Kfest '97 Yearbook

David Kerwood gives the Kfest '97 Keynote speech

Dean Esmay: Genie or Delphi?

KansasFest 1997 -
The Keynote Address
by David Kerwood

Good morning! It's nice to be here, and an honor. Truth to tell, I was taken aback when I was asked to do this - I certainly didn't expect that my position in the Apple II community was enough to warrant my presence here today.

I will tell you that when the KFest committee asked me to do this keynote address, they did so with the full knowledge that:

a) sometimes I get up and start mouthing off with the realization that I don't always have a clue as to what I'm talking about, and

b) that in my day job I'm a speechwriter.

The committee originally gave me two hours to kill...I mean fill (!), and since I do write speeches for a living, then that is what you will get - a speech.

There is a lot to talk about, and so little time - not that two hours is a little time, but that I have no intention of standing up here and talking for that long. So you have that to look forward to...

First things first - the biggest thing that many here are talking about (that's not under a non-disclosure agreement) is what's happening with the "new Genie".

Last year, Gary Utter stood up here and told you that Genie is changing, and not for the better, as far as we were concerned. One thing that came out of the conversations and strategy sessions last year was that the Genie Service that many of us considered to be the online home of everything Apple II was facing a deadline. That deadline being that, in one year's time, Genie had to be OFF the GEIS (General Electric Information Systems) hardware.

Well, the year is essentially up. And Genie will most certainly be off the GEIS hardware at the end of August.

This means that the new owners of Genie, Yovelle Renaissance Corporation, have got to put up an equivalent system, running on their own hardware, in really short order. You'll note that I said "equivalent system." That is not my definition, but Yovelle's.

They are promising to continue text-based access using a General Terminal program for the time being. But that will be with an entirely new BBS setup, not using the software that Genie users have been accustomed to for many years.

This has several dramatic ramifications for A2 users on Genie. Most importantly, scripting for off-line readers will die a miserable death. ALL off-line readers will almost certainly break very spectacularly when the new Genie hits. That means CoPilot, GEM, Aladdin, and all the other Genie front ends like Genie for Windows. THIS GOES FOR ALL PLATFORMS, NOT JUST APPLE II.

What does this mean for Syndicomm?

The menuing will be VERY different, as will a number of other things.

Syndicomm has been told to begin the preparation for the massive undertaking of moving our libraries and archives to the new system. Right now it is still not clear if that action is even possible, practically speaking. It looks like much of this work would have to be done by brute force - manually transferring not just the files, but somehow getting the file descriptions over as well.

Looking at it, I'm not even sure it can physically be done without some superhuman effort on the part of the Genie staff, and even that is not a sure thing. And if the libraries can be recreated, there is no clear-cut plan from Yovelle on how to access them, though I would anticipate FTP access if nothing else.

RTCs WILL BE GONE. Yovelle does propose replacing the RTC with something based on Internet IRC, possibly with some command-compatibility with the old software. It'll be interesting to see if anyone is up to creating an IRC client for the IIgs.

I wouldn't even begin to speculate how that could possibly be done for the 8-bitters.

MESSAGE BOARDS WILL CONTINUE, BUT WITH A NEW FACE. They will use category/topic structures with the addition of something Yovelle is calling a "subject line." To me that means it will be a threaded message system, like what currently exists on usenet and Delphi.

THERE WILL STILL BE THINGS CALLED "ROUNDTABLES," BUT THE MENUING STRUCTURE WILL BE QUITE DIFFERENT, AS YOU WOULD EXPECT.

It's all apparently based on an off-the-shelf commercial BBS package they've purchased, and that they're trying their best to customize so it looks something like the old Genie. I suppose that we could refer to that (old Genie) as "Genie Classic," and the new Genie as "Genie Lite."

Accessing the new Genie will take some doing, it looks like. When the transition takes place, the existing 800 number access will vanish, and it is not clear what will happen with SprintNet access. Yovelle is talking about using the existing infrastructure from their parent, IDT, to establish a new connectivity scheme using IDT nodes and numbers.

BUT IT APPEARS THAT THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CONNECTING VIA THE INTERNET, WHICH FOR TEXT ACCESS MEANS TELNET.

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What does this mean for Syndicomm?

What does this mean for Syndicomm?

As most of you know, Syndicomm is the online management company that maintains A2 on Genie, as well as many other RoundTables. Syndicomm is Gary Utter and Dean Esmay, and when it became very obvious last year that there were too many Apple II eggs in the Genie basket, decided to launch another venture, this time on a competing online service called Delphi.

The Delphi operation got started in earnest last fall, and has been growing in content and popularity on a daily basis ever since. It's taking off and not looking back. But it has been hampered by one very important obstacle.

Nearly everyone who works in staff on A2 and A2Pro on Genie and Delphi is a volunteer. As such, nobody (and I mean nobody) is making a living in this business. So, as with any volunteer organization, you try and get as much as you can out of the people that are doing the work, but you can't expect the same output as you would if they were full time employees.

Getting the Delphi operation up and running was, and continues to be, a demanding occupation on all the volunteers.

"Is it worth it?" Dean Esmay gives his reply.

A2 (Apple II)

From my perspective, I find the level of effort put forth by those in Delphi A2 and A2Pro to be nothing less than remarkable. I wish I could get the same level of effort from those who work for me in my day job. Still, it has been a taxing and stressful thing to build an entirely new system from scratch, and there have been prices to pay.

The biggest price has been one where Delphi A2 has not been able to move as fast as we would have liked in several key areas, especially with the libraries, building the web side of Delphi A2 (yes, you can access A2 on Delphi via the web, using Netscape, Explorer, or even Lynx), and with promoting our activities there.

It's a simple matter of having the available talent - these volunteers - being spread too thin in covering all the bases on Genie and Delphi.

THE RECENT MERGER OF A2 AND A2PRO ON GENIE IS A CASE IN POINT.

Here was a superhuman effort given by Charlie Hartley, Tony Ward, Dave Miller and others in bringing the two forums together without losing any of the irreplaceable archives, messages, and files in A2Pro.

The deadline was short, very short, with A2Pro only having a few weeks to move the entire operation and have it merge as seamlessly as possible with A2.

They did it, though not without a few problems. Charlie Hartley was exhausted enough by the ordeal that he physically had to stay away from his computer for a while.

Syndicomm
ONLINE CONTENT MANAGEMENT

And now it looks like they might have to do it again, on a much larger scale, and in an even shorter timeframe.

Is it worth it?

Below:
Entrance to Marian Center on the Avila College campus.

Syndicomm hasn't come to a final decision on that one yet.

I do have a statement from Syndicomm on these actions being taken by Genie.

This comes from Dean Esmay, and is mostly directed towards the staff of A2 and A2Pro, on both Genie and Delphi.

But because of its importance to the rest of the Apple II community, Dean said it would be okay to share it here, at KFest.

And since this is a direct quote from The Dean, I'll read it verbatim...

(Dean's statement is continued next page)

> "Making an online Appple II orientated service available to people all around the world ... was an exciting opportunity for us".

> "There will be a huge need for hand-holding and support".

"It has long been clear to us that Genie is now run by people with less than sterling ethics who have no clear understanding of what made Genie great in its heyday. We have realized for quite some time that if we stayed with Genie as the only basket for our Apple II eggs, that in the end the Apple II online community we have worked so long for might well die a miserable and forgotten death.

That's why we opened up on Delphi. If nothing else it was a way to hedge our bets. But we also did it because Bill Louden was running Delphi. This is the same Bill Louden who created the original Genie in the early 1980s and was in charge of it when it was a truly great, thriving, growing service. This is also the same Bill Louden that was fired from Genie for arguing too much with management. Our kinda guy, in other words.

There were other reasons to start up another operation on Delphi, of course. Their pricing structure was far better for customers than Genie. The fact that they were fully internet-accessible made the Delphi option very attractive as well. Making an online Apple II-oriented service available to people all around the world who couldn't easily get on Genie was an exciting opportunity for us. We knew that changes like those now in the works for Genie would come to pass sooner or later--it happened somewhat later than we were betting, but we figured it wouldn't be more than a year or so after the last KFest at the outside, and that did turn out to be the case.

As far as the future of Genie goes, our commitment at Syndicomm is to continue on the "new Genie' for as long as anyone currently on staff wants to continue there. We leave it up to you, the A2 and A2Pro staff. Those of you who want to stay, can stay, and we'll do our best to support you. We do honestly feel in our hearts that Delphi is more likely to hold our brightest future--but if we were always right about everything, Syndicomm would be bigger than Microsoft by now.

So if some of you want to try to prove us wrong, even if only two or three of you wants to stay on the "new Genie," we will continue there with you, and do our best to continue to support you.

But we do urge all staffers, on both services, to make a choice: Genie or Delphi.

We think everyone ought to make a final decision as to which system they want to be on, and leave the other system behind. That's not to say the decision is irrevocable, or that someone on one system will be unwelcome on the other. It's just that no one should work on both.

Providing support and customer service is what we are really going to need in a big way after next month. Those subscribers who continue on Genie are going to be floundering around quite a bit in the new system, assuming they can connect at all.

And those that decide to make the switch to Delphi will be faced with trying to learn a new system as well.

There will be a huge need for hand-holding and support, a service the sysops in the Syndicomm universe have always been better than any other group of sysops in the world.

But for this big changeover we need you at your best. Besides, some of you are clearly working far too hard, and Gary and I are getting worried about your health. Sysops are supposed to be insane--stable, healthy individuals are always suspect at Syndicomm--but there comes a point when even Sysops from Hell start looking burnt out beyond reason.

There's no reason anyone should have to decide this immediately of course. We've got another month in which we can all look closely at the new Genie and evaluate it. But within the next month or so we want every person AS AN INDIVIDUAL to decide which of the two systems he or she wants to devote their time and energy to. We'll still be one family, and at Syndicomm we'll do our best to give everyone full support for whatever decision they make. But we do want everyone to make a choice between the two by the time the "new Genie" is fully operational, so we can end the conflicts and the burnout that so many people have been experiencing. It's not fair to you, it doesn't do us any good, and certainly does not serve our customers well."

END OF QUOTE!

> **"Delphi has just done something unparalleled in the industry by making all of the forum content, including A2, available via the web side for free".**

> **In many ways the Apple II community is like the ham radio community.**

I'll give you my own personal opinion - not Syndicomm's, but mine alone. My recommendation, for what it's worth, is a definite NO. It is not worth it.

I think it is time for some business sense to prevail on this one. A2 needs to focus its energy and resources on an operation that is growing.

The new Genie is referring to those wanting text-based access as their "legacy base." They've come right out and said that they will actively solicit business from their existing customer base of IDT subscribers. I have heard of no effort being made to retain the features that are so important to A2 users, such as off-line readers and bulletin board organization by categories and topics.

Delphi, on the other hand, has gone out of their way to ensure that the development of the web-based interface works seamlessly with the text interface. Delphi has developed a very attractive and inexpensive pricing plan for all methods of access, and is not averse to taking risks.

Delphi has just done something unparalleled in the industry by making all of the forum content, including A2, available via the web side _for free_. They can do that because accessing Delphi via the web creates its own revenue stream by the use of advertising, and they don't have to rely on subscriber fees to make money via that route.

To me (and I'll remind you that I'm speaking as an individual, not as Syndicomm), this is a no-brainer.

> I WANT TO BE WHERE THE COMPANY REGARDS ME AS A CUSTOMER, NOT AS A LEGACY. AGAIN, TO ME, WHEN I HEAR THE WORD "LEGACY SYSTEMS," THAT SOUNDS LIKE "LIABILITY." I DON'T LIKE TO BE THOUGHT OF THAT WAY.

Okay. Enough with the news. Let me do a paradigm shift and completely change directions here. Are you ready? Here we go...To paraphrase Admiral Stockdale, "Who are we? Why are we here?"

Next week in Boston is MACWORLD EXPO. It's quite likely that there will be upwards of 15-18,000 people attending this exposition in one form or another. The giants in the industry will be there - hardware manufacturers such as Apple, of course, and the other clone makers like Power Computing, Power Tools, Motorola, Daystar Digital, etc. The peripheral industry - printers, drives, accessories, yadda yadda yadda - they will be there in force as well.

But most importantly, the customers will be there. These people come from all backgrounds, all disciplines, but most of them will have one very important thing in common. They will all, by and large, be Mac OS users by necessity. They will be using the Macintosh operating system, and looking very carefully at next generation OSs like Rhapsody and the BeOS, so they can do their

job. They are magazine publishers, web publishers, graphic artists and designers, and for those types of work that Mac has no equal. There will be educators, game designers, software programmers, and even a few writers. The bottom line? Most everyone that will be attending MACEXPO use their Macs and clones at work.

Those of us here, both physically and following the proceedings online, are here for a different reason. Very few of us use the Apple II for business, though there are a few holdouts (like Joe Kohn, and most of those people still rely on AppleWorks).

In many ways, the Apple II community is like the ham radio community. There are dozens of different ways to communicate around the world, and none of them are as esoteric and technically challenging as ham radio. So why does ham radio continue to exist? Why are hamfests still such a big deal?

It's very simple - the people who still call themselves "Hams" do it because they love it. They are hobbyists and tinkerers, for the most part. But they also have a tremendous sense of community, of family.

> "Most of us here also enjoy taking our machines to the edge, pushing the technological envelope - making these wonderful machines do things their original owners never thought possible".

Most of us here are proud to call ourselves Apple II users. There are many things which hold us together, and I'll speak to two of them today.

All of us in this room enjoy computing, of any stripe, and darn near everyone in this room has a particular affection for the Apple II. Most of us here also enjoy taking our machines to the edge, pushing the technological envelope - making these wonderful machines do things their original designers never thought possible.

Many of us still pay cash money for the latest and greatest software written for the][, something that still comes as a shock to many.

THAT'S WHY WE STILL HAVE PEOPLE CREATING - AND SUPPORTING - SUCH OUTSTANDING PRODUCTS.

That's why we still have a wonderful 8 bit communications program like ProTERM that continues to be commercially viable, and whose users continue to rely on Intrec for technical support that would put to shame many other much larger software developers.

But consider the general direction that new product development has been taking the Apple II. What kind of product continues to be what I called "commercially viable?"

TELECOMMUNICATIONS. This is an area where the Apple II continues to be on track with the rest of the industry. And telecommunications technologies are going nova over the

entire computing universe, for Macs, for PCs, even for Ataris and Commodores.

Before I go any further, I'd like to see a show of hands here - is there anyone out there that does not use email? OK.

Is there anyone here that is not connected to the Internet is some form or another? This can be by an online service like Delphi, Genie, AOL , or direct through an Internet Service Provider, or even through their work.

And who out there isn't connected to the Web? I thought so.

So here's a pretty straightforward commonality. We all like computing, whether we are hobbyists, like the hams I mentioned earlier, or serious users who rely on computers to make our living. And darn near everyone here is online, in one form or another.

I would put to you that the fact that many of us do enjoy communicating with each other online has become a more important fiber in the fabric of our community than any other single reason - more important than what machine we use to do this with.

Speaking for myself, I will connect

online using whatever method I have at my disposal - it doesn't matter to me whether I'm using a Mac, a PC, a Newton, any of my Apple II machines, or even a dumb terminal on a creaky old VAX machine. If I can telnet, I'm happy. And I know a lot of you are the same way.

Telecommunications are the ties that bind. Again, with the ham community, who by definition are communicators, it is the constant electronic interaction with each other that knits them together. And with our community, the same holds true. But - and this is a very important but - there is a huge disparity in the sheer numbers of people that say, go to hamfests, and those that go to KFests.

I would imagine that the numbers of people that still use Apple II computers outnumber the few hundred thousand hams around the world, and vastly outnumber those hams that have appropriated the Internet for TCP/IP packet radio. Why is that?

BECAUSE…THERE IS A HUGE DISPARITY AMONGST APPLE II USERS THAT ARE ONLINE, AND THOSE THAT ARE NOT.

It is my belief that many of us in this room, and reading this speech online, tend to forget this very basic fact. I would put to you that, for every Apple II user online and participating in Apple II-related communication, there are at least a hundred others that are not.

Most people look at their Apple II machines with a mixture of satisfaction and disappointment. They like their machines, and they continue to use them, but they hear the siren song of Packard Bell in every advertisement they see from Sears, right beside the toaster ovens and washing machines...

THIS MUST CHANGE. Otherwise our community will end up like the Shakers, whose numbers have plummeted over the past 200 years from tens of thousands of believers to one remaining community at Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The Shakers (more properly called the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing) did not concern themselves with what was happening in the outside world, and did not seek to change anything outside of their own community.But they also did not seek to grow or proselytize either. If you wanted to join the community, you were accepted, but no encouragement was given either. So their numbers dwindled as the elders passed on, and now they are down to a handful of individuals.

They accept that outcome. We should not.

In contrast to the Shakers, and like the hams, we should proselytize. Apple Computer calls this "evangelism," and it has been tremendously successful in keeping the rabble roused.

But I do not suggest that we should be evangelizing the Apple II.

This isn't going to go anywhere, if only for the simple reason that no one is manufacturing the][anymore.

What we should be evangelizing is being online with the][.

THE MERE FACT THAT GETTING PEOPLE TO REALIZE THAT YOU CAN CONNECT TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB WITH THE APPLE II IS AN EYE-OPENER, EVEN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ONLY USED APPLE IIS FOR ALL THEIR COMPUTING LIFE.

I have seen this time and again, whether with individuals at my own house, or at user group meetings. A few months ago I had the pleasure of demonstrating the Spectrum Internet Suite at a user group meeting in New England, and after the demo, several individuals expressed dissatisfaction on why they couldn't have something like that for their Apple IIc's.They did have a modem for their machines, but hadn't done anything with it. I asked them why, and one gave the response that America OnLine doesn't have any software for the IIc. The other nodded vigorously in agreement...

These were not idiots - they were educated people who simply hadn't a clue as to what was out there, at the end of their phone wire.

I fired up ProTERM on the IIgs I was using for the demo, changed it to a green screen so it would look their IIc, and connected to the Rhode Island Ocean State Free-Net. I chose this particular connection because it would come up with a nice menu which said, in plain English, "WWW Lynx."

Did you ever see the cartoons by Gary Larson called "The Far Side?" Do you remember the favorite expression he used on the faces of cavemen every time they saw something wonderful and technologically advanced, like fire? Their eyes would bug out, and they'd go "ooooh." That was the expression on the faces of these people. Ooooh.

So you already can guess what I did. Connected to the web, and then to www.syndicomm.com/a2web. And from the telnet link on A2-Web, went directly to Delphi.

AND THE APPLE II UNIVERSE UNFOLDED BEFORE THEM...AMAZING. SIMPLY AMAZING.

This is the evangelism we all need to do. Simple education. Show everyone you know what's out there. Let them know that you can indeed use an Apple II to get online, and you can do it very well. Don't forget for a second that the vast majority of Apple II owners will use the phrase so often quoted by our own Joe Kohn - "I didn't know you could do that with an Apple II!"

PROTERM

I'll end this with a story that I heard some time ago, that will also point up one other commonality all of us share here today.

Some years ago, a school system in southern California was facing a crisis. The students in one particular district were failing at an alarming rate, discipline was non-existent, and academic standards, what few there were, were a sham.

In an effort to turn things around, many experiments were tried, with varying degrees of success. But one tactic that was tried met with stunning success.

COMPUTERS WERE PROVIDED TO A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, NOT JUST IN ISOLATED LABS, BUT EVERYWHERE IN THE BUILDING.

The intention was for any student to have access to a computer for as much as they could handle. This particular school was chosen because its students scored in the lowest statewide percentiles in every subject.

INCREDIBLY, IN JUST ONE SEMESTER, MANY OF THESE KIDS WERE KNOCKING DOWN TEST RESULTS THEY HAVE NEVER EARNED BEFORE, AND DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY HAD LEARNED MORE IN THAT PAST SEMESTER THAN THEY HAD LEARNED IN THE PRECEDING TEN YEARS.

The local news media picked up on this as one of those 'good news' type stories that are so uncommon nowadays.

One boy in particular was trotted out to meet the press. This lad was named Raymond, and he had every problem in the book - a dysfunctional home, acute shyness, bad eyesight, and zero academic performance. A complete loser, in other words. But in the one semester he had with the computer, Raymond caught up seven years of math.

They got him in front of the camera for an interview and asked him how it was that he blossomed so magnificently.

"WELL," HE REPLIED, "THE KIDS HERE CALL ME A 'RETARD.' BUT THE COMPUTER CALLS ME RAYMOND."

I said in the beginning that I would speak of two of the things that we all hold in common. The first thing was our ability to communicate and interact online. This, the story of Raymond, is the other thread of the ties that bind us all together.

This is part of the magic of computing that has touched each and every one of us. And it is magical, and wonderful, and we have all experienced it in one form or another in our lives.

If we hadn't, our favorite machines would be gathering dust in a closet somewhere. We need to share the wonder with the world.

THE FUTURE OF APPLE II COMPUTING IS ONLINE -

whether it is on a commercial service like Delphi, which I would recommend without hesitation, or even just with connecting to a Free Net to do email and cruise the web.

The home port for the Apple II is the serial port.

It doesn't matter how they do it, but all Apple II users need to be connected, and I mean that in every sense of the word.

EVANGELIZE.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS,
TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS -
PLUG THAT MODEM IN,
AND TELL THEM TO COME HOME.

KansasFest 1997 took place in America's heartland at Avila College in the summer of '97, running from 30 July to 2 August.

KansasFest is always the most special event in the Apple II universe, being both a huge social shindig as well as presenting a unique opportunity to create a "critical mass" of programming talent that demonstrates the awesome power of serendipity.

At KFest '96 this critical mass sparked an idea that has since become this web site that you are logged onto now.

http://www.primenet.com/~adams/kfest.html

Other ideas that began at KFest were the birth and stupendous growth of the A2 Forum on Delphi, A2-Web (the "Mother of All Apple II Websites"), and the Spectrum Internet Suite (aka "SIS").

KFest '97 saw the gestation and birth of one of the most amazing products ever developed for the Apple IIgs, Marinetti, which brought true TCP/IP connectivity to the IIgs!

KFest '98 will be even better since it will the tenth anniversary of these annual gatherings of Apple II enthusiasts in Kansas City! KansasFest 1998, celebrating 10 years of KansasFest gatherings, will take place on July 22-26, 1998!! Now you know and you can start planning.

Don't mess with A2 Mom!

The KFest committee will be giving out more details as the time gets closer, but for now, mark your calendar, tell your boss, tell your significant other, and plan on being there!

What follows is a visual chronicle of events - a "scrapbook" of a few pictures from KFest '97 that are illustrative of the wacky time we all had together.

REGISTRATION DAY KANSASFEST 1997 started off at Avila College in Kansas City, MO (close by to the former home of the now-defunct A2-Central in Overland Park, KS).

Registration of the attendees and presenters on Wednesday, 30 July, netted a grand total of 47 people, who have arrived at Avila expecting more than 3 solid days chock full of events, product demonstrations, and hopefully a few surprises :)

As per long-standing tradition, the first get-together was at KC Masterpiece, where no rib was left untouched. And "long-standing" was the operative phrase, since there was a substantial wait as the restaurant emptied out to accommodate the nearly 40 KFesters who showed up for dinner...

DAY ONE THURSDAY dawned with breakfast, which was immediately followed by tHE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, given by yours truly, the A2-Web Webmaster. I

Hot on the heels of that tone-setter came a stunning presentation of the first Apple IIGS web browser, SPECTRUM INTERNET SUITE., done live and on-line by Geoff Weiss. Geoff's live browsing of the Web, and demonstrations of how to use SIS to create web pages on the IIgs held the audience's attention in this

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Wednesday: Registration and checkin.
Wednesday evening: Dinner at KC Masterpiece.
Thursday morning: Keynote Address

standing-room only session for nearly two hours of nonstop chatter. After a short break for lunch came two sessions, the PUBLISHER'S ROUNDTABLE, moderated by Stan Marks. Steve Cavanaugh (The Apple Blossom), Ryan Suenaga (editor of GenieLamp A2), Max Jones (Juiced.GS), and Joe Kohn (Shareware Solutions II).

Running concurrently was Geoff Weiss (again!) having a session called "INTRODUCTION TO UNIX." That room attracted most of the programmers and programmer wanna-be's at KFest. Two more sessions filled out the rest of the afternoon. Chris Budewig demonstrated a glut of Apple II emulators on his two Power Macs (a 200 MHz 6400 and a 117 MHz PPC PowerBook). The hit of that demonstration was, of course, BERNIE][THE RESCUE, a very fine

Apple IIgs emulator for the Power PC Mac OS machines. Auri Rahimzadeh ably performed his presentation of object-oriented programming for the Newton. Following a quick dinner, the attendees hustled back over to the dorms for another standing-room

only session, but this time the big news was the official roll out of something most never thought would be done, a real working TCP/IP for the Apple IIgs. The Thunder From Down Under, programming czar Richard Bennett started with brief discussion on the mechanics of TCP and IP internet traffic control, and then fired up his still-unnamed CDev and accompanying GS telnet application. The audience cheered and clapped when Bennett, with Geoff Weiss assisting, made a successful telnet connection to Geoff Weiss's ISP. Richard then brought the house down when he announced that TCP/IP FOR THE IIGS would be FREE, and would be available for downloading at a soon-to-be-announced web page!

The craziness this year was once again fueled by the BITE THE BAG CONTEST. Participants dueled out their skills of picking up a paper grocery bag with their teeth while simultaneously positioning and balancing themselves on the end of only one (1) appendage: hand or foot. This year was hotly contested to a point of a forced draw, after a debate in the finals regarding a legality.

The Bite the Bag winners for Kfest 1997 are Scott Johnson and Paul Zaleski, both seasoned champions from previous years. And so ended another history-making KFest day!

DAY TWO FRIDAY started with a bit of a disappointment, with the Apple Computer representative (Kurt Ackman) having to bow out of his scheduled presentation on the latest Macintosh software developments from Apple. Instead, we were treated to Steve Cavanaugh's HYPERCARD GS (HCGS) presentation. Steve, the publisher of Apple Blossom, has long been regarded as a HyperCard GS power user, and he did a credible job in demonstrating how the incredible power of the free HCGS could be put to use by the average IIgs owner. Ryan Suenaga's presentation was called "APPLE II HTML", and he attempted to explain some of the common mistakes that web page creators make that render their pages difficult, if not impossible, for any Apple II to properly display. He had the foresight to be connected to Lynx via the Genie text-based web browser on his IIgs during the presentation, and the audience could readily see the totally

unusable consequences of poor web design, such as what you would find at http://www.sony.com/. This was immediately followed by Max Jones' well-attended demonstrations of some of the techniques he uses to publish his highly-regarded Apple II magazine, JUICED.GS. Max went to great lengths to show the audience the desktop publishing "tricks of the trade" that he has become so famous for, using his two most frequently used publishing tools, GraphicWriter III and AppleWorks GS. Max brought his beautifully maintained IIgs machine for the presentation, which includes an RGB monitor with the crispest and clearest display I have ever seen.

Lunch came and went, and the crowds assembled to watch the sparks fly as Tony Diaz from Alltech Electronics, dremel in hand, proceeded to assemble, and then completely disassemble, a working Apple IIgs in portable case, complete with what appeared to be a flip-up gas plasma screen. This is the second PORTABLE IIGS that Tony has constructed for KFest, and Joe Kohn still doesn't have one. Maybe next year, Joe. :)

There was an audible gasp heard from the audience when Tony also pulled out a prototype of what was originally intended to be an Apple II - Unix bridge machine. Described as

"][e Times][", this one of a kind unit that Tony rescued from the dumpster represented just one of the many prototype hardware assemblies that Diaz has managed to scrounge up and put in his unofficial official Apple II museum.

Two items in particular made people get out of their chairs for a closer look. The genuine Apple Ethernet card for the Apple II was put out for display, and this mythical beast was shown to be a real piece of hardware, and not a fantasy. Then a running IIgs, sans cover, was thrown up (literally) on the workbench, and people got to see something that came very close to production - the TurboRez video card from Bill St. Pierre. It wasn't just a static display; Tony has managed to get the thing to actually run, and it put out a beautiful display on the IIgs RGB AppleColor monitor. The sort of thing that makes you wonder what would have happened if hardware like the TurboRez video card and the Apple ethernet card would have ever made it to production. Tony D. uses the][e Times][as a Dremel workbench...-Everyone gasped again when Tony proceeded to use the][e Times][as a workbench as the dremel started singing the hardware hacker song again...

An impromptu late afternoon session for Apple II user groups filled out the end of the day's events, and Jerry Cline from Intrec led much of the

discussion on ways that user groups could better serve the Apple II user, and to find more members.

That set the stage for the last major event of the day - the KANSASFEST BANQUET with the obligatory roast!

The roastee this year was none other than Mr. TCP himself, Richard Bennett.

Richard Bennett - aka Mr. Bean!- Richard handled all the attention with his usual down-under coolness and savoir-faire, and Tony Diaz stepped forth with videocam at the ready to record the event. The roasters included Geoff Weiss, Max Jones and Ryan Suenaga, and the proceeded were carried along at a smart pace by the emcee, last year's roastee Joe Kohn.

Tony Diaz and his tie! - Traditions were maintained, such as Tony D's wearing a tie worthy of anything in Roger Wagner's wardrobe.

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One new item was added to the fun - Richard had complained that he had never experienced the culinary delight called "Smores"; so a barbecue was set up and everyone made 'smores' to their heart's content...

Friday night at KFest is always one of the longest nights, with few people ever making it to bed before sunrise. This picture was taken at nearly 3 AM from just those people who happened to be wandering around the dorm at that hour.

It was scanned from a fuzzy photo taken by Max Jones outside my dorm room - the banner in the background is courtesy of the Rhode Island Apple User Group, where I am a member.

DAY THREE SATURDAY morning dawned (too early for most) and the AM sessions were devoted to PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS. Steve Cavanaugh was first out of the box with his tres cool quarterly disk publication, HYPER QUARTERLY. This was the first time that I had seen this

(there are only so many hours in a day, after all), and Steve went a long way toward making everyone in the audience HyperCard GS fanatics. It certainly is a beautiful product, and each issue is chock full of stunning and very practical HyperCard GS stacks. Steve, along with stack wizards Hangtime and Gareth Jones, have created HyperCard GS stacks that are amazing in their versatility, ease of use, and sheer beauty. Among the stacks he demoed to the audience was a text/HTML word processing stack, called "HC Word." This had the unique capability of being to export text with HTML tags that support basic formatting commands for viewing as web pages. Another stack demonstrated was "A La Carte," which lets the user build menus for any HyperCard stack, without complex scripting. Still another HyperCard stack that was in the premier issue of Hyper Quarterly is called "PostScripter,"which allows for manipulation of any PostScript graphic, whether it be for resizing or repositioning that graphic on a page. The image would then be printed out at the highest resolution the printer would allow. Mike Hackett then demoed an application tentatively called "GSPhotoCD" that allowed the display of PhotoCD images on a IIgs. While not quite ready for prime time (Mike was demoing GSPhotoCD for the author, who did not attend KFest), this application allowed the viewing and exporting of PhotoCD images to a variety of formats. Mike explained that while the images

would (and did) display with very high quality on a Second Sight-equipped IIgs, it did not require a Second Sight card to render and display the image.

After a flurry of hardware swapping (I've never seen so many IIgs's being hand-carried over so many vulnerable heads), Mike Westerfield from Byte Works proceeded to thrill the onlookers with a walk through of a nearly complete interpretive basic for the Apple IIgs, called "GSoft BASIC." Mike's plans include producing GSoft BASIC for Windows PCs and Mac OS machines as well, including the extensive documentation with the standard Byte Works "big fat manual." As far as the all important "when?", Mike explained that he hopes to have it completed by the end of the year, but would not commit to a firm date. And to cap it all off, Mike put up a GSoft Basic-developed communications program that he and Richard Bennett managed to hack together in a few hours the previous evening. No ordinary comm program, this was actually a tiny little application (fifteen lines of code) that would be used to connect to Delphi, using TCP/IP! Mike made one plea to the crowd - he doesn't want any beta testers right now! He instructed the attendees to "watch the traffic online" and when he's ready, he'll let them know.

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Saturday evening: Dinner at Jess and Jim's
Later that night and early morning: Roam the halls and tunnels of Avila
Sunday morning: Hugs and farewells and prepare to travel home

After taking a break for a quick lunch, Joe Kohn stepped into the breech with a brief talk about Shareware Solutions II. Actually, it wasn't Joe the Publisher that was doing the pitch, but Joe the PR flack (who bore a stunning resemblance to Max Jones). Even if it was "preaching to the choir" (nearly all at KFest were already SSII subscribers), the final message that did ring loud and clear was for subscription renewals to SSII! Joe then swung into his pitch for what's available in the SSII software library (over 1200 software titles!) and then launched into new product rollout mode. The big news of the day soon became obvious - Peter Watson's MS-DOS utilities have now been ported over to the GSOS desktop environment as a New Desk Accessory, called "MUG" (MS-DOS Utilities - Graphical interface)! $20 shareware (or $15 when using cash), this MS-DOS NDA fixes the previously "difficult" text screen interface that users had to wrestle with before. Joe announced that the new NDA will be available within a week or two.

To wrap up the product demo sessions, Joe then produced a new product from Ninja Force, a IIgs version of a popular PC game called "Bomber Man." With a projected release date still more than a few months away, the nearly-finished arcade game, renamed "KaBoom!", was a gorgeous blow-up-the-bad-guy game that looked great on the standard RGB monitor, as well as on the 21-inch TV that was connected to the IIgs via the composite video port.

The attendees then made their way over to the conference center for the VENDOR FAIR that took place during the rest of the afternoon. One could find all kinds of hardware and software for the Apple II for sale.

Items ranged from the exotic and esoteric, from a "Black Apple" Bell and Howell Apple][(complete with its black case disk drive and paddle ports) to a couple of Mac IIsi's, Apple IIc's, and a IIgs or three.

People pawed through hundreds of disks, drives, cards, newsletters, t-shirts, and the latest games, applications, and CD-ROMs of Apple II software.

After loading up with my haul (I bought a 340 Meg Focus internal drive from Tony Diaz at Alltech, and a few things from local boy Kevin Thornton).

I went back to the dorm to take a short nap. I went out cold for about an hour, then got ready to head out to Jess & Jim's Steak House for the traditional KFest "wrap party."

That was an experience, with me ordering a 24 oz. Porterhouse steak that looked big enough to get up and walk off my plate. But I finished every bite :) Joe Kohn did not get watered down, as had been true before, though a waitress did threaten him with a full glass of water!

Then it was time to get ready to go. I was catching an early flight out out of KC, along with Ryan Suenaga and Jerry Cline from Intrec. This meant that we had to hit the road no later than 5 AM, which also meant that I would end up spending the entire night awake in the dorm. I wasn't alone, though, as there were more than a few others who were also awake through the night. In any event, the clock eventually ran out on KFest '97, and soon I was winging my way back to Rhode Island. Another KansasFest was now history!

Photo Page
Wednesday Barbeque Dinner
at KC Masterpiece

Saturday dinner
at Jess and Jim's
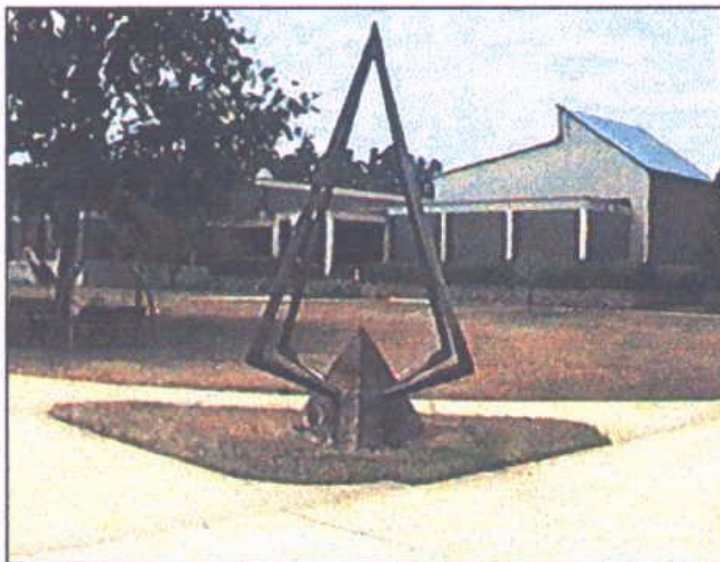## Steak House
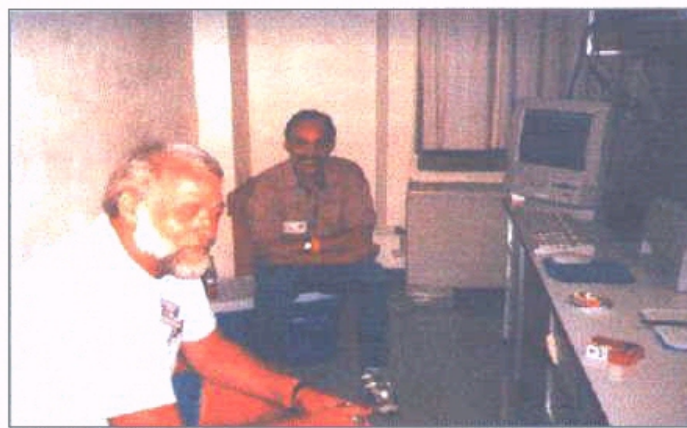
Photo Page
Avila College
Ridgway Dormitory

Photo Page
Avila College
Ridgway Dormitory

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Photo Page
Avila College
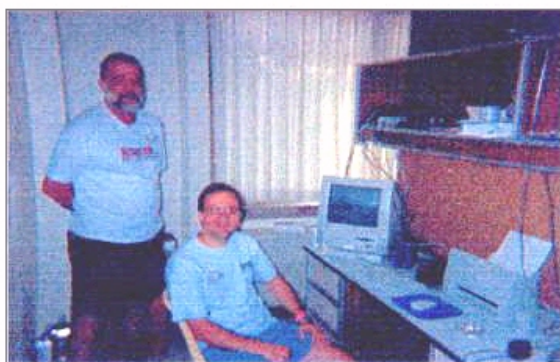## Dormitory and Campus

Photo Page
Kfest Candids
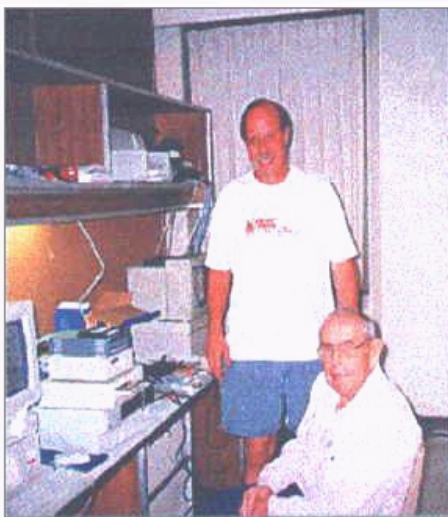### Many attendees brought digital cameras or scanned their photos.

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Photo Page
Demos in the
Lounge area of Ridgway Dormitory
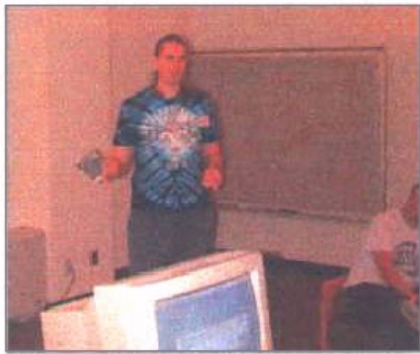
Photo Page
Bite the Bag competition
Paul & Scott share the crown

Photo Page
Banquet and Roast
of Richard Bennett

KFEST '97 Banquet and

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Apple II · Mac · Newton
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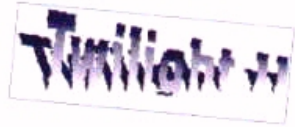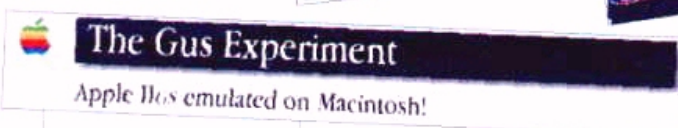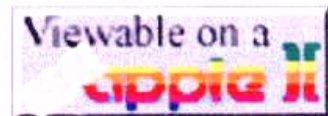INTREC · INTREC · INTREC · INTREC

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A2 (Apple //)

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Publication prepared by
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KansasFest
Class of 1997
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Margaret Anderson	Scott Johnson	Andrew Roughan
Bruce Baker	Max Jones	David Stevens
Richard Bennett	Pat Kern	Ryan Suenaga
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Hamish Donaldson	Al Moore	Mike Westerfield
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Ken Duncan	Greg Nelson	Paul Zaleski
Steve Gozdziewski	Jim O'Reilly	