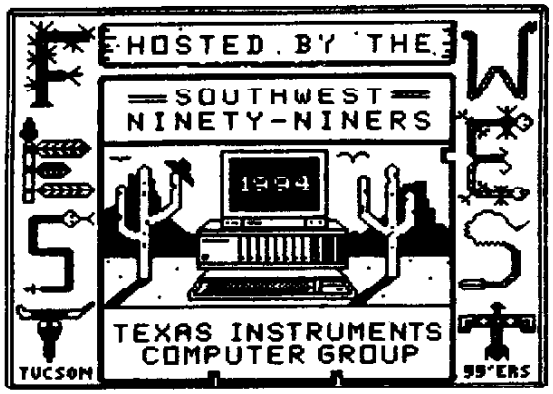
SouthWest Ninety-Niners

October 1993

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85731
(602)747-5046



Pres - BJ Mathis VP - Rod Stallard Sec - Ed McCullough Tres - Mike Doane
Newsletter Editor/Library Chmn - BJ Mathis Cactus Patch SysOp - Tom Wills
Newsletter Librarian - Leonard Taffs Disk Librarian - Richard Baron
Lending Librarians - Tom Wills & Matt Matthews

Disk of the Month - October 1993

by Mike Doane

This month's DOM is a conglomeration of programs. I have included some utilities from Jim Peterson's "Nuts and Bolts" collection. Jim has one of the most extensive collections of Fairware programs available. For a mere two dollars he will send you a catalog listing all the programs he has available. You have probably heard of Jim's name through his company name of "Tigercub Software". If you send him the two dollars, I guarantee you will receive 10 times that amount of value.

I have also included three pictures in varying formats. I have included one in a TIArtist format. The name of it is (simply enough) TIARTIST/P and TIARTIST/C. The difference between the two programs is , the file with /C behind it is the COLOR portion of the picture. The file with /P is the actual PICTURE portion. I have also included the same picture in a GIF format (named PICTUREG) and also in a PICASSO format named PICTUREP. I did not do this simply to fill disk space but to show you the different types of files and their sizes. This will help you to decide what type of graphics program is best for your use.

I prefer the "ease of use" of Picasso, but the file length of 85 sectors for each file can be very limiting to anyone with DS-DD capabilities. TIArtist has many advanced features and the ability to colorize your pictures is a nice feature. TIArtist saves pictures in a "program" format of usually 25 sectors per file. GIF pictures are LARGE and require many sectors. They are usually of much greater detail and complexity than what you can get in either Picasso or TIArtist. There is an excellent program written by Jim Reiss named "PIXPRO" available from ASGARD which "converts" graphics formats. You can change a GIF picture into TIArtist, make some changes, and then convert it back to GIF format or leave it as a TIArtist format. You must be careful about the size of your GIF picture. TIArtist will only do a certain size picture. The picture saved may not be all of the original GIF picture. You might have to break down the GIF picture into 4 or more files in order to get the entire picture. GIF pictures with color will NOT convert to a Picasso format properly. The program will not handle the color portion so you end up with merely the black lines portion.

I have included a game from the Cactus Patch BBS files. This game and hundreds of other files, programs, and utilities are available to you free!(If the program you download is FAIRWARE and you like/use it, PLEASE pay the author!) I suggest you take advantage of this fine asset. I believe the SW99'ers have a modem you can borrow in order to try it out. Tom Wills does an excellent job for us by maintaining this service for YOU!

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.

Treasurer's Report - October '93

by Mike Doane

I am including a separate listing in this month's Treasurer's report. It seems SOMEONE was not as prepared for the last report! Corrective steps have been taken and an innocent party was punished. (Hey, I think I am ready to run for public office!)

This was a good month. We took money in and we did not have any expenditures. We will show a double in expenses next month for newsletter and postage costs.

I have talked to Bud Mills of BMS (Bud Mills' Services, the maker of the Horizon Ram Disk, Horizon Mouse, and many other fine products) regarding the possible purchase of a HRD 4000 as a prize also. He is willing to give the group a deal. He will supply some memory chips gratis when we purchase a HRD 4000 for a door prize. We will be purchasing a certificate and the certificate will be presented to the winner of the raffle. I believe this is the best way to handle this as Bud will not have to carry an extra board with him and the SouthWest 99'ers will not have any liability involved with the product.

The winner of the prize will have to make arrangements with Bud about the shipping costs. if they are present at FW 94 and Bud does not sell out of his stock (and Halley's comet makes an unexpected reappearance) they could pick up their HRD 4000 at the Fest.

I have also talked to Jim Krych of ASGARD PERIPHERALS (Software designers, manufacturers, sellers extraordinare and the manufacturers of fine products such as the the ASGARD Memory System) and ASGARD has also expressed an interest in selling us an assortment of their product line at a reduced cost for prizes. Jim is hoping to make it for Fest but Chris Bobbitt is unsure due to commitments related to his job on the East Coast,(c'mon, Chris, nothing of any interest EVER happens on the East coast in February, for crying out loud!).

Well, now that I have planned to spend all our money, let's see how we are doing.

Balance 09/26/93		$548.61
INCOME August:		
Membership	$65.00	
Disks,labels,ribbons	$16.00	
Equipment sales	$18.00	
Fairware support	$ 5.00	
(Thank you, Darlene Gaente for supporting our talented authors)		
August Income Total		$104.00

INCOME September:		
Membership	$15.00	
Library	$5.00	
Disks,labels,ribbons	$27.50	
Equipment sales	$15.00	
Misc. Sales	$11.00	
September Income Total		$73.50
Working Bal. 08/29/93		$726.11

The savings account statement is :

Balance 08/29/93 :		$50.48
Interest	$ .00	
(I have not received Sep.'s statement)		
Balance 09/26/93 :		$50.48

Our balance will slowly increase over the next few month's and then we will show some large expenditures in February due to FestWest costs. We should begin to see some income from raffle ticket sales beginning in the latter part of November and continuing through Fest West. Remember! The more tickets we sell, the greater variety and quanity of prizes we will have to offer.

September SW99ers' Minutes

Tuesday September 7, 1993

1. Al Armstrong conducted the Q&A period.

   Q. What is the problem with a "bad sector" (Bad block?) error message during a Telco file download?

   A. Telco will not normally give a "bad sector" message during a download, since that indicates a disk problem. A "bad block" message indicates that an error during transmission was detected and the block was retransmitted.

   Q. Why does an extra form feed occur in formatter mode of Writer on the first print try after the first page but does not occur after the subsequent tries?

   A. Unknown. The best start is to do a hex dump of the file to find the extra FF. Otherwise get some help from one of the old hands.

2. Present Fest West raffle prizes:
   Myarc HFDCC card
   w/20 meg hard drive in a stand alone case.
   Series 4000 Horizon RAM disk
   Over/Under drive
   (3 1/2 & 5 1/4 pair in a 1/2 ht. space)
   Pocket Modem, 2400bd

3. Fest West'94 Raffle Tickets will be available at the October meeting. Price is $1 a piece, but 10 will also get a free admission to the Fest.

4. The newsletter editor is requesting comments good or bad on the newsletter. Also requested are volunteers to do folding, stamping, labeling and mailing newsletters.

5. The Plato library has been available for some time now and contains many modules. See BJ to borrow it.

6. Matt Matthews picked up a surge suppressor/power controller at the Price Club for $20, even had the receipt to prove it.

Rod Stallard, Vice President
Thanks, Rod...Ed M

Tom's Observations

by Tom Wiles

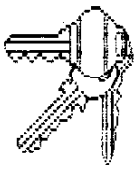
Time has been short for me this month, so this month's Observations will be also. As more and more people get into telecommunications, those newcomers see some strange symbols occasionally while viewing messages. Those sybols go under several different names. The most common name is Emoticons. Below are a number of those you may see on BBSs.

```
@:-)      Smile or Humor
@:-):-(   Masks theatrical comments
@:<)      For those with hairy lips
@:)       Smile II
@:(       Frown
@:<)=     For those with beards also
@:/)      Not funny
@'-)      Wink
@P-)      Pirate
@;-)      Wink II
@:-"      Pursing lips
@:-v      Another face, speaking, side profile
@:-V      Another face, shouting, side profile
@:-w      Speak with forked tongue
@:-W      Shout with forked tongue
@:-r      Bleahhh! with tongue sticking out
@:-1      Smirk
@:-,      Smirk II
@<:-o     Eeek!
@:-**     Oops, with hand covering mouth
@:x       I'm not talking
@:-T      Keeping a straight face, tight lipped
@:-D      Said with a smile
@:-o      More shouting
@:-O      Still more shouting
@:-{      Count Dracula
@=):-)=   Uncle Sam
@:-#      Censored
@:___i      Smoking
@:Q       Smoking II
@:___j      Smoking and smiling
@:/i      No Smoking
@:-I      It's something, but I don't know what ...
@:**      Kiss
@:-x      Kiss, kiss
@:->      Another happy face
@:-(      Unhappy
@:-c      Really unhappy
@:-C      Unbelieving, jaw dropped
@:-<      Forlorn
@:-B      Drooling, or overbite
@:-!      Disgusted
@:/       Cry
@:D       Big laugh
@%-)      Confused
@:-?      Licking your lips
@<:>==    A turkey
@:-):-):-)  A loud guffaw
@:-J      Tongue in cheek comments
@:**)     Clowning around
@:-8      Talking out of both sides of your mouth
@(:-)     Messages dealing with helmets
@<:-)     For dumb questions
@:_)      I used to be a boxer, but it really got my
            nose out of joint
@B-)      Batman
@#:-)     Someone with matted hair
@:-o      Oh, noooooo (a l Mr. Bill)
@#:-)     Mr. Bill II
@¦-(      Late night messages
@(:-$     Ill
@(:-&     Angry
```

```
@:-       Angry II
@(:-(     Very sad
@(:-<)    Blabbermouth
@**:**    Message about fuzzy things
@(:-¦K-   Formal mesasage
@@@%&S%&  You know what this one means!
@¦¦**(    Handshake offered
@¦¦**)    Handshake accepted
@(-_-)    Secret smile
@(:-...   Heartbreaking message
```

I hope you found these Emoticons enjoyable. Oh, in case you don't get them, tip this page on edge and it should then become clear.

Feedforth - Oct '93



by W. Leonard Tabbs

DV/80 Files Creation, Continued, Part II. Some concluding remarks on the DV80FILMKR in last month's column: regarding lines 80, 150, 170, 183. ST=1 (line 80) is a flag to present correct opening screen. Line 170 should have implemented this flag. Change line 170 to read: 170 IF ST THEN 180 ELSE GOSUB 420.

The request for time delay (Line 150) was not explained. This input option could be omitted though it was included to allow the user to view the final input one last time as it is being saved. With zero delay the screen display will disappear too rapidly to follow. Suggested delay: 300.

A marker is missing in line 183. It should be:

```
    183 DISPLAY AT(21,1):"¦     ¦
                 !          ¦
          ¦"
```

Lines 220-270 set up your screen display to match your total input line against the TI 28-char line display. A1$ thru A3$ total 80 characters. A4$ displays the beginning of any overflow above 80 chars, giving you the option of observing if any data you need to include has exceeded the line limit.

"DV80FILMKR" demonstrates one way to develope a DV/80 file and one method for setting up a file record to include separate fields. It may not be the most efficient method but it can be a useful learning experience. With its screen-display of a "grid" to follow, one can line up data items in whatever columns were desired within an 80 character limit.

While there is nothing wrong with using the "DV80FILMKR" program as it is, the manner of entering data is cumbersome. It would be more efficient to enter individual fields, separately. Then these separate INPUTS can be STR$ung together for a DV/80 file record. Using the suggestion at the end of last month's column (a check file program), 5 inputs could be:

1) CK #
2) Date
3) Payee
4) Amount
5) Explanation

Feedforth *(continued)*

```
185 LINPUT "Enter /// to End
            ENTER CHECK #: "
:CKN$
187 IF LEN(CKN$)>5 THEN 185
188 IF CKN$="///" THEN CLOSE
#1 :: STOP
189 LINPUT "Enter Date 00000
0 :":DT$
191 IF LEN(DT$)>6 THEN 189
193 LINPUT "Enter Payee: ":P
YE$
195 IF LEN(PYE$)>13 THEN 193
197 LINPUT "Enter Amount: ":
AMT$
199 IF LEN(AMT$)>8 THEN 197
201 LINPUT "Explanation: ":E
XP$
203 IF LEN(EXP$)>30 THEN 201
205 PRINT CKN$;" ";DT$;" ";P
YE$:AMT$;" ";EXP$
207 PRINT :: INPUT "O.K.? Y/
N ":OK$
209 IF ASC(OK$)<>98 THEN 185
```

Note that different SEG$ lengths are now being employed. These can be set to your individual preference. These LINPUT lines show the following lengths allowed for the 5 entries: 1) Check #, 5 chars 2) Date (000000), 6 chars 3) Payee, 13 chars 4) Amount, 8 chars, and 5) Explanation, 30 chars. These are arbitrary lengths. The reason for maintaining an 80-char length file record is also arbitrary. It is possible to manipulate files with longer records but I opt for 80 char limits because of the possibility of interfacing these files with other utilities. My favorite sorting program is limited to working with 80 char lines, and if one wants to use TI-Writer type programs with them, the 80 char line is much more practical.

PUTTING YOUR STRS TOGETHER. The 5 inputs are STR$ung together for a file record as follows:

```
AA$=CKN$&" "&DT$&"  "&PYE$&"  "&AMT$&"  "&EXP$
```

Your OUTPUT line can print AA$ in whatever order you wish. With 5 data items, the permutations and combination possibilities are numerous. The program last month saved your entire entry as a single STR$ing, as you entered it in line 186. For the above 5 separate entries, you can change line 710 to read:

```
710 A$=CKN$&" "&DT$&" "&PYE$
&" "&AMT$&" "&EXP$
```

There remains one bit of house-keeping to attend to. As your file is created, not all your individual inputs will be the same length. It will make the file appearance much neater and manageability much easier if the file is printed with the 5 inputs aligned. To do this, add the following lines:

```
220 CKN=LEN(CKN$):: CKN2$="
    " :: CKN2=LEN(CKN2$):: C
K=CKN2-CKN :: CKN$=CKN$&SEG$
(CKN2$,1,CK)

225 DT=LEN(DT$):: DT2$="
  " :: DT2=LEN(DT2$):: DTN=D
T2-DT :: DT$=DT$&SEG$(DT2$,1
,DTN)

230 PYE=LEN(PYE$):: PYE2$="
          " :: PYE2=LEN(PY
E2$):: PY3=PYE2-PYE :: PYE$=
PYE$&SEG$(PYE2$,1,PY3)

235 AMT1=LEN(STR$(AMT$)) ::
AMT2$="        " :: AMT2=LEN
(AMT2$):: AMT3=AMT2-AMT1 ::
AMT$=STR$(AMT$)&SEG$(AMT2$,1
,AMT3)

240 EXP=LEN(EXP$):: EXP1$="
12345678901234567890123" :: E
XP2=LEN(EXP1$):: EXP3=EXP2-E
XP :: EXP$=EXP$&SEG$(EXP1$,1
,EXP3)
```

CKN2$, DT2$, PYE2$, AMT2$, EXP1$ are space STR$ings. Lines 220-240 in effect pad out the entries to be of equal length. All the records now maintain the same spacing for each of the 5 inputs, and sorting on these fields is now possible if you have a sorting program with this capability.

If you are wondering why numerical elements are entered as STR$ings, it is because it gives one the freedom to use alpha characters as code indications for reference. This does mean that when it comes to using math functions, it is necessary to extract/convert the amounts from STR$ings to numeric variables. An example is AMT$. When a program is used that would want to add the amounts from the files, once AMT$ (numerical amount) is extracted, a variable AMT can be designated to get numerit value (AMT=VAL(AMT$)).

Once your file is made, you can resurrect "COPYFILE" (SW 99ers August 93 Issue) and include directions for COPYFILE to read your file and change the order of your file string, or do any number of possible variations to your file and then copy this out as a new file. Perhaps the most immediate use would be to add the amounts. Incidentally, if you want your file to include DEPOSITS as well as checks, enter your deposits like checks but use a minus sign when you enter amounts of deposits.

Once COPYFILE Linputs your old string, direct it to perform an adding operation: When COPYFILE Linputs your STR$ AA$ as A$, you will need to extract the amount, using SEG$. To use COPYFILE in this manner you will have to understand how to use SEG$, (and while you're at it, review POS, LEN, and ASC)!

SEG$ will be essential to extract portions of your 80-char line (such as extracting AMT$ for addition purposes). Stack up your AA$ string against a grid:

```
 1....¦.....¦.....¦.....¦.....
 1.....7.....1.....2.....3.....
 .....4.....7.....6.....
  Ck #   Date    Payee       Amount     Explanation
```

As the amount should appear as the fourth element, SEG$(AA$,27,36) should be your AMT$ entry. Set up a new STR$ for this: BMT$=SEG$(AA$,27,36). Then to add amounts (if wished) : BMT=VAL(BMT$). With this direction COPYFILE is on its way to adding your file amounts. Whether you wish to create a new file showing the totals, or you want to send it to printer (or both?) is up to you.

POS can be used to extract information from your file of specific catagories or amounts. If you want COPYFILE to read your file and extract all payments to JOHN SMITH then insert a line near beginning of COPYFILE to allow you to INPUT what you are searching for (INPUT "Search For? ":SCH$). Then after COPYFILE gets its first LINPUT, add a line: IF POS(A$,SCH$,1)<>0 THEN... IF COPYFILE finds what you entered, tell it to go to what you want done with what is found ELSE direct it to next LINPUT.

(This is making use of COPYFILE as a file reader, so if you don't want it to make a new file of your searched-for item, then change COPYFILE's output instructions accordingly.

Once you have opened a file, it remains open until you close it. This means once you have created several individual files (such as Checking files for each month of the year), by using COPYFILE you can assemble the whole 12 months into one large file. This is done by having COPYFILE programmed to input each of the twelve files, opening and closing them as these INPUT files are read, but leaving your OPEN (OUTPUT file) open until it has copied them all. When all files have been read and copied, then CLOSE your OUTPUT file. Unlike TI-Writer type programs that will give you "BUFFER FULL" messages after just so many input lines, there is no limit to the size of OUTPUT file you can create--except for the sectors available on your disk system. Keep this in mind when making your files. Check every once in a while how many sectors a given number of your file lines take--this will avoid your crashing an OUTPUT file that required more sectors than were left on your disk!

ASC. If you have a large sorted file--such as one in alphabetical order and you wish to select only the "C"'s (assuming the file is too large to load into a Writer-type program, or you do not have such a program) using COPYFILE you can enter after COPYFILE's LINPUT line: IF ASC(SEG$(A$,1,1))<67 OR IF ASC(SEG$(A$,1,1))>67 THEN (GOTO LINPUT line #) ELSE (GOTO what you want here--Printer, or make another file, etc.). Also note that this same line can pick out all the "C"'s from an unsorted file. The SEG$ numbers (in parenthesis) will determine what position in your file line the extraction will take place.

This same type of DV/80 file could be created using TI-Writer type program-Editors. By setting TAB stops at appropriate columns you can achieve the same results perhaps more quickly. Nevertheless, when program sizes get into many hundreds of records, your own DV/80 file program may be quicker to manage this information. In my own case, the Writer-type programs simply would not carry me through a whole year's entries. Most businesses will require more lines than TI-Writer type programs can hold, although they can be managed to some degree in tandem fashion.

Beginner Printer - Dot Graphics 9/H

by Jim Lesher, Dallas 99 Interface 8/93

Here is an interesting program Gemini Star had published as a subroutine, and then some good and intelligent soul converted it for the 99/4A. Using DOT GRAPHICS and a lot of math, the polygon is very interesting, and if you play around with some of the numbers within the program, you can create some more of your own. But, first I must tell you, it takes about 90 seconds for it to start printing, s be patient. The compter must do a lot of calculating and computing before it can start printing. To get some interesting effects change the 135 in line 430 to 180. Here are some numbers to give some more shapes: 144, 45, 90, and 120. It is better to use a number which divides evenly into 360, but you can insert any number you wish, to see what it will do. then after you print those out, change the 45 in line 410 to any number you want. If you like geometrical figures, you will like these. I would really appreciate it is someone would figure out a way to place the shapes further over on the page and also chage the size of the figures.

Also would appreciate some other programs to make the printer do some interesting things.

```
10 OPEN #1:"PIO"
20 MAXCOL=75 :: MAXROW=14
30 DIM BIT(75,14)
40 MASK(1)=64 :: MASK(4)=8
50 MASK(2)=32 :: MASK(5)=4
60 MASK(3)=16 :: MASK(6)=2
70 LX=20 :: LY=20
80 LXFAC=72/LX :: LYFAC=87/LY
90 GOSUB 400
100 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"A";CHR$(6)
110 FOR ROW=0 TO MAXROW
120 A$=""
130 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"K";CHR$(MAXCOL);CHR$(0)
140 FOR COL=1 TO MAXCOL
150 A$=A$&CHR$(BIT(COL,ROW))
160 NEXT COL
170 PRINT #1:A$;" "
180 NEXT ROW
190 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);"2"
200 END
210 REM
220 XL=X2-X1 :: YL=Y2-Y1
230 NX=ABS(XL*LXFAC):: NY=ABS(YL*LYFAC)
240 IF NX
250 NS=INT(NX+1)
260 DX=XL/NS :: DY=YL/NS
270 FOR I=1 TO NS
280 X1=X1+DX :: Y1=Y1+DY
290 GOSUB 330
300 NEXT I
310 RETURN
320 REM
330 XX=X1-LXFAC :: YY=Y-Y1*LYFAC
340 COL=INT(XX)+1
350 ROW=INT(YY/6)
360 XIT=INT(YY-ROW*6)+1
370 BIT(COL,ROW)=BIT(COL,ROW)OR MASK(XIT)
380 RETURN
390 REM
400 RAD=9
410 FOR ANG=0 TO 360 STEP 45
420 RANG=ANG*3.14159/180
430 RANG2=(ANG+135)*3.14159/180
440 X1=RAD*COS(RANG)+10
450 Y1=RAD*SIN(RANG)+10
460 X2=RAD*COS(RANG2)+10
470 Y2=RAD*SIN(RANG2)+10
480 GOSUB 210
490 NEXT ANG
500 RETURN
```

Should you need any help call or write to:

Jim Lesher
722 Huntley
Dallas, TX 75214
214-821-9274

FestWest News & Views

by Mike Doane

I will be writing this column from now until FESTWEST 1994 is over. I will attempt to keep you informed on any and all new products, vendors, prizes, speakers, gossip, and various miscellania which may pique your interest. This month's topic will be mainly prizes and whatever gossip & scuttlebutt I have gleaned from discrete and not so discrete conversations I have had (or imagined!).

Our raffle prizes this year promise to be a of a technical sort. We hope to continue in the fine spirit shown by all the previous FESTWESTS. I wish to thank all those who have participated in putting together the many fests. Thank you for putting on the Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego and Tucson fests. Thanks to you and your efforts, each FEST we put on has gotten easier.

Our first raffle prize is a MYARC Hard and Floppie Disk Controller (HFDC) and a Seagate 20 megabyte hard drive. Imagine having 80,000,000 sectors available for storage space! That is the equivalant of having 55 disks of DS-DD format "on call". Yowzers! Talk about making graphics programs a snap! You could have PagePro, The Printer's Apprentice, TIArtist, Grafix and whichever other graphics programs you might use AND all the fonts, pictures, instances and borders you can get ALL on ONE disk drive. Not only that but you would still have room for 25 to 40 more disks! You can always upgrade to a larger disk drive should you run out of room. Makes the mind boggle, doesn't it?

The next prize on the list is a Horizon Ram Disk model 4000 from Bud Mills of BMS (Bud Mills' Services). The SW99'ers will be purchasing the HRD and Bud has been generous enough to donate some memory chips to get you started. The HRD is an "electronic" disk drive. It stores programs in memory chips mounted on it's circuit board. The HRD 4000 has a 32k option "built-in". You can purchase a 32k chip and plug it into a premounted socket and pull out the T.I. 32k card from your P.E. Box. The HRD 4000 can be "built" up to beyond 6 megabytes of storage. This device runs even faster than a hard drive. The reason is the fact all its memory is "stored" in the memory chips. There is no need for a disk drive "head" to search for a particular record! The HRD calls up the file/program you want from its electronic "memory tank" and inserts it into the computer. A nice little package for someone who is lucky/smart enough to have purchased the winning ticket!

Next on the list is a 128K Asgard Memory System card from ASGARD Peripherals. This card supplants the 32k card in the P.E. Box also. You simply remove your 32k card and plug this extremely well engineered and produced package in it's place. The card comes with an outstanding software package and (if we can sweet talk Chris Bobbitt into it) possibly the newest release of FIRST DRAFT/FINAL COPY. The AMS comes with a linker program for Assembly and "C" languages and a "XB-Packer" program for combining your large X-Basic programs into one runnable program. This card might be the break-through in solving the 32k memory block which has confounded and disgusted so many programmers! The winner of this one will surely appreciate the fine job accomplished by all the members of the ASGARD Peripheral group!

Now let's see what is behind door #4! It's a new combination 3 1/2" x 5 1/4" disk drive! This drive contains both size drives in a half height package. You can simply remove a half-height drive from your P.E.Box and slip this one in the vacant slot. Not only do you have a 5 1/4" drive but you also have a 3 1/2" drive. The 3 1/2" drive will format at 80 tracks (Myarc HFDC) or at the standard 40 tracks (T.I. and CorComp). Should another disk controller be released these drives will handle the high density formats. It uses the standard power/data plugs we are using now so this will be a simple remove and install package. It is a low power requiring drive (0.25 amp) so there will be no problem running it. You can put your most frequently used programs on 3 1/2" disks which can take a lot more use and abuse! An outstanding deal for the purchaser of the winning ticket!

Wait! That's not all, folks! We also have a 2400 baud "pocket" modem. This little beauty fits in a shirt pocket and has a battery back-up. It has all the features of it's larger brothers. Its small size allows you to take your modem with you just about everywhere (nudists will have to have a velcro strip surgically implanted to take advantage of the portability factor!). You can use it at home on your T.I. or take it to work to use it on your (ugh!) IBM "clowns". It has "auto-dial","memory recall" and I believe a memory buffer for phone numbers. A fine little package!

With the exception of the HFDC and hard drive, "over-under" disk drive, and modem the prizes awarded to the purchasers of the winning tickets will be in the form of certificates from the appropriate companies. Winners will be responsible for any shipping charges required by the suppliers. If you are at the FEST (and I for one can't think of a good enough reason not to be) AND the supplier has not sold out of that item you could probably make arrangements for your prize then and there. This method was discussed and we agreed it was the fairest and simplest way to handle the matter. SouthWest 99'ers cannot guarantee any product made by any manufacturer.

Some quick gossip here. Vendors who have made a commitment so far include Competetion Computers who has requested 8 tables for selling his products. You simply have to see all the time and effort these gents expend at the Fest. I buy something from them every Fest simply because I am amazed by all the work they do. These boys really have a nice lay-out! They can and will sell you anything you ever thought was made for the T.I.

Possible vendors include Bud Mills of BMS the maker of the fantastic HRD 4000. Bud rarely misses a Fest and I was truly surprised to not see him at FestWest '93. Jim Krych of ASGARD Peripherals is going to try to make it but Chris Bobbitt may not due to his job back on the lEast coast. It would be nice to see Chris out here. He is to be complimented on the outstanding job his team has done on both the AMS and FIRST DRAFT/FINAL COPY! Dave DeHeer should be down from Utah with his "whatchamacallit" hardware clock for the Myarc HFDC and I am sure he will have more hardware he has designed. C'mon down Dave, I hope we can make you feel as welcome your members did to make everyone feel welcome at FW'93.

Please remember, any and all gossip is not to be taken as gospel and is not intended to cause anyone any mental anguish or create a desire to punish the author with physical abuse. I will deny all knowledge of any juicy tidbits published and for the proper fee will consider not writing about you.

Fireside Chat 05: Reality

by Jim W. Knych, R & D Director, Asgard

It is quite evident there are some people out in the 4A community, who wish to derail Asgard has done in regards to AMS/AEMS.

Of which, some very nasty rumors and lies have been placed and spread.

We can understand the discontent. Since we are in the hardware business as well, a few people may feel that their area of talent is threatened.

It is the rumors and gossip that we are concerned for.

Not that we really pay any attention to them, but a lie repeated many times becomes to some truth. When in reality it only shows the true side of some people. And, my friends, it shows just how slick and dodging these people can be. Try to get a straight answer from them and you end up with hours of filler material.

Here is the cold, to some, reality:

An actual product that exists and is selling: The 128/512k AMS card. Real software developmental tools, with more coming: A new loader and macro-assembler, plus routines. You heard me right, the new assembler works, and is available NOW!

Actual AMS software, some public domain, some commercial: XB3, Firstdraft 2.0!, XB-Packer. And work from outside of the Asgard Camp.

None of this, my friiends, are lies and smoke and mirrors. But pure, clean, reality.

You can always compare a dream to reality. But you can only use reality and not that which is thought.

It is the software support, my friends, that also makes this reality doubly sweet. As we all know, hardware is truly useless without software.

I can say all I want about a card, say that it increases the speed, do this and does that, but without software, I have an expensive paperwieght.

AMS exists. The software exists, with more on the way. That is reality.

It is one thing to say all you want, to put down anyone elses ideas, and to criticize an actual product. It is entirely different to have an actual product and not "talk" because you are too busy doing real, continuing work.

The TI-99 Home Computer Timeline

by Bill Gaskill

part 1 of 4 (continued)

JUNE 1979 - Peripherals announced as being available are a Speech Synthesizer, an RS232 interface, joysticks, disk storage and a thermal printer. No memory expansion is available. The price for the console/monitor bundle is $1150 with the Solid State Software command modules listed running anywhere from $19.95 to $69.95 in price.

Actual release dates on several of the announced products would vary from the June 1979 release information.

Beginning Grammar	2q/1979
Demonstration	2q/1979
Diagnostic	2q/1979
Disk Storage	2q/1980
Early Learning Fun	2q/1979
Early Reading	4q/1979
Football	2q/1979
Home Financial Decisions	2q/1980
Household Budget Management	2q/1979
Investment Analysis	*
Joysticks	2q/1980
Number Magic	2q/1979
Personal Record Keeping	4q/1979
Physical Fitness	2q/1979
RS232 interface	2q/1980
Speech Construction	*
Speech Synthesizer	2q/1980
Tax/Investment Record Keeping	4q/1979
Thermal Printer	2q/1980
Video Chess	2q/1979
Video Graphs	2q/1979

*never released under this name

- MicroPro releases WordStar.

- Color monitors for personal computers are expected to drop below the $1000 mark by late 1979.

JUL 1979: Milton Bradley Company begins advertising in national trade publications for Electronic Product Engineers, Software Engineers and Microcomputer Programmers, and Electronic Technicians.

- Wayne Ratliff develops the Vulcan Data Base at the Jet Propulsion Labs in Pasadena, California. Ashton-Tate later picks up the program and markets it as dBase II.

- Word of a Japanese invasion into the personal computer market hits the media, much like the never-to-appear MSX invasion of the mid-80's, after Nippon Electric Corporation (NEC) enters the market with their Astra series of 16-bit systems.

AUG 1979: TI releases a $250 hand held language translater that features speech, which means translated words are not only displayed, but are also spoken. The unit will have $50 plug-in modules available for English, Spanish, French, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese. Each module displays 1000 words in the resident language, 500 of which can be spoken by the speech synthesizer.

SEP 1979: New England Electronics proudly announces that it has been selected to be an authorized distributor of the "revolutionary TI-99/4 Personal/Educational Computer!"

- Computerland begins advertising the 99/4 also, calling it "The Remarkable Home Computer". They also carry the Atari 800 and refer to it as the "Timeless" computer.

Several other major distributors are also lined up by TI in the closing months of 1979. They begin advertising the 99/4, but fail to receive them and are forced to placate the few people who are willing to pay $1150 for the machine. TI has already gotten off on the wrong foot with their retailers.

OCT 1979: Texas Instruments releases the TMS9927 Video Controller chip.

Misc 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.

TI-99/4A Console
$20 o.b.o
J. J. Horton (602)882-2330

TI Console w/RF Modulator
Extended Basic, Speech Synthesizer
Terminal Emulator II, Tombstone City,
The Attack, Car Wars, Parsec, Blasto
with manuals
All for $50

Danny Stern (602)297-3839

$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

Double-Sided 1/2 height
TEAC Disk Drive - $20

First Base by Warren Agee - $10

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

MICROpendiums
May, July, August 1985
February, October, December 1986
January thru October 1986 (10 total)
February, May 1988

$1 each including postage

Call or write: Ralph Jones
2820 Juniper Ave
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805)772-2947

$100 Expansion Box w/SSSD Drive
TI Disk Controller, Memory & RS232

$25 Stand-Alone RS232
$10 TI 99-4/A Console
$15 Speech Synthesizer
$60 o.b.o. P-Code Card w/documentation
$4 Replacement Console Power Supplies
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(single)
$5 TI to Atari Joystick Adapter(dual)
$10 Cassette Player/Recorder
$2 Replacement Keyboard

$5 24-Cassette or Module Drawers
$7 36-Cassette or Module Drawers
$3 Flip N File for Diskettes

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

TI Keyboard Overlays $3ea or 5/$10
Modem Cables 6'=$8 (Telco ready)
$3 Cassette Cable

Diskettes
25/$7 (SW99ers only)

Printer Ribbons

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

Cassette Programs
$1 Teach Yourself Basic

BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 $3 on CP

Disk Programs
$2 Airline
$15 Artist Card Shop (Comprodine)
$10 Backsteine
$10 Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
$3 Touchdown

Modules
$2 Addition & Subtraction 2
$2 A-Maze-ing
$2 Blackjack & Poker
$2 Blasto
$2 Chisolm Trail
$2 Early Learning Fun
$3 Editor Assembler (new)
$3 Football
$2 Hangman
$1 Household Budget Management
$2 Hunt the Wumpus
$2 Hustle
$1 Munchman
$1 Personal Record Keeping
$2 Star Gazer II
$2 Star Trek
$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping
$1 Terminal Emulator II
$1 TI-Invaders
$5 TI-Logo II
$3 Video Chess

Books
$1 Basic Computer Games
$3 Basic Programs for the Home
$3 Beginner's BASIC (Blue Book)
$2 Computer Playground
$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 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 The Word Processing Book
$3 The Writers by Harry Brashear
$3.25 User's Reference Guide
$2 Using & Programming the TI-99/4A

BJ Mathis(602)747-5046 $3 on CP

-- ANNOUNCING --

TI Fest West '94

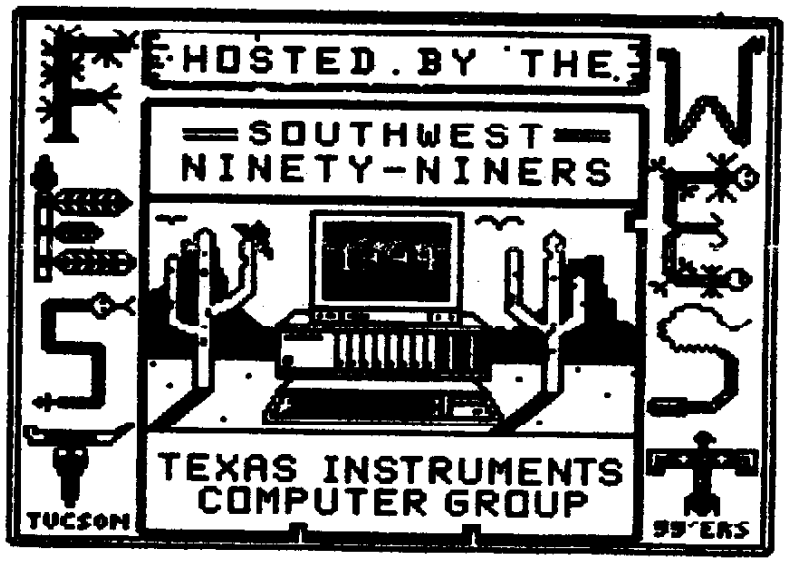
A Texas Instruments 99/4A & MYARC Geneve 9640 Computer Users Convention

Location:
Park Inn, 88 E Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85701
Reservations:
1-800-437-PARK Welcome #TAZ143
(602)622-4000

Date/Time:
Sat Feb 19, 1994 - 9am to 5pm
Sun Feb 20, 1994 - 9am to 3pm

Prizes
MYARC HFDC Controller
(w/20 meg Hard Drive)
Horizon RAM Disk 4000
(w/memory chips)
Asgard Memory System Card
Over/Under Floppy Drive
2400 BAUD Pocket Modem
Other Prizes to be Announced
Door Prizes, too!

Vendors
Software
Hardware
Accessories
Consignment Table
Speakers
Users Groups



Admission $4 - under 15 free when accompanied by adult

TI Fest West '94 - Best in the West!

Presented By:
SouthWest Ninety-Niners
PO Box 17831 - Tucson, AZ 85731

For more information about TI Fest West '94
or SouthWest Ninety-Niners User Group
Call BJ Mathis - (602)747-5046 or Tom Wills (602)886-2460
Or Cactus Patch BBS (602)290-6277

Membership Report

Twenty-five SW99ers attended the September meeting. Earl Colvin joined our group this month. Earl's zip code is 85711, and his phone number is 747-5939. Lee Janowsky and Jim Chapman renewed their memberships. We will send newsletters to 52 members this month, and 47 exchange newsletters will be mailed, plus a couple individuals who requested membership info.

Members Meet

First Tuesday, October 5th, Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm.) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. Les Neff will present the demonstration on Multiplan he had planned for August. Raffle Tickets will be available at the meeting.

TI-Base Workshop

Second Tuesday, October 12th, 7:30pm. Tom Wills' home 6925 E Kingston Dr - 886-2460.

Exec Meeting

Friday, October 22nd 6:30pm. Perkins Restaurant at Grant & Swan, NE corner. All SW99ers are invited to help plan for our Users Group and Fest West '94.

General Users

Third Tuesday, October 19th, 7:30pm. Mathis' home 5941 E 26th St - 747-5046.

Advanced Languages

Canceled. Anyone interested in hosting Advanced SIG, please contact an Executive Committee member.

November Newsletter Deadline >>> October 22nd, 1993 <<<

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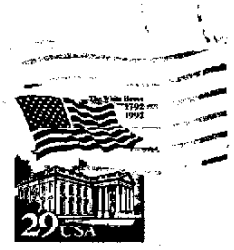
Who Do Ya' Call?

Richard Baron - Disk Librarian	885-4812
Mike Doane - Treas/DOM Prep/Tech Asst	298-3835
BJ Mathis - Pres/Editor/Library Chun	747-5046
Matt Matthews - Lending Librarian	602-428-6910
Ed McCullough - Secretary	296-5183
Rod Stallard - Vice Pres	745-6071
W. Leonard Taffs - Newsletter Lib	795-4148
Tom Wills - BBS SysOp/Lending Lib	886-2460
Cactus Patch BBS	290-6277

(Area code 602 for all phone numbers above)

SouthWest Ninety-Niners
PO Box 17831
Tucson, AZ 85731



Dallas TI HC Group 9309
Dallas 99 Interface
PO Box 29863
Dallas TX
75229