

**Southwest
Ninety-Niners
Newsletter**
contributed by
- Tom Wills -
SW99ers User Group President of Record
compliments of



**TI99ers
On-Line
User Group**

www.ti99ers.org

SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS

OCTOBER 1989

P.O. Box 17831 Tucson, AZ 85730

OFFICERS

BJ Mathis - President
David Ormand - Vice President
Ed McCullough - Secretary
Les Neff - Treasurer

NEWSLETTER

BJ Mathis - Editor

LIBRARY

BJ & Jack Mathis - Co-Chairmen
Ida McCargar - Fairware/Lending Librarian



ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Next meeting, Thursday, October 5th at Devon Gables Health Care Center in the Executive Dining Room at 6150 E Grant across from the Price Club at 7pm. Presenting the TI-99/4A six years after Texas Instruments quit production.

WORKSHOPS

FEST WEST COMMITTEE

Saturday, October 7th, 1pm. Mathis home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

GENERAL USERS

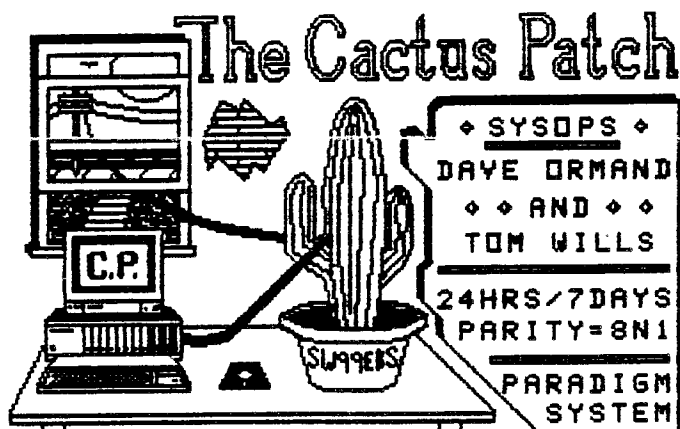
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (October 17th).
Mathis' home - 5941 E 26th - 747-5046.

GENEVE USERS

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm (October 10th).
Ida McCargar's home - 5428 Madison Stravenue - 294-3024.

ADVANCED LANGUAGES

Fourth Tuesday of each month (October 24th) at 7:30pm.
Rod Stallard's home - 7575 E Logan Dr - 745-6071.



→ 602-795-1953 ←

ATTENTION: New Fest West '90 callers,
login using User #27, password FESTWEST!

THE EDITOR'S JOB

Thanks, HOCUS, Milwaukee, WI 5/89

If we print jokes, people say we're silly, but if we don't, they say we're too serious. If we clip things from other newsletters, we are too lazy to write them ourselves. If we don't, we're stuck with our own stuff. If we don't print every word of all the contributions, we don't appreciate. If we do print them, the newsletter is filled with junk. If we change a contributor's article, we are too critical. If we don't, we're blamed for poor editing. Now, like it or not somebody will try to say we swiped this from some other publication. Well, we did!!



SEPTEMBER SW99ERS' MINUTES

Thursday September 7, 1989

1. David Ormand conducted the Question & Answer period.
 - Q. Does the EOF Statement have to correspond with the same file number it was opened under? For example, if I save a file under Open Statement #2, then load it under Open Statement #1, would that work properly.
 - A. The EOF Statement must correspond to whatever file you open it under.
2. Our Group has opened a membership with Office Club, on E. Speedway. Our members are being provided with a sticker to be placed on the back of their SW99er Membership cards. They offer many good bargains.
3. Ida McCargar has just about completed the Public Domain Music library. Music lovers should contact her.
4. The Kawartha UG has provided Ida with some travel brochures. She is willing to share them if a SW99er plans to travel to Canada.
5. Ida requests that we advise her as to what we would like to see on the Disk of the Month. She also would like to know if we think she is doing a good job.
6. MYARC Inc. has offered to sell the club a Hard/Floppy Disk Control Card, to be used as a raffle item, at a reduced price. A motion was approved to accept the offer.
7. Disk Only Software will sell the MYARC HFDC to us at a special price due to the number of HFDC we are ordering. Those who are interested in obtaining one please contact BJ Mathis.
8. Ida has received a disk that contains an index of the MICROpendium articles for 1988. Contact her if you are interested in getting a copy of the disk.
9. We wish to remind you of the picnic to be held this coming Saturday at 4:00pm at Ed McCullough's house. We have invited VAST members to join us.
10. VAST UG of Phoenix has invited the members of SW99er UG to attend their picnic to be held the second weekend of October. Those of us who would like to go please contact BJ, so she may have a headcount to provide to the Secretary of VAST.
11. We have a new address for Texas Instruments for obtaining such things as manuals and replacement parts.
12. The Zeno Board is now in production. We are considering placing one in the CACTUS PATCH BBS. A motion was approved to order one for the BBS. Perhaps we could put together a group order. If you are interested contact BJ.
13. The Editor of the VAST Newsletter has offered to do the printing for FestWest. We need to take advantage of any and all members who might be traveling to and from Phoenix between now and FestWest time, to act as couriers.
14. We have been getting some very positive feedback regarding the FestWest packets we mailed out last month. Some of the comments have compared it to the Chicago Fair. We will really have to work to live up to such expectations.
15. Positive interest has been received from several user groups. Chris Bobbitt and Barry Travers have indicated their interest in attending. Disk Only Software is planning on a booth. Bill Gaskill is planning to attend and will be a speaker. CompuServe is planning to attend and will donate some free time to all FestWest attendees who own a Modem. They did not indicate how much time.
16. Tim Mathis and Al Armstrong are developing a video, to be played continuously at FestWest, that will show points of interest in the Tucson area - things to do, see, attend, etc. Anyone with videos related to the Tucson area is asked to contact either Tim (747-5046) or Al (298-7945) as soon as possible so they can incorporate it into the final project.
20. Asgard News is donating an ad to FestWest.
21. We wish to encourage those of you who have not tried to contact our "CACTUS PATCH", to consider obtaining a Modem and try it. You don't realize the opportunities you are missing.
22. David Ormand and Tom Wills demonstrated the "call up and use" of CACTUS PATCH.

Ed McCullough, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, we all make mistakes, but last month, I made more than my share.

I hope members of SouthWest Ninety-Niners noticed the label on the back of last month's newsletter envelope, telling them when the SW99ers Potluck Picnic was scheduled. We had a good turn out and a lot of fun. Ed McCullough and his wife, Connie, really knocked themselves out for us. They even made ice cream, peppermint and vanilla for everyone.

Tom Wills went to the Office Club this month. He found the stickers I made up and passed out at the last meeting had an incorrect Office Club membership number on them. SW99ers will find stickers enclosed in this newsletter with the correct Office Club Membership number. Please affix these to the back of your membership card.

One thing that is NOT a mistake is printing two articles from Mark O'Dwyer this month. I made some comments, after reading the first article Mark wrote about



telecommunications for the newsletter. So Mark wrote another article, it was very different in slant. As he did not have time to combine the two articles, I decided to publish both articles.

SW99ers have been invited to join the VAST User Group in Phoenix for their picnic/swap meet on October 14th. They will start setting up at 9am, and festivities will continue thru most of the day. If you are planning to go, please let me know so I can give them a call. VAST is providing the food, etc.

A special offer for SW99ers: Review one of the Fairware offerings in our library, receive your copy of that program FREE. Contribute Fairware not in our library, receive one Fairware program or Public Domain disk FREE. Most programs are available at SW99ers meetings at Devon Gabies or the Mathis home. Specific requests can be directed to Ida McCargar (294-3024) or BJ Mathis (747-5046).

BM

DISK-OF-THE-MONTH, OCTOBER 1989

by Ida McCargar

!READ/ME This file. Read first.
*READ/ALT Instructions for using ALTBORDERS.

BASEBALL A new improved version of the game by Alain Beaulieu. It is more a game simulation than a fast action game. You and your opponent are coaches and choose the plays. READ the docs. You will also find the author's address at the end of the Docs. This IS Fairware, if you use it, you should pay!

BOOT is the usual Boot program, along with CHARA1

GHOST1, GHOST2 This is GHOSTMAN, a fast-action E/A Option 5 game similar to PacMan. Don't let the Ghosts get you!

HALLOWEEN A program for Halloween Eve--A treat for Trick-or-Treaters



HAUNTED Haunted House, an XB text adventure (no module needed)

LOAD Loads BOOT

PARK_P A map of the area of Phoenix where the VAST picnic will be held on Oct 14. View or Print with MAX-RLE.

THRILLER A little eerie music for Halloween, with a few spiders, bats, and other beasties flying around. Be sure to play it to the end for a little surprise.

Please note: Since BASEBALL and THRILLER are I/V 254 files, they may be loaded from Extended Basic with the Command OLD or RUN.

GRAPHX - MENU COLORS

by Jack Mathis

Have you ever gotten irritated with the way GRAPHX menus indicate your choice. The lack of distinct contrast makes it difficult to see just which choice you have made. Now there is a way to change that.

I have come across three different groups of files for GRAPHX. Hopefully, yours will fit into one of the groups I have found. You will need a sector editor, such as Disk Utilities by John Birdwell.

After loading your sector editor, follow the instructions

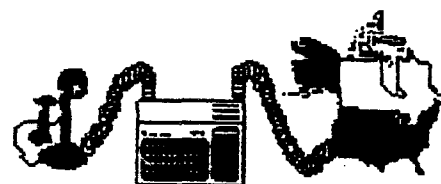


for the group of files you have.

If you have PROGRAM files called GRAPHX1 and GRAPHX2, search in GRAPHX1 for >02071F. 1F is the colors (1=black, F=white). Change 1F to your desired combination (FC will give you a reverse video of the menu).

You may have D/F 80 files called PARTA, PARTB, etc. or PART1, PART2, etc. In this case look for >0207421F. Again the 1F is black letters on white. To get white on green you need to replace the 1F with FC.

[]
 []
 [] Telecommunications ; [] by []
 [] The Fourth Age of Man [] Mark []
 [] ----- [] O'Dwyer []
 []
 []



THE 'BIG PICTURE'

There comes a time, perhaps many a time in each of our lives, when we take a long hard look at the place in history where we happen to reside.

Whether we subscribe to the religious or the evolutionary viewpoint of our common origin matters little in the particular context I will attempt to address here.

There are distinct "landmarks" or catalysts in the known history of man where a single discovery propelled mankind as a whole into a new and utterly different consciousness of his "place" in history.

Consider the mastery of fire, hunting, and fishing in the first age. The mastery of agriculture in the second age, and the mastery of industry in the third age.

Each age emerges upon the last and becomes as it were the new frontier, waiting for new conquerors to emerge.

We are now immersed in the fourth age of man... the information age. The impact of the telephone, television, and the computer have together propelled us to another frontier, as "white collar" jobs emerge and "blue collar" jobs subside.

Whole nations are instantaneously effected by events taking place on the other side of the world. One voice in the world whose words are well spoken may now command an instant global audience for good or ill.

This age represents the "awakening" of global awareness and global exchange among the INDIVIDUALS of the world... quite unlike the global governmental exchanges characteristic of the past.

What has telecommunications to do with all this talk of a fourth age of man?

A great deal.

Now that computer technology and miniaturization has swiftly enabled many millions of people to communicate instantly around the world via their home computer and modem, the barriers of age, ideology, and ignorance are beginning to rapidly disintegrate among the common man.

The need for timely exchange of vital information has supplanted our former needs of Nationality and individuality, as we increasingly strive to attain a level of knowledge which exceeds our locality and our limited individual abilities.

With the advent of the inexpensive TI99/4A computer and more importantly the worldwide "user group" network born of the need to fulfill our goals where industry had subsided... we have taken the first steps into the global frontier of information exchange.

Colleges, Institutions, Governmental Agencies, Libraries... ALL are finding it critical to their survival to install Data Bases and Electronic Bulletin Boards to meet this rapidly growing telecommunications age.

Virtually every aspect of intellectual need can be satisfied via your TI99/4A keyboard, your home telephone, and a modem.

Need info on the right way to build a shed, cook Peking Duck, plant orchids, cast sculpture... call your local library BBS from your home computer!

Need info on the migration of "killer bees" from South America... call the Library of Congress via DIALOG BBS!

What impact will all this have on the children of the future... provided that the spark is kindled, the fuel supply is infinite and the access unlimited. The children will usher in the Fifth age and we will all live to see it.

As our geographical and sociological barriers continue to dissolve in the process of reaching out to one another with this medium... the world as we know it will change beyond recognition... for the betterment of mankind.

So how and where do you jump on this bandwagon? Modems can be had for as little as \$ 25.00 for a TI, the local Bulletin Board System(s) are FREE.

Don't have a modem you say?

What's YOUR excuse?

The Cactus Patch

SYSDOPS
DAVE ORMAND
AND
TOM WILLS
24HRS/7DAYS
PARITY=ONL
PARADISE
SYSTEM

602-795-1953

Telecommunications (TC for short) is the most fantastic thing that you could ever experience with your computer.

(Besides... they understand your computer involvement better than any spouse !) <grin>

The Cactus Patch BBS here in Tucson has one problem that seems to be extremely unusual as far as TI/Geneve boards goes here in the United States.... the problem is that most of the members of Southwest Ninety-Niners (its sponsor) have no modems !

This is INSANE.

The Cactus Patch not only offers YOU more great FREE programs than you could ever find time to use, it offers YOU an electronic mailbox that you can use ANYTIME for immediate help on hardware or software difficulties, purchase decisions, roofing decisions (ask R.S.! <GRIN>).

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!

by Tom Mills

Our guest members this month are the SouthWest Ninety Niners President, BJ Mathis, and her husband, Jack.

BJ and Jack live at 5941 East 26th Street, Tucson, Arizona, 85711, with their two sons, Tim, who is 12, and Chris, who is 10. Another member of their family is Tuffy, whose bark is worse than his bite (or at least that is what they tell me). Jack and BJ can be reached by calling them at 747-5046.

Jack has been a member of the United States Air Force for 14 years. He is a Tech Sargent whose responsibilities include that of being a "computer monitor". A computer monitor is not something you look at in this case, it is the person who installs the "Small" computers and monitors their usage. One way to be certain the taxpayers money is well spent.

BJ, not to be left out, stays at home doing her part of being a family. Her job, probably the most important job in any family, is being a homemaker. With two grade school age sons, she is kept very busy. Jack and BJ, by the way, have been very happily married for 14 years. Jack and BJ are from Eugene and Medford, Oregon, respectively.

To say that Jack and BJ use their computers in a practical way, is a very large understatement. BJ does most of the work, but Jack tells me that he helps too! They keep track of their church's finances and the Sunday School records on MultiPlan. Using BA-Writer, BJ puts together bulletin for the church. And using PR-Base, they keep track of the church membership. And, as active members of their church, Jack is the head of the Trustees, a member of the Building and Grounds Committee (BJ says Jack IS the B and G committee), and teaches the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade Sunday School class.

or just to chat !

SO WHAT if you don't know anybody that you can leave E-Mail for... address it to "ALL" ! There's no faster way to get to know your new family than that !

The Cactus Patch is not only helpful, it is FUN for everyone.

Everyone except YOU that is, until you get YOUR modem and join the fun.

What ARE you waiting for ? REALLY ?



After all the church activities are finished, Jack and BJ turn their attention to the User Group activities. BJ is the SW99er Newsletter Editor, which is a very big job. Jack and BJ serve as co-chairman of the SW99ers library committee. And, BJ, as you all know, is the group's President! And now to add more to her schedule, she is on the Fest West '90 committee.

As to the systems, Jack and BJ and their sons are never at a loss for a computer to use. They have two fully expanded TI-99/4A systems (one is BJ's and the other is the boys' computer) and a fully expanded Geneve (for Jack). All the systems operate with DSDD drives. BJ's systems and Jack's system each have a printer. BJ uses a MX-1000 while Jack uses the old reliable TI impact printer. BJ also has a Horizon randisk and a modem on her system. It is a rare moment when one or more of the systems is not up and running.

Besides the activities mentioned earlier, Jack and BJ use their systems for such diverse activities as graphics, telecommunicating, games (once in a while), learning assembly language (Jack, that is), modifying and writing programs, etc, etc... Jack and BJ have released on a fairware basis, TIMP_PRINT, which allows printer commands to be incorporated into Multiplan spreadsheets. They have also released to public domain an educational program to teach preschoolers their colors and a BlackJack program for up to 5 players. Jack has also modified DM-1000 (his version is called DM-1000jml) and these enhancements will hopefully be included in the next release of DM-1000 by the Ottawa Users Group. Jack has sent his enhancements to them twice, but they say they haven't seen it. He hasn't sent them the latest enhancements, he keeps finding something else to change and doesn't want to send it until it is complete.

When BJ finds the time (what is left of it!), she likes doing crafts, such as sewing, crocheting, macrame'ing, etc. She also gardens, and enjoys reading. Plus, she is taking a phonics class on Saturday's this fall at BCMS.

Jack, in his spare time tinkers with electronics, and

likes(???) to fix up things around the house. Both Jack and BJ have even done some remodeling in their own home as well as several other homes. Jack and BJ are two of the busiest people I know. And thanks to the efforts of BJ, the SouthWest Ninety Miners User Group is the success story that it is.

SWAN'S POND

by Tom Wills

Finally, I am seeing our Geneve 9640 computer looking more and more like a DOS machine. True, it isn't a DOS machine yet, but thanks to Paul Charlton and Jerry Coffey, plus a number of other authors, I am able to run most of the programs I like to use straight out of MDOS.

Paul Charlton has provided us with a program called EXEC which executes many of my favorite EA5 programs right from DOS. It was inconvenient to use the EXEC, or should I say I preferred some other method than pointing to my harddisk directory, then typing in E:EXEC P:PROGNAME. E being my Horizon ramdisk, and P being my harddisk.

Then I came across a file put together by Jerry Coffey. It contained batch files to point to the directory I wanted, and and execute my favorite programs. To show what I mean, following in my MDOS menu:

M D O S M A I N M E N U	
0 = MDOS	10 = Super Duplicator
1 = Telco	11 = HD Sector Editor
2 = MY-Word	12 =
3 = Form Shop	13 = GIF2
4 = TI Base	14 = Fractals
5 = Archiver 3.03	15 =
6 =	16 = Load Editor Assembler
7 = Disk Utilities	17 = Load Extended Basic
8 = Myarc Disk Manager 5	18 = Load Super Extended Basic
9 = DM1000 3.5jml	19 = Special utilities

As you see, with a few exceptions, I have no real reason to enter the GPL mode at all! If I want to use Telco, I type in "1" and press enter. The file "1" is then executed. Following is "1":

CD \TC	First of all, I point myself the the root directory WDS1.TC.
EXEC TELCO	Then execute Telco with using the EXEC program, also on TC.
CD \DOSPGM	When I am finished, I point back to my WDS1.DOSPGM directory.
M	I then execute "M" which displays my MDOS Main Menu.



Following is the file "M":

ECHO OFF	I turn the echo off, just in case.
CLS	I then clear the screen.
WINDOW	Window is executed (more on this later).
TYPE BOOTHM	The MDOS Main Menu is displayed within the window.

So, what in effect is happening is, I select from MDOS the EA5 program I wish to execute. I have the corresponding file set up to point to the sub-directory I want, then I execute EXEC (which I have included in each sub-directory that I feel will get a lot of use). EXEC TELCO causes Telco to be loaded in and executed. When I exit Telco, the batch file continues executing. This way I can point myself back to my root directory WDS1.DOSPGM and reload my menu screen.

Included in Jerry Coffeys file, GMENU6, which is available on all major boards, is a AUTOEXEC, some executable EA5 programs, a DOS menu of Jerry's design, and the necessary "files" needed to execute his examples. Plus, the is one program included that I really like, and that is WINDOW. It sets up a window on the screen, and all the action then takes place within this window. Granted, it is a crude window, but I'm sure we'll be seeing improvements in this whole MDOS menu system coming out on a regular basis in the near future.

And I expect to be seeing ways of executing Extended Basic and GPL programs right out of MDOS before much longer also. We have a good number of very sharp Geneve users out there, and they are always looking for ways to better use this machine. And I have faith that they will do it. We TI'ers are a resourceful bunch of computer users.

One thing that makes GMENU6 so exciting is its ease of customization. I changed Jerry's sample AUTOEXEC, menu, sub files, etc to work on my system. It should be noted that GMENU6 works best with a Horizon ramdisk or a hard disk. I am very excited by these newest of advances, and hope it continues.

FAIRWARE LIBRARY NEWS

The following programs have been added to the SW99ers Fairware Library since February 1989. This is a reference list of 46 programs. Descriptions of most of the programs have appeared in past SW99er newsletters.

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 441. 1000 Words | 462. Form-Atter | 463. Phantom of the Opera |
| 449. Animator | 460. FuCat | 410. Plus!2 4 disks! |
| 117. Archiver III v3.03 | 144. Games of Wit 3 disks | 139. Print-It |
| 468. Balloon Captions 2 disks | 465. Generic Quiz | 440. Quadlister |
| 459. Baseball | 461. Graphics Editor | 445. Records Plus |
| 452. Bridge | 446. Kwikfont | 467. Scheidemantle Articles |
| 471. Comic Show Editor 2 disks | 454. MX-DOS 3*0 | 444. Sector One |
| 466. Cribbage | 163. MacroAssembler new v.7 | 198. Selections from Wagner's Ring |
| 453. DCLP-Disk/Label Printer | 14. Master Catalog--Mack McCormick | 182. Supersave |
| 469. Digit-It--TASS and more | 473. Meeting Manager v2.1 | 458. Swan Graphic Writer |
| 89. Disk Cataloger by Larry Duke | 472. Memo-Cal | 448. TI-Writer v4.2 |
| 123. Disk Hacker v1.0 (TI ctrlr) | 450. Menu 9640 | 457. TeTris |
| 442. Disk Labeler99v2 | 455. NUKES99 | 26. The Director v4.1 |
| 447. DiskPrinter2 | 100. Northside 99er | 456. User Group List__TI-Base |
| 423. Enhanced Display Package | 464. PIX | 443. Vector |
| 103. Ex-Basic--Graphx Connection | | |



WISE 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 capability with the TI-99/4A computer. Only computer related items will be accepted for publication in this newsletter.

TI-99/4A Console \$25; PE Box w/TI Controller, SSSD drive & 32K memory \$275; Color TV \$75; Seikosha Printer \$30; Speech Synthesizer \$25; Navarone Disk Fixer \$5; TI Extended Basic \$25; Centipede \$10ea; Alligator Mix \$6; Early Reading \$5ea; Adventure w/disk, Hunt the Wumpus, Jaw Breaker II, Music Maker \$4ea; Picnic Paranoia, Blasto \$3ea; Personal Real Estate, Personal Record Keeping, Household Budget Management, Home Financial Decisions, Tax Investment Record Keeping, Securities Analysis, Terminal Emulator II, TI Invaders, Munchman, Parsec, The Attack, Tombstone City, Chisholm Trail \$2ea. Books: Programs for the TI Home Computer \$3ea; Computer Playground, The Best Texas Instruments Software, The Best of TI 99/4A Cartridges \$2ea. Call Jack or BJ 747-5046.

Smith-Corona Fasttext 80 printer w/manual, and Printerf (instructional software especially for this printer from McWare). This printer is mostly Epson compatible for text. Contact Pam Elliott (816)534-7790 or BJ 747-5046 for address.

TI-99/4A Console, Expansion Box w/CorComp RS232, TI 32K, TI Disk Controller, SSSD Disk Drive, TI Extended Basic, Editor Assembler, Multiplan, Writer, Personal Real Estate, \$380. Optionally 2 DSDD half height drives. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

Parsec \$4, Donkey Kong \$8, Big Foot \$8. Call Dick Paschal 790-4779.

TI-99/4A Console, TI-99/4A Monitor, Axiom Interface, Personal Real Estate, Home Financial Decisions, Home Budget Management, several books, \$155 takes all. Call Ed Hill 744-1169.

2 TI-99/4A Consoles, TI Stand Alone Disk Controller, TI Stand Alone Disk Drive, TI Acoustic modem, Axiom Interface, TI Writer, Multiplan, ExBasic, Personal Real Estate, Home Budget Management, Terminal Emulator II, Securities Analysis, Munchman, Hangman, Parsec, Blasto, \$200 takes all. Call Doug Webb 790-9839 (days).

FROM SOUTHWEST NINETY-NINERS: Speech Synthesizer \$25; Mini-Memory \$10; Adventure w/disk \$3; Tax Investment/Record Keeping, Home Budget Management \$3ea. Printer Ribbons: Star Micronics NX-10 or NX-1000 \$3, Gemini 10X \$1. Tractor feed 1-across mailing labels 500/\$1; Cassette Cables \$3. Books: Thinking Forth \$10; The Writers by Harry Brashear \$3, Home Publishing by Harry Brashear w/disk \$15; "Best" Newsletter \$5; Using & Programming the TI-99/4A \$4; Smart Programmers Guide to Sprites, COMPUTE!'s TI-99/4A Sound and Graphics, Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language (Morley), COMPUTE!'s TI Collection Vol One, Introduction to Assembly Language for the TI Home Computer (Molesworth), The Innermost Secrets of the TI-99/4A, \$3ea. Call BJ or Jack 747-5046.