The
INTERFACE

Art's Space
Art Heywood, Pres.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank some of our members for their contributions to the club. In the last several months we have received programs and several demos before and after the RAM session which helps to make our meetings informative.

We encourage anyone who has something to say to write letters, articles or reviews. Many people contribute to the success of this effort. This is your organization, so get involved. Participate by adding your effort to others. Help make your organization as effective and rewarding as it can be.

Your Prez, Art

Nock's Notes
Jack Nock

I was in Houston, visiting one of my sons, for part of this month, so my computer time was limited. David's Compaq impressed me last fall, but it seems pretty slow now that I have upgraded! His hard drive is filling up rapidly, too. Isn't that the universal experience?

I just spoke to Gertrude Boller. Harry has his ups and downs; he is progressing but still has considerable pain. In case you had not heard, he broke his leg for a second time. He had radiation therapy, which slows the healing process. They asked me to pass on their greetings.

My scanner is still in regular use. It is very pleasing to be able to scan a picture of an artist to add to the cover of a cassette tape. I often copy music from my collection to send to my kids. Note that this is technically violating the copyright. Don't worry, this is not music they could obtain where they live -- maybe it will even spread the artist's fame into new lands, like the wilds of Northern Canada.

While I have used the scanner as a black and white copier it will never replace the Xerox. It is too slow and cumbersome, but handy for occasional home use. Since it is a flatbed design you can copy almost anything.

The OCR works a lot better than I expected. By scanning at higher resolution in "line art" mode the program does an acceptable job, even on our terrible local newspaper. It sure beats retyping a whole article to send to a friend in Chile by Email. I was impressed that it attempted to reproduce the fonts of the headlines and footnotes. It links with WORD so you can scan directly into a WORD document, then spell check and edit it. A simple copy and paste then puts it into Eudora for sending on the Internet. This is a very convenient feature.

I had a long phone call from a new PC user in Hollywood, who wants to add a CD ROM, Modem, and memory to his computer. It is interesting how little idea such people have of the cost of such

items, and where they can be obtained. This in spite of having a copy of Computer Current in front of him – how else would he get my phone number? I pointed out ads offering what he wanted at about half the price he expected. The problem is, how to install them?

I suggested detailing exactly what he wanted, then phoning around and getting quotes for the package, including installation. Does anyone have a better idea? I know it would be nice if he would come to a few meetings. He could save himself a lot of money, but…

I recently received a copy of CompUSA Direct -- their mail order catalogue. By the time you add at least $6.50 shipping, you have some very expensive products! We should be glad we live within reasonable driving range of Fry's and Office Depot, to mention just two more reasonable sources.

Does anyone know why Fry's does not advertise in Computer Currents, not to mention the Pasadena Star-News? I could not even find a listing for them in my telephone book!

Broderbund's Print Shop Ensemble III was a disappointment to me. What it does, it does well – there is an extensive selection of greeting cards, calendars, and certificates that could be modified quite easily to suit your needs. There is a good choice of fonts and lots of clip art. What is missing is the more extensive jobs, like newsletters – there is just no provision for them at all. This is unfortunate, since it does include a grammar and spell checker, even a thesaurus. Hardly what you need for a Birthday card. I especially miss my templates for cassette labels! I will wait and buy Publisher97 for myself, and give Print Shop to my son.

PIBMUG Report for the April Meeting
Jack Nock

I didn't attend the meeting, so no report :-)

Odds and Ends
Roy T. Beck

BILL GATES IS AT IT AGAIN!

I guess I am just not the adventuresome type: This morning I saw an item in the paper concerning Bill Gates and his next project, a wireless, worldwide, Internet system owned and operated by a company named Teledesic Corp. This would consist of a network of low-orbiting satellites, rather like an overhead, flying version of the cellular phone ground stations we now see about every mile or so as we drive around our metropolis. Maybe if I had Bill's kind of assets, I might take a flyer at such a project. After all, if he risks a billion or so and loses, he is not out of the game. If I did it.... Well, that's another story. I am reminded of an old joke I heard once. If I borrow $10,000 from the bank and cannot repay it, I am in great trouble. If I borrow $100 million from the bank and can't repay it, the bank is in great trouble!

Actually, the comparison is quite apt, as the other prime person in all of this is Craig McCraw, a man who has already made a fortune in, cellular phone service. Gates and McCraw are planning this worldwide scheme, and Boeing is involved because of their technical capability in launching satellites, (and they also have deep pockets). With these three wealthy entities sponsoring the project, it is very likely we may see a new form of Internet with very high speed access, available all over the world. Won't that excite the politicians, who will automatically want to regulate and tax any such venture. It will be interesting to see how this all comes about.

I know some people who automatically resent anything Bill Gates does or proposes, but let's be honest; without Bill, we wouldn't have the personal (and corporate) computer world we now have. And take another view point. Instead of making rude noises about Bill, why not buy a few shares of Microsoft (and/or Boeing and /or Teledesic) and go along for the financial ride? A lot of people beside Bill Gates have made money betting with Bill instead of deriding him.

The Teledesic plan is to put something like 288 satellites in orbit. Since these would not be geo-synchronous satellites, the network would be continually moving about overhead. Compare this to the present cellular system, where the stations are fixed and the users migrate around in "orbit" via automobiles, etc. As you shift access from one cell to another, you are mostly unaware of the relative motion. With the satellites, the user is stationary and the cells move about, same difference! Of course, with the cells being aboard satellites, the users will have less interference from mountains, neighboring buildings, tunnels, etc.

Of course, there are already nay-sayers who doubt the system is economically viable, even if the technical hurdles are overcome. I don't know the answer to this, but it is certainly a breath-taking concept, and with the likes of Boeing, Gates and McCraw behind it, we may see some amazing new things in our not-too-distant future.

Do you think all of Alexander Graham Bell's neighbors thought he was out of his mind? What would we do without the Bell telephone system?

THE FBI

Another item which caught my eye concerns the FBI, congress and us telephone users. Actually, this directly affects the new digital communications systems, not the existing analog operations. What is going on is the problem of defining the technical and legal interface between the FBI and the future digital communications system.

In 1994, Congress passed a law, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (I love these legal titles!) which is intended to define the built-in features of digital communications which are intended to allow the FBI to operate legal wire taps in the digital world. This is necessary because the existing methods of analog wiretapping don't work with digital systems. The present problem is not with the concept of legal wiretapping by the FBI. That is an old decision, not subject to question. What happened is that the 1994 law did not attempt to

specify the technical details (hooray), but instead mandated the FBI and the communications industry to work out standards and details from their points of view. The problem is that the FBI wants more than the industry is prepared to agree to. I don't know the details, and probably wouldn't understand them if I had them, but it is an interesting situation.

The bottom line at the moment is that Congress, through its control of the FBI's budget and taxes of the business world is going to have to referee the argument and coerce the parties into an agreement.

LEVI STRAUSS & CO

As an example of the pervasiveness of data gathering systems, look what has just happened to the employees of Levi Strauss & Co. (They make Levi clothing). It seems that someone stole a hard drive from the corporate headquarters in SF. The files on the drive included the names, home addresses, SSN's, dates of birth, some bank account numbers of all its 20,000 employees. Can you imagine what credit card-type thieves can do with that package of data? The company has notified all its employees of the theft, but since the horse is out of the barn, I don't see the notification as accomplishing much. Just imagine 20,000 people requesting new SSN's because the old ones were in the hands of thieves.

And this is not a new problem. Everybody and his brother seems to think he has a right to demand of you your SSN. Even my doctor wanted it! I just told him it was confidential and ended that one. BUT: my former employer used SSN's as the employee ID no, which released SSNs to numerous persons all over the company, which was world-wide. Their credit union also, of course, accessed the same personnel records.

The American Red Cross won't allow blood donations without your SSN. They claim to have legal authorization for this, but I have my doubts. Of course, their purpose is to detect and limit the spread of AIDS tainted blood, which of course is a worthy purpose. The IRS also demands your SSN, as that is their serial number for you. I have seen

evidence that some insurance companies are using SSNs with only a prefix or suffix letter attached to identify policy holders. Also, your Medicare number is nothing but your SSN with a suffix letter attached, and that number system is accessible at every doctor's office, every pharmacy, and every medical insurance office.

Levi Strauss assured its employees that the data on the hard drive was stored in a "difficult-to-crack computer code"! Thanks a lot fellas! How many minutes do you expect it to take a hacker to figure out the code?

I once bought some used TRS hard drives from a fellow who in turn had bought them from a law firm which was changing over to IBM. When I received them, I took a look at the directory. Nothing there, all files erased. I then took a quick peek at the sectors. There the files were! Letters, mostly, from the lawyer to his clients. Shades of Col. North, all over again. That's how he got caught, he simply DELeted his files, and the FBI simply turned them all on again and printed them out. I could have done the same, but since I had no real interest in the lawyer and his clients, I simply reformatted the drives and ended the matter. Difficult-to-crack, indeed!

The best hope for all of this is that the thief really wanted the Levi Strauss hard drive for his own use, and reformatted it But do you really feel safe that he didn't take a peek at the files before he reformatted them? I'm glad I don't work for Levi Strauss, and have great sympathy for their employees.

HP 6P PRINTERs

I note with interest that Hewlett-Packard's 6P laser printer provides 600 dpi resolution for only $729 at Fry's. Since it is their Personal (read "slow") model it only operates at 8 pages per minute. Their better ones are up to 16, I believe, but think back to the dot matrix era. My real reason for mentioning this printer is that it has an infrared link to your computer. I don't know if that is included at the $729 price or if you must buy an interface box for

your computer, but it is an interesting item. My laptop has a similar built-in port on the rear edge; do you suppose my laptop could talk to a 6P with no other hardware? Interesting thought.

NEC INKJET

Another Fry's ad caught my eye. They are offering an NEC InkJet printer for only $137! Of course it is slow. It can print 3 pages per minute in black/white mode, but slows down to 3 minutes per page in color! Still, the price is certainly attractive for a beginning effort.

See you all at the next meeting.

Roy

Some Hard Drive Data
Roy T. Beck

The table on the next page looked interesting, so I pasted it in here. Hope it's of use to some of you. Thanks to Art Molz for supplying the file.

MODEL # **CONNER**	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
CFA 170	332	16	63	170MB					
CFA 210	685	16	38	200MB			CD JUMP	CD JUMP	CD OPEN
30254	895	10	55	250MB	14ms	64k	CD/ATA JUMP	CD/ATA JUMP	C&D OPEN
CFA 340A	665	16	63	340MB			CD JUMP	CD JUMP	CD OPEN
CFS 420A	826	16	63	420MB			CD JUMP	CD JUMP	CD OPEN
CFA 540A	1024	16	63	540MB			CD JUMP	CD JUMP	CD OPEN
3504	987	16	63	500MB			CD/DSP JUMP	CD/DSP JUMP	DSP JUMP
30544 or 3544	1024	16	63	540MB			CD/DSP JUMP	CD/DSP JUMP	DSP JUMP
CFA 1080A	WITH SOFTWARE			1 GB			CD JUMP	CD JUMP	CD OPEN

FUJITSU	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
2614T	667	16	33	180MB	20ms	64k			
2623T	1002	13	63	420MB	12ms		SWITCH 5 OFF	SWITCH 5 OFF	SWITCH 5 ON
2624T	955	16	63	500MB	12ms	64k	SWITCH 5 OFF	SWITCH 5 OFF	SWITCH 5 ON

MAXTOR	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
7131A	1002	8	32	131MB	15ms	64k	J20 JUMP	J20 JUMP	J20 OPEN
7171A	866	15	26	170MB			J20 JUMP	J20 JUMP	J20 OPEN
7213AT	683	16	38	212MB	15ms	64k	NOT JUMP	7 & 8 JUMP	1 & 2 JUMP
7245AT	967	16	31	245MB	16ms	64k	J20 JUMP	J20 JUMP	J20 OPEN
7345AT	790	15	57	345MB	14ms	64k	J20 JUMP	J20 JUMP	J20 OPEN
7546A	1080	16	63	527MB			J20 JUMP	J20 JUMP	J20 OPEN
LX535	1024	16	63	535MB	13ms	64k	NO JUMPER	7 & 8 JUMP	1 & 2 JUMP

NEC	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
D3713	670	16	63	340MB	13ms		SWITCH 1 ON	SWITCH 1 ON	SWITCH OFF

QUANTUM	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
240AT	723	13	51	240MB	16ms	256k	DS JUMP	DS/SP JUMP	NO JUMPER
270AT	944	14	40	270MB			DS JUMP	DS/SP JUMP	NO JUMPER
340AT	1011	15	44	340MB			DS JUMP	DS/SP JUMP	NO JUMPER
425AT	1021	16	51	425MB	12ms		DS JUMP	DS/SP JUMP	NO JUMPER
540AT	1024	16	63	540MB			DS JUMP	DS/SP JUMP	NO JUMPER

SEAGATE	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
ST-3243	1024	12	34	200MB	16ms	32k	NO JUMPER	3/4 JUMP	1/2 JUMP
ST-3283A	978	14	35	240MB	12ms	128k	NO JUMPER	3/4 JUMP	1/2 JUMP
ST-3290A	1001	15	34	260MB			NO JUMPER	3/4 JUMP	1/2 JUMP
ST-3390A	768	14	62	340MB			NO JUMPER	3/4 JUMP	1/2 JUMP
ST-3391A	768	14	62	325MB			NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	7/8 JUMP

WESTERN DIGITAL	CYL	Heads	Sectors	Capacity	Speed	Buffers	Single Drive	Master Drive	Slave Drive
CAVIAR 1210	989	12	35	210MB			NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2120	872	8	35	120MB	18ms	32k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2170	1010	65	55	170MB	15ms	32k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2200	989	12	35	200MB	14ms	64k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2250	1010	9	55	245MB	15ms	64k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2340	1010	12	55	340MB	14ms	64k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2420	989	15	56	425MB	14ms	64k	NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR 2540	1048	16	63	540MB			NO JUMPER	5/6 JUMP	3/4 JUMP
CAVIAR31000	WITH SOFTWARE			1 GB					

Abort, Retry, Ignore?

<Note: to be read similar to Poe's "The Raven">
Supplied by Jack Nock

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped and vision bleary,
System manuals piled high and wasted paper on the floor,
Longing for the warmth of bed sheets, still I sat there doing spreadsheets.
Having reached the bottom line I took a floppy from the drawer,
I then invoked the SAVE command and waited for the disk to store,
Only this and nothing more.

Deep into the monitor peering, long I sat there wond'ring, fearing,
Doubting, while the disk kept churning, turning yet to churn some
more. But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no
token, "Save!" I said, "You cursed mother! Save my data from
before!" One thing did the phosphors answer, only this and
nothing more, Just, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Was this some occult illusion, some maniacal intrusion?
These were choices undesired, ones I'd never faced before.
Carefully I weighed the choices as the disk made impish noises.
The cursor flashed, insistent, waiting, baiting me to type some more.
Clearly I must press a key, choosing one and nothing more,
From, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

With fingers pale and trembling, slowly toward the keyboard bending,
Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be restored,
Praying for some guarantee, timidly, I pressed a key.
But on the screen there still persisted words appearing as before.
Ghastly grim they blinked and taunted, haunted, as my patience wore,
Saying, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

I tried to catch the chips off guard, and pressed again, but twice as hard.
I pleaded with the cursed machine: I begged and cried and then I swore.
Now in mighty desperation, trying random combinations,
Still there came the incantation, just as senseless as before.
Cursor blinking, angrily winking, blinking nonsense as before.
Reading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

There I sat, distraught, exhausted, by my own machine accosted.
Getting up I turned away and paced across the office floor.
And then I saw a dreadful sight: a lightning bolt cut through the night.
A gasp of horror overtook me, shook me to my very core.
The lightning zapped my previous data, lost and gone forevermore.
Not even, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

To this day I do not know the place to which lost data go.
What demonic nether world us wrought where lost data will be stored,
Beyond the reach of mortal souls, beyond the ether, into black holes?
But sure as there's C, Pascal, Lotus, Ashton-Tate and more,
You will be one day left to wander, lost on some Plutonian shore,
Pleading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Some Interesting Web Sites

Roy T. Beck

I thought it might be interesting to offer a list of Web sites. Theses are some I have found interesting, or which were called to my attention by someone else. As with all such items, there is no assurance they will remain available. Such things are likes BBS's; they come and go as the spirit moves the SYSOP, or in this case the person maintaining the Web site.

I am personally into Genealogy, so there are a number of such sites listed. I have not had time to check out all of these sites, so be warned. If you know of others which you think should be on this list, send them to me by e-mail, pigeon, or etc. I will keep this listing in the Interface hereafter, unless I get many complaints, in which case I won't. Feedback, please?

http://www.yahoo.com	popular search engine
http://www.switchboard.com	US and Canadian phone directory
http://www.everton.com	Everton's Genealogical Helper
http://www.nara.gov	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
http://www.looksmart.com	A new search engine
http://www.foothill.net/~genbook	GEN-BOOK home page
http://www.vnet.net/moobasi/genealogy	Moobasi, Inc. site offering Census CD-ROMS
http://www.ancquest.com	Incline Software site offering Ancestral Quest
http://www.progeny2.com	Site offers GED*Mate & PAF*Mate
http://www.familytreemaker.com	Banner Blue Div of Broderbund, offers CD-ROMs
http://www.xstop.com	censor your Internet reception?
http://www.dejanews.com/toplevel.html	read the news
http://zippo.com/	Direct Read News
http://www.mapblast.com/	finds other locations
http://www.netseek.com/metaseek/	comprehensive search engine
http://theunion.com	a funny, provocative site
http://www.Four11.com	e-mail directory

I propose also to list e-mail addresses of useful places, things and persons:

roytbeck@ix.netcom.com	Ye Editor Roy Beck
treasures@earthlink.net	Digital Treasures burns CD_ROMs to order
heywood@southwest.net	Pres. Art Heywood
jimeking@ix.netcom.com	Tres. Jim King
rmalone@primenet.com	Rob Malone
jack.nock@worldnet.att.net	Jack Nock
jphillipp@primenet.com	John Phillipp
MESANTANA@AOL	Mike Santana
lancew@ix.netcom.com	Lance Wolstrup

In This Issue:

Upcoming Events:

TRW Swap Meet
Manhattan Beach May 31
Computer Fair -Pomona
May 17-18
June 7-8
June 28-29
Computer Fair-Reseda
May 31

Club Officers and Board Members:

President	Art Heywood heywood@southwest.net
Vice President	Lance Wolstrup lancew@ix.netcom.com
Sec'y-Treasurer	Jim King jimeking@ix.netcom.com
INTERFACE Editor	Roy T. Beck roytbeck@ix.netcom.com
Past President	Jack Nock jack.nock@worldnet.att.net
Members at Large	Roy T. Beck roytbeck@ix.netcom.com
	John Phillipp jphillipp@primenet.com
Disk Librarian	Jim Feiten

TRSurtrove BBS   213-664-5056 (8-N-1)

Meeting Time and Place:

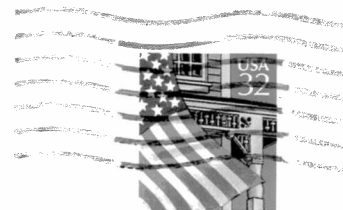7 to 10 PM, May 9, 1997
Arcadia Park Senior Citizen's Center
405 South Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia
Meetings held second Friday, Monthly

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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TECHNOLOGY USER'S GROUP

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