

Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 9

September 2000



NEXT

The HCC Bagel Bums gather again on Saturday September 16, at HMC, at 8 30, counting on Bill and Doris Moore to rise at dawn and bring warm, fresh bagels. The program is listed as Members Open Forum. So far nothing is announced. Suggestion: bring thoughts or notes or even a disk of interesting small programs you have downloaded that work. Examples: MemTurbo, Font Lister, Remind Me, Zip Labels., and notes on some that didn't work.

THE AUGUST MEETING

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon Computer Club was held on Saturday. August 19, 2000. Don Colombo displayed pictures of his summer trip to Africa. Asked about presenting a program the jaded traveler said, "No, it's just more lions and stuff."

President Lon Hosford called the meeting to order at 9:30. Guests wel-

comed included Georgia Bartok, persuaded to visit by Carl Heitzman, Sue La Costa, Branchburg, , who upgraded to Win2000 and lost all her email, Margaret Miller, Pittstown , who has a new Compaq Presario, Gisela Pinta, Clinton, John Ausman, Florida,Indiana, and Dot VandeVaarst, Bridgewater. John described the Leisure Acres club in Sebring, Florida which already has 90 members, and meets twice a month. "When the time comes," he said, "Come on down. We'll make room for you."

We sent quite a stack of videos home with John, at his request. His club members are largely beginners and anxious to learn. Don Colombo added to satellite club news saying that his African hosts used a solar powered computer and might be emailing questions. They are using Win 95. Rick Williams was welcomed back after long absence. He carried with him the large Amherst Reunion book the creation of which has been taking up his time for a year or two. John Beck, VP of NJCC, invited us to their meetings second Wednesdays., specifically Sept 13, 7 PM, program by Gateway and Cognos. They meet at the church in North Branch, on Rt. 28 off Rt. 22, past RVCC.



The Q & A session started with Gaye Lowe's request for ideas on making a booklet without buying **Publisher**. Bill Woodall said **Word 97** can do it by mak-

ing a separate document for each page. Evelyn recommended **Click Book** which converts an ordinary word processing doc into double sided pages. Nancy Utter said she makes pamphlets monthly, in **Word**, but the general feeling was that people who want to make booklets should buy **Publisher**.

Dick Mercier reported problems getting Word Documents into My Documents.

Q: What about legislation to stop Spam e-mail.? Bill W. said the bill passed the House and was buried in the Senate. He predicted that new e-mail software will have built in filters. He uses **Agent** to filter his own mail.

Q: What is **Carnivore**? Bill Woodall explained this is the name of the FBI's program watching your e-mail, reviewing all of AOL , which is the home base for 90% of child porn. It can only be installed with the help of local providers. It was an undercover activity until an angry employee told the ACLU about it. The FBI has said they will make tech info available in 18 months. Bill suggested sending your messages encrypted. Joe Burger added that Congress asked the FBI for information about Carnivore and the FBI refused to give it.

John Ausman asked about Netzero freezing his machine when he wants to leave the Net and Shut Down. Jim Russ said to use Control Alt Delete and click End Task for whatever is not closing by itself.

In Officers' Reports, Jac Carroll reported a balance of \$745.90.

Membership chairman Don Colombo called 9 members and encountered summer absences. Rich Dufty has moved to California.

Webmaster Paul Glattstein reported that the PDF files are coming in successfully, and the newsletter appears in color. Discussion followed about having the newsletter on line only, which would mean people who like paper copies would need to download their own. Someone commented that this is possible but very slow. The Editor noted that many members still do not use e-mail or explore the Net. Someone suggested sending paper copies only to those who request it. The Secretary suggested that the Secretary did not need any more chores such as sorting these requests. Paul said the newsletter file is sometimes 275,000K and some members might not like so large a file slowing down their email downloads. Someone suggested making parts of the newsletter secured and accessible only to paid members.

The Secretary described the new setup in the Senior Center computer room. The refrigerator is gone, and we no longer share the room with luncheons or any other activities. A brand new file cabinet is in place. There are narrow shelves above each computer, for disks and whatnot.

All of the obsolete machines and parts are gone. Thanks to John Warsinski, Ted Scharenberg, Diane Steiner and Linda Canulette, there are 6 NEW Gateways networked to the Internet and to two printers, plus 6 used but good Pentiums with NT removed and 98 installed, 1 machine for the scanner, and 1 Win 3.1 machine saved to help people who still have 3.1 at home. We have floor space, machine space, and time open. Now we need you.

Vice-President Joe Burger started his tech report with word that Norton Antivirus v4 can freeze your system, but there is a new download that helps. Re Internet Explorer patches of the week don't use the

HTML help file, but get the Microsoft file for your browser. He described a Notebook Computrace to rescue stolen notebooks. Just like the hen in Jack the Giant Killer, when the thief goes on line the computer calls home and calls police.

Costs \$50 a year. Reformatting does not eliminate the rescue software. A recovery rate of 90% within 24 hours is reported.



AOL has dropped all MP3 search inquiries. (MP3 is the program that lets you download music from any other computer that plays music CD's, currently the subject of great legal dispute.)

Microsoft has two development teams working on the next Office Suite. One team is to make an all new suite and the other is to revise based on the old one. Due in 2001. The new operating system Millennium Win 2000, Joe says is "not for the faint of heart" and is a lot like Apple. Some 250 programs will not run with the new OS. It needs a giant hard drive and is somewhat like a Main Frame used to be.

THE PROGRAM

Photo Management software

By Jim Russ

Jim reminded us of his first interest in this area, when he showed us the baseball sized early Cassio digital camera that sat on top of his machine and captured great views of the operator's torso, in black and white, at 320x480 resolution. This was not far back in history. Now Jim has

moved on to photo editing. Today's cameras take fine pictures far from the computer, but very often you can see room for improvement, removing red eyes, modifying colors, and cropping parts of the picture.

Jim demonstrated MGI Software's PhotoSuite III, \$59.95 list, \$29.99 at Costco. It lets you touch up, removing red eyes, cleaning up complexions, etc. Jim showed a photo of a chair tilted because the camera was held crooked. The software allowed him to straighten the chair.

Jim's favorite photo software is **EZ Viewer**. This will convert the file, which the camera puts into your computer, to 8 different graphics formats, so almost any program can import the file.

Jim sent e-mail details on **EZViewer**:

"The viewer which I showed at the meeting and like so much because of its ease of use is called **"EZ Viewer"**. It is by a local outfit called "GJC Software Co." They are located at 340 Grand Central Parkway, Bayville, NJ 08721. The version of Photo Suite III that I showed is the "Platinum Edition". This is the one I saw at Cosco's for \$29.99 including a \$10 mail in rebate. I understand from talking to some of the members that this version seems to have some features that the "Family" version does not include."

Joe Burger added that Paint Shop Pro (File\Browse) lets you view stored photos, and Evelyn said Corel Print House does too. These and many other programs also let you modify the photo. Jim showed a photo of his cousin standing close to Governor Whitman, and demonstrated how to outline the shape of his cousin, then crop to eliminate the Governor. This involved creating slowly and carefully a line around the entire outline of the portion to be kept. Another trick photo software does is to let you pick up a color from the picture and use the exact same color as a frame or to touch up another part of the picture.

Joe likes Photo Shop. Jim mentioned various programs, and agreed that he would like to have Corel Photo Shop but it lists at \$300 or maybe \$240. version 5.5 is the latest.

Gaye asked about hardware for photo editing. Jim said you will need a minimum 10 gig hard drive, and 32 Mb physical memory. The general idea was, the bigger the better.

One important feature that Jim demonstrated is that however great the software is, touching up a photo is a slow, painstaking business. As Jim says, he is not trying to give a training course in each program that he shows, but to show glimpses of possibilities we can explore. He has done it again, and we thank him.

Program footnotes:

Florida John Ausman sent this:

While I was searching the ads and shops for a "beginners" digital camera, I ran across a deal too good to turn down. I found one merchant who had a Sony DSC D770 that he had been unable to sell and when he offered it to me at his cost I just had to buy it. If anyone is looking for an exceptional camera I think this is the one! Looks intimidating but if you set everything on "auto" it does a great job for you on its own. It is great - for more information see : <http://www.imaging-resource.com/PRODS/D770/D770A.HTM>



The following appeared right after Jim's program:

When the *NY Times* decided to let kids take photos for a piece on kids' clothes, Olympus sent two C3030 Zoom digital cameras (\$999.99) loaded with 64 MB Smartmedia cards (\$179.)

set at Super High Quality (SHQ-jpeg)), allowing the kids (ages 4 up) to take 27 photos before having to download. Children who weren't using these were given Kodak Max one-time-use cameras. A fashion shoot for the Sunday magazine 8 page style section normally starts with about 450 photos. In this case 34 were printed.

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If you don't have a digital camera, you can have your old fashioned snap shots sent on a floppy or a CD along with your prints, for a very few dollars extra, and then you can use Jim's software to change them.

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Liz Dunbar used a Sony Mavica camera to photograph greyhounds and grandson on Cape Cod, stopped in Milford on the way home to Baltimore, put the camera disk in my computer, took the disk on home, and left a picture file behind. The pix can be seen as a slide show on screen, printed out or e-mailed.

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Years ago Bill Woodall transformed pictures before our very eyes, moving castles, changing blondes to brunettes, putting a horse's head on a human body, and I left that meeting quoting to myself " What is truth? Said Pontius Pilate,..." Photo editing was called Morphing then but we saw some of the same techniques. Recently Peter Czerwinski showed us how he had combined photos to place battle-ships in juxtaposition to military cemetery fields. With this software the photographer can tell a story or express an idea, quite apart from using the camera to record facts. Of course, it has always been true that the choice of subject, and of camera angle, gives the viewer only what the photographer chooses to show. Just one more instance of needing to think for ourselves. Sigh.



**President's Message.**

What summer?

Someone told me there was no summer in NJ. I had not noticed.

All due to Corel Corporation and Fujitsu showing up at my door for producing 50 hours of video training courses.

That also resulted in sparse material for the president's column in the last two issues of this magnificent publication.

But I did notice James Talbot and Robert Simmonds providing superb presentations at our June 17th meeting. Jim's "Computing on the Cheap" and Bob's "Cable Modem and other High Speed Connection" topics were excellent. If you are spending too much on computer supplies or are confused about cable modem Internet connections find this publication's follow up to the meeting or come to the next meeting and catch Jim or Bob.

Jim Russ returned from fishing in June and also pounded out another presentation.

Thanks to James Talbot, Robert Simmonds and Jim Russ for sharing their knowledge and making the club more valuable to us all.

The newsletter, in color, is available as a download on the Web with the efforts of Bill Woodall, Paul Glatstein and Evelyn Stewart. Remember it needs Adobe Acrobat Reader and the files can be large. A debate at the last meeting opened the topic of not printing the newsletter and just going with the web version. Resoundingly the club members prefer all options including the printed version.

See you next meeting. Officer nominations start. If you are interested, let me or Evelyn know anytime and you will be nominated.

Lon

## PAGE CHARMER

### *A review by Skip Talbot*

Page Charmer was sent to the club by the publisher. Jim Talbot is graciously providing both the excellent review and the box. Excerpts from Jim's note:

Dear HCC: Sorry I missed the Sat Aug 19th meeting. I was close to you, on the 5th floor of the Hospital. I'm home now. Below is the report on **Page Charmer** from my Grandson, Skip Talbot. He is a computer Wiz. I will have the program back in my hands before the next meeting and will bring it so that you can raffle it off. Sorry I was unable to return the program and report for the August meeting as scheduled.

Best,  
Jim Talbot

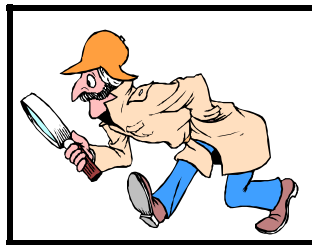
## PAGE CHARMER

**Page Charmer** is a nice piece of software but I have several complaints about it that, in my opinion, outweigh the benefits. First of all you are offered 15 applets. However, you only really get about five since the rest are simply variations of the same applet. Two of these applets I would readily use... and with a price tag of \$150 I find that a little steep.

A few dollars more and you can have yourself a full featured web page designer such as Front-page which includes its own Java applets. One thing that is a little different about this package is that it contains no actual program.

You do all of your editing and Java work by clicking through web pages. At first I was disappointed at a lack of a Windows program, however, the reason the creators of Page Charmer did this was so that their software would be compatible on different platforms. You can use the software on Windows, Mac, Unix... The software is relatively easy to use but you are still copying and pasting an HTML snippet

into your own web page. It won't open your page and integrate the Java for you like a program such as Front-page. I think this software would be worth the money if you had a small business type web page that required a lot of flashing interaction. The price is too high for use on a single home-page or a page that did not require special graphical effects.



## RUSH HOLT'S INTERNET PRIVACY MEETING

*by Evelyn Stewart*

Flemington Borough Hall August 2000

This was a fine meeting, well organized, on time, all information and no hot air. The speakers, in order, were Scott Johnson, NJ State Police, High Tech Crime Unit; Joseph Fresco, US Postal Service Inspector; Rush Holt, US Congressman; Jeff Spangler, victim of computer crime; Ari Schwartz, from the Center for Democracy and Technology.

The overall message was that we should all buy shredders and use them. The speakers agreed that there are not enough law enforcement people to cope with the amount of computer crime going on, so their hope is to educate computer users to preserve their identity before the crime.

The State Police work on any offense that uses a computer or requires computer knowledge, including E Bay frauds, non-payment, non-

delivery after money is collected, deceptive ads. Somebody managed to collect \$11,000 for a baseball card that was never received. Scott Johnson urged us never to put a Credit Card number on an e mail message, and to use the card only when you initiate the purchase, never to give the number when someone asks you to give it for verification. Once someone has your card number, he can change the address and have purchases shipped there so you don't realize he's making them until you see your statement. There is a new language for all this, in case you're writing a new Damon Runyon novel. Dumpster Diving used to be the standard way to steal credit card and Social Security numbers, Now Shoulder Surfing is the preferred method, looking over your shoulder as you use a phone or a library computer, to pick up PIN's and other useful numbers, sometimes using binoculars. Baby monitors also transmit useful information and should be turned off when not needed. One stolen phone card number led to a \$30,000 phone bill. This was later reversed, but not easily.

Someone asked about E-Bay's system of providing seller records. The answer was that a criminal seller lists several sales with high opening bids to be sure of winning the bid, buys from himself, gives himself glowing reports, using various fake names, then after a few months sells non-existent widgets at good prices.

Some one else asked about punishment after a criminal is traced. All the speakers agreed that getting cases to court is a slow business, and they stressed again that prevention is much better than counting on punishment.

Rush Holt said that he and 20 other Congressmen have formed a new group on Privacy. He said there were 522,000 complaints in '97, and a half million cases of ID fraud reported so far this year. The Financial Modern-



Modernization Act has some privacy clauses. There are new threats to privacy. If a company gets your cell phone number they can send you ads that you will be charged for. Doctors now have to share medical records with insurance companies, opening another avenue for theft and abuse. Crooks can collect medical data and sell it to drug companies.

Federal Postal Inspector Fresco talked about fraud using the mail. A particular item to shred is the packet with your name on a new credit card. A thief can take this out of your trash and use it to run up a new bill for you. A legitimate business called a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency makes it easy for a thief to pick up mail sent to a fake address, and very hard for the USPS to catch him doing it. Mr. Fresco discussed the problem of postal employee fraud and ways of detecting it.

Mr. Spangler has had 5 or 6 years of living through the things the other speakers were describing. Someone, still not found, stole his Credit Card number and took cash advances of \$7000, using fake addresses. The thief has changed bank account addresses in three states. The whole story was so complex it may never get untangled. Mr. Spangler said he spends 2 or 3 hours every Sunday working on it.

Mr. Schwartz represented the Center for Democracy and Technology, which everyone around me seemed to recognize. It was new to me, so I share their definition: "The CDT works to promote democratic values and constitutional liberties in the digital age. With expertise in law, technology, and policy CDT seeks practical solutions to enhance free expression and privacy in global communications technologies. CDT is dedicated to building consensus among all parties interested in the future of the Internet and other new communications media."

Two hours of solid information with no hot air make a complete report impractical. In the next column are useful addresses for learning more, or asking for help.

[rush.holt@mail.house.gov](mailto:rush.holt@mail.house.gov)  
or [www.house.gov/rholt](http://www.house.gov/rholt)

Rep. Holt means it when he says he wants to hear from you, and he listens. I haven't tried the addresses below so can't vouch for them, but all of the speakers representing these agencies were very earnestly trying to help.

<http://opt-out.cdt.org> to stop junk mail in some cases  
[www.cdt.org/privacy/quiz](http://www.cdt.org/privacy/quiz) privacy rights, laws, government surveillance

<http://watchdog.cdt.org> privacy policies on the Net  
[www.cdt.org/join](http://www.cdt.org/join) join CDT  
[www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) Report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission, clearinghouse for complaints by victims.

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) - many publications available. A 21 page FTC handout was available at this meeting.  
[www.privacyrights.org](http://www.privacyrights.org) California based group trying to educate consumers to protect privacy

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**Computer Volunteers**  
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## HANDY SMALL PROGRAM

**FontLister**, a font management program that allows you to view, compare, install, delete, or print fonts found on your hard drive or on a removable disk. The compare facility makes it easy to see duplicate or very similar fonts and choose one to delete.

FontLister page on the Internet:  
<http://www.theill.com/fl/>

Using Windows Explorer, you can move fonts from the Windows list to another folder, such as Reserve Fonts, from whence you can reinstall them as needed. A machine can accumulate 1000 fonts from assorted programs, without the user ever installing any of his own choice. A few hundred are still more than any one needs, and your machine will run faster with fewer.

## ANOTHER PRIVACY ANGLE

An e-mail blurb

Find Out ANYTHING About ANYONE!!  
 THIS NEW AMAZING SOFTWARE TOOL HELPS YOU FIND OUT ALMOST ANYTHING ABOUT ANYONE -CLICK ON URL BELOW TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.escalix.com/freepage/ipromise>

This is a collection of URL's of data bases to search.

## COMPUTER VOLUNTEERS – HELP WANTED

The latest word on our waiting list for Basics instruction is that it is still a year long.

We have lost 5 full time teachers from last year's roster. We have lost several now and then coaches or aides. PLEASE look at your life and see if you can make room for one hour a week that's fun, useful, needed, and interesting. Make new friends. Learn more about Windows 98 by explaining it. Those who leave us do so only because of health problems or family crises. Ask anyone whose nametag says SENIOR TEACHER, and hear how much he or she enjoys it. If you are using your computer at all, you know enough to help others get started. Whereas we started with only my lessons as guides, there is now a choice of lessons to use until you find you would rather write your own

The latest NJ *Pension News* that goes to all state pension holders carried a paragraph about our classes, which means that our waiting list will grow again. The Seniors of Hunterdon County need you. The HCC needs you. For a longer sales pitch call Evelyn at 995 4042 or call Dorothy Hartsell, Director of Senior Activities, 788 1359 for details of scheduling.

## THE LOWEST WORM

Kids are target of 'Pokey' worm.

“**This has the** title “Pikachu Pokemon” and the message “Pikachu is your friend.” There is an animation program included, that will, when run, wipe out critical system files on Windows systems. The only way to recover is to reinstall Windows.

Read this .ZDNet: eWEEK: <<http://www.zdnet.com/eweek/stories/general/0,11011,2619296,00.html>>  
 “Remember, do not run any programs received via email

Posted by Fred Worth, Math professor at Henderson State U. Arkadelphia, Arkansas. [worthf@hsu.edu](mailto:worthf@hsu.edu)

## FROM LINDA CANULETTE

> Some examples of why the human race has probably evolved as far as possible. These are actual instruction labels on consumer goods...

On Sears hairdryer:  
 Do not use while sleeping.  
 (Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair!)

On a bag of Fritos: You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (The shoplifter special!)

On some Swanson frozen dinners:  
 Serving suggestion: Defrost.  
 (But it's 'just' a suggestion!)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert: (printed on bottom of the box) Do not turn upside down.

> (Too late! you lose!)

## E BOOKS

by Evelyn Stewart

A few issues back we had an article about E-books and I assumed they were safely in the distant future. While my back was turned, people have loaded thousands of books onto the Internet, and Mr. Gates has arranged that you need his Explorer, not Netscape, to download them. There are very clear notices that none of these offerings work on MAC or Linux. You also need a Pentium75 or better, 16 Mb of RAM, 13 Mb of hard drive space. You need a monitor set at 800x600. Take a look at these URL's. At Barnes and Noble [www.bn.com/ebook](http://www.bn.com/ebook), you can download FREE the Microsoft Reader or the Glassbook Reader. At [www.netlibrary.com](http://www.netlibrary.com) there is another free reader download. Netlibrary has 18000 titles but only 4000 are free.

If you want to download books to your Palm Pilot go to [www.peanutspress.com](http://www.peanutspress.com)  
If you want to buy your own E book to carry around with you, after you download a book, go to [www.rocketlibrary.com](http://www.rocketlibrary.com) or [www.softbook.com/store](http://www.softbook.com/store). The Barnes and Noble site also offers to sell you portable Readers.

Be aware that, as with all new gadgets, compatibility is a problem. Not all the same titles are available to the different readers or different brands of e books. There is also a new word confusion to deal with. Is the e-book the file you download, is it the device you buy, all of the above? Before you buy one, try to get a look at one of the four now owned by our County Library.

I chose the Glassbook reader to download. The starting estimated time was 11 hours plus, but it went down rapidly to one hour, and the actual time was probably less than an hour.

Download and install had no problems. Then I chose a free book to download. The free books are old standards, past copyright date, and old unknowns., or the less important works of well known authors. Microsoft offers some titles for \$3.95, such as *Jo's Boys and what became of them*, Louisa May Alcott's last book, a poor relation of *Little Women.*, some for \$1.00 and some free. I chose something for the GlassBook reader called *The Old Black Friars*. The 192 page book took 7 minutes to download. It has no recognizable file name which I will need for deleting. The book starts downloading on the first click, with no chance to change your mind.

To read the book, be sure you have a comfortable chair and the right glasses. If you are using a laptop you press rotate and the text appears sideways on a desk top, but right side up the long way of your lap top screen, assuming you have also rotated your laptop. Page Down and Page Up keys move you through the book.

The web pages are clear and easy to use. You can read a great deal about e-books without downloading or committing to anything. It is obvious that the hope is that you will be so entranced with the free reader and the free books that you will pay to download the fancier versions, or order the

portable book reader, or at the very least download the books with prices. Possibly the free book list will disappear.

You will be able to tell your grandchildren you downloaded some of the first e-books. They will probably look up from their laptops and say SO? I didn't find out if *Treasure Island* comes over the air with the Wyeth illustrations. Even if it does, I'm glad I saw it first on paper, and I'm glad to see it on the shelf as I go by.



## FOR THE REST OF US

### GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

There are three general types of software related to using graphics, or pictures. At the bottom, so to speak, are programs which let you print pictures. Print Shop was the first successful one of these, followed by Print Master, Print Artist, Greetings, Announcements, Create a Card, Hallmark, Corel Print House. Each of these brings you hundreds of pictures, and a raft of fonts. You can print cards, banners, signs, labels, booklets, place cards, etc. etc.

After these printing programs come the programs that allow you to modify the picture you want to use. You can change colors, blend colors, crop (cut off) part of the picture, make it look old, make it look like an oil painting or a watercolor. You can click on a color in the picture and immediately make a frame of that color. Paint Shop Pro is one of the most popular of these. Corel Draw, Windows Draw 6, and many more, some very expensive. After you have doctored up your picture, you can print it in these programs or copy it to one of the simpler printing programs. These modification programs are the ones you use to change your digital camera pictures or scanner results.

Last are graphics collections. A \$9.95 CD at Staples has 100,000 graphics files **Holy Cow** has 255,000. **Master Clips** has 22 CD's. These monster programs have various systems for searching, viewing thumbnails, or leafing through a very thick book. Some require a small installation on your hard drive. Many can be used right from the disk, in any of the programs above. The point to understand is that these graphics collections do not "do" anything. They just provide pictures to be used in other programs.

# Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, September 16, 2000  
Hunterdon Medical Center  
Rt 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon  
Program: Selected Shorts  
By various members

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## **HCC NEWSLETTER**

**HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB**  
Evelyn Stewart, Secretary  
2 Millview Road  
Milford, NJ 08848

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
Address Correction Requested

