

In our April meeting, Chuck Graham discoursed about modem use and the various telecommunications avenues open to users. One such use that is seldom heard about is the 'SeniorNet' computer network involving community service senior centers throughout the nation. Apple Computer grants terminal systems to qualified organizations who update reports about their activities serving their respective areas.

Headquartering at the University of San Francisco, SeniorNet held the first ever such conference of networking seniors, May 25-27, playing host to the delegates from the Texas, Washington, Colorado, North Dakota, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Florida, and the cities of San Diego, Oakwood, Menlo Park and San Francisco AND Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Those mostly were the Site Coordinators for their respective SeniorNet stations. Besides, the conference drew users that are interested in starting their own member sites (again domestic and foreign).

Workshops, operating throughout the conference, dealt with going on line with SeniorNet, personalizing "Print Shop" printouts, word processing, electronic banking, electronic citizenship (deal with effectiveness of write-in campaigns to influence legislators) and advanced technologies which dealt with Hypercard development for the Macintosh and its versatility as an application for digitizing and manipulating real time photos etc. for almost immediate display and printout.

An impressive panel of speakers addressed the group on May 26th, covering a variety of subjects, dealing with increasing concern of the business community with seniors. Ian Browde from Apple Computer talked about universal cultural impact of seniors on younger generations; Harvey Long of IBM reflected on the need for recognition of the tremendous loss of knowledge through retirement of those 'past' their prime (agewise); Chip Matthes of General Videotex (co-sponsor of the SeniorNet concept) talked about the impact Pacific Telesis has had in providing indirect service through Gateway TC networking and foresees more use of telecommunications as means of interaction throughout our society, a small % of which use this medium today; Ruthie Mathews of Travelers Insurance, Hartford, gave an interesting description of her Company's use of retirees, that, in lieu of hiring 'specialists' from temporary help agencies, has saved the Company millions in maintenance of customer services through their IBM-networking staffs. So successful has been this effort that the Company foresees duplicating it on the West coast sometime in 1989.

The keynoter, Alan C. Kay, Apple Fellow from Apple, Inc, discoursed at length with video backup concerning misconception about learning and the individual's acceptance as his/her given inability to do something that EVERYONE knows is impossible. 2 examples were given: one showed an unlikely, physically inadequate, middle- aged woman learn through simple examples to play a creditable game of tennis in 20 minutes. Another showed a 22-month old girl moused her way through advanced Mac software and used MacPaint to do her things in the graphics program she punched up. Both examples seemed incredible but they proved his point.

Kay ended his talk by previewing what AI and future applications are going to mean to video presentations to further educate the public, and used the example of the 1988 Olympic Games, updated in a pre- projection for the 1992 games, in which the public will be given real time, analytical explanations of the skills and techniques employed by the various athletes in

their competitions. The future of creative graphics that could depict marine flora and fauna (from scratch) so realistically as if you were viewing everything from a submarine or diving vessel, added the final icing.

This first-ever conference drew several hundred attendees, both domestic and foreign, was an great success. San Francisco was proud to have been host to the delegates. Since we all are getting older, it's advisable to find out more information regarding SeniorNet, its membership, etc. Please write or contact:

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