Faire did not allow me ANYTIME near my computer, much less, calling DELPHI. In fact, the week after the Faire was my final exams for all classes. When I tried to logon late last week to take care of the situation, I found you had taken away my access. Now I have no way to fix it; I suspect you will take every opportunity to make my life and reputation worth nothing; I also expect you to not make this letter available on the Delphi. If you do, thank you for letting me explain my errors. If not, well, what can I do about it? I can't offer any more to you or anyone else who may have been offended by the above actions, than to repeat the above apologies.

Your other comments about my infrequent use of Delphi, and disappearance from the system, are very easily explained. I work a job that requires 45-50 hours a week; I also attend night school attempting to finish my degree; I have 3 children and a wife who demand at least a few hours of my time each week, and lets face it...you can't be a promoter for a major event and do it on 30 minutes a week, and the Texas TI Faire and other FLUG activities took up the REST of my time. Since you were paying for any usage over 1.5 hours, I was not about to log in unless I had something to GIVE to YOU and Delphi. You'll notice the lack of columns in the January thru March newsletters because of my lack of time. Yes, you heard excuses, and yes, they were valid.

Best Wishes for both contests, and with success running Delphi, and thank you for the time you did give me online. If you wish to, bill me. I won't be able to pay it, but I'll gladly try to return the favor in the future.


Richard A. Fleetwood
Former PC99er on the Delphi TI-NET

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND
EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO THE CLUB AT:

The Forest Lane Users Group
P.O. Box 743005
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THE "ULTIMATE" TIBBS--Possibly the most advanced and useful bulletin board in the country for the serious TI 99/4A user. We support QUAD DENSITY with two quad density/double-sided drives and two double sided/double density drives, based around our own designed disk controller card. We also have one HORIZON RAMDISK card, and the MPB Clock Card. The program itself is possibly the most advanced, most changed TIBBS around, and it makes use of all TI features--Graphics, Sound, and Color. We also support XMODEM transfers, with over 130 files to download at this time, with many more to come. To log on, just call the above number with your modem, hit 'N' and press <ENTER> then follow the prompts. After you have gotten your user number, you will be upgraded to regular user level within 24 hours.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

A Forest Lane Users Group membership includes a monthly newsletter mailed to your home, full access to the FLUG TIBBS, access to the FLUG software library of public domain and FAIRWARE programs, and several other benefits. Annual membership is \$15 a year. For more information Please contact the members below whose phone numbers are listed.

MEMBER NEWSLETTER INPUT

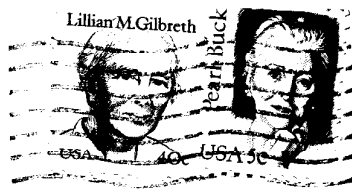
Please send all newsletter input, articles, copy, pictures, files, or news to **Oscar Smith/Roy Willis** at the FLUG PO BOX. Disk files are appreciated, or files may be uploaded to the TIBBS. NOTICE-- all input must be recieved no later than TWO weeks before the meeting in order to make that months issue.

FLUG MEETINGS

FLUG meetings are held on the FIRST SUNDAY of every month at the main TI plant on CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY and LBJ Freeway in North Dallas. To get to the Plant, take LBJ EAST from Central Expy, and take the first exit, which will be FLOYD ROAD. Follow FLOYD ROAD around to the STOPLIGHT at WALNUT and FLOYD. Go NORTH thru this light, and then take the FIRST ENTRANCE to the LEFT into TI. You will pass the TEXINS ACTIVITY CENTER on your right AFTER you have turned off of FLOYD. After about 100 FEET you will come to a STOP SIGN. Go straight ahead (DUE WEST) and you will see a covered walkway on your immediate RIGHT. A sign hanging off the END of the covered walkway will say EMPLOYMENT CENTER. Just park across the street from the covered walkway, and then follow the walkway back into the trees. You will come to the SC CAFETERIA building, which also contains the TI HEALTH CENTER, and the TI EMPLOYMENT CENTER. Take the door on the left, then follow the signs to the conference room in the BACK of the CAFETERIA. The meeting starts promptly at 2 PM, so try to get there early.

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