# SouthWest Ninety-Niners

## January 1994

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85731
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HOSTED BY THE SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS 1994 TEXAS INSTRUMENTS COMPUTER GROUP — TUCSON 99'ERS
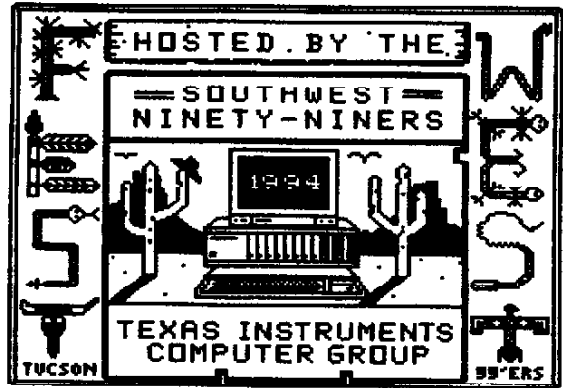
Pres - BJ Mathis    VP - Rod Stallard    Sec - Ed McCullough    Tres - Mike Doane

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
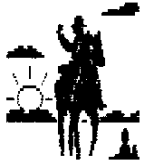
## FestWest '94 News & Views - Jan '94
### The Best in the West!
#### by Tom Wills

Fest West 94 is fast approaching. With less than two months until Fest West 94, we have received word of several vendors who are going to attend. The following list is those who have shown an interest in attending Fest West. Those I know of that have expressed more than just a passing interest in attending Fest West are: Competition Computer of Milwaukee, who have one of the largest inventories of TI hardware and software; the Chicago User Group, promoters of the reknowned Chicago TI Fair; the Salt Lake and Ogden User Groups, last year's host of Fest West and home group of David DeHeer, designer and producer of the "Watchamacallit"; the Southern California User Group; Don and Tom Shorock, prolific programmers in both c and TI ExBasic; Don O'Neil and Western Horizon Technologies, producer and designer of many fine products for the TI 99/4A and Geneve 9640; Ken Gilliland of Notung Software, producer of graphics and music extraordinaire; Bud Mills of BMS, producer of the incomparable Horizon RAM Disk and many other fine products; and VAST Users Group, rumored to be bringing more of Virginia Davis' outstanding Page Pro and Artist graphics.

The raffle is doing great. The prizes are excellent. They include: a SCSI ("Scuzzy", which stands for

The Cactus Patch — ● SYSOPS ● TOM WILLS, MIKE DOANE, BJ MATHIS — 24 HRS-7DAYS, PARITY-8N1 — ● PARADIGM ● ・BBS・ — ⇨602-290-6277⇦

Small Computer Systems Interface) card with hard drive from Don O'Neil of Western Horizons Technology a Horizon 4000 Ram Disk from Bud Mills, a Myarc HFDC card with 20mg Seagate ST225 hard disk, a 2400 BAUD pocket modem, a 3.5"/5.25" (over/under) combination disk drive, an Asgard Memory System with operating software, and more will be added provided enough interest is shown by advanced raffle ticket sales. The price for the tickets is a real bargain, $1 per ticket. With the purchase of ten tickets, a free admission is included. You can't go wrong on a deal like that. So send your money now for those raffle tickets (before all your charge bills from Christmas start to come in!).

In order to make Fest West '94 as big a success as the previous Fest Wests, we will be needing bodies, warm bodies, to assist us at the Fest. We will need volunteers to man the registration booth, people to take over vendor tables when the vendors need breaks, supervise the refreshments area, answer questions about Tucson, friendly faces, light security duty, gophers, hospitality and general conversation, etc., etc., etc. Please donate a few hours of your time to the cause. After all, we do want Fest West '94 to be The Best In The West, Again!

Also needed will be equipment. Things like PE Boxes, monitors, consoles, etc. If you can loan something to this effort, please do. After all, we can't expect vendors to be hauling a complete TI system to Tucson, especially if they are flying. They certainly cannot demo their products if they don't have a computer available. Won't you consider parting with this most valued friend for just one weekend, the weekend of Fest West '94. If you can't bear to be away from this devoted friend for the weekend, then donate your time to the Fest West committee to help out at the Fest. This will be like killing two birds with one stone.

# 1993 Treasurer's Report

## by Mike Doane — SW 99ers Treasurer
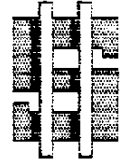
This month's Treasurer's report is a compilation of all the activity we have had in the year of 1993.

We have had a busy month of December as I had predicted. Our raffle ticket sales have begun to come in and also the booth rentals. We should be ready for Fest '94 by the beginning of February. With the rate at which raffle ticket orders are coming in, we should have the prizes paid for BEFORE the Fest. Usually we count on the gate proceeds to help with the costs but this year might prove to be the exception.

I am going to give you the month's totals first and then I will give you the year end figures. I will also separate the Fest income from the total. It will still be included in the "Total Income" but I want you to see how we are doing on the costs for Fest West '94.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance 11/28/93 | | $876.43 |

**Income:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Memberships | $115.00 | |
| Library Sales | $37.00 | |
| Ribbons/Disks | $14.00 | |
| Cactus Patch Support | $25.00 | |
| (Thank you, Ed McC. & Leonard Taffs) | | |
| Misc. Income | $297.55 | |
| (Raffle tickets,Int.& Booth rentals) | ------- | |
| Total Income: | | $488.55 |

**Expenses:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Newsletter/postage | $66.20 | |
| BBS Support | $40.00 | |
| Misc. Expenses | $ 6.40 | |
| | ------- | |
| Total Expenses: | | $112.60 |
| Working Bal. 12/27/93 | | $1252.38 |

The savings account statement is :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Balance | 11/28/93 : | $50.84 |
| Int. | 11/30/93 : | $ .12 |
| Balance | 12/27/93 : | $50.96 |

Now for the yearly totals by accounts:

**Income Totals**

| | |
|---|---|
| FestWest'93 profits | $196.59 |
| Membership/Adv. | $957.50 |
| Library | $454.50 |
| Ribbons,disks, etc. | $334.00 |
| Equipment Sales | $379.50 |
| Cactus Patch Support | $82.00 |
| Misc. Income | $563.51 |
| | ------- |
| Total Income | $2967.60 |

I want to give a Kudo to W. Leonard Taffs. We had three people request a full year's worth of DOM's and I talked to one of our members in Florida who praised the last DOM. Of course I allowed him to praise me for awhile before I informed him of Leonard's masterful acceptance of the job!

Money ouch (oops, I mean out!)

| | |
|---|---|
| Newsletter/postage | $1024.50 |
| Ribbons,disks, etc. | $277.75 |
| Library costs | $78.07 |
| Equipment purchases | $684.55 |
| Cactus Patch support | $415.00 |
| Misc. Expenses | $347.55 |
| | -------- |
| Total of money out | $2827.42 |

Total Annual Gain for 1993 ----------------> $140.18

Before anyone declares "Fraud, Cheat, Thief" or offers to fit me for one of them there new-fangled hemp neckties let me point out the fact we have many more raffle tickets for sale and you can help to lower our club deficit (whew! If this works maybe I can sell the U.S. Congress on it!)

**Fest West '94 Income totals**

| | |
|---|---|
| Booth Reservations | $115.00 |
| Raffle Ticket sales | $445.00 |
| | -------- |
| Total Fest Income | $560.00 |

**Expenses for Fest West '94**

| | |
|---|---|
| Raffle Ticket printing | $ 39.01 |
| Mailings | $180.40 |
| Prizes | $420.38 |
| Postcard printing | $ 63.80 |
| Postcard mailing | $ 41.48 |
| | -------- |
| Expenses as of 12/27/93 | $745.07 |

**12/27/93 Balance of Fest West '94**

| | |
|---|---|
| Income | $560.00 |
| Expenses | $745.07 |
| | -------- |
| Total | -$185.07 |

You will notice I moved the $100 from the Southern California Computer Group (yikes! what a mouthful!) into the Raffle tickets column. They read my article in last month's newsletter (you there are OTHER articles besides mine?) and left us a message on the Cactus Patch (the short time it was working in December). We sent them a receipt and have their stubs for them. The receipt we sent has an error in the Raffle ticket numbers. We have the proper tickets and stubs waiting. We also made an error on the receipt we sent the VAST User Group for their contribution. The receipt shows you received ten less tickets than what you actually did. We also have the correct stubs waiting.

Well, we are gaining on the Fest West '94 profit line. We have managed to cut the deficit from $423.59 to $185.07. We managed to knock $238.52 off the minus column. We should be well into the black by the middle of January. Of course, that is when we are going to buy more prizes to be given away. See, I learned how to do this by watching the politicians at work! Now the next thing I have to learn is how to get the club officials an annual increase in salary. Hmmm, let me see, an annual raise of 13% times nothing equals....
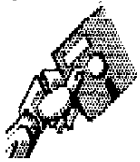
# Disk of the Month
## January 1994

DOM:01/94 disk-of-the-month contains four more games (featuring one of Ernie Chervier's) to help with post-holiday blues, a Geometry program, a music piece, (well-written!), a disk/catalog search, J.P.Hoddie's Sort/Exp, two short label programs (Taffs) and miscellania. If author is not shown, author is unknown.

1993/DOMS - List of Disks of the Month for 1993 by month followed by full sorted list for the year prepared by Leonard.

ACHTUNG! - John HALE's program for printing in German with use of UMLAUT!

AUTOCHARDF- Another character definition program - possibly by John HALE?

COINRAPLBL - program for printing labels for bank coin rolls.

DISCSEARCH - Program by Taffs to search disk drives (including ramdisks) for filenames.

FASTBACH - By Edwin McFall. One of best music programs in terms of musical accuracy.

FORMULAS - Geometrical Shapes and Formulas with graphics.

FREQNC/FUN - Program scans audio frequencies to test your aural acuity. (Taffs)

GRACE/PRAY - Some nice blessings/graces for the family, from various sources.

HEXDECASCI - Neat program from Broward NovelTI News for quick reference of hexadecimal equivalents, useful when viewing hex-code of disk files.

LOAD - Interesting Catalog Lister with a graphic touch, by Ron Castleton. Graphs show approximate length of files and space used. It's different!

MAKE3LNLBL. - Quick program (adjustable tabbing) for the line address label.

SORT/EXP - A very fast SORT program (by J.P. HODDIE) referred to often in Feedforth Column. Docs are not included here (they were on June '88 DOM) but see SORT/INSTR file for a beginning. Load the SORT program with BOOT, E/A loader, or *LOADER from last month's DOM.

SORT/INSTR - Abbreviated instructions (not original SORT/DOCS) for using the sort program "SORT/EXP".

STACKS - An Ernie Chervier game (a masterpiece!) you can really get hooked on! Joysticks not required.

TENNISGAME - Archived file of excellent TENNIS game with docs.

TENNISLOAD - Load program to load the (unarchived) TENNIS game.

TILIN'RCHK - Linearity Check for monitor/TV screens. From Florida MANASOTA UG.

TIMESHEET2 - Jack MATHIS's program file for MULTIPLAN. Hours and Minutes calculate.

WRDGAMSPCH - The old 2-player word game "HELP". Needs Speech Synthesizer.

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.

# December SW99ers Minutes

## Tuesday December 7, 1993

1. The election of officers will be the main business of the January meeting. The Nominating Committee will be contacting members about running for an office. Don't be reluctant to serve, be prepared to give a positive response when you are contacted by a committee member. It is helpful for an organization to rotate the officers, so the workload doesn't always fall on the same shoulders.

2. The Executive Committee has decided that we will hold FestWest Committee meetings on January 11 and 25 and February 8 and 17. Those who will be working with the Committee mark your calendars and try to be there. The purpose of the meetings will be to review the Registration procedures and other specific assignments. For some, this will be refresher training.

3. There will be no other meetings in December, except for the Executive Committee, on the 20th.

4. Newsletter deadline will be December 20th.

5. The Newsletter deadline for February will be the day after FestWest (February 21st).

6. Don O'Neil is donating a working SCSI Controller Card, with a 20 Meg Hard Drive, for the Fest West '94 Raffle.

7. The Southern California User Group has donated $100.00 toward the operation of FestWest.

8. If all goes well with his plans, Jack Mathis will be here on the 15th of February, for the General Users Meeting.

9. That being the end of the business part of the meeting, we will now enjoy the goodies that have been brought by the members, for our Christmas Party.

*Ed McCullough, Secretary*
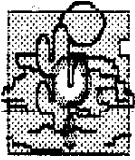
# Tom's Observations

## by Tom Wees

### Prologue

The very first thing I want to do is to wish everyone a happy Holiday Season. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and will have a prosperous New year.

### Cactus Patch Update

We've had an interesting month. It all started with a phone call from BJ Mathis. It seems she didn't like the idea of Cactus Patch generating errors at her expense. After all, all she was trying to do was leave Ed Chase a message. No sense of humor there. So, just to humor BJ, I told her I'd look into the problem she was encountering. That BJ, boy, she sure can be a troublemaker at times <grin...>.

The error appeared to be a minor problem with the message base, an easy fix for sure. No big deal. Just a quick fix and all would be back to "normal". Or, at least that is what I thought. It didn't take very long to see the problem was a lot more than just a minor problem with a quick fix. It appeared the message data base was totally messed up. Boy, when BJ creates an error, she doesn't kid around!

The best solution appeared to be to restore the last backup. Even though it was about a week old, there had only been seventeen messages posted online during that time period. The backup diskette was pulled out of its secure storage box and the message base files restored. About ten minutes work. Still just a minor problem with a quick fix. After the restore, I posted a new bulletin letting all callers know of the problem. The next step was to test the system.

The best way for me to check out Cactus Patch is to call it from my computer, see if the restore had worked properly, and if there were any other fixes needed. So, I called Cactus Patch and logged on. But what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer... opps, wrong story there. Sorry about that <embarrassed smile>. Anyway, as I was trying to say, after logging on, nothing appeared any different than before.

The bulletin wasn't the new bulletin I had just posted. The message base still reflected the same beginning and ending message numbers as before. Worst of all, the bad messages were still there. After quietly muttering under my breath (the neighbors lie, I wasn't that loud!!!), I knew more drastic action was needed.

I then loaded the disk manager and decided to delete the bad files and restore the good files once again. No luck, the bad files wouldn't go away. I tried renaming the bad files. Again, nothing changed. Now I was getting real concerned. I decided to backup the only directories that had been changed since the last backup.

Then, I tried to format the hard drive. After going through the format and verify, with no errors listed, I breathed a sigh of relief. Then I went to catalog the drive to verify the sector counts. What was this, everything that was supposed to be blown away?!?! The format hadn't formatted.

Now was the time for the spare disk drive to be put into use. I installed the spare hard drive and proceeded to restore the files. Everything seemed okay this time. The files restored properly, and things were just as I had expected them to be.

The next step was to bring Cactus Patch back online, which I proceeded to do. Even though this appeared to be just a few short hours, it actually took several days. So, after four frustrating days, Cactus Patch was back online. I logged onto Cactus Patch, and everything was just as it should be, except for the fact the message base was a few days behind.

Since then, I have tried to use the old disk drive. I reinstalled it into the PE Box and found, in very short order, it wouldn't even power up. It was as dead as the dead of night. I know I should have realized something was amiss, as the spare drive, now the current drive, was quieter than the original drive. But, with the drive up and running 14 hours a day, the noise sneaks up on you.

In any event, Cactus Patch is now back online and operating as it should. Now is a good time to call Cactus Patch and get up to date on the messages and check out the file libraries.

### User Group Elections

It's that time of year again, officer elections. I know I have stated the following any number of times over the years, but it bears repeating again. There can be no _ser group without U!!! Please get involved. Run for an office if at all possible. We realize not everyone can run for an office, let alone be an officer, but who knows, maybe you can even win!

If you cannot run for an office, at least come to the meeting so you can cast your ballot for the slate of candidates.
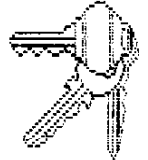
### Epilogue

I have another definition for you this month. Again it is found in the glossary of the DOS For Dummies book by Dan Gookin which is published by IDG Books. The entry is "eek! eek!" Any idea what it means? Give up? Eek! eek! is the sound your computer mouse makes as it is pushed across the mouse pad. Aren't you glad to know this little tidbit of invaluable information?

Last month, two of Jack Mathis' solutions to an Hours and Minutes program were included in this column. Along with those two programs Jack sent was a third program file for MULTIPLAN. That version appears on this month's disk of the month. Its title is "TIMESHEET2". This has been renamed from Jack's original title of TIMESHEET so as not to be confused with the ExBasic program on the November'93 with the same title.

Fairware, Shareware, and Freeware are terms not fully understood by everyone. These terms refer to software that is NOT Public Domain. Any computer software that is "released to the Public Domain" is the only software that should be deemed free to users. Fairware, Shareware, or Freeware are all similar terms that mean the user is obligated to send the author a contribution. Inasmuch as very few authors ask for much in the way of a donation, the user should take this obligation seriously. If you don't use the product, that is another matter. The authors often ask you to pass it on, gratis, if you are not using it. It is the ultimate user that owes the author something. TI 99/4A user groups are often complimented for what nice people belong to the group. But if one reads what some of the authors say, they get very little in the way of any royalties or donations from users. It is not known how many users do not pay the authors, nor how many users fail to follow the author's request (if they do not use it) that they pass the program along to some one who can use it. Procrastinating in sending the author his due, rather than intentional avoidance, is probably the main reason more users do not send in their money. I thought it worth mentioning this topic so that others who might possibly also be confused with these terms Fairware, Shareware, and Freeware, might be updated. If Santa was good to you this past Christmas, perhaps you can reach in your pocket and send an author you owe. Where would we in the TI world be if we did not have these many hardworking authors? The only way they know you care is if you thank them (with their requested fee)!

CATALOG PROGRAM TIP. With disk cataloging programs, one frequently runs into programs that will catalog disks with specified choice of drives such as (1-4) or (1-9) or sometimes only for Drive #1. In the majority of cases the variable supplied for this INPUT statement is a Numeric variable. Nothing wrong with this, of course, but it does limit your access to which drives can be catalogued. If one likes the catalog and wants to modify it to access other drives, how does one do it? The answer is to use a STR$ing variable instead! Substitute a STR$ing variable such as "A$" or "DSC$". Here are the lines to implement this:

```
100 INPUT "Enter Disk Drive:
    ":DSC$
110 DSC$="DSK"&DSC$&"."&FN$
```

FN$ = the filename entered in your program prior to request for the drive number. Add the following to be assured you have entered what you meant:

```
120 PRINT
130 PRINT DSC$,"O.K.? "
140 PRINT
150 INPUT "":K$
```

If you are modifying an existing catalog, you need to check how the original INPUT variable was treated, and follow up on any pertinent program lines that process this variable. Sometimes that variable will have been set (such as A=1). Delete it unless you intend to make use of it in some way. Chances are in most cases, later reference to that numeric variable is in the form of STR$(A)--if "A" was variable used. Substitute your STR$ing variable in place of it. Where it is "STR$(A)", replace with DSC$. Do not use: STR$(DSC$). DSC$ is already a string and you will get an ERROR message.

This is a simple solution to the problem and I am curious why this was not made a universal practice as it makes accessing any numbered drive or lettered drive such as "DSKA.", "DSKB.", etc., (as may be employed with Ramdisks) possible. If you want to avoid specific drive number errors, it is simple to follow the "DSC$" INPUT line with a limiting line or lines that specify which INPUT numbers or letters are acceptable. Such as:

```
110 INPUT "Disk Drive? ":DS
    C$
115 IF DSC$<>"99" THEN 110
```

Line 115 would refuse any INPUT entry that was not 99, etc. If you understand how to use ACCEPT AT statements, you can limit your drive numbers to whatever is/are included in the VALIDATE part of your ACCEPT AT statement. Any other entries are then refused.

For those of you who have subscribed to the MICROpendium disks, (last yearly fee was $40), the program provided for the index printout was discussed some time ago in this column. Each year they provide an index for the preceding year which I believe is prepared by Elton Schooling. This program provides its own sort and printout format. It still is a very slow program. Perhaps you would be interested in reviewing or trying what I have done with this index data. First I load the program and then delete lines 1 thru 390. (Check to be sure your version of MICROpendium's index program ends with this line number; all Schooling's index programs I have do). The rest of the lines are DATA lines with the index information. Either add a new DATA line with "END" or tack this word on to the last DATA line as the last item. Now you can add your own program:

```
100 OPEN #1:"DSKn.FILENAME",
    OUTPUT
110 READ A$
120 IF A$="END" THEN PRINT "
    Finished." :: CLOSE #1
130 PRINT A$
140 PRINT #1:A$
150 GOTO 110
```

Before running this program it is suggested that you review the data lines to make sure no spurious lines are present such as line "600 -" which is what I found in one of the programs. A fast check of the data can be done by remarking lines 100, 140, and the CLOSE #1 part of line 120, and then running the program. If the last A$ to appear on the screen corresponds to the last data line of the index, you know you can make a file safely. This is just a bare-bones program but it does the job. You might want to make this short program a MERGE file that you can use in the future. Just don't forget to change the FILENAME each time you use it!

The "CLOSE #1" in line 120 may not be necessary, but from my experience with file-creating, I would rather get a "FILE ERROR" message for an unnecessary CLOSE statement than risk not having the file closed. If this FILE ERROR message occurs after running the above program, you should find that the file was closed by the computer and the data safely saved. Check the new file before any further editing of any kind. This will require cataloguing the disk you put the file on, which means having a second PEB system up and running unless you are using Super Ext. Basic. If you don't have a second system or Super Ext. Basic, play it safe and enter CLOSE #1 in the command mode BEFORE you leave the program to check your file. If the file appears as DIS/VAR (or DIS/FIX) with a size of only 1, (and you haven't left your program) close your file in the command mode. If the program worked properly, the command mode closing should change this size to the size of your file (around 30 sectors for a full year index or about half that for a half-year--if you elected to save your index files by half-years). If the file still appears as DIS/FIX 1 or DIS/VAR 1 after your command CLOSE statement then be sure you delete that file before proceeding to whatever you happen to choose to do next. If you had to leave the program and the file was not closed you will, unfortunately have lost the data and the file MUST be DELETED! Failure to do so may really mess up the directory of that disk.

As the MP index is usually split into two programs, you will need to follow this procedure again for the second part of the index (not forgetting to change your OUTPUT FILENAME). The data provided in these programs is not entered in sorted form, so sorting your files is next. If you want to have the whole year in one file, load the two files into TI-Writer and save as one new file to be sorted. Use your own sorting program or get a copy of SORT/EXP by J.P.Hoddie to do this. You will now have one complete permanently sorted list of the MICROpendium articles for the year you selected. I have found that TI-Writer's buffer can handle a year at a time, maybe even more, though your SORT program may not. While the MICROpendium program is very useful to those who do not have or use TI-Writer type programs, I have found this a far more convenient way of using this data. Generally I have been able to complete the whole above process for a full year's data in less time than the MP program has taken to get one printout (half a year).

There is an alternative procedure to create such index files. Instead of using my idea outlined in above paragraphs, one could take the MP program itself if you understand how the MP program works, and have it create the files by your inserting the necessary lines to do so. Whether you have enough memory to merge both half-year data programs into one program and still have the MP's sort program be capable of sorting that much data is doubtful. You can also inserting the necessary lines to do so. Whether you have enough memory to merge both half-year data programs into one program and still have the MP's sort program be capable of sorting that much data is doubtful. You can also count on it taking a very long time to do so, unless you incorporate a faster sort into this program. You might have to settle for just half-year files.

How often do you check your disk's available space? With 360 sector disks (SSSD) one tends to be more careful perhaps than when using larger capacity disks such as DSSD (720) or DSDD (1420) or Ramdisks. This question was asked because it suggests a TIP worth remembering. I was doing the above program

and saving one of the MP indices files when the program crashed. The old story: the program worked beautifully and all of a sudden this crash. I was using a disk that had had plenty of space--so much space I thought that I didn't think about it. Again, I wasted a considerable amount of time looking for a possible error in my program or error in the data. There simply were no errors. The program had repeatedly saved 60 items out of 118 successfully and then abruptly terminated with an I/O ERROR. Should have been smart enough to get the hint. The problem was simply a full disk. Incidentally, this was one case where not using an ON ERROR statement paid off--the file was closed by the computer when the program crashed, enabling me to determine how many records had been saved. (I would not count on the computer always closing the file in such cases, though.) For beginners: An "ON ERROR" statement in the program would have sent the program to some other function at the time it incurred the I/O error and the file would either have been closed (if the ON ERROR statement so directed), or not closed (by you), and you would go on your way unaware that if the file had appeared to have been successfully created it would only contain as much data as the disk space allowed. Later on, were you to pull this file out you might not realize it was not a complete file of all the data you had tried to save. FILE-MAKERS CAVEAT: When you make a new file from an existing data program, make note of the last record or data item in that file and check to see if your new file ends with that record!

After Christmas, some of us may amuse ourselves breaking open Piggy Banks to help pay some bills (?). Here is a handy COIN wrap label program. My bank won't accept wrapped coin rolls without my name and account number on them, so I made this program. Of course, there are plenty of labeling programs out there but what the heck!...

```
1 REM [COINRAPLBL] 11-29-93
100 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT
(6,3):"COIN WRAPPER LABEL MA
KER": : : : : :"By W.Leonard
 Taffs 11-23-93"
110 DISPLAY AT(14,1):"South
West 99ers, TUCSON, AZ" :: I
NPUT "P.E.T.C.":K$ :: CALL C
LEAR :: INPUT "HOW MANY LABE
LS? :N :: OPEN #2:"PIO"
120 PRINT "IS PRINTER ON?" :
: INPUT "":K$
130 FOR I=1 TO N
140 LN1$="YOUR NAME HERE"
150 LN2$="UP TO 50 CHARACTER
 COMPLETE ADDRESS HERE......
....."
160 LN3$="YOUR ACCT #"
170 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);CHR$(6
9):
180 PRINT #2:LN3$
190 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);CHR$(1
5);CHR$(20);LN1$
200 PRINT #2:LN2$: : :
210 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);"@"
220 NEXT I
230 INPUT "END OF PRINTOUT":
240 STOP
```

Printer codes used are those used on my NX-10 printer. Adjust these commands (lines 170 Expanded Pica, 190 Condensed, 210 Clear Printer to Default setting) to those required by your printer. No response is necessary at the prompt ,asking if printer is turned on--simply press <ENTER> to continue.

PASSING NOTE: The files list that was recently uploaded by me to Cactus Patch purported to be a complete listing of programs available on Cactus Patch for users to down-load. This list was a copy of the Cactus Patch "DN$" file. New files are constantly being added to Cactus Patch so the list I uploaded does not include many files uploaded to Cactus Patch since the DN$ list was made. It was not known to me at the time I uploaded my list that there was such a large number of additional files available. As time permits, I will attempt to create a more up-to-date list of current CP files available.

For TI BASIC: Quick and dirty LINEARITY check: (also will run in ExBasic)

```
1 REM [TILIN'RCHK] 12-13-93
  Copied from MICROpendium
  July 1984 p.21 from Florida
  MANASOTA U.C.
2 REM Article says will lock
  up Extended Basic (did not
  when I ran it)
3 REM Use Function/4 to stop
100 CALL CLEAR
110 CALL CHAR(32,"FF81818181
8181FF")
120 PRINT ::::::::::::
130 CALL HCHAR(10,1,88,5)
140 CALL HCHAR(10,28,88,5)
150 GOTO 150
```

It may be faster to type in these few lines than to find where your other linearity program may be. This program will display 32 vertical and 24 horizontal lines. Five 'X's will appear on left and right sides of line 10. Columns 1 and 32 will be missing from bottom 12 rows.

If you type this in Extended Basic and then try to run it in TI BASIC you will find line 120 is bad. Be sure you enter the program in TI BASIC to run in TI BASIC. This TI BASIC version will run fine in ExBasic as ExBasic automatically spaces the colons.

For beginning new-comers (hope the TI World still has some!), a Linearity Check will show how much of your screen display is visible. Are you losing the left or right side of your display? Are you getting a full 28 lines on your screen?

Are the horizontal and vertical lines reasonably straight? There will always be a slight curvature (more noticeable on older sets) but it should not be so bad squares are badly distorted. A "Linearity" check helps you know. The reason for the 'X's you will see, is to give you confirmation that you can see all 5 at left and right sides of the screen. If you do not see 5 'X's on both sides, the yoke coil on your picture tube needs adjusting (if monitor/TV linearity controls won't correct). CAUTION! Yoke adjustment should only be attempted by trained technicians--very high voltages are present around the yoke and picture tube.

Hope you had a nice holiday, Happy New Year to all!
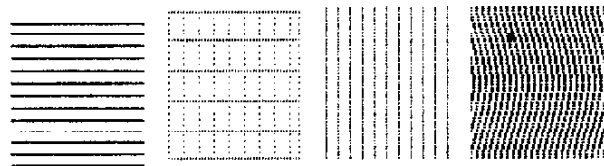


## Mike Doane's View - 01/94

Well, I managed to survive another Holiday Season without any major damage (excluding, of course, the minor wreckage done to my budget). My wife had foot surgery, which has kept her in bed for the last two two weeks. I have been kept hopping (pun intended!) attending to my family and my household.

I don't understand why my wife had her surgery in a hospital for her operation. Anytime I have any work done on my feet, I go see a dentist!

I didn't get my FestViews column written, so I will give you my "top-ten" list for the holiday season.

"The Top Ten ways to tell if You have eaten TOO much over the Holidays:" (drum roll, please!)

Number Ten - Your Feet Disappear!

Number Nine - You develop a callus where your belt buckle sits!

Number Eight - Your stomach doesn't growl. It Purrs!

Number Seven - Your doctor tells you, "You are just the right weight, for a man seventeen feet tall"!

Number Six - You are responsible for a small but measurable shift in the Earth's axis!

Number Five - You lay down for an after dinner nap and wake up in July!

Number Four - Your neighbors begin piling sandbags around you!

Number Three - You receive a letter from the world's fattest man telling you to "Back off, buddy" !

Number Two - You think of "Alka seltzer" as the perfect table wine !

And the number one way to tell if you have eaten too much over the Holidays - You begin sweating gravy !

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!!

## SW99ers 1994 Candidates

| *President* | *Vice President* |
|---|---|
| Mike Doane | Leon Dorros |
| BJ Mathis | Rod Stallard |
| W. Leonard Taffs | W. Leonard Taffs |
| Tom Wills | Tom Wills |

| *Secretary* | *Treasurer* |
|---|---|
| Ed McCullough | Mike Doane |
| W. Leonard Taffs | BJ Mathis |
|  | W. Leonard Taffs |

Per our constitution: Further nominations for each office will be accepted at the January membership meeting. The first ballot will elect the President for 1994. The President Elect will be eliminated from the list of candidates for any other office. The next ballot will elect the Vice President, the winner will be eliminated...etc.

If you are interested in becoming an officer of the SouthWest Ninety-Niners and your name is not on list above, come to the meeting and nominate yourself!

# Wise Buys

**Column 1:**

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

256K Horizon RAM Disk $125

Rave 99 Keyboard - card mounted in console, model XT/101, w/installation and operating manual - $100

W.E. Morton - 1516 Moon NE
Albuquerque NM (505)294-0243

$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

**Column 2:**

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

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

Cassette Programs
$1 Teach Yourself Basic

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

**Column 3:**

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

Modules
$2 Early Learning Fun
$3 Editor Assembler (new)
$1 Household Budget Management
$2 Hunt the Wumpus
$1 Personal Record Keeping
$1 Tax Investment Record Keeping
$1 Terminal Emulator II
$5 TI-Logo II

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

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# 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 Ed McCullough - 296-5183, Earl Colvin - 747-5939, and
Ron Vaughn - 790-6627.

President _____      Secretary _____

Vice-President _____      Treasurer _____

# 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

HOSTED. BY THE
SOUTHWEST
NINETY-NINERS
1994

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
COMPUTER GROUP

TUCSON        99'ERS
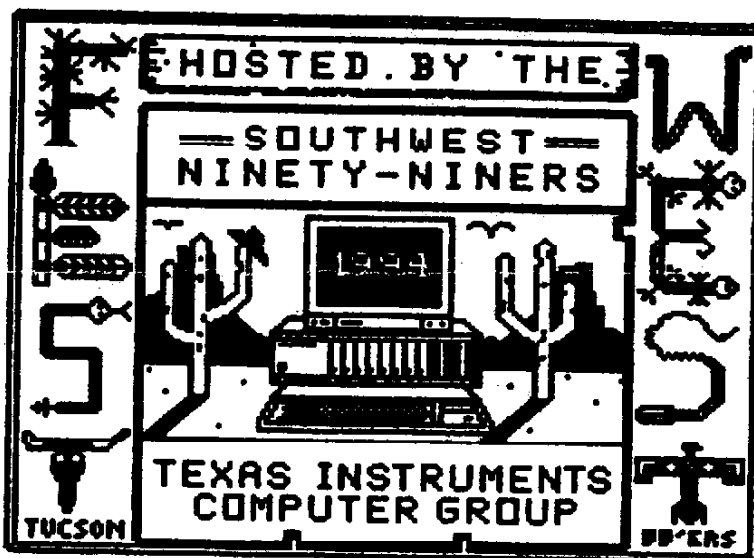
*Admission $4 - under 15 free when accompanied by adult*

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*TI Fest West '94 — Best in the West!*

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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

Thirty SW99ers signed in at the December Meeting and Christmas Party. Everyone brought food to share, and door prizes were given. The party was deemed a success, even by several of the members spouses who find "computer talk" boring.

Frank Aylstock and the Boise Valley 99ers joined and Larry Tippett re-joined our group this month. Larry had let his membership expire. Frank's zip code is 92686, and his phone is 993-0656. The Boise Valley 99ers consists of seven members, who joined for our newsletter. Their phone number is 208-342-5814, the zip code is 83705. George Poston, Rod Stallard, Ian McGregor, Bob Zink, and David Ormand renewed their memberships. We have 54 members. We will send 47 exchange newsletters to other groups and vendors.

## Members Meet
First Tuesday, January 4th, Devon Gables Health Care Center (Exec Dining Rm.) at 6150 E. Grant across from the Price Club at 7:15pm. Election of 1994 Officers will be the main business of the January Meeting. Our Disk Library Semi-Annual Half-Price sale will be held this month, also.

## Fest West Prep Meetings
Tuesday, Jan 11th, 7:00pm - Mathis' home, 5941 E 26th
   Prepare final mailing to vendors.
Tuesday, Jan 25th. 7:00pm - Mathis' home. 5941 E 26th
   Review registration and receipt writing procedures.
   Prepare materials and equipment for Fest West.

## General Users
Tuesday, Jan 18th, 7:30pm - Mathis' home, 5941 E 26th

# Contents

## Who Do Ya' Call?

Richard Baron - Disk Librarian ......... 885-4812
Mike Doane - Treas/Technical Assist .... 298-3835
BJ Mathis - Pres/Editor/Library Chmn ... 747-5046
Matt Matthews - Lending Librarian .. 602-428-6910
Ed McCullough - Secretary .............. 296-5183
Rod Stallard - Vice Pres ............... 745-6071
W. Leonard Taffs - News Lib/DOM Prep ... 795-4148
Tom Wills - BBS SysOp/Lending Lib ...... 886-2460
Cactus Patch BBS ....................... 290-6277
   (Area code 602 for all phone numbers above)

**February Newsletter Deadline >> January 21st, 1994 <<**

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*SouthWest Ninety-Niners/Jan '94*

SouthWest Ninety-Niners
   PO Box 17831
Tucson, AZ 85731

Dallas TI HC Group 9312
Dallas 99 Interface
PO Box 29863
Dallas TX
75229