WAC JOURNAL

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President's Peelings
By L.E. "Tuck" Tucker

I must admit that I'm not sure "that things will improve" just because I am back at the helm, as John stated in his last article as President of WAC, Inc.   I appreciate the work and efforts that John Moore , as well as the other Board members, contributed to the user group last year. We have a return of some of the "old" board members, and some new faces as well.   Yet, we still need a Secretary for our corporation. A select few people can not always be the ones who carry out the work that is necessary to operate our user group. However, one person in particlular I wish to thank for continuing with their duties is our Editor, Bobbi Kirk. I have a feeling for the difficulties that are associated with getting the news out, and on time, as I edited the WAC Journal for the first few years.

Now, what does the future hold? I would like to see that our user group would not be one of the best kept secrets in the Mid-Willamette Valley.   Since Apple Computer, Inc. has seen fit to remove the resellers from our area, our mission to help educate and inform Apple II , and compatibles, computer users has taken on a higher urgency. There are people out there who are confused and exasperated with using their computers and programs. To help reach these people, I am hoping that we will begin to sponsor some workshops for the community and thereby meet one of our goals as have been outlined in the Bylaws of the corporation. So my plea to the membership is to think of where you would like the user group to help you out in the next year, and also think of how we can reach out to the community.

Meeting Notes

January 17th
Latest Apple Video

Notices

There will be a Board meeting   at 6:30 just before the regular meeting.

Most members' dues are due this month so check with the treasurer if you're not sure where you stand.

Large fonts needed by the editor! If you can help let me know!!

Contents

Salem Public Library Bulletin Board

(300 to 2400 Baud)

588-6130 & 588-6081

588-6086 & 588-6092

Wac Journal

The WAC Journal is published monthly. Authors should submit their articles in hard copy or disk or send it via modem to the editor at the above number by the first of the month.

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Meetings-Regular Membership

The Regular Membership Meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month, with a start time of 7:00 p.m.. The meeting is held on the Chemeketa Community College campus, in Building 2, Room 113.

From the Editor's Desk:

Editor's Notes

by Bobbi Kirk

Happy New Year everyone, I hope your holidays were as happy as mine were! I am very, very happy to announce the newsletter is being printed on my new laser printer. I'm learning more every day on how to get the most out of the printer and expect to improve the look of the newsletter even more in the future. For now, I've found that I get the best results if I have a large size (say 48 pt.) of the font I'm using, the results are great. Unfortunately, most of my fonts only go to 24 pt. or at best 36 pt. , so if anyone has any large size fonts I'd sure like to hear about it. Maybe we can do some trading of public domain GS fonts or....?

This month we're starting a new column in the newsletter. I've always been interested in what other people are doing with their computers and I think you will find it interesting too, so this column will be written by WAC members. It's called "Who's Who in WAC" and Harry Haley bravely took the lead this month and not only wrote about some of the things he's doing with his computer but even gave us a wonderful sample of it. Each month I hope to hear from another member on their particular uses for their computer. I will gladly accept all volunteers and promise to print all letters but knowing how shy some of you are I will probably be asking you personally as well, especially if I don't get any volunteers!

I'm hoping to put out a newsletter every month this year but that depends on you (DUES!!) and my faithful writers. If they can hold up, I can too.

Who's Who in WAC

POETIC PERSPECTIVES
by Harry Haley

TO BE OR NOT TO BE
THAT IS THE QUESTION

To write or not to write....that was the question...until Bobbi Kirk called me with timely suggestions on what I might say about my poetic applications in the use of my Apple IIe, which I have used since June 1986.

Since I belong to a poetry club, I have recorded over a year of meetings on disk of the club, as I did with WAC when I was secretary a couple of years ago.

My first attempt at publishing was a small, 13-page booklet of some of the poems I have written over the years. I completed this short work in December 1987 and gave them as Christmas gifts to members of my family.
One poem I wrote over ten years ago was prophetic in the way it anticipated my hair line. Although it will not challenge Shakespeare, it goes like this.

NO HAIR TO SPARE

Once my head was crowned with hair.
It grew in profusion...everywhere
But now it is so very thin
Like lonely islands on a sea of skin.

Why should I feel in great despair
Just because my head is bare?
I don't think it is a sin
To show some skin where hair had been.

Since I do not know how to type, the computer has provided me with some publishing possibilities I would never have had a chance to explore without it.

Teachers' Column
By Kirk Gamble
and Darrell Robertson

Darrell has kept the teachers' column going for the past three issues of the WAC Journal. I thank him for all that writing while I got settled into a new teaching job at Gervais Elementary.

Gervais is the largest school I have ever taught in. Yet, it is still considered small with only about 350 students in grades K-8. About half the students are Hispanic and one-fourth Russian. I have found this teaching situation to be quite unique from other jobs I have had.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you information concerning computer education at Gervais Elementary. The biggest computer happening for me since I started teaching on the 7th-8th grade team at Gervais is keeping my grades on the computer. I started with a program called Gradebook. It is a simple program that is easy to learn and able to move around in quickly. After using it for a report period, I decided I wanted to be able to manipulate the program more. I couldn't do it with Gradebook so I switched to Projac's Comput-a-Grade.

I am using the elementary version and right away I liked the way I could enter a class list once, then transfer that same list to another subject area without retyping all the names again. When it came time to enter grades, I liked the way I could enter 90 grades per subject instead of only 30. I was also able to enter late grades by student or by assignment. And of course, what makes any grade program a time saver is not recording grades but in computing averages and printing reports. There are other advantages such as printing the entire assignment information so a student has not only a copy of missing assignments but what those assignments are. Each student has a random ID number so I can post reports without posting the students' names.

Two things I liked about Gradebook that I lose on Comput-a-grade are 1) the report to the parent was more complete and 2) using EX for an excused assignment instead of NG for no grade. I prefer EX to convey excused rather than NG.

Next issue I will give you a better idea what computer education means at Gervais. Each school is different and all seem to move forward accordingly.

EDUCATION USER GROUP

Apple supports educators to form a user group within their local Apple user group. If WAC were to have such a group, we would be eligible to receive materials and information that they have for educators. Please let me know if you are interested in belonging to such a group. We would keep the group as part of WAC and shouldn't need an additional meeting time.

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