SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS
TI USER GROUP
TUCSON AZ

SouthWest Ninety-Niners

December 1992

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730
(602)747-5046

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOV/92

Description	Amounts
Balance 10/25/92	$985.01
Money In	
FROM:	
Memberships	$45.00
Library Sales	$150.00
Ribbons/Disks	$44.00
Equipment Sales	$31.00
Fairware Contrib.	$40.00
Misc.	$40.14
Group Order(Printer $20.00 ribbons)	
SUBTOTAL	$1355.15
Money Out	
TO:	
Tom Buick	$50.00
(Misc. Euip.Sales)	
Cactus Patch Support	$20.00
Money Out Subtotal	$70.00
10/26/92	$1285.15 Working Balance

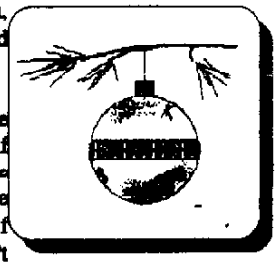
We will be presenting BJ Mathis with a check of $75 in appreciation of the efforts she has expended on behalf of the TI Community. How about a nice round of applause and some heart-felt thanks (please, no pats on the back 'cause of her surgery)

Next month's Treasurer's report will be a final tally of ALL financial transactions and a more detailed explanation of our accounts and what they do/did in 1992.

DISK OF THE MONTH

As prepared by Mike Doane

This month's DOM consists of music and graphics for the season that is among us. It also contains 2 (count 'em, folks, two) puzzles for use with Richard Baron's PUZZLE program.



I am adding music and graphics to some programs that are already written, so if "Deck the Halls" comes out sounding more like "The Old Gray Mare" you can be assured that I will deny all knowledge of ANY modifications to the program. I don't care WHAT you think they look like, those objects are Holly wreaths.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
GOODWILL TO ALL MANKIND!!!!

(I would include animalkind but I am powerfull fond of turkey and ham)

DOMs are available FREE to SW99ers attending the membership meeting each month. If you are unable to attend the meeting, members may buy DOMs for $1, either at a later meeting or by mail (no extra cost by mail). Non-members should send $2 for each DOM requested.

Cassettes are prepared each month for members with "cassette only" systems. COMs are FREE to "cassette only" members who attend the membership meeting each month or for $1 as outlined above for DOMs.

MINUTES

(Tuesday November 3, 1992)

1. New member Ernie Chevier, was introduced to the group. He is still in need of a pair of DSSD Half-height disk drives. We discussed the possibility of another group order for the near future.

2. Our next group meeting is December 1, which will be our Christmas Party. Bring your wives, other family members, girl friends and Christmas foods.

3. Leonard Taffs reported that he has been working to update the Newsletter Library. He plans to have a display at the next meeting.

4. Richard Baron, Jim Chapman and Larry Newman are the members of the Nominating Committee. They will be contacting various members between now and January 1. If anyone wishes to make a nomination, please contact one of the committee members or Pres BJ Mathis.

5. BJ Mathis was the group's selectee for TI Person-of-the-Month for October. We all know how much time and effort BJ has put into making our group function so well, in the positions of President, Newsletter Editor and Publisher, Leader of the General Users Workshop, etc., so think about it, and, if you wish to show your appreciation with a cash donation, see our Treasurer, Mike Doane, Vice President, Tom Wills, or Secretary, Ed McCullough.

7. President BJ Mathis will be undergoing surgery on November 19. No complications are anticipated, however, your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

8. The demonstration for the meeting was the "Protect Your Investment" video from the M.U.N.C.H. Users Group, which presented a step by step procedure to clean the console and replace a resister on the motherboard that should sharpen the screen presentation.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

TOM'S OBSERVATIONS

By Tom Wills

In previous columns, I have been critical of certain companies for their lack of response to the TI community and other things I deemed unsatisfactory. I offered to pass along any reply they would send me. In the past week I have received to replies that I will now pass along. However, due to space limitations, I cannot print either letter in its entirety, so I will print the pertinent parts of the letters. The first is from Oasis Pensive Abacutors (dated 10/21/92), and was a form letter. The second is from Asgard and is a personal letter from Chris Bobbitt. I'd like to thank both for their letters.

OASIS PENSIVE ABACUTORS

"THIS LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO THE PUBLIC, and is being mailed to **all** of our customers which have outstanding orders from us (OPA), to selected User Groups, and to MICROpendium.

The aim of this letter is to address a number of false rumors regarding our company (OPA), and to talk about our current state of affairs regarding outstanding orders and the reason a lot of these rumors have gotten started in the first place.

If the below information is not a satisfactory explanation, we are fully willing to discuss your order either by phone or letter, and I am sure we can come to some agreement.

Some of the rumors that have been floating around recently about us, we feel deserve to be shot down. They range from saying "we NEVER made any of our products and just out to rip the public off", to "we NEVER have shipped a product by mail and just deal with us in person".

However, as most of you know, we have thousands of satisfied customers and of course we have shipped hundreds of our products by mail since we started in business back in 1985.

We can, however, understand where some of these rumors are coming from when you take a look at the following facts about which we feel the TI world needs to be informed. We would like to continue in the TI marketplace, but doing so is very hard since the TI world is such a close knit community that having just one unsatisfied customer reduces the total amount of the orders.

The amount of daily orders and satisfying the needs of our customers is our main concern. Unlike other companies in the TI world, our customers have been our main source of our daily expenses and overhead plus employee salaries, because OPA is, most likely, the ONLY company doing business in the TI world, where the owners devote themselves exclusively to the enterprise and are independent of a salaried external job.

This means that having a steady and increasing amount of orders is the only source of revenue to support ourselves and support future product developments. Again, because we have no outside job to cover our expenses, our product R&D cost is something which has to be factored into the selling price of our products, and still be able to stay competitive in the TI World.

We have been doing this very well since we started OPA in 1985, but over the last year we have run into a number of problems which have caused a tremendous shortfall of cash and lack of time in finishing some of products. Below you find a list of products from our current catalog each with a short explanation of their problems (if any)."

Following the above text was a listing of ten OPA products. The items of most interest were the comments in the TIM & SOB and GENEVE EPROM UPGRADEs. The following was in the in the TIM & SOB description.

" Being our best selling product... The first production lot sold so fast, we were quickly out of stock. This occurred when our own expenses and overhead were higher, and R&D and production startup costs were also hitting us HARD.

This left us with a major shortfall of cash, and incoming orders went towards things like heat, rent, food, and minimal necessities. Without these orders, we would not be here today. We are thankful that we able to continue."

Gary goes on to state that he is making arrangements with some outside investors and "will be recapitalizing the company as soon as the contract is finalized. So within

three weeks, we'll be able to rebuild our stock of needed parts and to begin filling

the outstanding orders no later than mid-Dec. '92."

In the GENEVE EPROM UPDATE section. Gary commented that their Geneve "was out of service for a few months (it seemed like years), and only recently got online, again. We hope to schedule final work on this product within five weeks and to start shipping soon after."

If you have any more questions regarding your order or in general, you're welcome to call us or write us anytime at: OPA Oasis Pensive Abacutors, 432 Jarvis Street #502, Toronto, Ont., Canada M4Y-2H3, 416-960-0925 or 416-963-8484 from 8am to 11pm EST."

ASGARD SOFTWARE

"In reference to your Nov. '92 column - while I appreciate the fact that you continue to mention us in your monthly column in the *SouthWest Ninety-Niners* newsletter, it does no service to your user group, your readers, yourself or *Asgard Software* to make assertions regarding our products without verifying them first. We would be more than happy to provide additional information about them if you have any questions.

Specifically, I refer to your comments regarding our word processor, *First Draft*, and our *Asgard Memory System* series P-Box card.

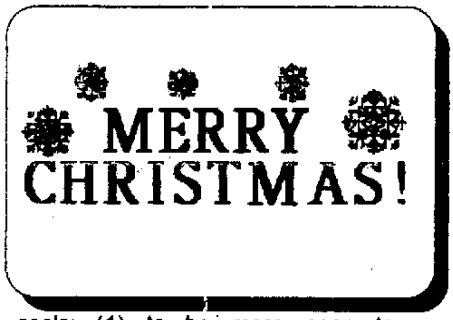
Regarding out AMS card - The only similarity it has to the *Foundation 128k card* is the base amount of memory shipped on it.

The *AMS* represents a departure from all other memory systems for the 99/4A because: (1) it does not require a DSR and hence it is completely transparent to the 99/4A unless a program specifically uses it; (2) it utilizes a TI memory mapper that they specifically designed for the 9900 family of processors in general and the 99/8 in particular; and (3) it provides the closest thing to a linear address space possible on a 99/4A..

Regarding *First Draft* - I have taken the liberty of enclosing some advertising literature on the product. It should be evident that it has no real relation to the *Press* except perhaps inspiration. Our initial announcements made it quite clear what the program did, and who did it - and hence your assertion that it was some sort of continuation of *Press*, was baseless.

In the past, you have been quite critical of our company. However, I realize that the biggest company in a market is always the largest target - and the one most critically examined. While we have deserved some of the lumps, I refuse to take undeserved ones.

In the past 2 years we have worked to re-build *Asgard* from the ground with five



goals: (1) to be more open to our customers; (2) to provide better service; (3) to focus on our core business; (4) to develop a range of new products and better integrate existing ones; and (5), to form a vision of where we want to take the TI community"

SOME COMMENTS

I thank both Gary Bowser and Chris Bobbitt for taking time out to reply to my concerns. As to Gary Bowser, I wish OPA the best of luck. I just wish he had made it known to the TI community of his problems BEFORE the "rumors" got started. I completely understand the problem with his Geneve being on the fritz as it is difficult at best to get them repaired. Next time Gary, just let us customers know what is happening. You'll find us reasonable people. And remember, I did write you, several times, and did call, all to no avail. This is where rumors start.

Regarding Asgard - I did not mean my statements about *First Draft* and *Press* to be anything negative. *Press* was to be a great innovation in the TI world, if *First Draft* was indeed a continuation of the *Press* project, it would be great. As it is, this is not so. But it is great anyway. The main question I had regarding the *Asgard Memory System* was not so much the seeming similarity to the *Foundation 128k card*, but Asgard's attitudes regarding the TI standards now being worked on. Chris, while I appreciated his candor and forthrightness, did not answer this question. I do know that Asgard has made great strides in its dealings with the TI community, and applaud Chris for this effort. But why not get more into the TI standards? Wouldn't this help both Asgard and the TI world? Or, have I missed something here???

Again, I appreciate the responses from both Chris and Gary, and look forward to more open dialog in the future!

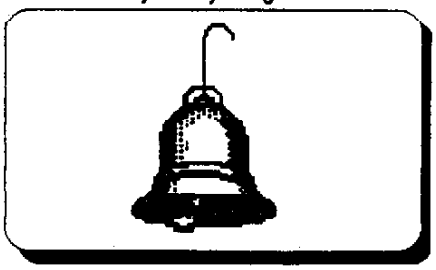
THINGS TO REMEMBER

For those who attend the TI Base Workshop /SIG, don't forget it will not be held this month in order that all members who want may attend the 50th Anniversary celebration of the wedding of Ed and Connie McCullough. I know I speak for all the members of the SouthWest Ninety Niners User Group when I say "Congratulations to both Ed and Connie!"

Also, there will be no Advance Languages SIG due to the holidays.

Anyone who wishes to run for a User Group office, please let Richard Baron, Jim Chapman, or Larry Newman know of your interest.

I will not be running for any office for this coming year. My doctor tells me that I am "burning the candle at both ends" and need to slow down. Taking off the pressures where ever I can has to be my goal, and this is one way. I will NOT stop being active in the group. I will just devote my energies in different ways. Maybe again in 1994.



Future Developments:

The opinions of one 99/4A developer

by Chris Bobbitt

OVERVIEW

With the apparent final demise of Myarc, and most likely the Geneve with it (not-withstanding the efforts of those trying to salvage the remains), the TI community is at an impasse.

For the last 6-7 years a substantial portion of the software and hardware developers among us have been focusing on the Geneve. While some interesting work has been done, the frustrations in developing for the machine has driven more developers out of the community than anything since the 99/4A was discontinued. The Geneve is the only computer that could make what little TI published about the 99/4A look like an embarrassment of riches.

In fact, considering how everything turned out (the intentions and hopes of all parties involved aside, including myself). I would say the Geneve was probably the worst thing that could have happened to the TI-99/4A. It siphoned off developers who would otherwise have worked on addressing the shortcomings of the 99/4A itself. The Geneve itself was a radical answer to those same shortcomings, and the fact that it was a total solution in one neat package goes a long way towards explaining the efforts and passions it inspired.

However, any reasonable assessment of the situation would conclude that it is to late to make lemonade out of this lemon. Even if the machine were readliy available today, we would be addressing ITS shortcomings by now. In 1985 512K of RAM and 128K of Video RAM was still something to talk about. But today, the capabilities of the machine are about as relevant to current computing requirements as the IBM PCjr, Atari 520ST or Amiga 1000. Further, the basic problems with the Geneve's design would insure that the task of updating the machine would be just as great as that of updating the 99/4A.

While I am not trying to discourage all of the developers who have spent years working on the machine and in some cases are still at it, the simple fact of the matter is that the window of opportunity for it has long been shut. The Geneve just can't compete against the 80386 and 68030 computers of the world, much less computers using the 80486, 68040 and RISC processors.

ASSESSING THE 99/4A

The basic problems with the TI-99/4A have been discussed to death, but it's important to restate the obvious sometimes.

1. Memory

The 99/4A never had enough of it. There probably isn't a single PC program available today that will fit in 32K (or even the 40K available with a Supercart).

Granted, we've gotten a lot of mileage out of virtual memory techniques, the 9900 processor's more efficient use of memory, and programming in straight assembly. But the fact of the matter is we are quickly coming to the end of the road on that. Who would use a virtual-memory word processor that had to go to disk to get a bit of code everytime you did a search and replace? Putting all of the features people expect from modern software, not to mention modern graphical user interfaces, in 99/4A programs is very difficult to impossible with current memory constraints.

Oh, people can still write games and utilities and some types of application programs, but when is the last time that a major new application (like TI-Base or Page Pro 99) has been released? How can someone improve much on those programs when they've run out of memory and can't make the program any smaller? As programs for PCs and Macs improve they inevitably get larger and larger because developers are loath to remove features found in provious versions. Hence, programs like WordPerfect that have been through 5 major revisions have everything but the kitchen sink, and 1200 page manuals to prove it.

Developing software for the 99/4A has always been about tradeoffs, but you eventually get to a point where the tradeoffs cost too much, and so new software development stops. We are about at that point with 99/4A software. Without more memory we will not see any more advances in databases, spreadsheets, or desktop publishing, much less newer applications like computer faxing.

2. Speed

The 99/4A is slow, especially by today's standards. Personal computers that perform 20 million instructions per second are found on the desks of secretaries. The 99/4A can just about manage 1/100th of that. The only thing that has kept the 99/4A competitive for so long is that the vast majority of the power is wasted on PCs and Macs by abominable software that needs 32K of code to read the keyboard.

The proliferation of graphical user interfaces (GUI) has put a premium on speed like nothing before in the PC world. While Mac users have been enjoying their benefits for years, the PC world has only recently awakened to the fact that they go a long way towards making PCs less user-hostile (one of the big things that kept people using the 99/4A for so long). While Windows is still a pile of you-know-what compared to (say) the NeXT or the Mac interface, it almost makes te PC as intuitive to use as a circa 1979 TI-99/4A.

To keep up with the Jones' a GUI for the 99/4A is inevitable. However, to produce a practical GUI for the 99/4A you'll need more speed and lot more memory. Please note that the latter goes quite a bit of the way towards mitigating the lack of the former because effective speed is still sometimes more a product of logical design and efficiency that raw power. However, all programs (especially efficient ones) benefit from increased speed.

3. Video

Of all the areas that we have tried to keep up with other machines, video display has probably been one of our more successful attempts. Despite occassional supply problems, since the mid-80's we've had a steady stream of new video products first based on the 9938 and more recently the 9958. We've been extremely fortunate that the video processor line used in the 99/4A found a wider commercial following than the 9900 itself did.

However, this is not to say there isn't room for improvement. Desktop publishing, GUIs and more advanced applications like Mulitmedia and Desktop Video make the 9938/58 adequate at best. Despite the fact that the improved resolution offered by these processors is still largely unexploited, within a couple of years it will seem as antiquated as, well the 9918a.

However, the interest in advanced video that exists today is enough to insure that we will see continued products using 9990s and perhaps even 34000 series processors. However, there is no point in tying a state-of-the-art video system to the 99/4A if there isn't enough CPU RAM to hold a single screen of data (there isn't even enough now with the 9938).

4. Sound and Speech

This is one of the least painful shortcomings of the 4A because compared to much of the opposition, we STILL have competitive sound and speech capabilities.

There is nothing like our speech system available in the PC or Mac world today which relies on hideously inefficient digitizing to achieve comparable sound quality (10 seconds of digitized speech can take 1000 times more storage than 10 seconds of speech from our synthesizer). While our sound system has aged less gracefully (it was second-best even to the Commodore 64), the 99/4A still sounds better than many PCs sold today. However, Desktop Video and Multimedia - granted both cutting edge applications that won't be widespread for a while yet - both require tremendously enhanced sound and speech capabilities. The emergence of these applications has also started to drive PC developers to improve sound and speech on the PC - its a safe bet that in the next year or two virtually every PC sold will have a Sound Blaster-like sound board as standard equipment (the Mac always had it).

Any expansion of sound and speech technology for the 99/4A will require an increase in memory and probably speed - especially if it includes input of speech and sound as well as output. As with advanced video, there is no point to improving sound and speech capabilities if you have no place to put this type of data, or you can't get the data to the hardware fast enough.

5. Storage

As with video, the 99/4A development community has tried hard to keep up with the latest in storage technology. This has been as much out of necessity as virtue - because of the limited RAM of the 99/4A the only way to increase the functionality of 99/4A programs has been to use disk space as program storage space (virtual memory).

The HFDC brought the 99/4A up the level of an IBM AT, and promised IDE and SCSI controllers would bring the 99/4A into the modern age - on par with the latest from the clone makers and Apple. The SCSI controller, in particular, would give the 99/4A access to the wide range of storage peripherals outside of disk drives - CD-ROM players, tape-backup units and so forth.

While increased storage is always useful, it won't permit any new types of software application development, however, beyond what we can already do today with the HFDC, RAM-disks and the like. However, speedier storage WILL make living with virtual memory techniques a lot easier. If it only takes a half-second for the "search and replace" function to load off of your SCSI hard disk, then you can probably live with a virtual-memory word processor.

6. Input/Output Devices

Along with storage and video, the variety of input and output devices has for the most part kept up with technology. You can attach the latest printers and serial mice to the 99/4A as easily as you can with a PC. We can thank the fact that we were fortunate TI supplied us with standard RS232 and Centronics compatible Parallel ports for this (not necessarily a given with older computers).

There is, of course, always room for improvement. Many PCs nowadays sport second-generation parallel ports that can handle much higher speeds and two-way communications, and Apple Macs have featured the RS422 interface for years and years (which also works faster). Further, our serial interface is not quite compatible with some applications. MIDI has pushed the 99/4A to the limit in this respect - the technical problems related to properly exploiting this technology are great because of shortcomings with the interface.

Also, as with improving most other aspects of the 4A, an improvement in memory is also important to optimize improvement in input/output devices. Additional memory would permit better buffering of data which would facilitate faster I/O), and make supporting MIDI a lot easier.

SUMMARY

As it stands the 99/4A could stand major improvement in memory and speed, and substantial improvements in storage, and modest increases in speech and sound, video and I/O.

This isn't meant to indict the 99/4A - the machine will still be useful for years to come. But lack of improvement in these areas will mean that TI-99/4A applications will seem ever more and more primitive by comparison with what can be done on other computers. Without improvement it will be impossible to even contemplate many up-to-date applications.

PRESCRIPTIONS

While the situations is not good, it is far from hopeless. Despite the thinning of the ranks caused in part by the Geneve, there still exists a dedicated group of people interested in developing new hardware and software for the 99/4A. Chances are any substantial improvement in what the 99/4A can do will bring more of these people out of the woodwork as it did in the past with the introduction of GRAM devices, higher capacity drives, new programming languages, and so forth.

Lately small groups of individuals have tried to help solve the problem by defining it better in conferences and meetings. The best known of these efforts is the 99/4A Standards discussions that have been held on various electronic networks and at TI conventions.

1. Memory

The 99/4A Standards committee (the NTISC) has evolved into a general descussion on addressing the memory shortcomings of the 99/4A - essentially by defining common protocols for accessing these types of devices (physically and through software). While there is a lot of utility in such discussions, I also have some cocerns about them. I believe that in the short run they unnecessarily raise expectations; the great disparity in the way currently available memory devices work will make what they are trying to do very complex; and, actually developing devices and software to pre-designed specifications sometimes points out inadequacies in the specifications more than any thing else. In this way they can be counter-productive.

Further, trying to write software that interfaces to a wide variety of memory devices promises to be most

difficult. Optimizing a program to work with a variety of different page sizes and interfacing methods, even smoothed over by common access routines, may be impossible. One program we worked on at one time, Press, became impossible to complete on this point alone.

The best way to promote a standard memory device for the 99/4A is to let the community vote with its dollars. The most popular memory device becomes the de facto standard. If there are shortcomings in products that are currently available, anyone who makes a better one can probably sell a lot of them if they address those shortcomings.

This isn't to say that a standards committee can't help the matter along. While it may be impossible to set a standard access method for currently existing memory devices, a standards committee could certainly design an "ideal" memory system that addresses the problems with current systems. This design could then be licensed to multiple vendors - better to insure steady supply and competitive pricing.

2. Speed

Speed is a much harder commodity to come by. The only really compatible speed improvement currently available is to increase the clock speed. While this improves speed up to 30% or so, even this causes problems with some programs.

Recent efforts in this area (besides the Geneve) include a 99105 based daughter-board that would plug into where the 99/4A's CPU currently resides. While this would certainly meet the need for speed, it has evidently hit a stone-wall during development.

Another long-term answer may be to simply replace the entire motherboard - in essence what Myarc did with the Geneve. While this would probably be more costly than a daughterboard, the technical problems might actually be less - particularly if the designers put all of the common peripheral ports on the motherboard and didn't worry about access to the P-Box.

The cost of such a thing would certainly be an issue, particularly if the designer used one of the few remaining available 9900 compatible processors. A 99105 costs around $225 EACH in quantity (making the COST of a full-blown system built around it $500-$1000 or more depending on the components and peripherals included).

The designer of such a system may want to consider using another microprocessor and emulating the 9900. The upside to this is the cost per processor may go down dramatically. The downside is the technical problem of emulating a 9900, and potential compatibility problems that may result from a buggy emulation. Of course any emulation done depends on the microprocessor that is running your emulation - and it may be easiest to do a 9900 emulation with the new TI SPARC cips or the TI 34020. These chips have a few 9900 genes floating around in them and have enough raw speed to make a emulator that is 20 times faster than the original. Of all the problems facing the 99/4A, the speed problem is probably the hardest.

3. Video

Hold the course! More 99/4A software is becoming 80-column aware all of the time. If only we could convince more people to buy the upgrade - that would would insure both a steadier supply and future development of both high-resolution software and hardware.

4. Sound and Speech

There have been several efforts to improve both of these things on the 99/4A - ironically both by TI. The MBX system is STILL just as good or better than the typical speech recognition device for the PCs and Macs, and TI speech syntheses technology is peerless. It is rumored that TI has also married the two with speech recognition devices that interpret the spoken word into the Linear Predictine Coding system used by TI synthesizers (including our own Speech Synthesizer). A board built around this technology would be on the cutting edge for all computers!

Also, TI reportedly was behind the design for the FORTI music card, which expanded our system to 12 voices with stereo output.

All we would need to bring the 99/4A into modern times would be a Sound Blaster for the 99/4A with an expanded version of the speech technology we already use.

5. Storage

This area promises to be one of the first addressed, particular of the new IDE and SCSI offer enough speed and capacity to meet the 99/4A's storage needs for years to come. They could also facilitate cutting edge applications like multimedia, and currrent hot topics such as GUIs, desktop-publishing and so forth.

6. Input/Output

The only thing the 99/4A needs is a device offering 102 true Centronics parallel ports and 204 improved RS232 ports. With the former it may be possible to attach all of those peripherals designed to work on a parallel port that are available for the PC. With an improved version of the latter, some of the technical problems of MIDI would be solved.

CONCLUSIONS

The 99/4A has come a long way in the 13 or so years since its first incarnation as the 99/4. It is reliable, useful and addictive. However, if it is to become more useful, and stay as challenging and addictive, it is going to have to be improved.

My purpose in writing this was not to deride the 4A, and certainly not to offend anyone in the past or present who was/is working towards the common goal of improving the machine. Everyone's effort in this respect has been invaluable to the cause. I also didn't write this to quibble with anyone's approach to the problems at hand. While I disagree with some aspects of the NTISC, as a programmer I can certainly empathize with their aims.

The point of this article was to ask a few questions of myself and others - "What's wrong with what we have now?", "What can be done to correct what's wrong?" and "What hardware would I like to write programs for?". I look forward to reading other answers to these questions.

Please send all comments to:

Chris Bobbitt
c/o Asgard Software
PO Box 10306
Rockville, MD 20849-0306

FESTWEST 'NORTH' 93

SUPPORTING: TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI-99/4A AND THE 9640 GENEVE AND COMPATIBLES

C/O FestWest 'North' 93 Committee
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Ogden, Utah 84404

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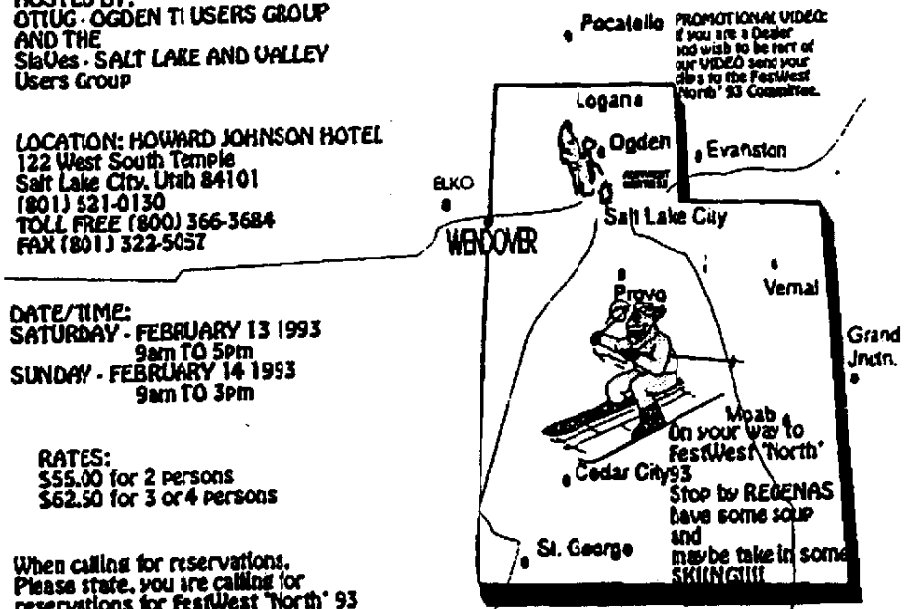

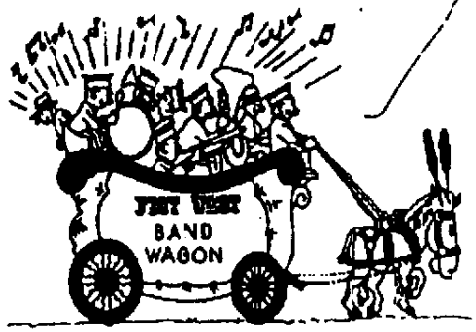

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24HRS PER DAY
CALL OUR BBS FOR
FURTHER UPDATES ON
FestWest 'North' 93

FEST-WEST "NORTH" '93

VACATION

Thursday, Feb. 11 --Visit REGENA
Friday, Feb. 12 --Ski Brian Head
Saturday, Feb. 13 --FEST-WEST
Sunday, Feb. 14 --FEST-WEST
Monday, Feb. 15 --Ski near SLC
Tuesday, Feb. 16 --Ski Brian Head

TI friends are invited to an open house at REGENA's home in Cedar City, 250 miles south of the FEST-WEST site in Salt Lake City. Stop in Thursday or Friday on your way to FEST-WEST. If it's cold, snowy weather, a crock pot of soup will be ready for you.

I can help you with skiing plans at Brian Head. Also--let's plan a ski trip near SLC on Monday!!

Write for details: REGENA
918 Cedar Knolls West
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Tips Buys

The following information is provided as a service to our members. The items listed are for sale by the individuals indicated and are subject to prior sale. The group assumes no responsibility for items listed and makes no claims as to their condition or interface compatibility with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

Wanted!
Hard/Floppy Disk Controller

Rolf & Harriet Kradenpoth (602)746-1990

Star Micronics
NX-1000 II w/3 ribbons
$100

Ed Chase (602)299-6511 or #118 on CP

$200 Complete TI System
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232
Plus: C.Itoh Printer, Console, Speech,
ExBasic, Multiplan & TI Writer

Norma McCargar (602)889-8401

$150 Complete TI System
Includes: Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232
Plus: Beige Console w/dust cover,
ExBasic, Tax Investment Record Keeping,
Home Financial Decisions, & TI Writer

Larry Newman (602)299-2092 or #10 on CP

Entec external power supply box. Has enough power for a hard disk and two full power floppies. Light toggle switches on front to control 3 outlets on the back of the box. Asking $50.

"I  My TI" White Hats
Black Letters
Red Heart
$5 Mesh Style
$6 Golf Style
plus $1 shipping

Tom Wills (602)886-2460 or #1 on CP

$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232
$15 TI 99-4/A Console
$10 Cartridge Expander (Widget)
$4 Prostick II - joystick

Jack or BJ Mathis (602)747-5046

$35 Stand Alone Disk Drive & Case
$2 300 BAUD Modem w/cable & power
$4 Replacement keyboards
$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(single)
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(dual)
$10 Cassette Player/Recorder

50/$1 Disk Labels
500/$1 Mailing Labels
Tractor feed 1-across

TI Keyboard Overlays $3ea or 5/$10
Disk Storage Flip Files $3 each
Printer Cables 4'=$8 6'=$10 10'=$12
Modem Cables 6'=$8 (Telco ready)
$3 Cassette Cable
$5 RGB Monitor Cable

Printer Ribbons

$3 NX-10	$4 NX-2400
$2 Epson MX-80	$3.50 NX-1000

Diskettes
10/$3 or 25/$7 (SW99ers only)
(overlabeled)

Modules

$2 Adventure (on cassette)
$1 Data Base Man. Entry (Navarone)
$1 Data Base Man. Sort (Navarone)
$5 Editor Assembler
$25 Extended Basic
$1 Home Financial Decisions
$1 Household Budget Management
$2 Microsurgeon
$5 Multiplan
$1 Personal Real Estate
$1 Personal Record Keeping
$4 Pole Position
$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping
$1 Terminal Emulator II
$1 TI Invaders
$3 TI-Writer
$2 Tombstone City

Jack or BJ Mathis (602)747-5046

Cassette Programs
$1 Teach Yourself Basic
$1 Teach Yourself Extended Basic

Disk Programs
$2 Airline
$5 Banners '99 (Great Lakes)
$10 Rock Runner (Asgard)
$2 Tax Tamer
$4 The Scheduler
(Critical Path Method Planning)

Books
$1 36 TI-99/4A Programs for Home, School, & Office
$1 Basic Computer Games
$3 Basic Programs for Business Vol. 1
$3 Basic Programs for Business Vol. 2
$3 Basic Programs for the Home
$3 Beginner's BASIC (Blue Book)
$3 Best of 99er
$5 Compute's Programmer's Reference Guide to the TI-99/4A
$2 Computer Playground
$3 Computer Tutor
$1 Editor Assembler TI Manual new!
$3 Executive Computing - How to Get It Done on Your Own
$10.50 Home Publishing on the TI-99/4A Supplement #3 w/disk
$3 Introduction to TI Basic
$2 Kids & the TI-99/4A
$3 Pascal from Basic
$3 Practical Basic Programs
$2 Programs for the TI Home Computer
$3 Programming Basic w/the TI Computer
$1 Sams TI-99/4A Basic Programs
$3 Some Common Basic Programs
$3 The Word Processing Book
$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear
$3.25 User's Reference Guide
$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A

Home Computer/99er Magazines
$1 each or 6 for $5
Nov '82 thru Nov '83
Vol 1, #5 and Vol 1, #6
Vol 4, #1 thru Vol 5, #6

Jack or BJ Mathis (602)747-5046

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SouthWest Ninety-Niners Nomination Form

Indicate your nominations for the offices listed below, cut and mail this form to the group P.O. Box, hand it to a nominating committee member, or call a nominating committee member. You may nominate yourself or any other member in good standing. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

Nominating Committee Members are Larry Newman - 299-2092, Jim Chapman - 326-8300, & Richard Baron - 885-4812.

President _____ Secretary _____

Vice-President _____ Treasurer _____

Signed, _____

Members Meet
First Tuesday December 1st, Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. It is our Christmas/Party Meeting. Bring your spouses, kids, and finger foods to share. See you there!

TI-Base Workshop
Canceled this month.

Exec Meeting
Changed to second Monday this month - December 14th, Perkins Restaurant at Grant and Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited to help with planning for our Users Group.

General Users
Third Tuesday of each month, December 15th, 7:30pm. Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

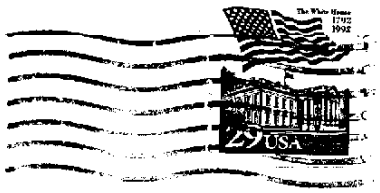
Advanced Languages
Canceled this month.

Membership Report

The turn out for our November meeting was affected by Election Day, however seventeen still attended the meeting. Rod Stallard and Tom Holder renewed renewed their memberships this month. There are 53 members of SouthWest Ninety-Niners and we will send out 47 exchange newsletters this month.

January Newsletter Deadline
December 24th, 1992
Get those articles done before Christmas!

SouthWest Ninety-Niners
PO Box 17831
Tucson, AZ 85730



Dallas TI HC Group 9209
Dallas 99 Interface
PO Box 29863
Dallas TX
75229