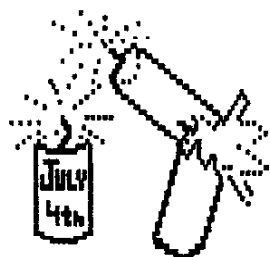


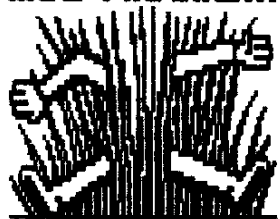
NEWJUG 99ER'S NEWS

NEWJUG 99ER'S NEWS

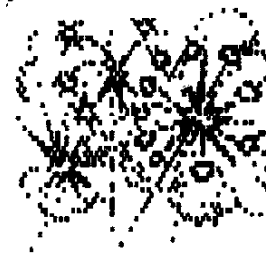
JULY 1990



MOW THE LAWN!

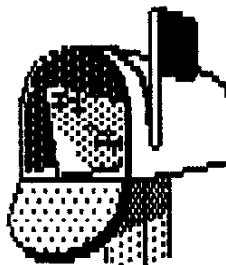


Happy Birthday

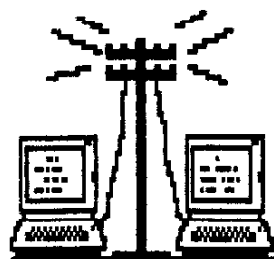


HIGHLIGHTS:

COMING EVENTS; EDITOR'S FORUM; JOKE OF THE MONTH; BBS SCENE; TI99/4A & GENEVE VENDORS; THE EXCHANGE; WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUN OF IT?



NEWJUG 99ER'S UG
P. O. BOX 1463
SAYREVILLE, N. J.
08871-1463



BBS SCENE

LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER DID NOT CONTAIN A BBS SCENE ARTICLE DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE NEWSLETTER. SO THIS MONTH'S ISSUE CONTAINS TWICE AS MUCH INFORMATION (OR ONE WOULD HOPE) THAN NORMAL. THERE ARE SOME BRIGHT SPOTS TO REPORT ON AND SOME SAD EVENTS.

FIRST OF ALL, IT APPEARS THAT THE DWINDLING NUMBERS OF 99/4A AND 9640 USERS MAKE IT LITERALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR MANY VENDORS TO SUSTAIN A PROFIT MARGIN FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. ONE OF OUR CANADIAN VENDORS LEFT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ON ONE OF THE ELECTRONIC ONLINE SERVICES JUST RECENTLY.

8-JUN 07:03

LAFLAMME & WRIGLEY

FROM: JANCLAFLAMME TO: ALL
IT IS WITH GREAT REGRET THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE WIND-DOWN OF LAFLAMME & WRIGLEY. I HAVE REALIZED IN THE LAST YEAR, THAT THE TI WORLD IS UNABLE TO SUPPORT A CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR, AND WAS CONTINUING ON A PART-TIME BASIS, SUPPLEMENTING INCOME THROUGH ANOTHER VENTURE. BUT BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN MY PERSONAL LIFE, AND THE EFFORT REQUIRED DOES NOT WARRANT THE RETURNS, I AM UNABLE TO CONTINUE. I HAVE ONE LAST COMMITMENT TO FULFILL TO THE _CANADIAN_ USER; I HOPE TO BE OFFERING THE 3.1 UPGRADES TO INSCBOT'S GREAT PACKAGE; TI-BASE; TO THOSE WHO HAVE PURCHASED THE 2.04 VERSION. I ALSO HAVE STOCK FROM ALL COMPANIES I HAVE REPRESENTED TO DISPOSE OF AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME GREAT DEALS FOR THE SUMMER! PLEASE

CONTACT YOUR DEALER. I HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE CONTACTS AND FRIENDS I HAVE FOUND IN THE TI WORLD AND HOPE THEY CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE.

JANE LAFLAMME

AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM CALLED "PRESS" HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN PUT ON PERMANENT HOLD FOR AWHILE. ASGARD SOFTWARE HAS MAILED OUT NOTICES TO ANYONE WHO HAD PRE-PAID FOR PRESS AND WAS WILLING TO WAIT FOR IT'S ARRIVAL. WHILE MOST HAD LONG SINCE ASKED FOR A REFUND, THERE WERE STILL SOME OUT THERE WILLING TO WAIT JUST A BIT FOR IT'S ACTUAL RELEASE.

APPROXIMATELY, 4 MONTHS AGO WE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF A REDUCED PRICE ON THE MYARC HFDC. WELL IT SEEMS THAT OTHER THAN THE INITIAL STOCK OF HFDC'S THAT WERE PROVIDED BY MYARC FOR THIS MARKETING VENTURE, NO OTHER HFDC'S HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THE MARKETING STRATEGY SOUNDED GREAT, BUT THE WAIT IS BEGINNING TO WEAR ON THE COMMUNITY'S PATIENCE!

FOR THOSE WHO WISH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO MYARC IN THE HFDC ARENA, IT SEEMS THAT THERE WILL BE SOME COMPETITION FINALLY.

16257 20-JUN 23:33 99/4A

HFDC

TO: ALL

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT MAY HAVE MISSED THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW HFDC FROM CHRIS PRATT'S COMPANY, IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE SOMETIME IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO. IT WILL HANDLE FOUR FLOPPIES OF ANY CONFIG. AND FOUR HARD DRIVES. ALL SURFACE MOUNTED PARTS TOO. EXPECTED TO RUN AROUND \$200.00 AS OF MY LAST CONVERSATION WITH HIM AT THE LIMA FAIR. PERHAPS A RELIABLE PRODUCT! --HTB--

FOR THE PAGE PRO ENTHUSIASTS; IT SEEMS THAT ED JOHNSON (PAGE PRO AUTHOR) HAS BEEN BUSY PRODUCING FIRMWARE UTILITIES TO GO ALONG WITH PAGE PRO 99. THE THREE LATEST ALL RUN OUT OF XB. THE FIRST, CALLED HI RES PICTURE PRINT UTILITY PERMITS YOU TO PRINT PAGE PRO PICTURE FILES WITHOUT BEING A PAGE PRO PRODUCT OWNER. I GUESS THE AUTHOR WANTED TO MAKE HIS PRODUCT AS VISIBLE TO THE TI COMMUNITY AS POSSIBLE. ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THIS UTILITY PROGRAM WAS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 24 PIN PRINTER (IF YOU OWNED ONE) AND NOT JUST PERFORM 9 PIN EMULATION. THE SECOND UTILITY IS CALLED HI RES SCREEN DUMP UTILITY AND ITS PURPOSE IS TO PERMIT YOU TO DUMP SCREENS FROM YOUR XB PROGRAM AT THE TOUCH OF A KEY. THE LAST UTILITY IS CALLED PAGE PRO 99 REFERENCE PICTURE UTILITY WHICH PERMITS YOU TO CREATE A HARD COPY REFERENCE OF PAGE PRO PICTURE FILES THAT ARE ON DISK. IN ADDITION TO LISTING THE FILENAMES; IT ALSO WILL LIST THE NUMBER OF ROWS AND COLUMNS THE PICTURE FILE WILL USE; IF DISPLAYED. IN LIEU OF THIS UTILITY; MR JOHNSON WOULD HAVE UTILIZED HIS TIME MORE EFFICIENTLY HAD HE PROVIDED A UTILITY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A MINITURED HARD COPY OF THE FILENAMES AND WHAT THEY ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKE (AVAILABLE FOR TIPS USERS).

FOR THOSE OF US WHO AREN'T QUITE SATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED NUMBER OF FONTS AVAILABLE WITH PAGE PRO 99; SHIRLEY SLICER HAS PROVIDED A SLEW OF SMALL CHARACTER, LARGE CHARACTER AND LINE FONTS FOR THE PAGE PRO USER. SHE HAS RECENTLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH ASGARD AND WE SHOULD BE SEEING SOME RATHER INTERESTING PRODUCTS FROM HER WHICH WILL ENHANCE PAGE PRO.

A NEW VERSION OF PAGE PRO 99 WILL BE COMING OUT SHORTLY AND WILL INCLUDE PRINTER SUPPORT FOR 24 PIN PRINTERS. IF ANY OF YOU WERE CONSIDERING BUYING A 24 PIN PRINTER; THIS SHOULD ADD INCENTIVE TO GO OUT AND BUY ONE.

TI BASE USERS WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT VERSION 3.0 IS NOW AVAILABLE. PREVIOUS OWNERS OF TI BASE MAY UPGRADE BY RETURNING THEIR SYSTEM AND TUTOR DISKS TO TEXAMENTS FOR THE UPGRADE. THERE APPEARS TO BE QUITE A FEW ENHANCEMENTS ADDED TO TI BASE; MANY OF THEM ARE STRING RELATED FUNCTIONS. PROBABLY ONE OF MOST SIGNIFICANT NEW FEATURES IS PROBABLY ITS USE OF VDP MEMORY FOR COMMAND FILES. THESE FEATURES HAVE CONVINCED ME TO UPGRADE MY COPY OF TI BASE ASAP.

ONE USER OUT THERE HAS ONLY GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT BAKER SOFTWARE'S VERSION OF TI SUPER MARIO BROS.

TO: ALL

WELL FOLKS; IT ARRIVED! A BIT LATE, BUT BAKER SOFTWARE INCLUDED A FREE GAME; FOR MAKING ME WAIT. I'LL GET TO IT IN A MIN. TO GIVE A FAIR REVIEW; I ASSEMBLED MY CREW OF VIDEO GAME EXPERTS; MY SON; JUSTIN-AGE 6; MY DAUGHTER; BRANDIE-AGE 7; AND OUR NEIGHBOR; NEIL-AGE 6. WE SAT DOWN; AND TOOK TURNS AT THE GAME. AFTER WE FINISHED; I TOOK EACH PERSONS RATING AND OPINION. JUSTIN'S RATING A FULL STAR. HIS OPINION; AWESOME! BRANDIE'S RATING WAS A FULL STAR. HER OPINION WAS VERY AWESOME! COOL! NEIL'S RATING WAS A FULL STAR. HIS OPINION WAS I LIKE THIS GAME; IT'S BETTER THAN MY NINTENDO! MY RATING WAS ALSO A FULL STAR. MY OPINION; IS THAT THIS GAME IS CHALLENGING; WITH GREAT

GRAPHICS, ALTHOUGH NOT AS LARGE OR FINE AS NINTENDO'S, BUT STILL VERY GOOD. THE COPY THAT I RECEIVED WAS JUST A TOUCH CLUMSY TO RESET A NEW GAME, AFTER THE OLD GAME IS OVER. THE PROGRAM DID CRASH ON ME A COUPLE TIMES, BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE FAULT OF MY COMPUTER, AS IT IS VERY HOT TODAY. OVERALL, THIS GAME GETS FOUR STARS. THE SECOND GAME, LINKAGE, IS A SPACE GAME. ALL FOUR OF US LIKED IT, AND OVERALL RATED IT AS THREE. THE GAMES CAN BE BOUGHT FROM: BAKER SOFTWARE, 8301 STEVENSON AVE., SACRAMENTO, CA. 95828 SUPER MARIO IS \$9.50 + \$1.50 SHIPPING. OTHER GAMES SELL FOR \$4.00 + SHIPPING. GIVE MARIO A TRY, I RECOMMEND IT HIGHLY. BTW, I HAVE NO FINANCIAL STAKE IN THIS CO.-TERRY-

FOR THE 99/4A ENTHUSIAST, IT APPEARS THAT JIM REISS HAS JUST RECENTLY RELEASED V1.3 OF HIS FAIRWARE PROGRAM PIX (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH PIX PRO). NOT QUITE SURE WHAT ENHANCEMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO V 1.3 THAT DIDN'T EXIST IN V 1.2. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIKE GAMES ASGARD HAS POSTED A ROCK RUNNER DEMO TO CATCH YOUR ATTENTION. I HAVE SEEN THE DEMO AND IT APPEARS TO BE QUITE WELL DONE. BEING A DEMO, ALL JOYSTICK AND KEYBOARD ENTRIES ARE DISABLED. I MADE THE MISTAKE OF SHOWING THE PROGRAM TO MY 4 YEAR OLD SON AND THEN HAD TO TRY TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT HE COULDN'T PLAY THE GAME. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS NOT ONE OF HIS FAVORITE PEOPLE AFTER THAT EVENT.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW TERMINAL EMULATOR FOR THEIR GENEVE WHICH WILL RUN IN MODS MODE, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER PURCHASING WAYNE STITH'S TRIAD FOR THE 9640. THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE WAS FOUND ON DELPHI AND IT

REPRESENTS DIALOGUE BETWEEN A BETA TESTER OF TRIAD AND A 9640 OWNER.

FROM: JERRYC TO: MARCLEVINE

I CAN TELL YOU SOME OF THE THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN IN WAYNE'S DEMO: EVERYTHING IS IN 80 COLUMNS (9640 ONLY). THERE IS A NICE AUTODIALER (SINGLE KEYSTROKE SELECTION - SO LIMITED IN NUMBER) -- OPTION TO ROTATE THROUGH SEVERAL CHOICES UNTIL YOU GET A CONNECT. SINCE EVERYTHING IS IN RAM, YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY IN TERMINAL MODE ON A CONNECT. DL BUFFER IS 112K AND CAN BE DUMPED TO DISK CONVENIENTLY ON OR OFF-LINE. SPEED IS COMPARABLE TO FAST-TERM (I HAVE TESTED IT TO 9600). LOTS OF MENUS IN POP-UP WINDOWS LIKE TELCO. SUPPORTS MACROS AND A SOPHISTICATED COMPILED SCRIPT LANGUAGE. HAS THE PROTOCOLS YOU MENTIONED PLUS A FULL-BLOWN YMODEM BATCH (WORKS FLAWLESSLY ON DELPHI). THE COMMERCIAL RELEASE MAY HAVE HOOKS FOR THIRD-PARTY CODE MODULES FOR OTHER PROTOCOLS, BUT THAT MAY NOT BE FIRM. IT ALSO HAS A SPLIT SCREEN CONFERENCE MODE THAT IS VERY USEFUL. SOME MODULES (E.G. TEXT EDITOR) ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THE ALPHA VERSION I HAVE BUT THE DISK MANAGER IS NEARLY COMPLETE, LOOKS LIKE A SLICK, 80-COLUMN DM1000 AND WORKS WITHOUT BREAKING A CONNECTION. AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT FROM WAYNE STITH, THE CODE IS VIRTUALLY BUG-FREE. SO FAR I HAVE NOT USED ITS FULL POTENTIAL BUT IT HAS SAVED ME LOTS OF TIME AND BOTHER. JERRY

WELL THAT ABOUT DOES IT FOR THIS MONTH'S COLUMN. HOPEFULLY I'LL HAVE AS MUCH TO TELL YOU NEXT MONTH AS I DID THIS MONTH.

99/4A & 9840

VENDOR

ALBDES COMPUTER SUPPLIES
6298 HAMILTON RD.
36 MAIN STREET VILLAGE
COLUMBUS, GA 31909
(404) 327-4900

ASGARD SOFTWARE
P. O. Box 10306
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(703) 255-3085
CATALOG AVAILABLE

BRAATZ COMPUTER SERVICES
719 EAST BYRD STREET
APPLETON, WIS 54911
(414) 731-3478
(414) 731-4320 AFTER 6PM
CATALOG #2

BUD MILLS SERVICES
166 DARTMOUTH DR
TOLEDO, OHIO 43614
(419) 385-5946

CADD ELECTRONICS
52 AUDUBON RD.
HAVERMILL, MA 01830
(603) 895-0119

COMPETITION COMPUTER
2629 W NATIONAL AVE
MILWAUKEE, WIS 53204
(800) 242-7902 IN WISCONSIN
(800) 662-9253 ALL OTHERS
CATALOG #1

COMPUTER SHOPPER
P. O. Box F
TITUSVILLE, FL 32781

CORCOMP
2211-G EAST WINSTON RD.
ANAHEIM, CA 92806
(714) 956-4450

DIJIT SYSTEMS
4345 HORTENSIA ST
SAN DIEGO, CA 92103
(619) 295-3301 VOICE
(619) 278-8155 BBS

DISK ONLY SOFTWARE
P. O. Box 244
LORTON, VA 22079
(310) 340-7179

GENIAL COMPUTERWARE
835 GREEN VALLEY DR.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128
(215) 483-1379

GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE
804 E. GRAND RIVER AVE.
HOWELL, MI 48843
(517) 546-0566

HARRISON SOFTWARE
5705 40TH PLACE
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20781
(301) 277-3467

HUNTER ELECTRONICS
4 N. 370 PINE GROVE
BENSENVILLE, IL 60106
(312) 766-9503

INSCEBOT INC.
P. O. Box 29160
PT ORANGE, FL 32029

JIM LESHER
722 HUNTLEY
DALLAS, TX 75214
(214) 821-9274

JOY ELECTRONICS
P. O. Box 542546
DALLAS, TX 75354-2526
(800) 422-3892 IN TEXAS
(800) 527-7438 ALL OTHERS

JP SOFTWARE
2390 EL CAMINO REAL #107
PALO ALTO, CA 94306
CATALOG #1

LAFLAMME & WRIGLEY WHOLESALE
5400 CANOTEK ROAD
UNIT #16
GLOUCESTER, ONTARIO K1J9H6
(613) 745-2225

L. L. CONNER ENTERPRISE
1521 FERRY ST.
LAFAYETTE, IN 47904
(317) 742-8146

MCCANN SOFTWARE
P. O. Box 34160
OMAHA, NE 68134

MICROPENDIUM
P. O. Box 1343
ROUND ROCK, TX 78680
(512) 255-1512

MIDWEST ENGINEERING
203 ARCADIA DR.
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061
(312) 362-9034

MYARC INC
2624 RANIER DRIVE NE
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35215
(205) 854-5843

NOT POLYOPTICS
P. O. Box 4443
WOODBRIIDGE, VA 22191
(703) 499-5543

PILGRIMS PRIDE
5 WILLIAMS LN.
HATBORO, PA. 19040
(215) 441-4262

QUALITY 99 SOFTWARE
1884 COLUMBIA RD #1021
WASHINGTON, DC 20009
(202) 667-3574

QUEEN ANNE COMPUTER SHOPPE
6102 ROOSEVELT WAY NE
SEATTLE, WA 98115
(206) 522-6550

RAMCHARGE COMPUTERS
6467 E. VANCEY DR.
BROOKPARK, OH 44142
(216) 243-1244 EVENINGS

RAVE 99
112 RAMBLING ROAD
VERNON, CT 06066
(203) 871-7824

TENEX
P. O. Box 6578
SOUTH BEND, IN 46660
(800) 348-2778
(217) 259-7051

TEXAMENTS
53 CENTER ST
PATCHOGUE, N. Y. 11772
(516) 475-3480
(516) 475-6463 BBS

TEX-COMP
P. O. Box 33084
GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344
(818) 366-6631

THE BUNYARD GROUP
P. O. Box 62323
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
80962-2323
(719) 488-2572

TIGERCUB SOFTWARE
156 COLLINGWOOD AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43213
(614) 235-3545

TRIO+ SOFTWARE
P. O. Box 114-A
LYSCOMB, IA 50148

TRITON PRODUCTS COMPANY
P. O. Box 8123
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94128
1-800-227-6900
CATALOG AVAILABLE

9640 NEWS
C/O BEERY MILLER
5455 MARINA COVE #1
MEMPHIS, TN 38115



JOKE OF THE MONTH

A YOUNG MAN FROM AN ORTHODOX JEWISH FAMILY TOOK A TRIP OUT WEST, WHERE HE MET, FELL IN LOVE WITH AND MARRIED A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG NAVAHO WOMAN. HIS PARENTS DISOWNED HIM.

A YEAR LATER, THE FELLOW CAME HOME TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD HAD A BABY. "HE'S A BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY BOY. AND, DAD," THE NEW POPPA ADDED, "WE GAVE HIM A FINE JEWISH NAME."

"WHAT'D YOU CALL HIM?"
"SMOKED WHITEFISH."



COMING EVENTS



JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>JULY 7</p> <p>NORTH JERSEY - ASPEN HOTEL - PARSIPPANY NJ - 400 TABLES; RTE 46 WEST; OFF I-80 - ENTIRE HALL USED THIS SHOW! LARGE AISLES. SAT 10 AM TO 3PM.</p> <p>JULY 21</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA AREA GEO. WASH CONF. CTR. - 200 TABLES; EXIT #27 OF PA TURNPIKE - LEFT AFTER TOLL; LIMITED VENDOR SPACE; SAT. 10AM TO 3PM.</p>	<p>AUGUST 18</p> <p>NORTH JERSEY - FDU ROTHMAN ATHLETIC CENTER - HACKENSACK NJ - 500 TABLES. OFF RT 4 ON HACKENSACK AVENUE - NEAR RIVERSIDE SQ. MALL - OVER 3,000 PARKING SPOTS. SAT 10 AM TO 3 PM.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 15</p> <p>NORTH JERSEY - WM PATTERSON COLLEGE - REC. CTR. 400 TABLES WAYNE, NJ - ALL INDOORS - NEAR I80; RTE 23 AND RTE 46 - ABOUT 30 MIN. TO NYC. SAT. 10 AM TO 4 PM.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 22</p> <p>SEATTLE TI CONVENTION CALL QUEEN ANNE COMPUTER SHOPPE TIBB (206) 5461865 FOR ADDITIONAL INFO</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 23</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA AREA - VALLEY FORGE CONV. CENTER - OVER 400 VENDOR TABLES. AT PA TURNPIKE EXIT #24; RIGHT AFTER TOLL - 1 MILE ON RIGHT - NEXT TO SHERATON IN KING OF PRUSSIA; PA SUN. 10AM TO 3PM.</p>

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUN OF IT

By JIM PETERSON

REPRINTED FROM SPIRIT OF 99 NEWSLETTER (CONNI), JUNE 1990

YES; WHATEVER HAPPENED? WERE YOU WITH US BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS; WAY BACK; BACK IN 1983? DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAYS BEFORE THE BBS'S AND USER GROUP LIBRARIES COULD SUPPLY YOU WITH PROGRAMS BY THE HUNDREDS; WHEN EVERY PROGRAM YOU COULD ACQUIRE WAS A PRIZED POSSESSION TO BE RUN AND USED AND MARVELED AT; TO BE SHARED WITH YOUR FRIENDS (EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE A COPYRIGHT NOTICE ON IT!); WHEN PEOPLE ACTUALLY KEYED IN PROGRAMS FROM LISTINGS AND BROUGHT THEM TO MEETINGS TO GET HELP IN DEBUGGING THEM?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN ALMOST EVERYONE WAS TRYING TO LEARN TO PROGRAM; AND HELPING EACH OTHER? THE LATE EARL DODD WAS WRITING MUSIC PROGRAMS; IN HIS UNIQUE BARBERSHOP QUARTET STYLE; AND BRINGING THEM IN TO ME TO ADD GRAPHICS. PAUL POWERS; ONCE OUR USER GROUP PRESIDENT; LIKED TO PROGRAM ADVANCE MATH THEOREMS AND TO REPROGRAM MORE EFFICIENTLY THE PROGRAMS WRITTEN BY OTHERS - IT WAS HE WHO SUGGESTED TO ME THE USE OF MERGEABLE SUBPROGRAMS; WHICH LED TO THE NUTS & BOLTS SERIES; THE ONLY PROFITABLE THING I HAVE EVER DONE. IT WAS TEENAGE BRIAN BEERY WHO POINTED OUT A RIDICULOUS ERROR THAT WAS DRIVING ME BONKERS - BRIAN MIGHT HAVE BECOME ANOTHER J. PETER HODDIE IF HE HADN'T TAKEN UP THE GUITAR.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE IUG WAS THE ONLY SOURCE OF PUBLIC DOMAIN PROGRAMS? I WAS FASCINATED BY THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS IN THE IUG CATALOG. I WANTED TO SEE EVERY PROGRAM; TO SEE WHAT SOME OTHER PROGRAMMER HAD BEEN ABLE TO DO. I SWAPPED THE IUG FOR EVERY PROGRAM I COULD; AND BOUGHT AS MANY MORE AS I COULD AFFORD. OFTEN I WAS DISAPPOINTED; BUT I NEVER GOT OVER THAT CURIOSITY. I STILL HAVE IT - I READ THE DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS IN USER GROUP NEWSLETTERS; AND I GET THE ITCH TO SEE THE PROGRAM. OFTEN I WRITE AND ASK FOR IT.

BUT; AM I THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO HAS THAT CURIOSITY? I SPENT HUNDREDS OF HOURS GLEANING OUT THE BEST FROM MY LIBRARY OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PD PROGRAMS; ARRANGING THEM BY CATEGORY; IMPROVING THEM; FILLED NEARLY 300 DISKS (NOW 400); PUBLISHED A 13-PAGE CATALOG LISTING THEM ALL; OFFERED THEM FOR A COPYING FEE LESS THAN MOST USER GROUPS CHARGE THEIR OWN MEMBERS; CHEAPER THAN DOWNLOADING THEM FROM GENIE - AN IN 1989; ONLY 175 PEOPLE IN ALL THE TI WORLD WERE CURIOUS ENOUGH TO SEND ME AN ORDER!

OF COURSE MANY USERS HAVE LARGE LIBRARIES OF PROGRAMS THAT THEY NEVER GET AROUND TO EVEN LOOKING AT. AND; THE POTENTIAL USES OF THE COMPUTER HAVE BECOME SO VARIED THAT MANY USERS HAVE SPECIALIZED IN ONE FIELD AND HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN ANYTHING ELSE. SOME ARE MAINLY INTERESTED IN INCREASING THE SPEED AND MEMORY CAPACITY OF THEIR MACHINE; AND HAVE LITTLE TIME TO MAKE USE OF THAT SPEED AND MEMORY BY ACTUALLY RUNNING PROGRAMS. MANY OTHERS NOWADAYS ARE HOOKED ON GRAPHICS. TO EACH HIS OWN. PERSONALLY; IF I WANT TO DECORATE MY WALLS WITH PICTURES OF NUDES; I WILL BUY A PLAYBOY MAGAZINE AND RIP OUT PICTURES FAR BETTER THAN ANY MONITOR SCREEN WILL EVER SHOW OR ANY DOT MATRIX PRINTER WILL EVER PRODUCE!

OF COURSE; EVEN IN THE EARLY DAYS ALL WAS NOT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. IT SEEMED THAT EVERYONE WAS OUT TO MAKE A BUCK;

AND THOSE WHO MADE THE BUCK WERE MOSTLY THOSE WITH QUESTIONABLE BUSINESS ETHICS. WHEN I FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH THE REST OF THE TI WORLD, I HAD ALREADY WRITTEN ABOUT 90 PROGRAMS, AND I SOON MET PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO FORM A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR ONE OR TWO PROGRAMS AND MY NINETY. IT WAS MAINLY TO GET THEM OFF MY BACK THAT I DECIDED TO GO INTO BUSINESS FOR MYSELF - A DECISION THAT I HAVE REGRETTED A THOUSAND TIMES.

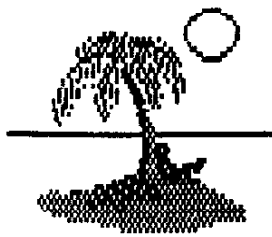
CHARLIE LAFARA STARTED THE INTERNATIONAL USER GROUP AS A NONPROFIT EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE, AND CONVERTED IT INTO A BUSINESS FOR HIS OWN PROFIT. AN ENTREPRENEUR IN CALIFORNIA ACQUIRED HIS PROGRAMS AND COPIED HIS CATALOG, LEADING TO A LAWSUIT. LATER ON, A TI BUSINESS IN FLORIDA CALLED ITSELF A "GROUP" AND SOLD MY PUBLIC DOMAIN PROGRAMS, WHICH LED ME TO ANNOUNCE THAT "TIGERCUB SOFTWARE IS A ONE-MAN USER GROUP PRETENDING TO BE A BUSINESS, NOT A BUSINESS PRETENDING TO BE A USER GROUP!"

OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE WAS A CROOK - MOST SIMPLY STARTED OUT WITH UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS, GOT IN OVER THEIR HEADS AND FROD AWAY, LEAVING THEIR CREDITORS HOLDING THE BAG. EMERALD PUBLISHING CO. EXTENDED CREDIT TO MANY SOFTWARE ADVERTISERS WHO NEVER PAID UP; THEN THEY GOT RIDICULOUS AND TRIED TO PUBLISH A MAGAZINE WITH NO ADVERTISING! FINALLY, THEY RIPPED OFF ALL THEIR REMAINING SUBSCRIBERS, AS DID MORE THAN ONE OTHER TI PUBLICATION WHICH NEVER DELIVERED OR REFUNDED SUBSCRIPTIONS. THERE WERE EXCEPTIONS; HONEST COMPANIES SUCH AS RANDOM ACCESS AND ANOTHER ONE-MAN OPERATION IN TEXAS WHOSE NAME I WISH I COULD REMEMBER.

I LEARNED VERY EARLY NOT TO EXTEND CREDIT TO ANYONE WHO DECIDED TO START UP A SOFTWARE BUSINESS. AND I LEARNED NOT TO SEND AN ORDER TO ANYONE FOR ANYTHING UNTIL I KNEW THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAD ACTUALLY RECEIVED THEIR ORDER. THERE ARE NOT MANY TI OLD-TIMERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN KIPPED OFF AT LEAST ONCE!

BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUN OF IT? I REMEMBER DEMONSTRATING MY PROGRAMS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL, AT A LIBRARY, AT COMPUTER FAIRS - THE KIDS WERE FASCINATED! IF ONLY THE APPLE PEDDLERS HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN BRAINWASHING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM! ARE JACK SUGHRUE AND EUNICE SPOONER THE ONLY EDUCATORS STILL USING THE TI IN THE CLASSROOM? IN THE DAYS WHEN I WAS EXCHANGING MY TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB NEWSLETTER WITH NEARLY 200 USER GROUPS, I TWICE ASKED THEM TO LET ME KNOW OF ANY SCHOOLS IN THEIR AREA WHERE THE TI COMPUTER WAS BEING USED - ONLY TWO EVER RESPONDED! IF WE HAD HARNESSSED ALL THAT YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM, OUR USER GROUPS MIGHT NOW HAVE REPLACEMENTS FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE ABANDONING US FOR BIG BLUE. &

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FUN OF IT? WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE HOME COMPUTER? (REMEMBER, THAT WAS WHAT THE TI99/4A WAS CALLED!). THEY TELL ME THAT THE COCO IS THE ONLY HOME COMPUTER LEFT, BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO MAKE IT ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT. I MAY JUST TAKE A LOOK AT IT - MAYBE THAT'S WHERE I'LL FIND THE FUN THAT I'M MISSING!



EDITORS FORUM

DURING THE PAST MONTH, OUR UG DECIDED TO INITIATE A MAJOR NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE WITH OTHER TI USER GROUPS ACROSS THE CONTINENT. OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 70+ NEWSLETTERS WHICH WERE MAILED OUT WE RECEIVED RESPONSES FROM 13 OF THEM TO DATE AND HAD 3 RETURNED FOR NO FORWARDING ADDRESS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MANY OF THE TI GROUPS THAT DID NOT RESPOND, NO LONGER MAINTAIN A NEWSLETTER (FOR FINANCIAL REASONS). OF THE ONES THAT DID RESPOND, I WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE THE QUALITY OF MANY OF THESE NEWSLETTERS WAS QUITE GOOD AND WELL WORTH THE EXCHANGE.

MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS USUALLY A TOUGH COMMODITY TO COME UP WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS. EXCHANGING WITH OTHER CLUBS, JUST IMPROVES ON THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR CLUB NEWSLETTERS AND CAN USUALLY BE PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSLETTERS, SIMPLY BY GIVING CREDIT TO THE AUTHOR AND ORIGINAL UG NEWSLETTER.

I FEEL THAT ONLY POSITIVE THINGS CAN COME UP THIS EXCHANGE. FIRST, IT PROVIDES ME WITH IDEAS FOR OUR OWN NEWSLETTER. SECOND, IT PROVIDES SOME RELIEF BY OCCASIONALLY USING AN ARTICLE FROM ANOTHER NEWSLETTER. LET'S FACE ARTICLES DON'T GROW ON TREES. THIRD, IT LETS US KNOW THAT THERE ARE STILL OTHER TI ENTHUSIASTS OUT THERE WHO STILL HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE MACHINE (WHETHER IT BE A 99/4A OR A GENEVE 9640). WITH THE RANKS AS THIN AS THEY ARE, SOMETIMES ENCOURAGEMENT TO

GO ON WITH THE TI EXPERIENCE CAN BE OBTAINED SIMPLY BY KNOWING THERE ARE OTHERS OUT THERE.

I'VE DECIDED TO CREATE A NEW MONTHLY ARTICLE WHICH MAINTAINS A LIST OF ACTIVE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES. IF NOTHING ELSE, MAYBE IT WILL INITIATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN GROUPS. IF ANY USER GROUP CURRENTLY EXCHANGES WITH ANY UG OTHER THAN THE ONES LISTED IN THE ARTICLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOME FEEDBACK FROM YOU.

HOPEFULLY NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER WILL BE A BIT MORE ORGANIZED THAN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE. TILL NEXT MONTH...

NEWSLETTER XCHANGE

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS A LIST OF TI USER GROUPS WITH WHICH OUR GROUP EXCHANGES NEWSLETTERS. IF YOUR GROUP EXCHANGES WITH GROUPS WHICH ARE NOT ON THIS LIST, WE'D BEEN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM YOU VIA THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS COVER PAGE.

LIMA 99/4A USERS GROUP
P. O. Box 647
VENEDOCIA, OH 45894

NITTANY USERS OF TI
625 WILTSHIRE DRIVE
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16803

HAMPTON ROADS TI'ERS
4701 ATTERBURY STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23513

CENTRAL GARDEN STATE UG
61 COUNTRY LANE
HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ 08690

NORTH JERSEY TI IBM UG
16 JUDITH ANN DR.
RINGWOOD, NJ 07456-1863

LITI 99ER'S UG
93 MYERS AVENUE
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801-2424

ERIE 99'ER USER GROUP
2812 WEST 33RD STREET
ERIE, PA 16506

CONNI
181 HEISCHMAN AVE
WORTHINGTON, OH 43085

SIOUXLAND 99ER'S
4604 BLUESTEM CIRCLE
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106

SOUTHWEST NINETY NINERS
P. O. BOX 17831
TUCSON, AZ 85730

TI SLAVES
3818 W. 6540 SO.
WEST JORDAN, UT 84084

GREATER AKRON 99ER'S
P. O. BOX 3201
CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH 44223

NORTHERN NEVADA 99'ERS
5554 MARK CIRCLE
SUN VALLEY, NV 89433